

Princeton University
Department of Anthropology

SUBJECTIVITY
Explorations in Anthropology, Psychoanalysis, and Psychiatry

ANT 435
W 1:30 – 4:20 pm
203 Aaron Burr Hall
Spring 2002

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Office hours: Tu 4 - 5 pm; Th 11:00 am - noon

Course Description

Today there is no coherent or at least single form of subjectivity and experience, and no single approach (phenomenology, interpretive anthropology, psychoanalysis and the “subjected” subject of post-structuralism) holding sway. Our seminar mirrors and addresses this openness in what subjectivity means in the contemporary world. It is an anthropological exploration on changing subjectivities and their connections with transforming institutions, social relations, and cultural norms. The seminar explores how current political, scientific and medical developments interact with older power dynamics in restructuring the patterns underlying everyday experience and personhood. Part of these explorations is to comprehend how inner life and its relationship to values is changing, which new forms of self-governance are taking shape, and how these transformations affect suffering and our responses to it, as well as our understanding of pathology and of care giving. The seminar addresses the interrelatedness of these issues in historical, cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspective (anthropology, psychiatry, psychoanalysis, social studies of science, philosophy, literature, religion). As we test the limits of traditional approaches, we are also interested in creating new methodological and conceptual tools to assess the impact of these developments on what counts as uniqueness, mental health, and ethics.

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:

1. Attendance, participation in discussions, and an oral presentation (25 %)
2. A weekly précis with questions and comments that arise during the reading of the materials for that week (no more than one page -- 25%)
3. A final research paper (outline is due on March 27 -- 50 %)

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

- Sophocles. *The Three Theban Plays*. New York: Penguin Books, 1984.
- Freud, Sigmund. *An Autobiographical Study*. New York: W.W.Norton, 1963.
- Freud, Sigmund. *Totem and Taboo*. New York: W.W.Norton, 1950.
- Freud, Sigmund. *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*. New York: W.W.Norton, 1959.
- Lacan, Jacques. *Écrits: A Selection*. New York: W.W.Norton, 1997.
- Lacan, Jacques. *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1978.
- Lacan, Jacques. *The Ethics of Psychoanalysis -- Seminar Book VII, 1959-1960*. New York: W.W.Norton, 1992.
- Malinowski, Bronislaw. *Sex and Repression in Savage Society*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd.
- Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press, 1963.
- Deleuze, Gilles and Guattari, Felix. *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983.
- Foucault, Michel. *Technologies of the Self*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1988.
- Hacking, Ian. *Mad Travelers: Reflections on the Reality of Transient Mental Illness*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1998.
- Greenblatt, Stephen. *Hamlet in Purgatory*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001.
- Obeyesekere, Gananath. *The Work of Culture: Symbolic Transformation in Psychoanalysis and Anthropology*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1990.
- Arthur Kleinman and Byron Good (eds.). *Culture and Depression*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985.
- Herman, Judith. *Father-Daughter Incest (With a New Afterword)*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000.
- Boon, James. *Verging on Extra-vagance: Anthropology, History, Religion, Literature, Arts ... Showbiz*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999.
- Luhrmann, Tanya. *Of Two Minds: The Growing Disorder in American Psychiatry*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 2000.
- Cohen, Lawrence. *No Aging in India: Alzheimer's, the Bad Family, and Other Modern Things*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.
- Butler, Judith. *The Psychic Life of Power*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997.
- Butler, Judith. *Antigone's Claims (The Welleck Lectures)*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001.
- Caruth, Cathy. *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996.
- Agamben, Giorgio. *Remnants of Auschwitz: The Witness and the Archive*. New York: Zone Books, 1999.

“Death
so many deaths, numberless deaths on deaths, no end --
Thebes is dying, look [...]
Thebes, city of death, one long cortege
and the suffering rises
wails for mercy rise
and the wild hymn for the Healer blazes out
clashing with our sobs our cries of mourning [...]
I will speak now as a stranger to the story”

Sophocles 1984: 169, 171

Week One - 2/6

Introduction:

City of Death and the Vanishing Subject

Sophocles. “Oedipus the King.” *The Three Theban Plays*. New York: Penguin Books, 1984.

Rorty, Amélie O. “Subjectivity: A Vanishing Subject.” (Manuscript)

Film: *Sigmund Freud: Analysis of a Mind*

Week Two - 2/13

The Interpretation of Dreams

Freud, Sigmund. *An Autobiographical Study*. New York: W.W.Norton, 1963.

Breuer, Joseph and Sigmund Freud. *Studies on Hysteria*. New York: Basic Books, 1957, pp.21-47, 125-134.

Freud, Sigmund. *The Interpretation of Dreams*. New York: Avon Books, 1965, pp. 128-154, 274-310, 311-315.

Freud, Sigmund. “The Loss of Reality in Neurosis and Psychosis.” *Collected Papers, Volume 2*. New York: Basic Books, pp. 277-282.

Freud, Sigmund. “A Seventeenth-Century Demonological Neurosis.” *Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, vol. 19*. London: Hogarth Press, 1961.

Certeau, Michel de. “What Freud Makes of History?” and *The Writing of History*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 287-307, 1988.

Kaufman, Doris. “Dreams and Self-Consciousness: Mapping the Mind in the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries.” Lorraine Daston (ed.). *Biographies of Scientific Objects*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2000, pp.67-85.

Suggested Reading:

Sacks, Oliver. "Sigmund Freud: The Other Road." Guttman Giseler and Inge Scholz-Strasser (eds.). *Freud and the Neurosciences: From Brain Research to the Unconscious*. Vienna: Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1998, pp.11-22.

Lyotard, Jean-François. "Rewriting Modernity." *The In-Human*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1991, pp.24-35.

Week Three - 2/20

Incest and War

Freud, Sigmund. *Totem and Taboo*. New York: W.W.Norton, 1950, pp.1-74, 140-161.

Freud, Sigmund. "The Resistances to Psychoanalysis." *Collected Papers, Volume 5*. New York: Basic Books, pp.163-174.

Freud, Sigmund. "Thoughts for the Times of War and Death." *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, vol.16*. London: The Hogarth Press, 1957.

Malinowski, Bronislaw. *Sex and Repression in Savage Society*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., 1954, pp. vii-xii, 1-7, 74-82, pp.135-178, 274-280.

Rivers, W.H.R. "Freud's Psychology of the Unconscious." *Instinct and the Unconscious*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1922, pp.159-169.

Rivers, W.H.R. "Affect in the Dream." *Conflict and Dream*. London: Kegan Paul, 1923, pp.65-82.

Herman, Judith. *Father-Daughter Incest* (With a New Afterword). Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000. (Selections) 1-21; 219-249

Suggested Reading:

Freud, Sigmund and Albert Einstein. "Why War?" [correspondence 1932/1933]. *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, vol. 22*. London: The Hogarth Press.

Fox Keller, Evelyn. "From Secrets of Life to Secrets of Death." *Secrets of Life: Essays on Language, Gender, and Science*. New York: Routledge, 1992, pp.39-55.

Week Four - 2/27
Affect and the Work of Culture

Foucault, Michel. "Truth and Juridical Forms." *Power*. New York: The New Press, 2000, pp.1-32.

Obeyesekere, Gananath. *The Work of Culture: Symbolic Transformation in Psychoanalysis and Anthropology*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1990. (Selections)

Lutz, Catherine. "Depression and the Translation of Emotional Words." Arthur Kleinman and Byron Good (eds.). *Culture and Depression*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985, pp.63-100.

Kleinman, Arthur and Joan Kleinman. "Somatization: The Interconnections in Chinese Society Among Culture, Depressive Experiences, and the Meanings of Pain." Arthur Kleinman and Byron Good (eds.), op.cit., pp. 429-490.

Manson, Spero M., James H. Shore, and Joseph D. Bloom. "The Depressive Experience in American Indian communities: A Challenge for Psychiatric Theory and Diagnosis." Arthur Kleinman and Byron Good (eds.), op.cit., pp. 331-368.

Week Five - 3/6
Group Psychology

Freud, Sigmund. *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*. New York: W.W.Norton, 1959. (Selections)

Adorno, Theodor. "Freudian Theory and the Pattern of Fascist Propaganda." Andrew Arato and Eike Gebhardt (eds.). *The Essential Frankfurt School Reader*. New York: Continuum, 1982, pp.118-137.

Fanon, Frantz. "Colonial Wars and Mental Disorders." *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press, 1963, pp.249-316.

Bhabha, Homi. "Interrogating Identity: Franz Fanon and the Postcolonial Prerogative." *The Location of Culture*. New York: Routledge, pp.40-65.

Das, Veena. "Language and Body: Transactions in the Construction of Pain." Arthur Kleinman, Veena Das, Margaret Lock (eds). *Social Suffering*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997, pp.67-91.

Lamont, Michèle. "Identity and Culture." *Handbook of Sociological Theory*.

Film: *Frantz Fanon: White Mask, Black Skin*, by Isaac Julien.

Week Six - 3/13

Staging the Other and the Loss of the Human

De Certeau, Michel. *The Possession at Loudon*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2000. (Selections)

Grenblatt, Stephen. *Hamlet in Purgatory*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000. (Selections)

Kleinman, Arthur. "Experience and Its Moral Modes: Culture, Human Conditions, and Disorder." *The Tanner lectures on Human Values*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1999, pp. 357-420.

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Week Seven - 3/27

The Individual Myth of the Neurotic

Lacan, Jacques. "The mirror stage as formative of the function of the I as revealed in psychoanalytical experience." *Écrits: A Selection*. New York: W.W.Norton, 1977, pp. 1-7.

Lacan, Jacques. "The Neurotic's Individual Myth." *Psychoanalytic Quarterly* (1979), 48 (3): 386-425.

Lacan, Jacques. *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1978. (Selections)

Lévi-Strauss, Claude. "The Effectiveness of Symbols." *Structural Anthropology*. New York: Anchor Books, 1967, pp. 186-205.

Biehl, João (with Denise Coutinho and Ana Luzia Outeiro). "Technology and Affect: HIV/AIDS Testing in Brazil." *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* (2001), v. 25, n. 1.

Suggested Reading:

Zizek, Slavoj. "How Did Marx Invent the Symptom?" *Mapping Ideology*. New York: Verso, 1997.

Week Eight - 4/3
Psychiatric Culture

Foucault, Michel. "Psychiatric Power." Paul Rabinow (ed.). *Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth*. New York: The New Press, 1997, pp.39-50.

Deleuze, Gilles and Guattari, Felix. *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983. (Selections)

Lunbeck, Elizabeth. *The Psychiatric Persuasion: Knowledge, Gender, and Power in Modern America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994. (Selections)

Rose, Nikolas. "Psychiatry as a Political Science: Advanced Liberalism and the Administration of Risk." *History of the Human Sciences* 9 (2).

Sapir, Edward. "Why Cultural Anthropology Needs the Psychiatrist" (with commentaries by Arthur Kleinman and Laurence J. Kirmayer). *Psychiatry*, 2000, 64 (1): 2-16, 23-31.

Luhrman, Tanya. *Of Two Minds: The Growing Disorder in American Psychiatry*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000, pp. 3-24, pp.203--293.

Week Nine - 4/10
Self-Governance and the Social Course of Psychosis

Foucault, Michel. "Technologies of the Self." *Technologies of the Self: A Seminar with Michel Foucault*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1988, pp.16-49.

Hacking, Ian. *Mad Travelers: Reflections on the Reality of Transient Mental Illness*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1998. (Selections)

Young, Allan. "Our Traumatic Neurosis and Its Brain." "America's Transient Mental Illness: A Brief History of the Self-Traumatized Perpetrator." (Manuscripts)

Lacan, Jacques. "A Lacanian Psychosis: Interview by Jacques Lacan. Stuart Schneiderman (ed.). *Returning to Freud: Clinical Psychoanalysis in the School of Lacan*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1980, pp.19-41.

Good, Byron. "The Subject of Mental Illness: Madness, Mad Violence and Subjectivity in Contemporary Indonesia." (Manuscript)

Corin, Ellen. "The 'Other' of Culture in Psychosis: The Ex-centricity of the Subject." (Manuscript)

Suggested Reading:

Rose, Nikolas. *Inventing Ourselves: Psychology, Power and Personhood*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Week Ten - 4/17
Remembering the Family

Sophocles. "Antigone." *The Three Theban Plays*. New York: Penguin Books, 1984.

Lacan, Jacques. "The Essence of Tragedy: A Commentary on Sophocles' Antigone." *The Ethics of Psychoanalysis, Book VII, 1959-1960*. New York: W.W.Norton, 1992, pp.241-325.

Butler, Judith. *The Psychic Life of Power*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997. (Selections)

Butler, Judith. *Antigone's Claims (The Welleck Lectures)*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001.

Borneman, John. "Caring and Being Cared For: Displacing Marriage, Kinship, Gender, and Sexuality." James Faubion (ed.). *The Ethics of Kinship: Ethnographic Inquiries*. New York: Roman and Littlefield, 2001, pp.29-45.

Week Eleven - 4/24
Subjectivity Transformed

Boon, James. *Verging on Extra-vagance: Anthropology, History, Religion, Literature, Arts ... Showbiz*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999. (Selections)

Turkle, Sherry. *Life on the Screen: Identity in the Age of the Internet*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1997. (Selections)

Zizek, Slavoj. "The Cyberspace Real." (Manuscript)

Cohen, Lawrence. *No Aging in India*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998. (Selections)

Rheinberger, Hans-Jörg. *Toward a History of Epistemic Things: Synthesizing Proteins in the Test Tube*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997, pp.11-37, 223-229.

Week Twelve - 5/1
**Ex-Human:
"A Sentence Without Remedy"**

Agamben, Giorgio. *Remnants of Auschwitz: The Witness and the Archive*. New York: Zone Books, 1999. (Selections)

Das, Veena. "The Act of Witnessing: Violence, Poisonous Knowledge, and Subjectivity." Veena Das, Arthur Kleinman, Mamphela Ramphele, and Pamela Reynolds (eds.). *Violence and Subjectivity*. Berkeley: University of California, 2000, pp.205-225.

Scheper-Hughes. "Undoing: The Politics of the Impossible in the New South Africa." (Manuscript)

Povinelli, Elizabeth. *The Cunning of Recognition: Indigenous Alterity and the Making of Australian Multiculturalism*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2002. (Selections)

Herzfeld, Michael. "Suffering and Disciplines." *Anthropology: Theoretical Practices in Culture and Society*. London: Blackwell Publishers, 2001, pp.217-239.

Biehl, João. "Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment." *Social Text* 68 (2001), vol. 19, n.3.

Suggested Reading:

Caruth, Cathy. *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996.