

Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO)

Academic year 2019-2020

Doctoral Research Seminar I: Themes and Debates

ANSO107- Autumn - 6 ECTS
[Schedule & Room](#)

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.

> PROFESSORS

Shaila Seshia Galvin
shaila.seshia@graduateinstitute.ch

Patricia Spyer
patricia.spyer@graduateinstitute.ch

[Office hours](#)

> ASSISTANT

Meenakshi Nair Ambujam
meenakshi.nair@graduateinstitute.ch

[Office hours](#)

Syllabus

Course Organization and Evaluation

Participation (30%)

As a seminar, this course relies crucially on your active participation each week. We expect you to read the assigned material carefully, to come to class prepared to share your ideas and questions, and to discuss them with your peers.

At several points during the semester you will have the opportunity to present and discuss your own research interests in class and through written work. Written assignments for these classes will count toward your participation grade (see below, Your Research in Focus).

Attendance in class is mandatory. If you need to miss class, please inform us in advance.

In addition to your participation in the Doctoral Seminar, your attendance at the weekly ANSO colloquium, in the annual SAA/SEG conference hosted this year at IHEID, and your participation in Brown Bag Lunches organized with visiting colloquium speakers especially for ANSO doctoral students will also be an element of your participation grade.

Reading responses (10%)

Over the course of the semester you will be required to write 6 reading responses. The responses should be 700 words, and address the following: 1) succinctly capture the arguments of at least three of the required readings; where possible, please indicate not only an author's argument but also what s/he is arguing against ; 2) contextualize the reading(s), for example by noting what debates a particular author is contributing to and/or by making connections with other readings for that week or other weeks of the semester; 3) raise questions and reflect critically on the ideas and arguments presented in the readings. You may use your responses to raise issues, make comments, or pose questions that you would like to take up in our class discussion.

Your responses should be posted on Moodle by 12pm on the Monday before class. You will be required to write responses for Weeks 2, 6, 8,9, 11 &12.

Monograph Review (10%)

Week 5 of the semester, October 15, will consider contemporary ethnography as a method of anthropological research and writing. In conjunction with this class, you will be required to write a review of one of the ethnographic monographs assigned for that week. Guidelines on the review will be discussed nearer the time. You should post your review on Moodle by 12pm on the Monday before class.

Your Research in Focus

Weeks 3 & 4: Introducing Your Research Projects

We will dedicate Weeks 3 & 4 to an initial presentation and discussion of the doctoral research project you will be developing over the coming years. On the Friday before the class in which you will present your project, you will need to post to Moodle a short précis (2-3 pages) describing your project and/or research problem you propose to develop. In doing so, we encourage you to draw on themes and ideas from our first two classes and readings, "A Sense of Place" and "Scales of the Global." You should read the précis submitted by your peers, and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Week 7: Writing Literature Reviews

With a view toward the final assignment for the course (see below), Week 7 will be dedicated to a discussion of literature reviews, of various kinds of review writing, and of the different purposes they serve at different stages of a research process. For this class, we ask that you select 2-3 articles (or books) which you see as representing one or more bodies of literature relevant for your research and produce a 1-2 page précis that succinctly captures the key claims advanced through these works and describes their significance for your research (conceptually or in terms of the questions they raise/address, the methodologies they employ etc.). You may also consider the various ways in which these works may help you develop or further refine your own object of study. Please submit these précis on the Friday before class. As with our sessions on Week 3 & 4, you should read the précis submitted by your peers, and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Weeks 13 & 14: Workshopping Your Literature Reviews

During our final two classes, you will again have the opportunity to present and discuss your own research interests which will have developed over the semester. You will also be assigned to act as a discussant for one or two of your peers. One week in advance of class you will be expected to circulate a preliminary draft of your literature review introducing and contextualizing your research topic, raising possible research questions or problems you wish to pursue for your doctoral research, and identifying provisional literatures and debates you wish to engage with.

Literature Review (50%)

Following the model of the *Annual Review of Anthropology* or *Annual Review of Sociology*, this literature review is intended to help you develop research questions and make connections that relate your own research interests to wider scholarly literatures and debates. The review must include an overview of at least five recent monographs from the field, or an equivalent in journal articles. It will require you to organize and thoughtfully navigate a significant body of literature, using it to develop arguments and research questions. You may choose to focus on a field closely linked to your own dissertation research interests, or you may select an unrelated field. The review will be evaluated on the selection of key texts; the ability to organize, synthesize, and analyze a wide body of literature; and to develop sound, original arguments and questions on that basis. It will be due at 6pm (Geneva time) on **3 January 2020** (50% of total grade). The review should not exceed 5,000 words excluding bibliography and footnotes.

Academic Honesty

The free exchange of ideas, at the Graduate Institute and as members of a larger intellectual community, hinges on academic honesty and integrity. Plagiarism involves deliberately or inadvertently representing the work of others as one's own. Please refer to the Graduate Institute's policy on academic honesty and plagiarism, available in the "Academic Policies and Regulations" section of the Student Portal.

While research and knowledge advance in part because we use and build on the ideas of others, it is vital that we always acknowledge our sources. We encourage each of you to develop a consistent system for note taking, referencing, and citing your sources. Please use the Chicago author-date system for both in-text citations and bibliographies. See:
<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

If you are not familiar with bibliographic and referencing software such as EndNote and Zotero, which can be very helpful in developing your own reference library to support your doctoral studies, we encourage you to visit the Graduate Institute's Library where you will find information on training presentations.

Please do not hesitate to see us if you ever have any questions about academic honesty and how it applies to your work.

Late Work

Late assignments will lose $\frac{1}{4}$ point for each day of lateness. Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.

Technology in the Classroom

Use of technology within the classroom must be limited to only that which is necessary for note-taking or consulting course material.

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: Cultural 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 8 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.
- Steadly, 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
- Renato Rosaldo. "From the Door of His Tent: the Fieldworker and the Inquisitor". In J Clifford and G Marcus (eds.) *The Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1986 (pp 77-97)

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

Readings TBA

Week 8 | November 5 Rethinking Nature/Culture (Shaila Seshia Galvin)

Rappaport RA. 1967. "Ritual Regulation of Environmental Relations among a New Guinea People." *Ethnology* 6: 17-30

Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo. 1998. "Cosmological deixis and Amerindian perspectivism." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*: 469-488.

Nadasdy P. 2007. "The gift in the animal: The ontology of hunting and human-animal sociality." *American Ethnologist* 34: 25-43

Seshia Galvin, Shaila. 2018. "Interspecies Relations and Agrarian Worlds." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 47.

Week 9 | November 12 Culture and Inequality (Graziella Moraes Silva)

Lamont, Michèle, Stefan Beljean, and Matthew Clair. "What is missing? Cultural processes and causal pathways to inequality." *Socio-Economic Review* 12.3 (2014): 573-608.

Tilly, Charles. *Durable Inequalities*. University of California Press, 1998. (chapter 1)

Bourdieu, Pierre. *Distinction*. Harvard University Press, 1984. (pp.xi-xiv, pp.1-8, and pp.97-168) "The social space and its transformations"

DiMaggio, Paul, and Filiz Garip. "Network effects and social inequality." *Annual Review of Sociology* 38 (2012): 93-118.

Week 10 | November 19 Conversation with Third and Fourth Year PhD Students (convened by course TA, Meenakshi Nair Ambujam).

Week 11 | November 26 Cultures of Capitalism (Filipe Calvão)

Readings TBA

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