

INTERVENTIONS

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN IN 21ST CENTURY LIFE SCIENCES

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM, BECKMANNS HOF
MARCH 18–22, 2013

Mercator Research Group
SPACES OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE
in collaboration with
Soraya de Chadarevian and Edna Suárez-Díaz

At the beginning of the 21st century both the individual and the social life are strongly bound to bio- and neuroscientific knowledge. Our understanding of the individual and the social conditions of humans is seen to be inextricably interwoven with developments in corresponding theories and technologies.

The very notion of human nature is challenged by new approaches to bioengineering organisms which have the potential of reshaping the individual human body. This new emphasis on the plasticity of human nature, and especially of the brain, that is found in both utopian views of posthumanism and in concrete biomedical and neuroscientific approaches, changes the complex historical boundaries of nature and culture and creates a new relationship between the two: nature no longer has the connotation of a deterministic category, but turns into something more flexible against which the domain of culture may even be seen as remaining the more permanent part. Ideas of cultural identity and human diversity are also affected by research in genomics. Brain research and Human Genome Projects basically reconfigure longstanding questions about cultural/natural diversity across human populations and challenge our ideas of personhood.

Furthermore, research on reproduction and embryo research, accompanied by high expectations of the medical application of stem cells and cloning techniques, provide new and ethically controversial technologies which will affect the relation of bodies and societies in a new way.

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WELCOME	NEURONS, CONCEPTS OF THE HUMAN IN NEUROSCIENCES	CONCEPTS OF THE LIVING AND MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES	BODIES AND SOCIETIES	GENOMES, CELLS, ORGANISMS
9:00–18:00	9:00–12:30 Chair: Yvonne Wübben	9:00–12:30 Chair: Anna Tuschling	9:00–12:30 Chair: Estrid Sørensen	9:00–13:00 Chair: Christina Brandt
<p>Welcome by Uta Wilkens (RUB Rectorate)</p> <p>John Tresch PHILADELPHIA Scientific Selves and Meditating Brains: An Ethnography of Mind and Life</p> <p>Sen Cheng BOCHUM Manipulating Memories</p> <p>Torsten Heinemann FRANKFURT Optimise your Brain! Mental Health and Popular Neuroscience in the Neoliberal Society</p> <p>Felix Hasler BERLIN</p> <p>Andreas Mayer BERLIN Comments</p> <p>Workshop with PhD and Graduate Students</p> <p>Christina Brandt Estrid Sørensen Anna Tuschling Yvonne Wübben</p>	<p>Monique David-Ménard PARIS Has Life a Meaning? Canguilhem and Lacan</p> <p>Astrid Deuber-Mankowsky BOCHUM Historicity of Life – Man’s radical Finitude. Canguilhem and Foucault</p> <p>Erich Hörl BOCHUM “La vie technique.” Remarks concerning Simon-don’s Thinking of the Living</p> <p>Markus Krajewski WEIMAR Minor Gestures, or Serving as a Cultural Technique</p>	<p>Annemarie Mol AMSTERDAM Patchwork Bodies</p> <p>Klaus Lindgaard Høyer COPENHAGEN The Useful Body: Making Sense of your Body through Organ Donation</p> <p>Thomas Lemke FRANKFURT Suspect Families: DNA Kinship Testing in German Immigration Police</p>	<p>Edna Suárez-Díaz MEXICO CITY Cultural Diversity Meets Biological Markers: The Study of Mexican Indigenous Populations in the 1960s</p> <p>Veronika Lipphardt BERLIN Human Diversity and Biohistorical Narratives</p> <p>PERSPECTIVES Round-table</p> <p>Soraya de Chadarevian LOS ANGELES</p> <p>Staffan Müller-Wille EXETER</p> <p>Nikolas Rose LONDON</p>	
12:30–14:00 LUNCH BREAK				13:00 LUNCH
14:00–18:00 PhD Project Presentations & Discussion			18:00–20:00 Public Evening Lecture	
			Nikolas Rose LONDON Remaking the Human in the Twenty First Century?	
			GAFO 03/252	

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