

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF CORPUS

DIETS & FOOD PATTERNS

Myths, Realities and Hopes

Tbilisi, July 5th-6th 2011

CORPUS

INTERNATIONAL GROUP FOR THE CULTURAL STUDIES OF THE BODY

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ILIA STATE UNIVERSITY

STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY

CALL FOR PAPERS

Founded in 2009 after a series of seminars organised between 2001 and 2008 at the EHES (Paris) and the Autonomous University of Madrid, CORPUS aims to be an effective participant in the construction of a widely diverse and scientifically based dialogue on the subject of the anthropological aspects of the body. CORPUS aims to offer a forum of cross-thinking and open dialogues about this fascinating subject.

CORPUS now boasts around three hundred fifty researchers from more than sixty different countries. The themes of the preceding symposia were "The Beautiful and the Ugly: Body Representations" (Lisboa, January 2010), "Foreign Bodies: Enhancing & Invading the Human Body" (Moscow, May 2010) and "Bodies & Folklore(s): Legacies, Constructions and Performances" (Lima, October 2010). The fourth International Symposium of CORPUS is organised with the support of the *Ilia State University* (Georgia) and the *University of Stockholm* (Sweden). Its theme will be "Diets and Food Patterns: Myths, Realities and Hopes".

As Audrey I. Richards wrote more than seventy five years ago, "Nutrition as a biological process is more fundamental than sex. In the life of the individual organism it is the more primary and recurrent physical want, while in the wider sphere of human society it determines, more largely than any other physiological function, the nature of social grouping, and the form their activities take". A human body is by essence an eater body that is in a precise cultural context and that needs to be satisfied foods and not nutriment – to use a famous Jean Tremolières's formula. Consequently, all civilisations developed knowledge about the incorporation of food by the body. Of course, these cultural productions around a biological necessity were generally linked with largest thoughts about the human nature, the world, the universe, the divinity. The basis of the dietetical systems can change, as their internal logics from a period to another, from a region to another or from a social group to another. Today, the Omega 3 and the Vitamin C are not the same things for the physicians or for your average bloke who consumes them under the form of miraculous dietary supplements. The currently fashionable ideal "traditional diets" remember that the dietetical models can be subtle constructions and good commercial products. But, they are also an invitation to observe and think about the everyday food practices and their consequences on the body avoiding excessive simplifications.

We invite researchers interested in the bio-cultural approach of human nutrition (archaeologists, anthropologists, historians, physicians, psychologists, sociologists, etc.) to participate in this meeting, especially considering one of the following themes:

- Dietetical discourses and medical considerations about food: logics and evolutions of the dietetical systems; turning points in academic medical discourses about food / substitution of dietetical systems, relations between academic and popular dietetic knowledges.
- Ideal "traditional diets" (Cretan diet, etc.): construction, promotion, influences on high cuisine/everyday cuisine, etc.
- Dietetics, nutrition sciences and ideologies: philosophical thoughts about food consumption, dieticians' visions of the society.
- Medicine-foods; dietary supplements, "healthier substitutes" and "detrimental foods": fashions, markets, contexts of consumption, dynamics of depreciative discourses, etc.
- Eating to build oneself: dietetical sub-cultures (body builders, militant vegans, etc.), particular relationships with food (anorexia, bulimia, orthorexia, etc.).
- Consequences on the body of concrete food practices: nutritional deficiencies and their cultural representations, social valorisation/depreciation of the fat body, etc.
- Eating in another world: dietetics and food practices in Science Fiction, popular tales, etc.

Presentations will be 20 minutes long and must be delivered in English. The proposals must include an abstract (150-300 words) and a current CV. The deadline for receiving presentation proposals is **March 15th 2011**. Please use the address provided below to send your proposal to Frédéric Duhart, Paata Donandze, Ulrica Söderlind, F. Xavier Medina and Mohey Mowafy. All proposals will be evaluated by an international scientific committee. The symposium will be held July 5th-6th 2011 at the Ilia State University, Kakutsa Cholakashvili Ave 3/5, Tbilisi. Transportation, visa, travel insurance costs and accommodation will be the sole responsibility of each participant.

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More information about CORPUS and its activities: <http://corpus.comlu.com>

