

# Does the body matter? Reflections on the trade in human tissue and on 'aesthetic' medicine

**Professor Alastair V Campbell**  
**Director, Centre for Biomedical Ethics**  
**Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine**  
**National University of Singapore**

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# Outline

Why does the body matter?

Examples

Extrinsic/Intrinsic

The Body Bazaar

The Branded Body

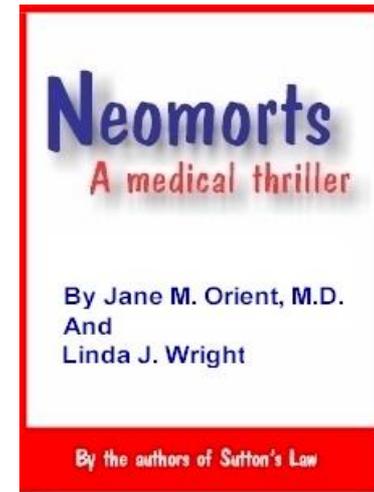
Solutions?

# Silent Mentors – Body as Teacher

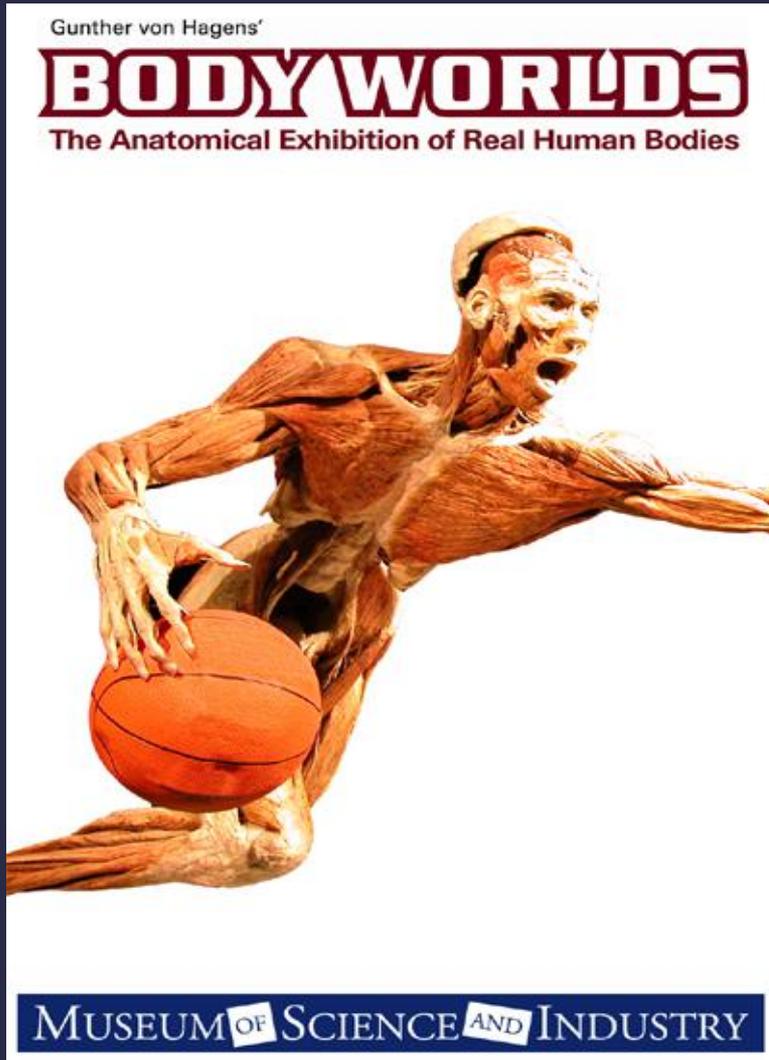


Troost, Willem Roell's anatomy lesson. 1728.

# Body as Research Tool



# Body as Entertainment



- Art/Entertainment
  - Bodyworlds
  - OK, with consent?



# Extrinsic/Intrinsic

- Body as Resource
- Embodiment of person

# The Body as Resource

## FOR SALE: A kidney for only \$3,000



Raw deal for the poor selling their organs on No-Kidney Island; Arroyo acts to stop illegal trade

By ALAKEER MULLANA  
Philippines Correspondent  
in Manila

They call it a *barangay*. They say it's No-Kidney Island.

This is the impoverished part of an old Bataan in Manila, where many residents have sold a kidney on the black market to help their get-by.

Across the Philippines, places such as Bataan are providing a ready supply of kidneys for the ailing wealthy. The selling is a lucrative trade, as for the rich, a desperate poor.

Like Mr. Remolde Yap, a poor farmer who works on the island. He had to sell all his money to pay off a loan, he decided to sell his only asset. One of his kidneys.

A broker living in Bataan arranged this sale for \$3,300 gross (US\$ 300, a miserable price, considering that the going rate for a kidney can be as much as \$6,500).

A few days later, Mr. Yap checked into a hospital, was assessed for compatibility and went under the knife. The recipient was a Canadian with end-stage renal disease.

"That was just over a year ago. Today, Mr. Yap said his health is good," that when I am carrying heavy loads, I get tired quicker than before."

The police are struggling to put kidney buyers such as Bataan out of business.

Bataan police chief Norberto Mendez knows the identities of the buyers in his community of 2,000 families.

"But it is hard to make an arrest," he said. "A buyer accompanying a donor to hospital will say he is only acting as a companion, if it is a secret agreement."

Under the law, there is nothing to stop an organ donor coming to a private agreement with a recipient. It is only the presence of a third-party broker that is illegal. Typical is for a sale of \$3,000 - the median for such deals.

Bataan's nickname suggests that many residents have sold a kidney over the years, but nothing at a local level is being done.

A University of the Philippines study from 2003 quoted Bataan's main source of income as being the



EVIDENCE OF UNHEALTHY DEALS: Bataan residents (from left) Mr. Yap, Mr. Flors Aligat and Mr. Pandoing showing the scars from their kidney removal operations. Many who sell their kidneys end up spending the little cash they get.

second largest and gross value the highest - a figure that stands with credibility in the medical profession.

In the first part of 2006, there were 2,347 kidney transplants performed in the whole of the Philippines, according to National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKI) data.

The figure - primary or otherwise - caught the attention of President Gloria Arroyo when it appeared in a Manila newspaper recently. She reportedly instructed the Department of Health to work with the medical profession to find ways of stopping the illegal trade in human organs.

As it happens, scores were already under way to set up a regula-

tion system of supervised organ-donors and a national primary donor bank.

The bank, established in a cooperative form, has raised organ sales by 10 per cent in the last quarter. In the past, few are usually seen holding their own kidneys, and studies have shown that the donors go on to suffer a decline in health.

But a regulated "ethical" market could give poor donors a better deal - and reduce the middlemen. In fact, a local organ government, all organ donors - the National Foundation of the Philippines - already offers a "peak-up of guarantee" worth \$20,000 for people selling a kidney that includes such things as a test and free annual check-ups.

But would he not get out of the clinic.

Dr. Remolde de Belon-Cabrera, manager of the NKI's Rural Chronic Control Programme, admitted the system is failing. "We have to concentrate on our business for selling kidneys with education campaigns."

Some who have sold a kidney rarely get the check-up that doctors say should be done annually for at least a decade, because they cannot afford it.

"I was told we got back for a check-up, but I felt okay, so I did not," said Bataan resident Celestino Pandoing, a middle-aged farmer who sold his kidney for \$3,300.

### NO PROPER CARE

"I was told to go back for a check-up, but I felt okay, so I did not."

BATAAN RESIDENT CELESTINO PANDOING, a middle-aged farmer who sold his kidney for \$3,300. Most of the poor cannot afford the annual check-ups they are supposed to have after being one of their buyers.

### SPENDING THE MONEY

"These people are the poorest of our poor and do not know how to invest. The government should have an agency to manage organ donations."

BATAAN SENIOR COMMUNITY COUNCILOR RAY CARPENA, who said that many of those who sold a kidney squander their money on home appliances.

As the value and the status of our poor and do not know how to invest. The government should have an agency to manage organ donations, said Mr. Carpena.

Bataan senior community councilor Ray Carpena said that while some spend their money wisely - buying a house or starting a small business, for instance - too many squander their money on home appliances.

"These people are the poorest of our poor and do not know how to invest. The government should have an agency to manage organ donations, said Mr. Carpena.

MANILA TRIBUNE LEGAL BUREAU  
PRIME PAGE 11

# Assault on the Person

*‘they were devastated to hear that their daughter’s tongue had been retained and father protested silently outside Alder Hey...They describe the hospital as having stolen their daughter’s body, which was ‘white as driven snow.*

*It was reduced to skin and bone by predators and it must never happen again.’*

**Retained Organs Controversy**

# Conceptual Background

- Dualism – Cartesian Legacy
- Rationalism in Ethics
- Embodiment

# Example 1 - Body Bazaar

*The business of human bodies is a growing part of the \$17 billion biotechnology industry comprising more than thirteen hundred biotechnology firms. Those companies extract, analyze, and transform tissue into products with enormous potential for future economic gain. Their demands for skin, blood, placenta, gametes, biopsied tissue, and other sources of genetic material are expanding.*

Andrews & Nelkin, (2001), pg. 2

# Implications

- Bio-piracy
- Commodification
- Biocommons?

## Example 2 - Body as Brand



# Implications

- The Perfect Body
- The Body Despised
- The Ageless Body

# The Perfect Body

## The Makeover of Susan Boyle

FROM BUSHY BROWS TO POLISHED PERFECTION, SUBO'S TRANSFORMATION

### HAIR

*Celebrity hairdresser Richard Ward*

HER hair has been done brilliantly. It's a killer combination of a great cut, colour and blow-dry, with the overall effect softening her features. It hasn't strayed far from her old look, but what the cut has done is incorporate layers to remove the weight of her naturally frizzy, coarse hair. The soft brown tone takes her graying locks back to their original colour. She's either had a good intensive treatment to tackle the frizz or a 'permanent blow-dry' to create a salon finish.

### BROWS

*Vaishaly Patel, facialist and eyebrow shaper to the stars*

EVER since I clapped eyes on Susan I've been itching to get my hands on those brows. I'm disappointed that I wasn't the one to sort them out. But her new, tamed brows are the centrepiece of her transformation — a well-shaped brow is like an eye-lift without surgery. Who knew she had such pretty eyes under there? Susan has long, thick brow hairs, which have been trimmed and shaped into a slight arch. They are wide set which balances the features, making her eyes look less close together. The Hairy Angel is no more!

### TEETH

*Dr Wyman Chan, of Smile Studios*

NO WONDER she's smiling, she looks fabulous. There seems to be evidence of work done on the upper teeth. They are a lighter shade, suggesting she has undergone a whitening treatment — perhaps a fast light-activated peroxide gel treatment, which is popular with women who want to achieve a more youthful look without surgery. But even before the makeover, she had lovely straight teeth.

### RETOUCHING

*A senior image retoucher at top production house Tabor James*

NO OBVIOUS signs of excessive retouching. Her skin is lacking in blemishes, though this could be down to make-up. The front of her hair appears to have come from a different shot as you can see that it is in softer focus. The lighting is bright, reducing the darkness around the eyes.

### MAKE-UP

*Ruby Hammer, celebrity make-up artist*

THIS is a classy look. Susan still looks like Susan, just glossier. Her skin, which looked blotchy, is now even. A liquid foundation has been used, to give good coverage. The finish is matte and subtle, showing the smile lines around her eyes. Her brows have been pencilled for definition. She has a light sweep of matte eyeshadow, and liner close to the lashline and perhaps on the lower lashes, but a volumising mascara does most of the work. Her cheeks have a rosy blush, a tone matched in the lipstick — which lets her eyes and top do all the sparkling.

### FIGURE

*Dr Elisabeth Dancey, cosmetic doctor*

WHAT is most incredible about this transformation is that she owes most of it to non-surgical weight loss — she's obviously transformed her diet. Her jowls have shrunk. As a larger lady, she had plenty of facial volume to begin with and her skin was plump and soft. The wrinkles around her eyes may have been accentuated by the weight loss, and she may think about having fine fillers in the future. But so far, the only procedure that I can see she might have had is IPL (Intense pulsed light), to reduce redness and thread veins. She looks radiant.

### FASHION

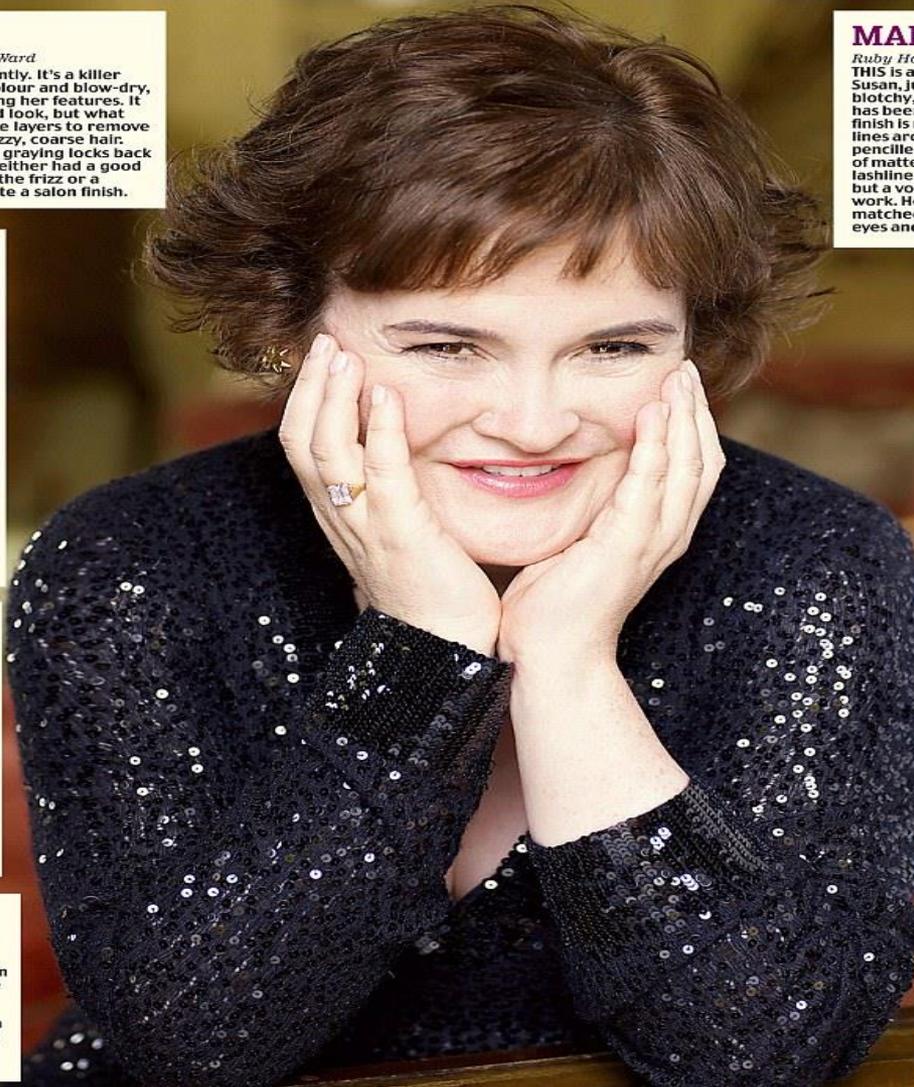
*Natalie Theo, Daily Mail fashion editor*

I NEVER thought I'd use the words Susan Boyle and Donna Karan in one sentence. But here she is looking splendid in a £930 black sequin jumper. Donna Karan is known for her use of flattering fabrics and sequins are a big autumn/winter trend. Boyle looks elegant and at ease. The colour works well against her warmed hair tones and natural-looking make-up. The look says 'simple perfection'.

### NAILS

*Andrea Fulerton, celebrity manicurist*

HER hands look very young. They're elegant, too, with good finger and nail-bed lengths. The nails are in great condition. They have been painted in a classic cream shade — which gives an elegant finish.



# The Body Despised



# The Ageless (Ethereal) Body



*Virgin and Child*, Adolphe-William Bouguereau, 1888



*Madonna with the Sleeping Child*, Andrea Mantegna, 1465-1470

# Conceptual Background

- Image and Reality
- Competitive Advantage
- Denial of Death

# Living with Mortality

*How exquisite and how perfect is the living flower which knows both birth and dying;*

*While the plastic flower which lasts a thousand years is ever brutal in its changelessness.*

(Shannon 1975)

# Solutions

- Tougher Legislation/Regulation
- Shared Human Resources – reject the market!
- Celebrate Difference

# Celebrating Difference

- Uniqueness and Diversity



- Welcoming the “Stranger”



**Thank You**