

POL S 404: The Politics of Sleep

Theme: Stories

Dr. Meredith Jones, Reader in Gender and Media Studies, Brunel University

- Director, Research Centre for Global Lives
- *Skintight: An Anatomy of Cosmetic Surgery* (2008)
- Project on cosmetic surgery tourism
- Meredith works at the intersections of media theory, gender studies, and cultural studies. She is particularly interested in popular culture, visibility, and embodiment, and has published widely in these areas. She often speaks publicly about popular culture and feminism, and has edited a themed edition of *Critical Studies in Fashion and Beauty* about the Kardashians as well as hosting a scholarly "Kimposium".



"Sleep, radical hospitality, and makeover's anti-matter"

- What is "makeover culture," and what is its relationship to sleep?
- Sleep functions in lots of ways in different narrative genres. List the points Jones makes about this, and how different character-types are represented as having different relations to sleep in different genres.

Specifically, fairy-tales:

- How is sleep represented in the fairy-tales *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Snow White*?
- What narrative function does enchanted sleep perform?
- What are the gender politics of these stories? (Think about: the princess' transformation, the prince's role, the good fairy, the evil fairy/stepmother/ogre wife, the dwarves)

Jones' two examples:

1. Julia Leigh, dir. *Sleeping Beauty* (2011) (watch 48:00-58:00)
 2. Philip Lachenmann, *SHU (Blue Hour Lullaby)* (2007)
- What points do they make about narrative and sleep?



Presentations

How to give peer feedback:

- Read the whole paper through once slowly before doing anything else.
- Your peer reviews will not be graded. (They are an exercise in mutual support, not an assessed assignment.)
- Write in a constructive voice, giving credit for strengths and interesting ideas, but also emphasizing places where the paper could be improved.

Structure of a peer review:

1. Start with a positive comment that emphasizes the paper's strengths.
 2. Move to a short summary, "I take the argument of this paper to be..."
 3. Then move to "suggestions for improvement." This could include:
 - Places where the argument became unclear to you.
 - Dodgy segues.
 - Objections to the argument that have not been anticipated.
 - Queries about evidence or textual support.
- You don't have to copy-edit.
 - Aim to give around 500 words of feedback, but there is no upper or lower limit.

Last presentation coming up:

- April 3: Daniel
- Remember to specify how you'd like feedback on your presentation (if at all).

Next week: the future of sleep

- Read Reiss, Chapter 6 "Utopian Sleepers"
- Read Heyes, "I'll Sleep When I'm Dead" (comes with slides)
- Start work on peer review of two draft papers, which you'll receive by Friday: comments to be returned by **Monday April 8** (email to me).