

Cultural Anthropology - III. PERCEPTIONS OF THE BODY

Cultures also vary in terms of whether people consider the body to be a bound physical unit, with healing focused on the body alone, or connected to a wider social context, in which case healing addresses the body within the wider social sphere. Variations in the definition of a living body versus a dead body are also prominent worldwide. Different organs may be seen as critical.

- In modern culture, the body is still seen as an object to manipulate, dissect, and probe.
- For the last two centuries, cultural and medical practices have been trying to integrate mind and body relations in the understanding and care of the human body.
- Ancient religion and philosophy recognized the connection between the mind and body were literally ignored in Western culture.
- Body Symbolism stems from semiotic constructs of specific cultures
- At the present day, to understand why so much attention is paid to the appearance of the body, it is necessary that the historical study of body symbolism and its language precede the systematic analysis of contemporary treatises on the body.

SUGGESTED READINGS

1. Monaghan, J., Just, P., *Social & Cultural Anthropology – A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2000

2. Erickson Th., Nielson, F., *A history of Anthropology*, 2001, Pluto Press

3. Gabriela-Mariana Luca (coord.), *Water and Body Fluids. Anthology of Essays*, Eurobit, 2016

4. Gabriela-Mariana Luca, *Corpul uman in-semne si coduri. Mic compendiu de antropologie culturala*, Solness/, Timișoara, 2011,

5. *Parents 'Bodies, Children's Bodies. From Conception to Education*, 2013, Editura „Victor Babeș”, Colecția ”Manifestări științifice”, ISBN 978-606-8456-17-1, e-book, 327 p., editori: Gabriela Mariana Luca & Jérôme Thomas

***What is Medical Anthropology? www.medanthro.net/about/about-medical-anthropology/ online, 2020