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## **FAU Presents ‘Bodies of Belief: Somaesthetics of Faith and Liberation**

**BOCA RATON, Fla. (November 3, 2023)** – Florida Atlantic University’s Center for Body, Mind, and Culture in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters will present an in-person international conference “Bodies of Belief: Somaesthetics of Faith and Liberation” on Wednesday, Nov. 8 and Thursday, Nov. 9 on FAU’s Boca Raton campus, 777 Glades Road.

This conference will examine the complex phenomenon of pain as an inevitable dimension of embodied life. Although often identified with a mere physical sensation, pain clearly has its mental or spiritual forms and features. Indeed, even physical pain is experienced as a mental event and seems to bridge the alleged divide between body and mind that somaesthetics contests.

“Our conference ‘Bodies of Belief: Somaesthetics of Faith and Liberation Bodies of Pain: Somaesthetic Explorations’ explores how human bodies are shaped not only by their genetic endowments but also by the belief frameworks of the cultures in which they live,” said Richard Shusterman, FAU Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar in the Humanities and Director of the Center of Body, Mind and Culture. “Our shared embodied beliefs generate collaborative action that holds our societies together. However, the beliefs we embody also transcend and defy established social norms; they include items of faith and commitment that are nonconformist or even antagonistic to the societal mainstream.”

The conference will include presentations from an international group of scholars from Europe and America. Program and access details can be found at <https://www.fau.edu/artsandletters/bodymindculture/uconfem/>.

This is the 19th international conference of the Center for Body, Mind, and Culture since its founding in 2007. For further information about the center, visit <https://www.fau.edu/artsandletters/bodymindculture/>.

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*About Florida Atlantic University:*

*Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit [www.fau.edu](http://www.fau.edu).*