

“The Hacked Barbie”

Workshop on body awareness, cosmetic subjectivities and body manipulation”

The Hacked Barbie workshop was born as a dissemination activity of the project "Excel - The Pursuit of Excellence" (<https://www.excelproject.eu>) and it was presented for the first time by Federica Manfredi and Chiara Pussetti at the World Anthropology Day 2021, organized by the University Milan-Bicocca. The good experience motivated forthcoming editions in virtual Portugal, Italy, Brazil, Argentina, USA and UK.



From The Hacked Barbie workshop previous editions.

A Portuguese/English version for COMBART consists in an online workshop for selected young participants who aim to engage in a reflection about corporality, activism and arts.

Part of the activity consists in an individual project that participants are expected to carry on independently and BEFORE the online meeting.

Instructions for participants

First step:

The activity can host maximum 10-12 individual projects: if you decided to be on board, write us an email (first come first served basis).

What to do?

The Hacked Barbie invites to take a Barbie (or a Ken or any other anthropomorphic doll allowing a comfortable gender identification) and to reproduce your own corporality and the body interventions, during the everyday life or in specific episodes, on the doll.

Let's explore the moment of the choice: which doll captures your attention? How do you feel about that? Are there features supporting a plan to work on?

Once you have chosen your doll, you can cut, dye, draw, smooth or add curves and edges to the metaphorical plastic flesh, as well as making or designing clothes and accessories that represent you. There is no limit to creativity! You can use any material, color or idea. The goal is the reproduction of your body on the doll, so "hack it" to (re)create yourself! Think the body as a project.

The final result does not interest us to be "beautiful", but we hope that the creative process will be an opportunity to ask questions and to discover paths of reflections (which do not necessarily have to be solved before the workshop). We can also create aspects of ourselves that we would like and that we don't feel fulfilled with, or we can create the doll in-doing something that represents who we are and what we care.

The important thing is to use the doll to think yourself, in whatever direction the thought takes.

Second step: Document each step of the process with photos, videos or notes. Why? Because the workshop will be the moment to share and discuss individual projects.

Last thing to do: Once having completed your hacked Barbie, we invite you to take some pictures of the doll in the places where you expose your body to others. Shops, parks, metro, private homes or elevators: there are no limits to creativity (except Covid restrictions, of course). This video / photo material will also help us during the workshop to think about corporeality in social and urban environments. Does the social gaze affect my body practices? How does the intersubjective space influence the agency of my body performance?

Third step: Finally, how to present the results of this work? We are waiting for a brief power point or pdf of the main photos that represent the stages of your hacking, perhaps with some explanatory phrase that you can use when presenting your work to the group "live" (about 5 minutes presentation).

There seems to be a lot to do, right? Actually it depends on how much time / energy you want to dedicate to it. Everything can be solved in a short afternoon, or it can be a trip diluted in several days!

To register for the workshop or to take away any doubts or concerns, send us an email: Isabel Pires (isabelpires85@gmail.com) and Federica Manfredi (federicamanfredi@hotmail.fr).

Ethical questions: what will be done with this data? This workshop is a research activity of the Excel project where participants will be invited to give their consent for an anonymous and ethical use of the data produced at the beginning of the workshop. Participants will also have the chance to upload their projects on the Excel website (and its social channels): the purpose is to create an action-research tool capable of uniting the participants of the various editions and to raise awareness on the processes of body intervention.

“The Hacked Barbie” workshop is based on the project “EXCEL - The Pursuit of Excellence. Biotechnologies, valuation and social capital in Portugal”, financed by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) in the form of grant no. PTDC / SOC-ANT / 30572/2017, and is coordinated at the Institute of Social Sciences (ICS) - University of Lisbon - by PI Chiara Pussetti. For more information: <https://www.excelproject.eu> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1EIglNNN-5J7gRg-MTVq-g>



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