

## International Relations/Political Science

Academic year 2019-2020

## Everyday Political Economy

**SP036 - Autumn - 6 ECTS**  
**Monday 10:15 – 12:00 (S7)**

### Course Description

The study of political economy, and of international political economy in particular, often centres on structures, systems, regulations, abstract forces, and high-level politics. In this research seminar we propose to shift the focus and look at political economy as a diverse set of situated everyday practice. The first part of the class takes on theorizations of “the mundane” in diverse locations, including physical infrastructures, brands, and in race and gender relations. The second part interrogates everyday incarnations of political economy in situated practices, including finance, land grabs, social reproduction and circulation. Throughout the class, we are interested in problematizing the meanings of economic concepts, such as labour, markets and values, the way they are socially and politically produced, and the way they are expressed in material objects.

The class provides room for students to pursue a research project. It offers both theoretical and methodological reflections guiding the formulation of a topic, the execution of research, and the writing of a paper. Students also will gain presentation skills as they introduce their papers in class.

### > PROFESSORS

Anna Leander  
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Office: MdP P5-551  
Hours: Monday 14:00 - 16:00

### > ASSISTANT

Bart Gabriel

Office:

Hours:

## Requirements

### 1. Participation and Preparation

Regular attendance and participation are expected. One absence per semester is acceptable, without justification (though that would be much appreciated!).

You are expected to prepare for each class by reading a short compulsory article that introduces the theme of the week.

The required readings are available on Moodle.

## 2. Writing a Research Paper

A major focus of the class will be the preparation of the research paper. We will accompany this process throughout the semester by discussing steps for the paper in class and providing feedback on your progress. The theme of the paper should be related to the topic of the class.

A research proposal is due on September 30. The month of December is allocated to the completion of your research and writing. We will provide individualized feedback throughout that month. A first draft of the complete paper will be presented to the whole class in a separate session on December 20. The final draft of the revised paper, incorporating feedback from colleagues and professors is due on January 6. Late papers will be downgraded by .25 points for each day.

Overall, your grade will consist of the following:

Preparation and participation	20 per cent
Presentation of paper	20 per cent
Research Paper	60 per cent

## Course Overview

Readings marked \* are the compulsory reading for the session. Other reading are optional

23 Sept

Introduction AL and LP

Hobson, John M., and Leonard Seabrooke, eds. *Everyday Politics of the World Economy*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Gibson-Graham, J. K. 'Rethinking the Economy with Thick Description and Weak Theory'. *Current Anthropology* 55, no. S9 (August 2014): S147-53. <https://doi.org/10.1086/676646>.

References laying out EPE approaches

Bourdieu, Pierre. (2005) *The Social Structures of the Economy*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

De Certeau, Michel. (1984) *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Enloe, Cynthia. (1990) *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Relations*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Fassin, Didier. (2011) *Humanitarian Reason: A Moral History of the Present*. Univ of California Press.

Harcourt, Wendy. (2019) Feminist Political Ecology Practices of Worlding. *International Journal of the Commons* 13 (1):153-74.

Hibou, Béatrice. (2006) *La Force De L'obéissance. Economie Politique De La Répression En Tunisie*. Paris: La Decouverte.

Lefebvre, Henri. (2004) *Rhythm Analysis: Space, Time and Everyday Life [Original Edition 1992]*. New York: Continuum.

Stoler, Ann Laura. (2010) *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*. Univ of California Press.

## Block 1: Things of Everyday Political Economy

30 Sept

(AL) The Commodities

\*Mitchell, Timothy. (2014) Economentality: How the Future Entered Government. *Critical Inquiry* 40 (4):479-507.

Appadurai, Arjun ed. (1988) *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*. Cambridge University Press, particularly chapter by Appadurai. (chapters by Appadurai and Kopytoff).

Baudrillard, Jean. (1968) *Le Systeme Des Objets*. Paris: Gallimard.

Bourdieu, Pierre. (2000) Making the Economic Habitus: Algerian Workers Revisited. *Ethnography* 1 (1):17-41.

MacKenzie, Donald. (2006) *An Engine, Not a Camera. How Financial Models Shape Markets*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Polanyi, Karl. (1957) *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. 1st edition 1944 ed. Boston: Beacon Paperback.

*Class discussion: Formulating a research question*

7 Oct

(AL) The Infrastructures

\*Smirl, Lisa. (2016) 'Not Welcome at the Holiday Inn': How a Sarajevan Hotel Influenced Geo-Politics. *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* 10 (1):32-55.

Fredericks, Rosalind. (2018) *Garbage Citizenship: Vital Infrastructures of Labor in Dakar, Senegal*. Duke University Press.

Mitchell, and Mitchell, T. (2014) Introduction: Life of Infrastructure. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 34 (3):437-39. (and the special issue it introduces).

Riles, Annelise. (2008) The Anti-Network: Private Global Governance, Legal Knowledge, and the Legitimacy of the State. *The American Journal of Comparative Law* 56 (3):605-30.

Star, Susan Leigh, and Bowker, Geoffrey C. (2006) How to Infrastructure. *Handbook of new media: Social shaping and social consequences of ICTs*:230-45.

Stoler, Ann Laura. (2016) *Duress: Imperial Durabilities in Our Times*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Strathern, Marilyn. (2018) Infrastructures in and of Ethnography. *Anuac* 7 (2):49-69.

Shamir, Ronen. (2013) *Current Flow: The Electrification of Palestine*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

*Submit paper proposal*

*Class discussion: Literature review*

14 Oct

(AL) The Images (and brands)

\* Vestergaard, Anne. (2008) Humanitarian Branding and the Media: The Case of Amnesty International. *Journal of language and politics* 7 (3): 471-93.

Arvidsson, Adam. (2006) *Brands: Meaning and Value in Media Culture*. London and New York: Routledge.

Horst, Heather A. (2014) From Roots Culture to Sour Fruit: The Aesthetics of Mobile Branding Cultures in Jamaica. *Visual Studies* 29 (2): 191-200.

Mitchell, W. J. T. (2005) *What Do Pictures Want? The Lives and Loves of Images*.

- Chicago: University of Chicago Press (chapter 2).
- Mortensen, Mette, and Trenz, Hans-Jörg. (2016) Media Morality and Visual Icons in the Age of Social Media: Alan Kurdi and the Emergence of an Impromptu Public of Moral Spectatorship. *Javnost - The Public* 23 (4): 343-62.
- Richey, Lisa Ann, and Budabin, Alexandra Cosima. (2016) Celebritying Conflict: How Ben Affleck Sells the Congo to Americans. *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development* 7 (1): 27-46.
- Stahl, Roger. (2009) *Militainment, Inc.: War, Media, and Popular Culture*. London: Routledge, chapter 5.
- Simbürger, Elisabeth. (2013) Moving through the City: Visual Discourses of Upward Social Mobility in Higher Education Advertisements on Public Transport in Santiago De Chile. *Visual Studies* 28 (1):67-77.
- Thrift, Nigel. (2011) Lifeworld Inc. — and What to Do About It. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 29 (1):5-26.

*Class discussion: Theoretical framework*

21 Oct

(AL) The Bodies

- \*Moeran, Brian. (2005) Japanese Fragrance Descriptives and Gender Constructions: Preliminary Steps Towards an Anthropology of Olfaction. *Etnofoor*: 97-123.
- Howes, David, and Classen, Constance. (2014) Sense Appeal: The Marketing of Sensation. In *Ways of Sensing: Understanding the Senses in Society*, edited by David Howes and Constance Classen. New York: Routledge.
- Lupton, Deborah, and Maslen, Sarah. (2017) Telemedicine and the Senses: A Review. *Sociology of health & illness* 39 (8): 1557-71.
- Nakamura, Lisa. (2013) *Cybertypes: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity on the Internet*. Routledge.
- Introna, Lucas D. (2018) On the Making of Sense in Sensemaking: Decentred Sensemaking in the Meshwork of Life. *Organization Studies* 40 (5): 745-64.
- Shah, Nishant. (2015) Sluts 'R'us: Intersections of Gender, Protocol and Agency in the Digital Age. *First Monday* 20 (4).

*Class discussion: Academic contribution*

## **Block 2: Practices of Everyday Political Economy**

28 Oct

(LP) **Gambling and Investing: Global Finance**

- \*Ho, Karen. 'Situating Global Capitalisms: A View from Wall Street Investment Banks'. *Cultural Anthropology* 20, no. 1 (February 2005): 68-96. <https://doi.org/10.1525/can.2005.20.1.068>.
- Bedford, Kate. 'Bingo Regulation and the Feminist Political Economy of Everyday Gambling: In Search of the Anti-Heroic'. *Globalizations* 13, no. 6 (November 2016): 801-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2016.1164981>.
- Fisher, Melissa Suzanne. 'Wall Street Women: Engendering Global Finance in the Manhattan Landscape: Wall Street Women'. *City & Society* 22, no. 2 (December 2010): 262-85. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1548-744X.2010.01042.x>.
- Girón, Alicia. 'Women and Financialization: Microcredit, Institutional Investors, and MFIs'. *Journal of Economic Issues* 49, no. 2 (3 April 2015): 373-96. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00213624.2015.1042738>.
- Goede, Marieke de. *Virtue, Fortune and Faith: A Genealogy of Finance*. Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Press, 2005.
- Ho Karen. *Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street*. Duke University Press, 2009.

- Hozic, Aida, and Jacqui True, eds. *Scandalous Economics: Gender and the Politics of Financial Crises*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Riles, Annelise. 'Market Collaboration: Finance, Culture, and Ethnography after Neoliberalism: Market Collaboration'. *American Anthropologist* 115, no. 4 (December 2013): 555–69.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/aman.12052>.
- Roberts, Adrienne. 'Gender, Financial Deepening and the Production of Embodied Finance: Towards a Critical Feminist Analysis'. *Global Society* 29, no. 1 (2 January 2015): 107–27.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13600826.2014.975189>.

*Class discussion: Research design*

4 Nov

**(LP) Eating, Cooking, Shopping: Food Systems and Food Cultures**

- \*Wynne, Lauren A. "I Hate It". *Food, Culture & Society* 18, no. 3 (3 July 2015): 379–97. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15528014.2015.1043104>.
- Friedmann, Harriet, and Amber McNair. 'Whose Rules Rule? Contested Projects to Certify 'Local Production for Distant Consumers'1'. *Journal of Agrarian Change* 8, no. 2–3 (2008): 408–434.
- Giard, Luce. 'Plat du Jour.' In *The Practice of Everyday Life, Vol. 2: Living and Cooking*, by Michel de Certeau, Luce Girard and Pierre Mayol, pp. 171–199. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998.
- Hollander, Gail M. 'Re-Naturalizing Sugar: Narratives of Place, Production and Consumption'. *Social & Cultural Geography* 4, no. 1 (January 2003): 59–74. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1464936032000049315>.
- Kimura, Aya Hirata. *Hidden Hunger: Gender and the Politics of Smarter Foods*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013.
- Patel, Raj. *Stuffed And Starved: From Farm to Fork: The Hidden Battle For The World Food System*. Portobello Books, 2013.

*Class discussion: Data Collection and Analysis*

11 Nov

**(LP) Caring: Securing Reproduction**

- \*Elias, Juanita, and Jonathon Louth. 'Producing Migrant Domestic Work: Exploring the Everyday Political Economy of Malaysia's "Maid Shortage"'. *Globalizations* 13, no. 6 (1 November 2016): 830–45.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2016.1155340>.
- Bergeron, Suzanne. 'Economics, Performativity, and Social Reproduction in Global Development'. *Globalizations* 8, no. 2 (1 April 2011): 151–61.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2010.493014>.
- Elias, Juanita, and Shirin M. Rai. 'Feminist Everyday Political Economy: Space, Time, and Violence'. *Review of International Studies* 45, no. 2 (April 2019): 201–20. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0260210518000323>.
- Fraser, Nancy. 'Contradictions of Capital and Care'. *New Left Review*, no. 100 (August 2016): 99–117.
- Katz, Cindi. 'Vagabond Capitalism and the Necessity of Social Reproduction'. *Antipode* 33, no. 4 (2001): 709–28. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8330.00207>.
- Kofman, Eleonore. 'Rethinking Care Through Social Reproduction: Articulating Circuits of Migration'. *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society* 19, no. 1 (1 March 2012): 142–62.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/sp/jxr030>.
- Power, Marilyn. 'Social Provisioning as a Starting Point for Feminist Economics'. *Feminist Economics* 10, no. 3 (November 2004): 3–19.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1354570042000267608>.
- Rai, Shirin M., Catherine Hoskyns, and Dania Thomas. 'Depletion: The Cost of

- Social Reproduction'. *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 16, no. 1 (2 January 2014): 86–105.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14616742.2013.789641>.
- Roberts, Adrienne. 'Financing Social Reproduction: The Gendered Relations of Debt and Mortgage Finance in Twenty-First-Century America'. *New Political Economy* 18, no. 1 (1 February 2013): 21–42.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13563467.2012.662951>.
- Vaittinen, Tiina. 'The Power of the Vulnerable Body: A New Political Understanding of Care'. *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 17, no. 1 (2 January 2015): 100–118.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14616742.2013.876301>.

*Class discussion: positionality and reflexivity*

18 Nov

**(LP) Farming and Commercialisation**

- \*Levien, Michael. 'Gender and Land Dispossession: A Comparative Analysis'. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 5 October 2017, 1–24.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2017.1367291>.
- Daley, Elizabeth, and Sabine Pallas. 'Women and Land Deals in Africa and Asia: Weighing the Implications and Changing the Game'. *Feminist Economics* 20, no. 1 (2 January 2014): 178–201.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13545701.2013.860232>.
- Fairbairn, Madeleine. "Like Gold with Yield": Evolving Intersections between Farmland and Finance'. *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 41, no. 5 (3 September 2014): 777–95.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2013.873977>.
- Li, Tania Murray. 'Intergenerational Displacement in Indonesia's Oil Palm Plantation Zone'. *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 44, no. 6 (2 November 2017): 1158–76. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2017.1308353>.
- Verma, Ritu. 'Land Grabs, Power, and Gender in East and Southern Africa: So, What's New?' *Feminist Economics* 20, no. 1 (2 January 2014): 52–75.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13545701.2014.897739>.

*Class discussion: planning and developing an argument*

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| 25 Nov    | Write paper   |
| 2 Dec     | Write paper   |
| 9 Dec     | Write paper   |
| 16 Dec    | Write paper   |
| 20 Dec??? | Present paper |