

# INCS 2017—ODD BODIES

March 16-19 \* Sheraton Society Hill \* Philadelphia



Nineteenth-century bodies were poked and prodded, characterized, caricatured, corseted and cossetted, disciplined, displayed, naturalized, normalized, medicalized, mapped and mechanized. Sciences and pseudosciences brought the body under scrutiny to an unprecedented degree—phrenology, psychology, physiology, anatomy, paleontology, microbiology, germ theory, principles of population, zoology, and sexology, all contributing to the proliferation of bodily discourses. Improvements in medicine and sanitation coexisted with poor sewage, and the ever-present fear of disease, and bodies were variously protected and regulated through Factory Acts, Public Health Acts, and the Contagious Diseases Act. Hospitals, workhouses and freakshows corralled and categorized. Pre-raphaelite painters preferred strong and sexualized women, while overpopulated novels featured the blind and deaf, fragile children and disabled adults, and all worried whether such outward signs accurately attested to the content of a character. Meanwhile, changes wrought in understanding one kind of body reverberated through its analogs; the human body was taken as model for corporate bodies, the body politic, bodies of knowledge—and vice versa. And where there is a model, a norm, there is also that which defies and defines that norm. INCS 2017 will pay special attention to the problematic, marginalized and metaphoric—to odd bodies.

queer bodies  
raced bodies  
busy bodies  
body markings  
disabled bodies  
prosthetics  
bodies behaving badly  
the body as spectacle  
fragmented bodies  
disciplined bodies  
animal bodies  
circus & freak show bodies  
bodies at work or play  
bodies in contact  
unlikely friendships/romances  
sexy bodies  
naked bodies  
diseased bodies  
vivisection  
the anatomized body

dead bodies  
body snatchers  
embodiment/disembodiment  
spirit bodies  
mythical bodies  
angels, monsters, and ghosts  
the gendered body  
intellectual women  
odd women, blue stockings, New  
Women  
the body of the insane, the eccentric  
characters & caricatures  
ugly bodies  
corporate bodies  
bodies of knowledge  
bodies of evidence  
bodies of work  
colonial bodies  
traveling bodies  
and the body politic...

**Deadline: November 1, 2016.** Upload proposals via the conference website [www.muhenberg.edu/incs2017](http://www.muhenberg.edu/incs2017) *coming soon*. For individual papers, send 250-word proposals; for panels, send individual proposals plus a 250-word panel description. Please include a one-page CV with your name, affiliation, and email address. Proposals that are interdisciplinary in method or panels that involve multiple disciplines are especially welcome.

Questions? Contact Barri Gold at [incs2017@gmail.com](mailto:incs2017@gmail.com)

<http://www.victorianweb.org/art/illustration/leech/92.html>

(Image courtesy of the Victorian Web, the Internet Archive and the University of Toronto)