08.05.2024 16:30 Uhr

Zoom-Vortrag Link und Zugangsdaten via E-Mail

Imagining Bodies: The Materials of Medical Education

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Imagination is an important element of learning, yet how it is cultivated in higher education settings is rarely discussed, including in STS scholarship. Very often this is a topic left to philosophers, literary scholars and psychologists. In the public sphere, the perceived "demise" of imagination in education has increasingly become a matter of concern for some, especially in the context of digital technologies and artificial intelligence. In this talk I will take the audience into a particular learning setting where imagination is practiced in everyday lessons and in material ways: medical school. It will draw on research conducted on the precipice of the pandemic-led explosion in digital learning in schools and universities as part of the 6-year long ERC-funded team project called Making Clinical Sense.

In this talk I will focus on the materiality of learning, dissecting some of the practices, places and objects that teachers use when they go about crafting spatial imaginations, delving into what these materials do and what kinds of bodies are rendered in such encounters. I will suggest that the physical, material, sensory learning that our research team encountered in medical schools in Ghana, Hungary and the Netherlands opens up a different kind of knowledge from that happening in virtual and online educational environments. I will share ethnographic vignettes from my own fieldwork, discuss the broader context of the ethnographic-historic project and our collaborative publications, and, if time, the methodological and writing experiments we have developed and are still exploring.



