

Kathleen Lennon “Feminist Perspectives on the Body”

- **Historical Shifts:** Essentialism → Cartesian Dualism → Embodiment
 - Simple: Body = Self
 - Complex: Mind = M Body = F
 - Conflated: extended to include characterizations of race, disability, age, illness, as well as gender
- **Embodiment: Simone de Beauvoir *The Second Sex***
 - Body = material thing + P.O.V. = **Lived Bodies**
 - Biological Data ≠ Deterministic **(NOT FIXED)**
 - Facts only given meaning by society, influenced by **IDEOLOGY**
 - Allows possibility of **BREAKING** the **NORMS**
 - Allows analysis of Self based on **EXPERIENCE**
 - Account for some differences b/t M & W
 - Body = **SITUATION** (M = autonomous agents W = objects for others)
 - G → W = horror, shame, disgust (same for maternal body)
 - Once source of criticism, later source of **POSITIVE PHENOMENOLOGY**
 - If you change the situation, you change the experience
- **Return to Phenomenology: Lived Experience**
 - Embodiment = our mode of *being* in the world
 - Experience = **NATURE + CULTURE** (NOT objective/purely biological)
 - NOT independent, but focus is on the body
 - Material body is “experienced” as making up the self
- **Throwing Like A Girl**
 - **BODILY COMPORTMENT** → Inhibited intentionality
 - W fail to use physical possibilities of body
 - W's body = thing/object = burden = requires protection
 - **SITUATION** (NOT biological)
 - Embodiment: can be both +/-
 - **Solution:** Replace S/G → Lived Bodies = material + **SUBJECTIVE**
 - Perception of material reality → habit → **RETROACTIVE NATURALIZATION**
 - Perception is really **LEARNED**
 - Due to naturalization, it is resistant to change
 - Need to start change by viewing our **OWN** bodies differently
 - Requires **CREATIVE ACTS** of replacing body-illusions
 - **Body: Image vs. Imaginaries**
 - Image = awareness of shape/form
 - Relative to situation (NOT objective)
 - Imaginaries = social/personal significance
 - Creates imaginary investments into certain parts of the body