Seminar Description

This seminar draws from critical theory and ethnography to explore the potential of the concept of *becoming* for contemporary anthropology. How can we apprehend people’s individual and collective struggles vis-à-vis contingencies and structural determinants of all kinds, whether to endure them, transform them, or create new possibilities of living? We will consider how long-standing theoretical debates on power and agency, the human/nonhuman interface, and the nature of social change might illuminate or adjust to political-economic, institutional, and personal realities-in-flux. As we attend to the methodological moves scholars make to engage people’s plasticity and alternative world-making, we will explore how a perspective based on becoming might animate comparative research, political critique, ethics and experience, and anthropology to come.

Requirements/Grading

The success of the seminar depends on your commitment to complete all required readings for each session, write and post weekly critical responses, and to participate actively in discussions.

Grading will be based on:
- Participation and seminar presentation (20%).
- Weekly reading reports (40%).
  Reports (about 400-500 words) shall be posted on Blackboard every Sunday prior to the seminar, by 10:00 pm.
- Final book review essay (40%).
Books

The following books will be on reserve at Firestone Library. These books will also be available for purchase at Labyrinth Books (122 Nassau Street). Additional articles and book chapters can be downloaded from Blackboard’s electronic reserve.

Week 1

Introduction:
Fault Lines


Suggested Reading:


Week Two

Shifting Analytics:
Power, Critique, Becoming


Suggested Reading:


Week 3

Diagnostics of the Present


Suggested Reading:


Week 4

A Human


Suggested Reading:


Week 5

The War Machine:
Figures of Movement and Fixity


Suggested Reading:


Suggested Reading:


WORKSHOP “ANTHROPOLOGY OF BECOMING”
March 13-15

SPRING BREAK
Week 7  
**Homo Economicus I**


**Suggested Reading:**


Week 8  
**Homo Economicus II**


Suggested Reading:


Week 9

Pathogens and Un/Natural Life Forms


Suggested Reading:


Week 10

**Vibrant Matters and Animal Becomings**


Suggested Reading:


Week 11

**Images / Powers of the False / New Media**


Suggested Reading:


**Week 12**

**Open-endings: Art, Writing, Time**


Suggested Reading:
