

Anthropology and Sociology Anthropology and Sociology

Academic year 2019-2020

Doctoral Research Seminar I: Themes and Debates

ANSO107 - Autumn - 6 ECTS

Tuesday 14h15 - 16h00

Course Description

This seminar introduces PhD students to central concepts and practices, as well as themes and debates, in contemporary anthropology and sociology. Through class readings, discussions, and assignments, we will explore how research problems and questions are defined and articulated, how theory is constructed as well as its relation to empirically-grounded research. Students will have the opportunity to connect these inquiries to further the development of their own particular research interests. In addition to grappling with key themes and debates, the seminar seeks to foster a strong sense of social and intellectual community and peer learning amongst doctoral candidates, who will be an integral part of the ANSO community over the coming four years.

> PROFESSOR

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Syllabus (Subject to Revision)

Overview & Assignments

The final syllabus, including details about assignments as well as other Department activities (including the weekly Tuesday seminar as well as Brown Bag lunches with visiting speakers and faculty), will be available on the first day of class. In the mean time, please complete readings for our first class listed below (the readings will be made available on Moodle).

Week 1 | September 17 A Sense of Place

Geertz, Clifford, "Being There: Anthropology and the Scene of Writing." in *Works and Lives: The Anthropologist as Author*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1988. Chapter 1, pp. 1-24.

- Gupta, Akhil, and James Ferguson. "Anthropological locations : boundaries and grounds of a field science. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1997. Chapter One: Discipline and Practice: "The Field" as Site, Method, and Location in Anthropology"
- Stewart, Kathleen. A Space on the Side of the Road: Cultura Poetics in an "other" America. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996. Chapter One: "The Space of Culture"
- Anand, Nikhil. Hydraulic City: Water and the Infrastructures of Citizenship in Mumbai. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2017. Chapter Three: "Time Pé (On Time)"

Week 2 | September 24 Scales of the Global

- Sahlins, Marshall. "Cosmologies of Capitalism: The Trans-Pacific Sector of 'The World System.'" Proceedings of the British Academy LXXIV, 1988, pp.1-51.
- Appadurai, Arjun. Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996. Chapter Two: "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy."
- . The Future as a Cultural Fact: Essays on the Global Condition. London: Verso, 2013. "How Histories Make Geographies: Circulation and Context in a Global Perspective."
- Stephen J. Collier and Aihwa Ong. "Global Assemblages, Anthropological Problems." In Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics and Anthropological Problems. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2005.
- Tsing, Anna. "Inside the Economy of Appearances," Public Culture 12, no. 1 (2000): 115–144.

Week 3 | October 1 Your Research in Focus: Discussion of PhD projects

Week 4 | October 15 Your Research in Focus : Discussion of of PhD projects

Week 5 | October 15 Contemporary Ethnographies

Choose one of the following monographs to read and review:

- De Leon, Jason. The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015.
- Elyachar, Julia. Markets of dispossession : NGOs, economic development, and the state in Cairo. Durham: Duke University Press, 2005.
- Pandian, Anand. Crooked Stalks: Cultivating Virtue in South India. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2009.
- Steady, Mary Margaret. Rifle reports: a story of Indonesian independence. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013.

Week 6 | October 22 Writing Culture

- Mary Margaret Steedly, "Eating an Elephant, Imagining a Community: Culinary Nationalism and the Memory of the Senses." Indonesia (forthcoming), selections from the Special Issue on Mary Margaret Steedly's work.
- Kirin Narayan, Alive in the Writing: Crafting Ethnography in the Company of Chekhov, University of Chicago Press, 2012. Preface, Chapters 1 & 2, pp. ix-xiii, 1-44
- Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture" The Interpretation of Cultures (1973), New York: Basic Books, pp.3-30

Week 7 | October 29 Literature Reviews: Creating, Defining & Mapping Fields of Study

- Week 8 | November 5 Conversation with Third and Fourth Year PhD Students**
- Week 9 | November 12 Rethinking Nature/Culture (Shaila Seshia Galvin)**
- Week 10 | November 19 Culture and Inequality (Graziella Moraes Silva)**
- Week 11 | November 26 Cultures of Capitalism (Filipe Calvão)**
- Week 12 | December 3 Questions of the Visual (Patricia Spyer)**
- Week 13 | December 10 Workshopping Your Literature Reviews**
- Week 14 | December 17 Workshopping Your Literature Reviews**