

## **Abs-Tracked.**

This thesis attempts to problematize and rethink the inter-related construction of the categories of “environment” and “fitness”. It argues that environments are materially and discursively constructed through the mutually constitutive mobilization of networks of human and non-human actors by particularly powerful centers of translation, and that these processes increasingly involve the construction of environments configured to the requirements of an ideal of fitness - a fitness defined in terms of risk, flexibility, response-ability, responsibility, mobility, and consumption. In developing this argument particular attention is given to the relations between bodies and technologies as actors constitutive of the networks from which environments are constructed. As a specific illustrative example of this, the efforts of the fitness equipment manufacturer NordicTrack to mobilize and translate diverse networks of actors in the space of the home and then represent these hybrid networks as ontologically purified, meaningful and marketable environments are examined. The ontological and spatial ambiguity of the types of environments constructed by corporations such as NordicTrack is then discussed, this ambiguity being registered in the difficulty of positioning the boundaries between categories such as subject and object, nature and culture, human and machine, real and virtual. Finally, having illustrated that these ambiguous environments are perhaps constituted by communities of human and non-human actors, this thesis then suggests that such a recognition might open up space for critical geographical imaginations that are responsive to the possibility that political, ethical, and moral community and agency are co-constructions of humans and non-humans.

## **Dedication**

In memory of Mary A. McCormack (1912-1996).

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## Table of Contents

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Dedication</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>List of Appendices</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>Chapter 1: Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Rethinking environments</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Rethinking fitness</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chapter 2: Reconstructing bodies, technologies, and environments</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Reconstructing bodies</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Bodies and Geography</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Reconstructing technologies</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Reconstructing environments</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Chapter 3: Reconstructing fitness</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Defining fitness</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Embodying risk</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Corporate/corporeal flexibility</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>The individualization of response-ability</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Embodying fitness</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Consumer fitness</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Home-body-shopping: tracking the set-up of the fit home</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Towards fitness environments</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Chapter 4: The construction of fitness environments -   the case of NordicTrack</b>	 <b>52</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Mobilizing bodies</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Mobilizing technologies</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Mobilizing consumers</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Mobilizing families</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Mobilizing science</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>NordicTracking fitness environments -   a modern interpretation</b>	 <b>70</b>
<b>Chapter 5: Fitness environments - amodern interpretations</b>	<b>74</b>

<b>Blurring embodied boundaries</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>The spatial ambiguity of amodern fitness environments</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>(A)moral amodern geographies of fitness</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Conclusion - Reconstructing the “human” in human geographies</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Chapter 6: Beginnings - Towards(un)fit geographies</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Vita</b>	<b>107</b>

## List of Figures

<b>Figure 3.1: Photo from <i>Newsweek</i> cover story about health and fitness, (April, 1997).</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Figure 3.2: Cover of <i>Professional Manager</i>, (July, 1996).</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Figure 3.3: Advertisement for <i>Polo Sport</i> , “the fitness fragrance”, by Ralph Lauren.</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Figure 4.1: Photo of Arnold Schwarzenegger from cover of <i>Vanity Fair</i>, (June, 1997).</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Figure 4.2: NordicTrack and Nietzsche.</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Figure 4.3: Advertisement for Trotter Fitness Equipment which appeared in an issue of <i>Fitness Management</i>, (June, 1995:19).</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Figure 4.4: Advertisement featuring streamlined NordicTrack bodies which appeared in <i>Health</i>, (April, 1997:37).</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Figure 4.5: Modern NordicTrack fitness environment.</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Figure 5.1: Image of laboratory cyborg.</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Figure 5.2: Image of home cyborg.</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Figure 5.3: Laboratory apparatus for rendering the natural, bio-physical body visible.</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Figure 5.4: Advertisement for Galileo strength equipment, manufactured by Trotter Inc., from <i>Fitness Management</i> (May, 1996).</b>	<b>83</b>

## **Appendices**

<b>Appendix 1: Advertisement for Tectrix VR fitness equipment</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Advertisement for D. L. Dowd's Health Exerciser</b>	<b>105</b>