

Department of Anthropology
Princeton University
Spring 2016

KEYWORDS IN ANTHROPOLOGY TODAY

ANT 570
Mondays 9:00-11:50 am
216 Aaron Burr Hall

Instructors: João Biehl & Didier Fassin
Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow: Pablo Landa

Seminar Description

This seminar draws inspiration from Raymond Williams's classic book "Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society" and explores two sets of terms: the first are concepts that anthropologists are using to interpret and interact with worlds and emergent forms of life (ontologies, multispecies, becomings, ethics, public ethnography); the second are subjects that anthropologists are studying (punishment, borders, infrastructures, housing, disasters, precarity, care) that speak to a certain state of the world and of the social today. Each keyword will be analyzed at the crossroads of ethnography and critical theory.

Requirements/Grading

The success of the seminar depends on your commitment to complete all required readings for each session, write and post weekly reading/writing responses to help introduce discussions, and participate actively in discussions throughout the semester.

Each week you will be required to write a two-part response. In the first part (ca. 200-300 words) you are encouraged to draw from your research or personal experiences to probe on the limits, possibilities and openings offered by the keyword in question. You may write this section before or after reading and consider how writing first illuminates your reading, and vice-versa. In the second part (ca. 200-300 words), you are expected to identify major arguments and themes connecting the readings, consider other possible keywords that might connect them, and formulate questions to discuss in class. You can organize your responses as a journal where you establish connections between your own work and interests and contemporary anthropological debates, and observe the development of your ideas through the semester.

Students will make brief class presentations on keywords and readings they are particularly interested in.

Grading will be based on:

1. Attendance, participation, and class presentation (20%).
2. Weekly reading reports (40%).
Reports shall be posted on Blackboard every Sunday by 6:00 pm (starting January 31st).
3. A final research paper or book review essay (40%).
The 12-15 double-spaced page paper is due May 10, 2016, by 5:00 pm.
Please email the paper to the instructors.

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

- Butler, Judith. *Notes toward a Performative Theory of Assembly*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015.
- Cadena, Marisol de la. *Earth Beings: Ecologies of Practice across Andean Worlds*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2015.
- De León, Jason. *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015.
- Lambek, Michael, Veena Das, Didier Fassin, Webb Keane. *Four Lectures on Ethics: Anthropological Perspectives*. HAU Books, Masterclass Series (Volume 3), 2015.
- Malabou, Catherine. *Ontology of the Accident: An Essay on Destructive Plasticity*. Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2012.
- Rios, Victor. *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*. New York: New York University Press, 2011.
- Stout, Noelle. *After Love: Queer Intimacy and Erotic Economies in Post-Soviet Cuba*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2014.
- Tsing, Anna. *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015.
- Wool, Zoë H. *After War: The Weight of Life at Walter Reed*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2015.

February 1

WHY ETHNOGRAPHY MATTERS

- Williams, Raymond. "Introduction" and "Criticism." In *Keywords. A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014 (new edition), pp. xxix-xxxvii, 47-48.
- Foucault, Michel. "What is Enlightenment?" In *The Foucault Reader*, edited by Paul Rabinow, New York: Pantheon Books, 1984, pp. 32-50.
- Deleuze, Gilles and Michel Foucault. "Intellectuals and Power." *Desert Islands and Other Texts, 1953-1974*, Los Angeles: Semiotext(e), 2004, pp. 206-213.
- Biehl, João. "Ethnography in the Way of Theory." In *The Ground Between: Anthropologists Engage Philosophy* edited by Veena Das, Michael D. Jackson, Arthur Kleinman, and Bhrigupati Singh. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2014, pp. 94-118.
- Fassin, Didier, "The Public Afterlife of Ethnography." *American Ethnologist*, 2015, 42(4):592-609.

Optional Readings:

- Foucault, Michel. 1997. "The Masked Philosopher." *Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth (The Essential Works of Foucault, Volume 1.)* Ed. Paul Rabinow. New York: The New Press, pp. 321-328.
- Derrida, Jacques. 2006. "Wears and Tears (Tableau of an Ageless World)." *Specters of Marx*. New York: Routledge, pp. 94-117.
- Rabinow, Paul. 2008. "Introduction: On the Anthropology of the Contemporary." *Marking Time: On the Anthropology of the Contemporary*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 1-11.
- Achille Mbembe. "At the Centre of the Knot." *Social Dynamics*, 2012, 38(1):8-14.
- Fassin, Didier. "Why Ethnography Matters: On Anthropology and Its Publics." *Cultural Anthropology*, 2013, 28(4):621-646.

February 8
ONTOLOGIES

- Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo. "Cosmological Deixis and Amerindian Perspectivism." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 1998, 4(3):469-488.
- Kohn, Eduardo. "Introduction" and "The Open Whole." *How Forests Think: Toward an Anthropology Beyond the Human*. Berkeley: The University of California Press, 2013, pp. 1-26, 27-70.
- Bessire, Lucas and David Bond. "Ontological Anthropology and the Deferral of Critique." *American Ethnologist*, 2014, 41(3):440-456.
- Cadena, Marisol de la. *Earth Beings: Ecologies of Practice across Andean Worlds*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2015. Excerpts.

Optional Readings:

- Lévi-Strauss, Claude. 1995. "Prologue." *Saudades do Brasil: A Photographic Memoir*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, pp. 9-23.
- Descola, Philippe. *The Ecology of Others*. Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press, 2013.
- Kohn, Eduardo. "Anthropology of Ontologies." *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 2015, 44:311-327.

February 15
MULTISPECIES

- Deleuze, Gilles (with Claire Parnet). 2011. "A as in Animal." *Gilles Deleuze: From A to Z (DVD)*. Los Angeles: Semiotext(e).
See: <http://www.after1968.org/app/webroot/uploads/ABCDeAnimal.pdf>
- Haraway, Donna. "When Species Meet: Introductions." *When Species Meet*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008, pp. 3-42.
- Kirskey, Eben. "Species: a Praxiographic Study." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 2015, N.S. (00):1-23.
- Tsing, Anna. *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015. Excerpts.
- Kelly, Ann H, and Javier Lezaun. "Urban Mosquitos, Situational Publics, and the Pursuit of Interspecies Separation in Dar es Salaam." *American Ethnologist*, 2014, 41(2):368-383.

Optional Readings:

- Levi-Strauss, Claude. "Mushrooms in Culture." *Structural Anthropology, Volume 2*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983, pp. 222-237.
- Deleuze, Gilles and Félix Guattari. 1987. "1730: Becoming-Intense, Becoming-Animal, Becoming-Imperceptible..." *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 233-309.
- Kirksey, Eben and Stefan Helmreich. "The Emergence of Multispecies Ethnography." *Cultural Anthropology*, 2010, 25(4): 545-576.
- Kirskey, Eben. "Multispecies." *Posthuman Glossary*. n.d. (manuscript).
- Fischer, Michael M. J. 2009. "Emergent Forms of Un/Natural Life" and "Conclusion and Way Ahead." *Anthropological Futures*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 114-158; 235-243.

February 22
PUNISHMENT

- Clastres, Pierre. "Of Torture in Primitive Societies." *Society against the State: Essays in Political Anthropology*. New York: Zone Books, 1989, pp. 177-188.
- Comfort, Megan. "On-Line at San Quentin." *Doing Time Together: Love and Family in the Shadow of the Prison*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2008, pp. 21-64.
- Rios, Victor. "Part II: Consequences." *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*. New York: New York University Press, 2011, pp. 97-156.
- Ralph, Laurence. "The Qualia of Pain: How Police Torture Shapes Historical Consciousness." *Anthropological Theory*, 2013, 13(1/2):104-118.

Optional Readings:

- Foucault, Michel. 2000. "Lives of Infamous Men." *Power (The Essential Works of Foucault, Vol. 3)*. Ed. James Faubion. New York: The New Press, pp. 157-175.
- Irvin, John. *The Jail: Managing the Underclass in American Society*. Berkeley: The University of California Press, 1987.
- Goffman, Alice. "The Social Life of Criminalized Young People." *On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014, pp. 107-140.
- Terrio, Susan. *Judging Mohammed: Juvenile Delinquency, Immigration, and Exclusion at the Paris Palace of Justice*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2009.
- Lacan, Jacques. "A Theoretical Introduction to the Functions of Psychoanalysis in Criminology." *Écrits* (translated by Druce Fink). New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006, pp. 102-122.
- Garces, Chris. "Denuding Surveillance at the Carceral Boundary." *South Atlantic Quarterly*, summer 2014, 113(3): 447-473.

February 29

ETHICS

- Laidlaw, James. "Beyond the Science of Unfreedom." *The Subject of Virtue: An Anthropology of Ethics and Freedom*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2013, pp. 1-46.
- Lambek, Michael, Veena Das, Didier Fassin, Webb Keane. "Living as if it Mattered;" "What does ordinary ethics look like;" and "Troubled waters: At the confluence of ethics and politics". *Four Lectures on Ethics: Anthropological Perspectives*. HAU Books, Masterclass Series (Volume 3), 2015.
- Mattingly, Cheryl. "Two Virtue Ethics and the Anthropology of Morality." *Anthropological Theory*, 2012, 12(2):161-184.
- Povinelli, Elizabeth. "Road Kill: Ethical Substance, Exhaustion, Endurance." *Economies of Abandonment: Social Belonging and Endurance in Late Liberalism*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2011, pp. 101-130.

Optional Readings:

- Derrida, Jacques. 2004. "The Last Interview." www.studiovisit.net/SV.Derrida.pdf
- Fassin, Didier. "Introduction," "Durkheim and the Moral Fact," "Weber and Practical Ethics." "Foucault and the Genealogy of Ethics," and "Ethics and Piety." *A Companion to Moral Anthropology*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012, pp. 1-18, 37-48, 67-84, 223-241.

March 7

BECOMINGS

- Deleuze, Gilles. "Control and Becoming." In *Negotiations*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995, pp. 169-176.
- Deleuze, Gilles. "Literature and Life." In *Essays: Critical and Clinical*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997, pp. 1-6.
- Biehl, João and Peter Locke. "Deleuze and the Anthropology of Becoming." *Current Anthropology*, 2010, 50(3): 317-337.
- Connolly, William. "Prelude" and "Chapter 1: Complexity, Agency, and Time." *A World of Becoming*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2012, pp. 1-16, 17-42.

- Ralph, Laurence. "Making Room for Madness in a City of Scars: Becoming Mentally Ill in Black Chicago." In *Anthropology of Becoming*. João Biehl and Peter Locke, eds., forthcoming (manuscript).
- Bessire, Lucas. "On Negative Becoming." In *Anthropology of Becoming*. João Biehl and Peter Locke, eds., forthcoming (manuscript).
- Dave, Naisargi. Witness: Humans, Animals, and the Politics of Becoming. *Cultural Anthropology*, 2014, 29(3): 433-456.

Optional Readings:

- 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. "What Children Say." *Essays: Critical and Clinical*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997, pp. 61-67.
- Bateson, Gregory. "The Cybernetics of 'Self': A Theory of Alcoholism." *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000, pp. 309-337.
- Comaroff, Jean and John Comaroff. 2012. "On Personhood: A Perspective from Africa." *Theory from the South: Or, How Euro-America Is Evolving Toward Africa*. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers, pp.51-64.

***** SPRING BREAK *****

March 21

INFRASTRUCTURES/HOUSING

- Bachelard, Gaston. "The house. From cellar to garret. The significance of the hut." *The Poetics of Space*. Boston: Beacon Press Books, 1994 [1958], pp. 3-37.
- Bennett, Jane. "Preface" and "The Force of Things." *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2010, pp. vii-xix; 1-19.
- Larkin, Brian. "The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure." *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 2012, 42:327-342.
- Anand, Nikhil. "Pressure: The PoliTechnics of Water Supply in Mumbai." *Cultural Anthropology*, 2011, 26(4):542-564.
- Fennel, Catherine. "Project Heat and Sensory Politics in Redeveloping Chicago Public Housing." *Ethnography*, 2011, 12(1):40-64.
- Appadurai, Arjun. "Mediants, Materiality, Normativity." *Public Culture*, 2015, 27(2):221-237.

Optional Readings:

- Foucault, Michel. "Different Spaces." *Aesthetics, Method, and Epistemology*. New York: The New Press, 1998, pp. 175-185.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. "The Berber house or the world reversed." *Social Science Information*, 1970, 9(2):151-170.
- Mauss, Marcel and Henri Beuchat. *Seasonal Variations of the Eskimo: A Study in Social Morphology* (Translated by James J. Fox). London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1979 [1905].
- Pauli, Julia. "A house of one's own: Gender, migration, and residence in rural Mexico." *American Ethnologist*, 2008, 35(1):171-187.
- Fennel, Catherine. "The Museum of Resilience: Raising a Sympathetic Public in Postwelfare Chicago." *Cultural Anthropology*, 2012, 27(4): 641-666.

March 28

BORDERS

- Anderson, Ruben. "Part II: Crossings." *Illegality, Inc. Clandestine Migration and the Business of Bordering Europe*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014, pp. 133-176.
- De León, Jason. *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015. Excerpts.
- Parrenas, Rhacel. "The Global Migration of Filipino Domestic Workers" and "The International Division of Reproductive Labor." *Servants of Globalization: Migrations and Domestic Work*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2nd edition 2015, pp.1-52.

Optional Readings:

- Fassin, Didier. "Policing Borders, Producing Boundaries. The Governmentality of Immigration in Dark Times." *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 2011, 40:213-226.
- Vigh, Henrik. "Wayward Migration: On Imagined Futures and Technological Voids." *Ethnos*, 2009, 74(1): 91–109.
- Sahlins, Peter. "The Nation in the Village: State-Building and Communal Struggles in the Catalan Borderland." *Journal of Modern History*, 1988, 60: 234-263.

April 4

PRECARITY/LIVABILITY

- Deleuze, Gilles. "Postscript on Control Societies." *Negotiations*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995, pp. 177-182.
- Berlant, Lauren. "Introduction: Affect in the Present" and "After the Good Life, an Impasse: Time Out, Human Resources, and the Precarious Present." *Cruel Optimism*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2011, pp. 1-21, 191-222.
- Stout, Noelle. *After Love: Queer Intimacy and Erotic Economies in Post-Soviet Cuba*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2014. Excerpts.
- Butler, Judith. *Notes toward a Performative Theory of Assembly*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015. Excerpts.

Optional Readings:

- Butler, Judith. "Survivability, Vulnerability, Affect." *Frames of War: When Is Life Grievable?* New York: Verso, 2010, pp. 33-62.
- Mbembe, Achille. "Aesthetics of Superfluity." *Public Culture*, 2004, 16(3): 373-405.
- Brown, Wendy. *Undoing the Demos: Neoliberalism's Stealth Revolution*. New York: Zone Books, 2015.
- Biehl, João. "The Judicialization of Biopolitics: Claiming the Right to Pharmaceuticals in Brazilian Courts." *American Ethnologist*, 2013, 40(3):419-436.

April 11

VIOLENCE/CARE

- Allison, Anne. "Lonely Death: Possibilities for a Not-Yet Sociality." In *Living and Dying in the Contemporary World* edited by Veena Das and Clara Han. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015, pp.662-674.
- Garcia, Angela. "Death as a Resource for Life." In *Living and Dying in the Contemporary World* edited by Veena Das and Clara Han. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015, pp.316-328.
- Stevenson, Lisa. "Life Beside Itself." In *Living and Dying in the Contemporary World* edited by Veena Das and Clara Han. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015, pp.712-728.
- Buch Segal, Lotte. "Mourning, Grief, and the Loss of Politics in Palestine: The Unvoiced Effects of Military Occupation in the West Bank." In *Living and Dying in the Contemporary World* edited by Veena Das and Clara Han. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015, pp.475-492.
- Wool, Zoë H. *After War: The Weight of Life at Walter Reed*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2015. Excerpts.

Optional Readings:

- Biehl, João. "Care and Disregard." In *A Companion to Moral Anthropology*. Dider Fassin, ed. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012, pp. 242-263.
- Allison, Anne. "One: Pain of Life" and "Five: The Social Body in Life and Death." *Precarious Japan*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2013, pp. 1-20, 122-165.

April 18

ACCIDENT/UNCERTAINTY/HORIZONING

- Benjamin, Walter. "The Destructive Character." *Reflections*. New York: Schocken Books, 1978, pp.301-303.
- Malabou, Catherine. *Ontology of the Accident: An Essay on Destructive Plasticity*. Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2012. Excerpts.
- Bear, Laura. "Ajeet's Accident." In *Navigating Austerity: Currents of Debt along a South Asian River*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2015, pp.129-150.
- Bond, David. "Governing Disaster: The Political Life of the Environment during the BP Oil Spill." *Cultural Anthropology*, 2013, 28(4):694-715.
- Shapiro, Nicholas. "Attuning to the Chemosphere: Domestic Formaldehyde, Bodily Reasoning, and the Chemical Sublime." *Cultural Anthropology*, 2015, 30(3):368–393.
- Petryna, Adriana. "What is a Horizon? Navigating Thresholds in Climate Change Uncertainty." In *Modes of Uncertainty: Anthropological Cases*, Paul Rabinow and Limor Samimian-Darash, eds. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2015, pp. 147-164.

Optional Readings:

- Gordillo, Gastón. "Introduction: Constellations"; "The Ruins of Ruins." *Rubble: The Afterlife of Destruction*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2014, pp. 1-28, 111-122.
- Petryna, Adriana. "The Origins of Extinction." *Limn*, 2013, 3.

April 25

UNFINISHED

Discussion of Other Keywords

- Deleuze, Gilles. "Having an Idea in Cinema." *New Mappings in Politics, Philosophy, and Culture*. Eleanor Kaufman and Kevin Jon Heller, eds. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998, pp. 14-19.
- Rancière, Jacques. *The Emancipated Spectator*. New York: Verso, 2009, pp. 1-23.