Fat Studies Scholar and Photo-Activist touring Texas!

Fat Studies scholar Cat Pausé and Photo-activist Substantia Jones are coming to Texas in December 2018!

Cat Pausé is a Fat Studies scholar and fat activist from New Zealand; her research focuses on the effects of fat stigma on the health and well-being of fat individuals and how fat activists resist the fatpocalypse.

Her work appears in scholarly journals such as Human Development, Feminist Review, HERDSA, and Narrative Inquiries in Bioethics, as well as online in The Huffington Post and The Conversation, among others. She hosted Fat Studies: Identity, Agency, Embodiment in 2016. You can find Cat’s work across social media, including her blog, and weekly podcast, Friend of Marilyn.

Photo-activist Substantia Jones created, manages, and is sole photographer for the 10-year-old fat acceptance campaign, The Adipositivity Project, hosting a diverse and growing collection of hundreds of her photographs of fat people of all genders, mostly women, mostly nude. She lectures internationally, and her photography has been featured in hundreds of books, magazines, and news outlets across the globe. Jones’ work has been included in art exhibitions at the Tate Modern in London, the Steirischer Herbst Arts Festival in Graz, Austria, Lesbiche in Sardinia, Italy, and in a two-month solo exhibition of her photographs at Te Manawa Museum in New Zealand.

CAT AND SUBSTANTIA WILL BE IN TEXAS IN DECEMBER 2018 AND ARE AVAILABLE TO BOOK FOR SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS!

Book them today! c.pause@massey.ac.nz
Seminar: Not Your Good Fatty

Fat people are irresponsible citizens, using too many resources and failing to uphold the new social contract (the moral obligation to be healthy). In modern neoliberal contexts, this results in hostile environments and the development of spoiled identities (stigmatised identities in which the bearer is held responsible for the stigma).

Individuals in the Fatosphere, an online community of people who have come out as fat, are engaging in anti-assimilationist activism. They queer fat embodiment, disrupting the normative obesity discourse and rejecting the demands of the neoliberal system. They are defiant resisters, performing their fatness in inappropriate ways. They are, in short, doing fatness wrong.

This seminar explores ways that Fat Studies scholars and Fat Studies activists use Web 2.0 tools to come out as fat, transforming online spaces into spaces of oppositional fat politics.

Cat Pausé: Fat activist on Radio New Zealand in 2016

Seminar: Fat Pedagogies in Practice

In every classroom, norms & attitudes about bodies are (re)produced through both classroom dynamics (educator-student, student-student, student-educator) and the treatment of bodies within the subject material. Our bodies, and our students’ bodies, play important roles in teaching and learning. Educators interested in issues of social justice must allow body size to have a place beside the commitment to issues of gender, race, ability, sexual orientation, etc. In this seminar, I explore ways that educators may include consideration of fat politics in the classroom. I present strategies for incorporating critical pedagogies of the body into tertiary teaching with a focus on using social media as a social justice tool.

Pausé, C. J. (2015, 2 October). Interest grows in Fat Studies university course. Stuff.co.nz
Seminar: A Decade of Feminism, Fuckyouism, and Fat

The mission of The Adiposity Project is to combat sizeist bigotry, foster informed discussion of body politics, and promote recognition of the individual’s physical autonomy, while encouraging critical thinking about the role of commerce in the way we view non-conforming bodies. Since 2007, photographer Substantia Jones has done that with a diverse, intersectional activism campaign which aims to normalize fat bodies through the visibility they’re ordinarily denied, subverting the tool most commonly used to promote body shame: photography. By parading positive images of that which we’re told we should reject, hide, and alter, the project’s goal is to put artful photographs of unapologetic fat people—happy beings displaying their nude bodies without shame—in front of as many eyes as possible.

Jones discusses the project’s origins, launch, changing goals, and successes in getting her images seen all over the world, resulting in awakened feedback from dozens of countries. Also covered will be her experiences with nude photo shoots on the streets of New York City, often interrupted by the less than enthusiastic NYPD.

By purveying positive and neutral visual representation for fat people, the project’s message is to love and respect our bodies, and allow others to love and respect their own. It may sound easily achievable, but in a time of widespread hate fueled by a $66 billion a year US weight loss industry, it’s not so simple.

Jones will also discuss how attendees may themselves get involved with ongoing projects, and how they might create their own personal visual re-programming in order to more effectively advocate for their movement.
Workshop: Body Politics, Ethics, and You

This workshop explores the role of fat activism in your profession. We will unpack the concepts of body autonomy and fat stigma, and consider how they are related to your profession. Slim bodies are constructed as moral beings: as disciplined, active, attractive and successful; fat bodies are constructed as immoral beings: as undisciplined, lazy, disgusting and unattractive. The resulting anti-fat attitudes influence the lives of individuals of all sizes. The workshop aims to unpack anti-fat bias and fat stigma and allow individuals to engage in a neutral or fat positive manner.


Workshop: Using Social Media to Promote your Research

This bring-your-own-device workshop will explore ways that scholars may promote their work using social media. Twitter, Tumblr, blogs and discussion forums allow for academics to engage with a much wider audience and build their research platform. In this session, we will explore the use of social media in academic dissemination, collaboration and branding.


Workshop: Podcasting for Academics

Many scholars are choosing to share their work via social media. Podcasting is one of those mediums. This workshop will consider the conceptual and technical issues to keep in mind when producing a podcast. Tips and tricks will be shared from Cat’s successful podcast, Friend of Marilyn, which has aired over 200 episodes across the last 6 years.

See: Heaton, T. 2016, (March 17). Fat positive activist taking message across the world. Stuff.co.nz
Humans need visibility. A reflection of themselves in their environment. Positive and neutral visual representation. But our culture too often denies visibility to fat people. In this presentation, Jones discusses why it’s vital, and how we may create our own visibility using a tool commonly employed to deny us equal representation. The camera.

After establishing the need for representation and detailing its role as the proverbial oxygen mask when pushing back against sizeist oppression, Jones introduces attendees to the words and work of photographers specializing in (primarily non-commercial) the artful documenting of unapologetic fat people, including Laurie Toby Edison and Velvet D’Amour, each of whom produced work which pre-dated her own, then on to Leonard Nimoy, Nona Faustine Simmons, Shoog McDaniel, and others whose primary work came after the launch of the Adipositivity Project in 2007. Photographs from the project will also be presented, including some never before seen, accompanied by commentary on how such images are created, including on the streets of New York City, whilst naked.

This presentation also features a number of powerful images made by Patricia Schwarz in the '80s and '90 which, most of which have never appeared on the internet. Patricia passed away in December, leaving behind a collection of incredible work which gained very little attention outside of Japan. Also discussed will be the ways aesthetically pleasing photographs of fat subjects can sometimes fail to be fat positive, then a look ahead to what some of the aforementioned photographers hope to accomplish going forward, as well as what we anticipate will be the future role of photography in the HAES and Fat Acceptance movements.