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La fenomenologia culturale applicata al caso melanesiano

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This article integrates phenomenology and anthropology to explore alternative ways of experiencing one's corporeality. In the first section, Merleau-Ponty's reflection on perception is revisited and used as a method for approaching the study of Kanak. This framework allows us to consider the body as a historical-cultural phenomenon as well as a biological-material entity, avoiding both approaches that totalize structural elements and approaches that absolutize the power of culture. The second section gives a brief overview of the debate on the Melanesian person (defined by various anthropologists as "individual", "dividual" and "con-dividual"). Finally, Merleau-Ponty's framework is used to understand the unique way in which the Kanak makes sense of experiences and perceives their body-in-the-world.