

Call for chapter proposals

Embodied Activisms: Performative Expressions of Political and Social Action

Proposal Deadline: October 31, 2019

Editors:

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Background:

Embodied activists take risks with their bodies, risks that include, in many instances, safety, status and public identities. Embodied activists are willing to take those risks in order to draw attention to issues related to human, environmental, economics, and other rights issues. They enact their performative embodied activism through aggressive forms of civil disobedience and other radical behaviors. In order to heighten visibility of the issue, or issues, about which they are passionate, and in an effort to promote status change, these activists' politicized, personal actions may endanger themselves or their loved ones. Embodied activism is not new and echo older forms of activism, but have risen in visibility in recent years in response to rising ethnonationalisms and instances of gender-based violence.

Book Description:

Embodied Activisms: Performative Expressions of Political and Social Action is a collection of current, interdisciplinary scholarship that examines the performance of embodied activism in a variety of global settings. The volume presents a range of transnational studies that highlights the mediated elements of these activism through #hashtag collective organizing, flash mobs, mediated consciousness raising, transmedia art forms and visual narratives, the use of ideologically polarized media, and other examples. In particular, we investigate how these embodied, extremist activism seek to destabilize patriarchal and hegemonic norms.

We seek contributions that will investigate the role of activism as a product of cultural production-consumption, particularly through the construction of narrative and artistic activist artifacts. Given the urgency of the rise of the ethno-nationalisms, sexuality and gender rights and safety movements, global populisms, and the extinction crisis otherwise known as climate change or global warming, this scholarly collection is, without doubt, timely. We encourage interdisciplinary scholarship that engages theories of embodiment and activism including performance ethnography, performative pedagogies, performative writing, autoethnography, critical race theory, feminisms, visual rhetoric, queer theory or other critical methods and theories.

Some key questions to be explored include:

- How are embodied performative acts motivators of social change and/or resistance?
- What is the relationship between extremist activists and civil disobedience?
- What types of artistic and narrative elements are emerging in contemporary movements?
- How are historical moments in embodied activism memorialized?
- Do artistic narratives and performances enhance audience reception?

Guided by these questions, the volume examines key theoretical and methodological approaches to interrogating activism, embodied activist performances, and the artistic and creative practice of activism. Activists use intentionally theatrical, musical, and other artistry in order to draw attention to particular injustices. Examples of performative embodied activism include:

- Green Valley-Sahuarita Samaritans and No More Deaths groups continue their food and water drops for migrants after criminalization and arrests under the Trump Administration
- Standing Rock Sioux protest of the North Dakota Pipeline
- Virago Nation's burlesque action as reclamation of indigenous sexuality
- Gulalai Ismail and other feminists and activists arrested or missing in Pakistan
- Hong Kong's anti-extradition bill protests
- #AskForBetter student protests against fraternity party violence

Proposal Submission Process:

Please send a 250-word abstract describing the focus and content of the proposed contribution, with "Embodied Activisms submission" in the subject header, to Dr. Victoria Newsom at editors.embodied.activism@gmail.com by October 31, 2019.

Proposals will undergo a review process, and a selection will be shortlisted for development into full-length manuscripts. Shortlisted authors must commit to a timeline for revision, resubmission and publication, with full manuscripts to be submitted by April 10, 2019.

Prospective authors are encouraged to contact Dr. Newsom, with "Embodied Activisms" in the subject header, with any enquiries.