

Beyond the Periphery of the Skin

Rethinking, Remaking, and Reclaiming the Body in Contemporary Capitalism

Silvia Federici

More than ever, “the body” is today at the center of radical and institutional politics. Feminist, antiracist, trans, ecological movements: all look at the body, in its manifold manifestations, as a ground of confrontation with the state and a vehicle for transformative social practices. Concurrently, the body has become a signifier for the reproduction crisis the neoliberal turn in capitalist development has generated and for the international surge in institutional repression and public violence. In *Beyond the Periphery of the Skin*, lifelong activist and best-selling author Silvia Federici examines these complex processes, placing them in the context of the history of the capitalist transformation of the body into a work-machine, expanding on one of the main subjects of her first book, *Caliban and the Witch*.

Building on three groundbreaking lectures that she delivered in San Francisco in 2015, Federici surveys the new paradigms that today govern how the body is conceived in the collective radical imagination, as well as the new disciplinary regimes state and capital are deploying in response to mounting revolt against the daily attacks on our everyday reproduction. In this process she confronts some of the most important questions for contemporary radical political projects. What does “the body” mean, today, as a category of social/political action? What are the processes, institutional or anti-systemic, by which it is constituted? How do we dismantle the tools by which our bodies have been “enclosed” and collectively reclaim our capacity to govern them?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Silvia Federici is a feminist writer, teacher, and militant. In 1972 she was cofounder of the International Feminist Collective that launched the Wages for Housework campaign. Her books include *Witches, Witch-Hunting, and Women*; *Caliban and the Witch*; *Re-enchanting the World*; and *Revolution at Point Zero*. She is a professor emerita of social sciences at Hofstra University, in Hempstead, New York. She worked as a teacher in Nigeria for many years and was also the cofounder of the Committee for Academic Freedom for Africa.

ACCOLADES

“Federici’s attempt to draw together the work of feminists and activists from different parts of the world and place them in historical context is brave, thought-provoking, and timely. Federici’s writing is lucid and her fury palpable.”

—Red Pepper

“Reading Federici empowers us to reconnect with what is at the core of human development, women’s labor-intensive caregiving—a radical rethinking of how we live.”

—Z Magazine



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“Federici has become a crucial figure for young Marxists, political theorists, and a new generation of feminists.”
—RACHEL KUSHNER, author of *The Flamethrowers*

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