



Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO)

Academic year 2020-2021

Social Theory II: Critical Epistemologies

ANSO113- Spring - 6 ECTS

[Schedule & Room](#)

Course Description

The course will be organized thematically around some of the central research interests of ANSO faculty. A range of theoretical issues central to contemporary anthropological and sociological debates will be explored via thematic domains. These will vary annually but may include such topics as global health and medical anthropology; migration and mobility; violence and conflict; humanitarianism and development; inequality and (visual) politics; gender and reproduction; agriculture, resource extraction, and food security; religion and politics. In addition to the exploration of different themes, the course will familiarize students with the research carried out by the department.

> CONVENOR WITH ANSO FACULTY

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> ASSISTANT

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Syllabus

Evaluation: Active student participation is expected. The main assignment of the class will be to write and review one of the four broad themes of the connected to one of the themes discussed during the semester—Inequality and (Visual) Politics; Global Health & Medical Anthropology; Environment & Resources; Development, Humanitarianism, Gender--and, where possible, related to one's thesis topic. Another, related exercise will be short response paper to a different theme of the class. In short, while students will engage will all four of the broad themes of the seminar they will address one through a response paper and another at length in their literature review.

The final grade will be based on the following assignments:

Class participation		10%
1 response paper to a theme	25%	
1 overview and bibliography lit review		25%
1 final literature review		40%

The assignments will be posted on Moodle.

Readings:

- Febr. 23:** *Introduction* (Patricia Spyer) & ANSO 2020 MA prize winner presentation (Riddhi Pandey)
- March 2:** *Culture and Inequality* (Moraes Silva)
Fraser, Nancy (1995) "From redistribution to recognition? Dilemmas of justice in a post-socialist age," *New Left Review*: 68-93.
Bourdieu, Pierre (2018) " Culture reproduction and social reproduction." In David Grunsky, *The Inequality Reader: Contemporary and Foundational Readings in Race, Class, and Gender*. Routledge, pp 257-271.
Tilly, Charles (1988) *Durable Inequality*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Introduction.
Lamont, Michele, Mario Luis Small, and David J. Harding (2010) "Introduction: Reconsidering Culture and Poverty." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science Series*.
- March 9** **NO CLASS (students attend IMAGEAPP Project Event)**
- March 16** *Matters of Vision: Inequality and Recognition* (Spyer)
Poole Deborah (2005) "An Excess of Description: Ethnography, Race, and Visual Technologies," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24:159-79.
hooks, bell (1995) "In our glory: Photography and Black Lives" In *Art on My Mind: Visual Politics*. New York: The New Press, pp.54- 64.
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

Recommended webinar:
"As Statues Fall: A Conversation about Monuments and the Power of Memory." The Wenner-Gren Foundation, July 23, 2020.
- March 23:** *Interlude: What is a literature review and what purpose does it serve?* (Rodgers)
Booth, Andrew, Diana Papaioannou, and Anthea Sutton. (2012). *Systematic Approaches to a Successful Literature Review*. London: Sage. Chapters 1, 2, & 4, pp. 1-35, 53-69.
- March 30:** *Global Health (Bharadwaj): The Biomedical Gaze*
Foucault, Michel (1994[1963]) *The Birth of the Clinic: An Archeology of Medical Perception*. Vintage Books.
- April 6:** **NO CLASS/Spring vacation**
- April 13:** *Global Health: An Anthropology of Biomedicine* (Nguyen)
Lock, M. and V-K Nguyen (2018) *An Anthropology of Biomedicine*. London: Wiley Blackwell, Chapters 1-5.
- April 20:** *Environment & Resources* (Calvao & Seshia Galvin)
- April 27:** *Environment & Resources* (Calvao & Seshia Galvin)

- May 4:** *Interlude: Ethics* (Mallard & Spyer)
Diverse ethical guidelines, including AAS, ASA, IHEID
Appadurai, Arjun. (2013). "Research as a Human Right," *The Future as Cultural Fact: Essays on the Global Condition*. London: Verso. Ch.14, pp. 269-283.
Please watch the webinar: "The Ethical Image – Challenges of Visualizing a Changing World"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtoFR_rZako
- May 11:** *The Anthropology of Development and Humanitarianism: An Introduction* (Billaud)
Escobar, A., 1997. Anthropology and development. *International Social Science Journal*, 49(154), pp.497-515.
Caple James, E., 2012. Witchcraft, bureaucraft, and the social life of (US) aid in Haiti. *Cultural Anthropology*, 27(1), pp.50-75. (an analysis of local cultural reactions to the 'compassion economy' in Haiti)
Mosse, David. 2005. "Global Governance and the Ethnography of International Aid." In *The Aid Effect: Giving and Governing in International Development*, by David and Lewis, David (Eds.) Mosse, 1-36. London: Pluto Press. (conceptualizes development as a governing practice)
- May 18:** *Intersectionality: Traveling Theory* (Pike)
Crenshaw, K. (1990). Mapping the margins: Intersectionality, identity politics, and violence against women of color. *Stan. L. Rev.*, 43, 1241.
Salem, S. (2018). Intersectionality and its discontents: Intersectionality as traveling theory. *European Journal of Women's Studies*, 25(4), 403-418.
Hoang, K. K. (2014). Flirting with capital: Negotiating perceptions of Pan-Asian ascendancy and Western decline in global sex work. *Social Problems*, 61(4), 507-529.

Recommended:
Choo, H. Y. (2012). The transnational journey of intersectionality. *Gender & Society*, 26(1), 40-45. *
- May 25:** Meet the second year MAs and Wrap-up