

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION

Department of Anthropology
Princeton University
ANT 570
Spring 2008

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Course Description

The global is not a given—it is made through intense and highly unequal exchanges. This seminar examines political, social, and subjective processes that accompany economic globalization. We will address shifts in modes of production, governance, consumption, and self-fashioning and we will draw from ethnography and political economic and medical accounts. We will also critically engage the theories that inform the ways social scientists think and write about power, values, and human agency in the global economy. How creative and theoretically generative is ethnography? Which concepts make our science more realistic, better?

A film series accompanies the course.

Requirements/Grading

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

Grading will be based on:

1. Attendance and participation (30%).
2. Reading reports (30%).
3. A final project: a book review essay covering at least three recent publications on the anthropology of globalization OR a research paper on a specific course-related theme. The 12-15 double-spaced page paper is due on May 13th at 5 pm (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.

- Appadurai, Arjun. *Fear of Small Numbers: An Essay on the Geography of Anger*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006.
- Biehl, João. *Will to Live: AIDS Therapies and the Politics of Survival*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.
- Biehl, João. *Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.
- Foucault, Michel. *Security, Territory, Population—Lectures at the College de France 1977-1978*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.
- Nordstrom, Carolyn. *Global Outlaws: Crime, Money, and Power in the Contemporary World*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007.
- Mintz, Sidney. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. New York: Penguin Books, 1986.
- Sontag, Susan. *Regarding the Pain of Others*. New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 2003.
- Tsing, Anna. *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton University Press, 2004.

Office Hours

- M 3:00-4:30 pm at 128 Aaron Burr Hall. Meetings can also be arranged by appointment.

February 4

Introduction

Themes, Questions, Prospects

- Hirschman, Albert. *Crossing Boundaries: Selected Writings*. New York: Zone Books, 1998, pp. 88-89, 96-97.
- Short Film: *The Shock Doctrine* by Naomi Klein and Alfonso Cuaron (Amazon.com).
- Film: *The Agony of Reform*, Second Episode of *Commanding Heights: The Battle for the World Economy* by William Cran.

February 11

Economic Globalization

Which ideas, institutions, and practices underscore global capitalist reforms?

What do experts and critics of globalization say and what are the speakers' benefits?

What types of transformations occur as societies engage with or are incorporated into a global economy? How does a globalized economy affect everyday life?

- Sachs, Jeffrey. "Introduction," "A Global Family Portrait," "The Spread of Economic Prosperity." In *The End of Poverty*. New York: Penguin Books, 2005, pp. 1-50.
- Stiglitz, Joseph. "Preface" and "The Promise of Global Institutions." In *Globalization and Its Discontents*, New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2002, pp. ix-xvi, 3-22.
- Sen, Amartya. "How to Judge Globalism." In *The Globalization Reader* (2nd Edition) edited by Frank J. Lechner and John Boli. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2004, pp. 16-21.
- Harvey, David. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005, pp. 1-4.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. "The Left Hand and the Right Hand of the State" and "Neo-liberalism, the Utopia (Becoming Reality) of Unlimited Exploitation." In *Acts of Resistance: Against the Tyranny of the Market*. New York: The New Press, 1998, pp. 1-10, 94-105.
- Klein, Naomi. *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2007, pp.3-21, 142-154, 218-256, 443-466.
- Film: *New Rules of the Game*, Third Episode of *Commanding Heights: The Battle for the World Economy* by William Cran.

Optional Reading:

- Friedman, Thomas L. *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2006, pp. 1-49.
- Dollar, David and Aart Kraay. "Growth is Good for the Poor." In *The Globalization Reader* (2nd Edition) edited by Frank J. Lechner and John Boli. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2004, pp. 177-182.
- Oxfam. "Growth with Equity is Good for the Poor." In *The Globalization Reader* (2nd Edition) edited by Frank J. Lechner and John Boli. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2004, pp. 183-189.

February 18

Anthropology and the World in Pieces

*What happens to the concept of bounded cultures or societies in a globalizing world?
How do individuals and groups articulate identity vis-à-vis global forces and commodities?
Is there such a thing as a global culture?
How does the on-the-ground encounter with globalization reshape
anthropology's orientations, methods, concepts, and strategies of representation?*

- Geertz, Clifford. "The World in Pieces: Culture and Politics at the End of the Century." *Available Light: Anthropological Reflections on Philosophical Topics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000, pp. 218-263.
- Appadurai, Arjun. "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy." In *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1996, pp. 27-47.
- Marcus, George E. "Ethnography in/of the World System: The Emergence of Multi-Sited Ethnography." In *Ethnography through Thick and Thin*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998, pp. 79-104.
- Tsing, Anna. "The Global Situation." *Cultural Anthropology* 2000, 15(3): 327-360.
- Collier, Stephen and Aihwa Ong. "Global Assemblages, Anthropological Problems." In *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems* (edited by Aihwa Ong and Stephen Collier). Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2005, pp.3-22.
- Biehl, João, Byron Good and Arthur Kleinman. "Introduction: Rethinking Subjectivity." In *Subjectivity: Ethnographic Investigations*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007, pp.1-23.
- Rabinow, Paul. *Marking Time: On the Anthropology of the Contemporary*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008, pp.1-11, 33-50.
- Film: *The Corporation* by Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbot, Joel Bakan.

Optional Reading:

- Hannerz, Ulf. "Notes on the Global Ecumene." *Public Culture*, 1989, 1(2): 66-75.

February 25

Offshore Production, Labor, and Risk

*Which forms of production and labor enable the global economy? What is the value of gender?
How do corporations manage regulatory gaps? What is ethical behavior in the corporate world?
Which benefits and risks accompany offshore production and what is the force of auditing?
How is global production articulated with local cultural formations?
Does globalization lessen inequality within and across countries?*

- Beck, Ulrich. 1992. "On the Logic of Wealth Distribution and Risk Distribution." *Risk Society*. London: Sage Publication, pp. 19-24.
- Sassen, Saskia. "Notes on the Incorporation of Third World Women into Wage Labor through Immigration and Offshore Production." In *Globalization and Its Discontents: Essays on the New Mobility of People and Money*. New York: New Press, 1999, pp. 111-134.

- Dunn, Elizabeth. *Privatizing Poland: Baby Food, Big Business, and the Remaking of Labor*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004, pp. 1-27, 94-129.
- Biao, Xiang. “Prologue,” “Introduction,” “The World System of Body Shopping,” “Ending Remarks.” In *Global “Body Shopping”: An Indian Labor System in the Information Technology Industry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007, pp.xiii-xix, 1-12, 100-115.
- Tsing, Anna. “Part One: Prosperity,” “Part Three: Freedom.” *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton, 2005:1-80; 205-269.
- DeParle, Jason. “A Global Trek to Poor Nations, From Poorer Ones.” *The New York Times*, December 27, 2007, p.1A.
- Films: *A Decent Factory* by Thomas Balmès and *Maquilapolis* by Vicky Funari and Sergio de la Torre.

Optional Reading:

- Fernandez-Kelly, Patricia. “Maquilladoras: The View from Inside,” “Epilogue.” *For We Are Sold, I and My People: Women and Industry in Mexico’s Frontier*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1983, pp. 108-132, 190-194.
- Freeman, Carla. “Designing Women: Corporate Discipline and Barbados’ Off-Shore Pink-collar Sector.” *Cultural Anthropology*, 1993, 8(2):169-186.
- Zaloon, Caitlin. “The Discipline of Speculators.” In *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems* edited by Aihwa Ong and Stephen Collier. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005, pp. 253-269.

March 3

Biopower and Beyond

How has natural life become an object of modern politics?

How does the governmentalization of biological conditions (making live)

dovetail with the experience of death (letting die)?

What distinguishes life worth living from “killable bodies,” and who makes these distinctions?

How do life chances and forms of agency change in light of new technological and political developments?

What kind of authority and control comes after biopower?

- Arendt, Hannah. “Human Condition.” *The Human Condition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998, pp.7-21.
- Foucault, Michel. *Security, Territory, Population—Lectures at the College de France 1977-1978*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. Excerpts.
- Agamben, Giorgio. “Part I.” *Means Without End: Notes on Politics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000, pp.1-45.
- Deleuze, Gilles. 1995. “Control and Becoming.” “Postscript on Control Societies.” In *Negotiations*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp.169-76; 177-82.
- Rabinow, Paul and Nikolas Rose. “Biopower Today.” In *BioSocieties*, 2006, 1:195-217.

Optional Reading:

- Hansen, Thoman Blom and Finn Stepputat. “Sovereignty Revisited.” *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 2006. 35:295–315.
- Fassin, Didier. “Compassion and Repression: The Moral Economy of Immigration Policies in France.” In *Cultural Anthropology*, 2005, 20(3): 362-387.

March 10

Globalization, Statecraft, Rights

How do national institutions and the rule of law enable the global?

Which forms of governance and ideas of citizenship do markets facilitate?

- Sassen, Saskia. “Denationalizing State Agendas and Privatizing Norm-Making.” In *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006, pp. 222-276.
- Biehl, João. *Will to Live: AIDS Therapies and the Politics of Survival*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007. Excerpts.
- Riles, Annelise. “The Network Inside Out.” *The Anthropology of Development and Globalization*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2005, pp.262-269.
- Ranciere, Jacques. 2004. “Who Is the Subject of the Rights of Man?” *The South Atlantic Quarterly*, 2004, 102(2/3):297-310.

Optional Reading:

- Ong, Aihwa. “Graduated Sovereignty.” In *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty*. Duke University Press, 2006, pp. 75-96.
- Chalfin, Brenda. “Global Customs Regimes and the Traffic in Sovereignty: Enlarging the Anthropology of the State.” In *Current Anthropology*, April 2006, 47(2):243-262.
- Latour, Bruno. “From Realpolitik to Dingpolitik or How to Make Things Public.” *Making Things Public: Atmospheres of Democracy*. MIT Press 2005:1-41.

SPRING BREAK

March 24
Underworlds

How do postcolonies figure and fare in the global economy and in contemporary theory?

How to investigate and account for illegal trade in goods of all kinds?

*Which forms of life and politics emerge at the interface
of markets, criminal economies, and courts?*

- Ferguson, James. "Global Shadows: Africa and the World." In *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006, pp.1-25.
- Comaroff, Jean and John. "Introduction." *Law and Disorder in the Postcolony*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006, pp.1-56.
- Nordstrom, Carolyn. *Global Outlaws: Crime, Money, and Power in the Contemporary World*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007. Excerpts.
- Roitman, Janet. "The Garrison-Entrepôt: A Mode of Governing in the Chad Basin." *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*, edited by Aihwa Ong and Stephen J. Collier. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2005, pp.417-36.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. "Parts Unknown: Undercover Ethnography of the Organ-Trafficking Underworld." *Ethnography*, 2004, 5(1):29-73.
- Lafraniere, Sharon. "Europe Takes Africa's Fish, and Boatloads of Migrants Follow." *The New York Times*, January 14, 2008, p.1A.
- Film: *Darwin's Nightmare* by Huber Sauper.

Optional Reading:

- Mbembe, Achille. "Necropolitics." In *Public Culture*, 2003, 15(1):11-40.
- Caldeira, Teresa. "'I came to sabotage your reasoning!': Violence and Resignifications of Justice in Brazil." In *Law and Disorder in the Postcolony* edited by John Comaroff and Jean Comaroff. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006, pp. 102-149.

March 31
Commodities and Consumption

*Theories of the growth and spread of capitalism have emphasized transformations in the mode of production,
but how is it that societies come to have a taste for the commodities produced?*

How are consumer desires and life-styles intertwined with modern forms of power?

- Marx, Karl. "The Fetishism of the Commodity and Its Secret." In *The Consumer Society Reader* edited by Juliet B. Schor and Douglas B. Holt. New York: The New Press, 2000, pp. 331-342.
- Mintz, Sidney. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. New York: Penguin Books, 1986. Excerpts.
- Zelizer, Viviana. "Culture and Consumption." In *The Handbook of Economic Sociology* edited by Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg (2nd edition). Princeton: Princeton University Press and Russell Sage Foundation, 2005, pp. 331-54.
- Klein, Naomi. "New Branded World" and "The Brand Expands." In *No Logo*. New York: Picador, 2002, pp. 3-61.

- Watson, James L. (ed.). *Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2006 (2nd edition), pp.1-38, 183-197.
- Meyer, Birgit. "Commodities and the Power of Prayer: Pentecostal Attitudes towards Consumption in Contemporary Ghana." In *The Anthropology of Globalization: A Reader* edited by Jonathan Xavier Inda and Renato Rosaldo. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2002, pp. 247-269.
- Mbembe, Achille. "Aesthetics of Superfluity." In *Public Culture*, 2004, 16(3):373-405.
- Fim: *The Price of Sugar* by Bill Haney.

Optional Film:

- *Our Brand is Crisis* by Rachel Boynton.

April 7

Technology and Subjectivity

Where do the discourses of science and of capitalism converge?

How does science and technology— in biomedicine, mass media, cyberspace, and commerce— transform and constrain possibilities of agency and subjectivity?

Who benefits from these truths and objects, and at what cost?

What are the affects and side-effects?

- Lacan, Jacques. "Science and Truth." *Ecrits: The First Complete Edition in English*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006, pp.726-745.
- Lacan, Jacques. *Du Discours Psychanalytique* ("The Discourse of Capitalism," Milan 1972).
- Abu-Lughod, Lila. "Egyptian Melodrama—Technology of the Modern Subject?" In *Media Worlds: Anthropology on New Terrain* edited by Faye D. Ginsburg, Lila Abu-Lughod, and Brian Larkin. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002, pp. 115-133.
- Biehl, João. "Experimental Subjects." *Will to Live: AIDS Therapies and the Politics of Survival*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007, pp.239-279.
- Schull, Natasha. "Machines, Medication, Modulation: Circuits of Dependency and Self-care in Las Vegas." In *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*, 2006, 30(2):223-247.
- Turkle, Sherry. "Introduction to the MIT Press Edition (2004)." In *The Second Self: Computers and the Human Spirit (Twentieth Anniversary Edition)*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2005, pp. 1-16.
- Boellstorff, Tom. *Coming of Age in Second Life: An Anthropologist Explores the Virtually Human*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008. (Excerpts).

Optional Reading:

- Andersen, Benedict. "Introduction" and "The Origins of National Consciousness." In *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso, 1991, pp. 1-46.
- Mazzarella, William. "'Very Bombay': Contending with the Global in an Indian Advertising Agency." *Cultural Anthropology*, 2003, 18(1): 33-71.
- "Jackie Chan is Nobody, and So Am I: Juvenile Fan Culture and the Construction of Transnational Male Identity in the Tamil Diaspora." In *Youthscapes: The Popular, the National, the Global* edited by Sunaina Maira and Elisabeth Soep. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005, pp.137-155.

- Davila, Arlene. "Culture in the Ad World." In *Media Worlds: Anthropology on New Terrain* edited by Faye D. Ginsburg, Lila Abu-Lughod, and Brian Larkin. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002, pp. 264-280.
- Edmonds, Alexander. "'The Poor Have the Right to Be Beautiful': Cosmetic Surgery in Neoliberal Brazil." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 2007, 13(2):363-81.

Optional Film:

- *Al Jazeera: Voice of Arabia* by Tewfik Hakem

April 14

Desire and the Social Subject

How can we define "public" and "private" and what is the relation between the two in the context of globalization?

How is "private" desire bounded and re-shaped by global forces?

Which clinical forms and forms of camaraderie are characteristic of our times?

In what ways does desire resist, transform, or exceed the categories and constraints of power?

How "powerful" is desire, even in the most oppressive circumstances?

- Hirschman, Albert O. "Melding the Public and Private Spheres: Taking Commensality Seriously." In *Crossing Boundaries: Selected Writings*. New York: zone Books, 1998, pp.11-32.
- Deleuze, Gilles. "Desire and Pleasure." In *Two Regimes of Madness—Texts and Interviews 1975-1995*. New York: Semiotext(e), 2006, pp.122-134.
- Deleuze, Gilles. *Essays: Critical and Clinical*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997, pp. lv-lvi, 1-6, 56-60, 61-67, 126-135.
- Agamben, Giorgio. "Magic and Happiness" and "Desiring." *Profanations*. New York: Zone Books, 2007, pp.19-22, 53-54.
- Biehl, João. *Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.
- Film: *Estamira* by Marcos Prado.

Optional Reading:

- Lovell, Anne. "Addiction Markets: The Case of High-Dose Buprenorphine in France." In *Global Pharmaceuticals: Ethics, Markets, and Practices*, pp. 136-170.
- Rofel, Lisa. *Desiring China: Experiments in Neoliberalism, Sexuality, and Public Culture*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007. Excerpts.

April 21

Political Violence and Global Values

How do we observe and react to the plight and suffering of others in the context of globalization and mass media?

What are the possibilities for social mobility and recovery in the context of extreme poverty and political violence?

Does global interconnectedness transform our responsibilities to pain and inequality, far and near?

Are there such things as “universal” human rights and values, and, if so, how are we to define and apply them?

- Appadurai, Arjun. *Fear of Small Numbers: An Essay on the Geography of Anger*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006.
- Das, Veena. “Language and Body: Transactions in the Construction of Pain” and “Revisiting Trauma, Testimony, and Political Community.” In *Life and Words: Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007, pp. 38-58, 205-221.
- Sontag, Susan. *Regarding the Pain of Others*. New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 2003.
- Farmer, Paul. “Never Again? Reflections on Human Values and Human Rights.” *The Tanner Lecture on Human Values delivered at the University of Utah, May 2005* <http://www.pih.org/inforesources/news/Farmer-Tanner-Lecture2005.pdf>
- Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. “Religion, Politics, Theology: A Conversation with Achille Mbembe.” In *Boundary 2*, 2007, 34(2): 149-170.

Optional reading:

- Taussig, Michael. *Law in a Lawless Land: Diary of a Limpieza in Colombia*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005. Excerpts.
- Redfield, Peter. “Doctors, Borders, and Life in Crisis.” *Cultural Anthropology* 2005, 20(3):328-361.

April 28

Anthropological Voices

How can anthropologists approach research and writing in a globalized world?

Are there unique contributions of ethnography and the anthropological voice?

How creative and theoretically generative is ethnography?

- Deleuze, Gilles. “What is the Creative Act?” In *Two Regimes of Madness—Texts and Interviews 1975-1995*. New York: Semiotext(e), 2006, pp.312-324.
- Derrida, Jacques. “Wears and Tears.” *Specters of Marx*. New York: Routledge, 1994, pp.77-94.
- Derrida, Jacques. *The Last Interview*. In: www.studiovisit.net/SV.Derrida.pdf
- Rabinow, Paul. *Marking Time: On the Anthropology of the Contemporary*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008, pp.101-128.
- Fischer, Michael M. J. “Culture and Cultural Analysis as Experimental Systems.” *Cultural Anthropology*, 2007, 22(1):1-65.