

Séminaire Masculinités, santé, genre

Aux intersections des savoirs et des pratiques sur le corps

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***Eruptions and Interruptions—Disorders of Bodily Control and Autonomy
and the Pathologization of Lack of Agency***

Matthew Wolf-Meyer

Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, Tampere University

Despite being physiologically quite different, embodied phenomena like irritable bowel syndrome, premature ejaculation, and hyperhidrosis share a lack of bodily control as a principle element in their experience. Much like many other medical conditions, this lack of bodily control is taken as clinically important in the diagnosis of a potentially-treatable condition. These forms of lack of control over one's body are pathologized despite a lack of control being a defining feature of autonomic responses, which is reinforced by dominant ideas about the individual in liberal societies, which value bodily autonomy, control, and self-regulation. Instead, eruptions of lack of control are sites where bodies, expectations, and social infrastructures fail and where more inclusive forms of agency and embodiment might be articulated.

Contact : Francesca.arena@unige.ch

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