

Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO)

Academic year 2019-2020

Crowds and Publics

ANSO069- Spring - 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.

> PROFESSOR

[Rafael Sánchez](#)

[Office hours](#)

> ASSISTANT

[Meenakshi Nair Ambujam](#)

[Office hours](#)

Syllabus

Evaluation: Active student participation is expected. Each week 1-2 students will be responsible for presenting the material in class (guidelines will be provided). The final grade will be based on the following assignments:

1 in-class presentation	%20
1 book or film review	%30
1 final essay & proposal	%50

The assignments will be posted on Moodle Lecture Topics and Assigned Reading:

Week 1

Tuesday **February 18** *Introduction: Crowds and Publics*

- Butsch, Richard (2008) "Introduction: The Politics of Audiences in America", *The Citizen Audience: Crowds, Publics and Individuals*. New York: Routledge

Week 2

Tuesday **February 25** *The Crowd in Literature: People in the Streets, Mimesis and Spirit Possession*

- Song "Les Foules" by Edith Piaf.
- Edgar Allan Poe, "The Man of the Crowd" (pp. 3-11)
- Charles Baudelaire, "Crowds" (short poem); "To a Passerby" (short poem)
- Greaney, Patrick (2008) *Untimely Beggar. Poverty and Power from Baudelaire to Benjamin*. Minneapolis and London: U. of Minnesota Press, pp. 116-170.
- Walt Whitman, "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"; "Out of the rolling ocean the crowd" (short poem)
- Walter Benjamin, "On Some Motifs of Baudelaire" in *The Writer of modern Life*, pp. 178-192

Week 3

Tuesday **March 3** *The Crowd Problem*

- Christian Borch, *The Politics of Crowds*, (pp. 1-78).

Week 4

Tuesday **March 10** *XIXth Cent. Crowd Psychology I: Savage Hords, Leaders and Organized Crowds*

- Gustave Le Bon, *The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind*, pp. 3-89

Week 5

Tuesday **March 17** *XIXth Cent. Crowd Psychology II: Savage Hords, Leaders and Organized Crowds*

- Gabriel Tarde, *The Laws of Imitation*, pp. 59-88
- Sigmund Freud, *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*, pp. 1-31.

Week 6

Tuesday **March 24** *XIXth Cent Classic Crowd Theory III*

- Sigmund Freud, *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*, pp. 32-62.
- Staheli, Urs (2011) "[Seducing the Crowd. The Leader in Crowd Psychology.](#)" *New German Critique* 114, Vol. 38, No. 3, Fall 2011, pp. 63-77.

- Mubi Brighenti, Andrea (2010) "Tarde, Canetti, and Deleuze on Crowds and Packs." *Journal of Classical Sociology* 10(4) 291-314, pp. 291-314

Week 7

Tuesday **March 31** *Crowds and The Retreat of the Political I*

- Borch-Jacobsen, M. (1989) "The Primal Band" in *The Freudian Subject*. Stanford University Press. pp.127-163, 226-237. Lacoue-Labarthe,
- P., Nancy, J.-L. & Sparks, S. (1997) Chapter 7: The Retreat of the Political. In: *Retreating the Political*. Psychology Press. pp. 122–134.

Week 8

Tuesday **April 7** *Crowds and The Retreat of the Political II*

- Gaonkar, Dilip. 2014. "*After the Fictions. Notes Towards a Phenomenology of the Multitude.*" e-flux journal #58. October
- Sanchez, Rafael. 2001. "Channel-Surfing: Media, Mediumship, and State Authority in the Laria Lionza Possession Cult (Venezuela)." In *Religion and Media*, edited by Hent de Vries and Samuel Weber, 389–433. Stanford University Press.

Recommended:

- Jonson, Stefan, "*The Art of Protest*" (unpublished manuscript -- pp. 35).

Recommended:

- Devisch, I. (2013). *Jean-Luc Nancy and the Question of Community*. A&C Black. pp. 84-116

Week 9

Tuesday **April 21** *Rethinking the Crowd: Canetti, Malabou, Mazzarella*

- Borch, Christian. (2012) *The Politics of Crowds: An Alternative History of Sociology*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 234-251.
- Canetti, E. (1981) *Crowds and power*. New York, Continuum. pp. 16-25.
- Canetti, Elias. (1983) *The Torch in my Ear*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. pp. 244-258.
- William Mazzarella, "The Myth of the Multitude, or Who's Afraid of the Crowd" pp. 697-727.
- Catherine Malabou, "The Crowd" pp. 25-44

Week 10

Tuesday **April 28** *Representing the Crowd in Cinema*

Tratner, M. (2008). *Crowd Scenes: Movies and Mass Politics*. Fosham University Press. pp1-11, 73-108.

- Tratner, M. (2003) Working the Crowd: Movies nad Pass POLITics Cricism [Online].45 (1), 53-73Borch,

Recommended:

- Jonsson, S (2008). A brief history of the masses: [three revolutions]. *Columbia themes in philosophy, social criticism, and the arts*. New York, Columbuia University Press pp5-63

Week11
Tuesday **May 5**

To be assigned

Week 12
Tuesday **May 12**

To be assigned

Week 13
Tuesday **May 19**

To be assigned

Week 14
Tuesday **May 26**

To be assigned