

CFP Body Cultures Book

We welcome abstracts to a new book project about body cultures and space. *Body Cultures: Physicality, Space, and Moving Bodies* will offer a multifaceted exploration into the dynamics of human embodiment within diverse contexts. Anchored in the realms of sport and fitness, this collection will delve into the intricate choreographies of movement, performance, and physical breakdowns. Contributors shall examine the body not merely as a biological entity, but as a vessel of cultural, artistic, and communicative expressions. Drawing references from theatre and the arts, as well as sport and popular culture, essays will illuminate the performative dimensions of athleticism, juxtaposing them with theatrical embodiments. Studies can trace how narratives shape and reflect societal perceptions, and even embodiments, of physical prowess, limitations, and aesthetics. Additionally, food, as both sustenance and symbol, can be explored, revealing its role in constructing athletic identities and bodily practices. Together, these insights will present a cohesive understanding of the human body's dialogues with space, articulating its stories of strain, strength, and spectacle.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Sport, competitions, multi-sport events
- Traditional games
- Play and fun
- Dance, performance, and festivals
- Physical culture and physical education
- Fitness, leisure, and yoga
- Fat, muscle, and body image
- Artistic impressions of the body
- Ability and disability
- Food as sustenance and symbol
- Nature, the environment, and ecological embodiment
- Health, medicalized bodies, and anatomy/biology

Please send a 250-word abstract to tom.fabian@ucd.ie and C.Heffernan@ulster.ac.uk by July 31, 2024. We will review abstracts and respond by the end of August 2024. The collection of abstracts will be included in a book proposal to Brill's new *Bodies and Abilities in Culture, Literature, and the Art* series. If your abstract is accepted, the deadline for first drafts of chapters will be March 2025. Contributors will be asked to review one other chapter in the collection.