

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Polly Burks  
561-297-2595, [pburks@fau.edu](mailto:pburks@fau.edu)

## **FAU Presents ‘Bodies of Power: Somaesthetics and Politics**

**BOCA RATON, Fla. (October XX, 2021)** – Florida Atlantic University’s Center for Body, Mind, and Culture in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters will present the virtual conference “Bodies of Power: Somaesthetics and Politics” on Thursday, Nov. 4 and Friday, Nov. 5. Program and access details can be found at <https://www.fau.edu/artsandletters/bodymindculture/uconferrn/>.

This conference will examine the complex relationships between human bodies and the political institutions which govern them. Political regimes are able to maintain their power and domination through control of peoples’ bodies. They do so not only by explicit acts of violence and internment but also more insidiously by inculcating somatic norms and habits that support the dominating political authorities and ideologies.

“Our conference ‘Bodies of Power: Somaesthetics and Politics’ explores not only the multiple ways political authorities wield their power on and through our bodies, but also the ways that we as individuals and groups can find paths of emancipation through more creative, progressive somaesthetic thinking and action,” said Richard Shusterman, FAU Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar in the Humanities and Director of the Center of Body, Mind and Culture. “The problems of systemic racism and ethnic discrimination that are central to the quest for social justice clearly relate to how bodies appear and are judged in the public realm, but very little attention is given to somaesthetic analysis of these issues.”

The conference will include presentations from international scholars based in Korea, India, Poland, Spain, and Italy, as well as scholars from U.S. universities. Martin Jay of the University of California, Berkeley, will give the keynote address.

This is the 17th 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).*