

Princeton University  
Department of Anthropology

**SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**  
**Ethnographic Approaches**

ANT/LAS 405  
W 7:30-10:20 PM  
Spring 2004

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**Seminar Description**

This is an ethnographic and analytical exploration of contemporary social movements in changing economies and states. The seminar charts emergent forms of collective action against inequality and violence among the urban poor, indigenous peoples, women, patient groups and environmentalists in several regions of the world (with a particular focus on Latin America). It examines the constituencies, networks, representations and political strategies of these activist groups at both the local and international levels, and places them in dialogue with social scientific literature on economic globalization and citizenship. While familiarizing students with ethnographic dilemmas and methods, the seminar also assesses the paradigmatic quality of these collective struggles over life, rights, and accountability: To which extent do these activist groups and actions refigure social experience, the public sphere and governance writ large? In which ways do they challenge ideas about the scale and impact of global institutions and processes over states, populations, and individual subjectivities? What do these historical struggles and ethnographic studies do to social theory?

**Requirements**

The success of the seminar depends on your commitment to complete all required readings for each session and to participate actively in the discussions.

Grading will be based on:

- Attendance, participation in discussions, and an oral presentation (25%)
- A weekly précis with questions and comments that arise during the reading of the materials for that week (no more than one single-spaced page, 25 %)
- A final research paper on a contemporary social movement (50 %). An outline is due on March 10 and the paper is due on May 11 at 5 pm.

## Course Materials

Assigned articles and book chapters can be downloaded from Firestone Library's electronic reserve. The following books will be available for purchase at the U-Store and will also be on reserve at Firestone Library:

Agamben, Giorgio. 2000. *Means without end: notes on politics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Arendt, Hannah. 1970. *On Violence*. New York: Harvest Books.

Castells, Manuel. 1997. *The Power of Identity*. Blackwell Publishers.

Fortun, Kim. 2001. *Advocacy After Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Nash, June. 2001. *Mayan Visions: The Quest for Autonomy in an Age of Globalization*. New York: Routledge.

Paley, Julia. 2001. *Marketing Democracy: Power and Social Movements in Post-dictatorship Chile*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Rheingold, Howard 2003. *Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution*. New York: Basic Books. (Optional).

Schmitt, Carl. 1996. *The Concept of the Political*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Week One  
**Anthropology and Social Movements**

Escobar, Arturo. 1992. "Culture, Practice and Politics: Anthropology and the Study of Social Movements." *Critique of Anthropology* 12(4):395-432.

Film: *Zapatista* by Richard Rowley and Staale Sandberg (1998)

Week Two  
**The Subject and Power**

Foucault, Michel. 2000. "The Subject and Power;" "Useless to Revolt;" "Confronting Governments: Human Rights." *The Essential Works of Michel Foucault, 1954-1984*. New York: The New Press, pp. 326-348, 449-453; 474-475.

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1998. "The Left Hand and the right Hand of the State;" "Social Scientists, Economic Science and the Social Movement." *Acts of Resistance*. New York: The New Press, pp. 1-10, 52-59.

Geertz, Clifford. 2000. "The world in pieces: culture and politics at the end of the century." *Available Light: Anthropological Reflections on Philosophical Topics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp.218-263.

Edelman, Marc. 2001. "Social Movements: Changing Paradigms and Forms of Politics." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 30:285-317.

Roy, Arundhati. 2001. "The Ladies have feelings, so... shall we leave it to the experts?" *Power Politics*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press, pp. 1-33.

Week Three  
**Social Inequality, Activism, and the State:  
The Case of Indigenous Movements in Latin America**

Hirschman, Albert. 1995. "On the Political Economy of Latin American Development." *A Propensity to Self-Subversion*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp.154-188.

Kelly Hoffman and Miguel Centeno. 2003. "The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America." *Annual Review of Sociology* 29: 363-90.

Yashar, Deborah J. *Contesting Citizenship: Indigenous Movements, the State, and the Postliberal Challenge in Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Forthcoming (Chapters One and Three).

Warren, Kay B. and Jean E. Jackson. 2003. "Introduction." *Indigenous Movements, Self-Representation, and the State in Latin America*. Austin: Texas University Press, pp. 1-46.

Week Four  
**Globalization and the Power of Identity**

Nash, June. 2001. *Mayan Visions: The Quest for Autonomy in an Age of Globalization*. New York: Routledge. (Excerpts)

Castells, Manuel. 1997. *The Power of Identity*. Blackwell Publishers. (Excerpts)

Hardt, Michael and Antonio Negri. 2000. *Empire*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, pp.1-66.

Tsing, Anna. 2000. "The global situation." *Cultural Anthropology* 15(3): 327-60.

Yashar, Deborah. 2002. "Globalization and Collective Action." *Comparative Politics*, pp.355-375.

Week Five  
**Life, Labor, Language**

Arendt, Hannah. 1970. *On Violence*. New York: Harvest Books.

Foucault, Michel. 1991. "Governmentality." In G. Burchell et al (eds.). *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, pp. 87-104.

Agamben, Giorgio. 2000. *Means without end: notes on politics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp.1-45.

Rabinow, Paul. 2003. "Midst Anthropology's Problems." *Anthropos Today: Reflections on Modern Equipment*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp.31-43.

Week Six  
**Democratization, Women's Struggles, and NGOs**

Paley, Julia. 2001. *Marketing democracy: Power and social movements in post-dictatorship Chile*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Excerpts)

Han, Clara. "The Work of Indebtedness: The Traumatic Present of Late Capitalist Chile." *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* (forthcoming).

Nelson, Diane M. 2001. "Stumped Identities: Body Image, Bodies Politics, and the Mujer Maya as Prosthetic." *Cultural Anthropology* 16 (3):314-353.

Fisher, William F. 1997. "Doing Good? The Politics and Antipolitics of NGO Practices." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 26:439-464.

Week Seven  
**Identity and Diversity**

Schmitt, Carl. 1996. *The Concept of the Political*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Ong, Aihwa. "Cultural Citizenship as Subject-Making." *Current Anthropology* 37(5):737-762.

Greenhouse, Carol. 2002. "Citizenship, Agency, and the Dream of Time." In Sarat A et al (eds.). *Looking Back at Law's Century*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp.184-209.

Benhabib, Seyna, Seyla. 2002. "Who are 'We'? Dilemmas of Citizenship in Contemporary Europe." *Claims of Culture: Equality and Diversity in the Global Era*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Fassin, Didier. 2001. "The Biopolitics of Otherness: Undocumented Foreigners and Racial Discrimination in French Public Debate." *Anthropology Today* 17(1):3-7.

Coutin, Susan B. 2003. "Transnationalism, Naturalization, and U.S. Immigration Politics." *American Ethnologist* 30(4):508-526.

Week Eight  
**Capitalism, Everyday Violence, Governmentality**

Sassen, Saskia. 1999. "Whose City is It? Globalization and the Formation of New Claims." James Holston (ed.). *Cities and Citizenship*. Durham: duke University Press, pp. 177-194.

Comaroff, Jean and John Comaroff. 2000. "Millennial Capitalism: First Thoughts on a Second Coming." *Public Culture* 12(2):291-343.

Appadurai, Arjun. 2002. "Deep Democracy: Urban Governmentality and the Horizon of Politics." *Public Culture* 14(1):21-47.

Caldeira, Teresa. 2002. "Paradox of Police Violence in Democratic Brazil." *Ethnography* 3(3): 235-263.

Ferguson, James and Akhil Gupta. 2002. "Spatializing States: Toward an Ethnography of Neoliberal Governmentality." *American Ethnologist* 29 (4): 981-1002.

**Week Nine**  
**Cultures of Human Rights**

Ignatieff, Michael. *Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp.3-52.

Jelin, Elizabeth. 1994. "The Politics of Memory: The Human Rights Movement and the Construction of Democracy in Argentina." *Latin American Perspectives* 21(2): 38-58.

Wilson, Richard A. 2000. "Reconciliation and Revenge in Post-Apartheid South Africa: Rethinking Legal Pluralism and Human Rights." *Current Anthropology* 41 (1):75-98.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. Un-Doing: The Politics of the Impossible in the New South Africa. Manuscript.

Escobar, Arturo. 2003. Displacement, Development, and Modernity in the Colombian Pacific. *International Social Science Journal* 175:157-67.

Week Ten  
**Environmentalism**

Fortun, Kim. 2001. *Advocacy After Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. (Excerpts)

Castells, Manuel. 1997. *The Power of Identity*. Blackwell Publishers. (Excerpts)

Week Eleven  
**Beyond Biopolitics:**  
**Commercial Science and Medical Activism**

Deleuze, Gilles. 1995. "Postscript on Control Societies." *Negotiations*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp.177-182.

Patton, Cindy. *Globalizing AIDS*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. ix-xxvii, 1-26.

Epstein, Steven. 1996. *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge*. Berkeley: University of California, pp. 1-41.

Farmer, Paul. 2002. *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the War on the Poor*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp.29-51, 196-246.

Biehl, João. 2004. "Pharmaceutical Governance: The Control of AIDS in Brazil." *Social Text* 80.

Week Twelve

**Corporate Power and the New Technologies of Mobilization**

Danaher, Kevin and Mark, Jason. 2003. *Insurrection: Citizen Challenges to Corporate Power*. New York: Routledge, pp. 1-21, 290-315.

Howard Rheingold. 2003. *Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution*. New York: Basic Books. (Excerpts).