

Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO)

Academic year 2020-2021

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 doing so, we will take into account the ways that the current pandemic may affect research, and work together to explore research methodologies and design that enable rigorous and responsible research during these times. 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

Lauren Riggs
lauren.riggs@graduateinstitute.ch

[Office hours](#)

Syllabus

Objectives, organization, and assignments

Whether we meet in person, online, or a combination of the two, our objectives for this seminar are to introduce you to some of the core themes and concerns that animate intellectual life in our Department; to facilitate the development of your own ideas and plans for your dissertation research projects; and to afford you opportunities to engage meaningfully with each other through discussions and assignments. Further details on course organization and assignments will follow nearer the start of the semester.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Participation (30%)

Reading responses, beginning in Week 2 (10%)

Monograph Review (10%)

Literature Review (50%)

Week 1 | September 15 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"

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)"

Strassler, Karen, "What We Lose When we Go From the Classroom to Zoom," *The New York Times*, May 4, 2020.

Postill, John and Sarah Pink, "Social Media Ethnography: The Digital Researcher in a Messy Web," *Media International Australia* 145 (1), November 2012, pp. 123-34.

Rutherford, Danilyn. 2020. "Funding Anthropological Research in the Age of COVID-19." In "Covid-19 and Student Focused Concerns: Threats and Possibilities" Veena Das and Naveeda Khan, eds., *American Ethnologist website*, May 1 2020, [<https://americanethnologist.org/features/collections/covid-19-and-student-focused-concerns-threats-and-possibilities/funding-anthropological-research-in-the-age-of-covid-19>]

Week 2 | September 22 Scales of the Global

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."

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. 2003. *Global Transformations: Anthropology and the Modern World*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. Introduction & Chapter 6 "Making Sense: The fields in which we work."

Tsing, Anna. "Inside the Economy of Appearances," *Public Culture* 12, no. 1 (2000): 115–144.

Lowe, Celia. 2010. "Viral clouds: becoming H5N1 in Indonesia." *Cultural Anthropology* 25 (4):625-49.

Recommended: Sahlins, Marshall. "Cosmologies of Capitalism: The Trans-Pacific Sector of "The World System." Proceedings of the British Academy LXXIV, 1988, pp.1-51.

Week 3 | September 29 Your Research in Focus: Discussion of PhD projects

Week 4 | October 6 Your Research in Focus : Discussion of of PhD projects

Week 5 | October 13 Contemporary Ethnographies

Choose one of the following monographs to read and review:

Tarlo, Emma. *Unsettling Memories: Narratives of the Emergency in Delhi*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Strassler, Karen. *Demanding Images: Democracy, Mediation, and the Image-Event in Indonesia*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2020.

Shah, Alpa. 2019. *Nightmarch: among India's revolutionary guerrillas*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Appel, Hannah. 2019. "The licit life of capitalism: U.S. Oil in Equatorial Guinea." In. Durham: Duke University Press.

Week 6 | October 20 Writing Culture

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)

Anand Pandian and Stuart Mclean, eds., *Crumpled Paper Boat: Experiments in Ethnographic Writing*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2017 (pp. 1-28, prologue & introduction)

Week 7 | October 27 **Literature Reviews: Creating, Defining & Mapping Fields of Study**
Readings TBA

Week 8 | November 3 **Gender and Discursive Politics (Isabel Pike)**

Fraser, Nancy. 1990. "Struggle over needs: Outline of socialist-feminist critical theory of late-capitalist political culture." In *Women, the state, and welfare*, edited by Linda Gordon. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press (199-221).

Wyrod, Robert. 2008. Between women's rights and men's authority: Masculinity and shifting discourses of gender difference in urban Uganda. *Gender & Society* 22 (6): 799-823

Mojola, Sanyu A. 2014. Providing women, kept men: Doing masculinity in the wake of the African HIV/AIDS epidemic. *Signs* 39 (2): 341-63.

Pike, Isabel. (2020). A Discursive Spectrum: The Narrative of Kenya's "Neglected" Boy Child. *Gender & Society*, 34(2), 284-306.

Week 9 | November 10 **Conversation with Second, Third and Fourth Year PhD Students (convened by course TA, Lauren Riggs).**

Week 10 | November 17 **Rethinking Nature/Culture (Shaila Seshia Galvin)**

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

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

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt. 2015. *The mushroom at the end of the world: on the possibility of life in capitalist ruins*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Selections.

Ahmann, Chloe. 2019. "Waste to energy: Garbage prospects and subjunctive politics in late-industrial Baltimore." *American Ethnologist* 46 (3):328-42.

Week 11 | November 24 **Guest class with Filipe Calvão (TBC)**

Readings TBA

Week 12 | December 1 **Questions of the Visual & BLM (Patricia Spyer)**

hooks, bell. "In Our Glory: Photography and Black Life." *Art on My Mind: Visual Politics*. New York: The New Press, 1995 (pp.54-64).

Bowyer, Emerson, "The Presumption of White," in Luke Syson et al., eds. *Like Life: Sculpture, Color, and the Body*. New York: The MET, 2018 (pp.76-81 plus illustrations)

Upton, Dell, "Monuments and Crimes," *Journal* 18, 25 June 2020.

Randall Williams, Caroline, "You Want a Confederate Monument? My Body is a Confederate Monument," *The New York Times*, 26 June 2020.

Please watch: "As the Statues Fall: A Conversation about Monuments and the Power of Memory," The Wenner-Gren Foundation, July 23, 2020.

Week 13 | December 8 **Workshopping Your Literature Reviews**

Week 14 | December 15 **Workshopping Your Literature Reviews**

