

in turn, used to teach viewers about how to be good “biocitizens”<sup>710</sup> or die.

**Acknowledgements:** G Rail and M Lafrance would like to thank the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for the funding of their respective research programmes.

**Funding:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

**Competing interests:** None.

**Provenance and peer review:** Not commissioned; not externally peer reviewed.

## REFERENCES

1. Campos P. *The obesity myth: why America's obsession with weight is hazardous to your health*. New York: Penguin Books, 2004.
2. Evans J, Rich E, Allwood R, et al. Fat fabrications. *British Journal of Teaching Physical Education* 2005;**36**:18–20.
3. Gard M, Wright J. *The obesity epidemic: science, morality and ideology*. London: Routledge, 2005.
4. Monaghan LF. Men, physical activity, and the obesity discourse: critical understandings from a qualitative study. *Social Sport J* 2008;**25**:97–129.
5. Murray S. *The “fat” female body*. South Yarra, Australia: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.
6. Oliver JE. The politics of pathology: how obesity became an epidemic disease. *Perspect Biol Med* 2006;**49**:611–27.
7. Rail G. Canadian youth's discursive constructions of health in the context of obesity discourse. In: Wright J, Harwood V, eds. *Biopolitics and the “obesity epidemic”: governing bodies*. London: Routledge, 2008:141–56.
8. Saguy A, Almeling R. Fat in the fire? Science, the news media, and the “obesity epidemic”. *Sociological Forum* 2007;**22**:53–83.
9. Harwood V. Theorizing biopedagogies. In: Wright J, Harwood V, eds. *Biopolitics and the “obesity epidemic”: governing bodies*. London: Routledge, 2008:15–30.
10. Rose N, Novas C. Biological citizenship. In: Ong A, Collier S, eds. *Global assemblages: technology, politics and ethics as anthropological problems*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005:439–63.
11. Foucault M. *The history of sexuality*. Vol I. *An introduction*. Harmondsworth, England: Penguin Books, 1978.
12. Foucault M. The confessions of the flesh. In: Gordon C, ed. *Power/knowledge: selected interviews and other writings, 1972–1977*. Hemel Hempstead: Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1980:194–228.
13. Foucault M. *Discipline and punish: the birth of the prison*. New York: Vintage, 1979.
14. Groskopf B. The failure of bio-power: interrogating the “obesity crisis”. *Leonardo: Journal for the Arts, Sciences and Technology* 2005;**3**:41–7.
15. Monaghan LF. McDonaldizing men's bodies? Slimming, associated (ir)rationalities and resistances. *Body and Society* 2007;**13**:67–93.
16. Gard M. An elephant in the room and a bridge too far, or physical education and the “obesity epidemic”. In: Evans J, Davies B, Wright J, eds. *Body knowledge and control: studies in the sociology of physical education and health*. London: Routledge, 2004:68–82.
17. Lupton D. *The imperative of public health: public health and the regulated body*. London: Sage, 1995.
18. Oliver JE. *Fat politics: the real story behind America's obesity epidemic*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
19. Herrick C. Risky bodies: public health, social marketing and the governance of obesity. *Geoforum* 2007;**38**:90–102.
20. Foucault M. *Naissance de la biopolitique: cours au Collège de France, 1978–1979*. Paris: Gallimard, 2004.
21. Foucault M. *Sécurité, territoire, population: cours au Collège de France, 1977–1978*. Paris: Gallimard, 2004.
22. Evans J, Rich E, Davies B. The emperor's new clothes: fat, thin and overweight. The social fabrication of risk and health. *Journal of Teaching in Physical Education* 2004;**23**:372–92.
23. Rich E, Evans J. Fat ethics: the obesity discourse and body politics. *Social Theory and Health* 2005;**3**:341–58.
24. Wright J, Harwood V, eds. *Biopolitics and the “obesity epidemic”: governing bodies*. London: Routledge, 2008.
25. Mills CW. *The sociological imagination*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1959.
26. Jeffords S. *Hard bodies: Hollywood masculinity in the age of Reaganomics*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers, 1994.
27. Kristeva J. *Powers of horror: an essay on abjection*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1982.
28. Deleuze G, Guattari F. *Anti-Oedipus: capitalism and schizophrenia*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983.
29. Holmes D, Murray SJ, Perron A, et al. Deconstructing the evidence-based discourse in health sciences: truth, power, and fascism. *International Journal of Evidence-Based Healthcare* 2006;**4**:180–6.

## Poem

### A time like all others

Clear midday summer sunlight  
comes in through the lowered Venetian blinds  
and, once inside, mixes with the scattered  
fluorescent ceiling lights of the waiting room  
where I've been looking at the covers  
of the magazines lying on the table,  
not doing the work in the backpack at my feet.  
Whether you're aware of it at the time or not,  
what always feels most distinctive about hospitals,  
I think, is how similar they are to other buildings,  
how unexceptional the other patients and nurses  
and doctors are, how ordinary disease is,  
while, around the corner behind the reception desk

or through the swinging doors at the end  
of an unmarked hallway you didn't take,  
there are things you know nothing about.  
Unimaginable pain and hardship, of course,  
but, perhaps, also hints of happiness,  
probably not encountered today or tomorrow,  
but eventually, at a time, like all others,  
you can't move toward, or away from.

#### C Gardner

**Correspondence to:** C Gardner, 58 Highland St, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA; gardner.caleb@gmail.com

**Competing interests:** None.

**Provenance and peer review:** Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

*J Med Ethics; Medical Humanities* 2009;**35**:79. doi:10.1136/jmh.2009.002089