



Destabilising Human Embodiment: Prostheses, Biotechnologies and Assemblages

Tuesday 27 March 4.30 – 5.45pm

Speaker

Em Prof Margrit Shildrick
Stockholm University

Location

Theatrette

Sir Roland Wilson Building,
Building #120, McCoy Cct, ANU

Lecture followed by light
refreshments

Enquiries

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This lecture is free and open to the
public

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In the era of postmodernity, issues of bodies and biotechnologies increasingly challenge not only the normative performance of the human subject, but also the very boundaries of what counts as human. Where in the past, the term prosthesis intended some material object that compensated for a substantive and negatively figured lack in embodiment, the emphasis now is firmly on enhancement and supplement, in both inorganic and organic registers. The deployment of prostheses no longer primarily signals a therapeutic mode of rehabilitation to normative practices, but opens up some highly productive alternatives that inevitably queer embodied experience itself. My claim is that the notion of prosthetic supplementarity necessarily entails assemblage, and that it must encompass the artificial and natural alike, engaging with microstructures as well as with whole bodies. It is a mode of existence that troubles our human privilege.



Margrit Shildrick is Guest Professor in Gender and Knowledge Production at Stockholm University, and Visiting Professor of Critical Disability Studies, York University, Toronto.

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