

The background is a gradient of green and blue. It features several abstract circular elements: a large scale on the left with numbers from 150 to 260, and several smaller circles with arrows indicating clockwise or counter-clockwise movement. The text is white and centered on the right side.

# EMBODIMENT, BIOLOGICAL PROCESS AND BODILY PRACTICE – PART 1

ANTHRO 208 MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

WEEK 6, 2020

HEATHER BATTLES

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

## READINGS FOR WEDNESDAY DISCUSSION

- **Joralemon**, Chapter 2: Anthropological Questions and Methods in the Study of Sickness and Healing (pp. 13-25)
- **Lock, M., & Kaufert, P. (2001)** Menopause, local biologies, and cultures of aging. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 13(4), 494-504.
- **Oths, K. S. (1999)** Debilidad: A biocultural assessment of an embodied Andean illness. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 13(3), 286-315.

# OUTLINE – SHORT LECTURE

## **Concepts:**

- embodiment
- local biology

# EMBODIMENT

*“embodiment is a way of describing **porous, visceral, felt, enlivened bodily experiences, in and with inhabited worlds.**”* (Harris, 2016)

- How people biologically incorporate their social and material worlds
- A tool to examine the linked biological and social determinants of health
- Political economy + the physiological channels through which illness is produced
- Biological expression of social relations

(Kreiger cited in Horton & Barker)



# BIOLOGICAL EMBEDDING VS EMBODIMENT

## Biological embedding

- Hertzman & Boyce: *“the processes by which human experience alters biological processes in stable and long-term ways that influence health over the life course.”*
- **Biological** explanation/process; **an event**

## Embodiment

- Krieger & Davey Smith: *“How social influences become literally embodied into physio-anatomic characteristics that influence health and become expressed in societal disparities in health.”* (p. 92)
- **Biosocial/biocultural** process; **continual**

# LOCAL BIOLOGY

- Biology as **biosocial/biocultural** product reflecting both social and physical conditions of lives (**vs universal and invariant**)
- “Think of biology and culture as in a **continuous feedback relationship** of ongoing exchange, in which **both are subject to variation.**” (Lock & Kaufert p. 503)



# REMINDER:

- Assignment 2 (Found Object annotation + list of 5 scholarly references) due by 4pm Thursday 30 April