

Spring 2012

ANG 6930: Anthropological Problematizations of Globalization and Global Assemblages

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Meets: Wed. 11:45 am – 2:45 pm @ TUR 2341
Office Hrs: Tues. 2 pm - 3 pm @ TUR 3345
Weds. 3 pm - 5 pm @ TUR 3345

List of books used in the seminar:

EMPIRE, MICHAEL HARD AND ANTONIO NEGRI
GLOBAL SHADOWS, JAMES FERGUSEN
LOSING CONTROL, SASKIA SASSEN
NEOLIBERALISM, DAVID HARVEY
NEOLIBERALISM AS EXCEPTION, AIHWA ONG
GLOBAL COMPLEXITY, JOHN URRY
THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION, JONATHAN XAVIER AND RENATO ROSALDO

Description:

The arguments surrounding the phenomenon of “globalization” are varied: there is no agreement whether the globalization is indeed happening, whether it’s a thing, or rather a process, what it means, and what the effects of this phenomenon might be.

Yet, the term has been incredibly popular and persistent in the past 10-20 years. It seems to refer to a wide range of processes observed in the world today, from new economic organization and social regulation, new forms of political governance, to new forms of ethical regimes and cultural formations of hybrid nature. In a word, “globalization” seems to imply significant transformations for human life that are often uncertain, “flexible”, “mobile”, yet that are also seemingly similar across cultural and social terrains, at the same time as being contradictory and confusing.

Seen in this way “globalization” affects the very core of modern scientific disciplines. More profoundly it has transformed significantly standard units of analysis, where various regionalisms, localisms along with transnational patters have become of increased interest to social observers.

Analyses of globalization have also proliferated. Some studies underscore what is perceived as grand transformation and a “new order of things” worldwide: a shift from modernization to globalization; the emergence of global cities and of the “global assembly line”; the rise of global elites and a new network society.

On a more micro lever, anthropologists specifically, have looked at “localities” and how these respond, adapt and resist to changing “macro” processes. Most recently, another productive line of research has sought to capture globalization in terms of “assemblages” or “friction(s)”: the way in which global forms are articulated in specific situations and define ever more complex material, collective and discursive relationships of the “local-global”.

The arsenal of changes – administrative, institutional, political and economic – that underwrite these processes have also been referred as the “neoliberal turn”. What distinguishes such new global interventions (or ideologies of governing) is a marked shift in the management of populations and the administration of spaces that appear as nonpolitical and non-ideological problem-solving projects, driven “purely” by market calculations. The overall result is that in the last 25 years we have witnessed new “assemblages” of sovereign rule, market rationality and regimes of citizenship emerging around the globe with profound impact on nations, states and social life overall.

This seminar, will introduce students to the main debates in the field of studies of “globalization”, but more importantly we will try to show how within the problem-space of globalization we can frame today anthropological questions.

Format and Assignments:

Reading materials will be available electronically or through copies (please make sure you have the materials on time for each next class). The seminar is designed to help students formulate and express their own ideas on the topics taken up, and to sharpen their analytical skills, as well as understandings of theoretical traditions in the field. As such, **discussion and presentation** is the central component of this seminar. Each class is organized around presentations prepared by students, while the lecturer gives a short orientation into the topic, geared towards providing (historically, politically, and theoretically) contextualizing information on the themes selected each week.

Students who present are expected to write up a small synopsis of their material of choice and post it prior to class on E-learning. They should also include some discussion points. These commentaries will serve as a starting point for discussion in class.

There are two components to the assignments for this seminar. By the middle of the semester students are expected to have conceptualized a topic for their final paper and work on an annotated bibliography. The final paper aims to enable students to pursue their own areas of interest. They are expected to write an analytical paper on topics of their choice as related to the class material (up to 15 pages long double-spaced). The research for this paper may be based on the literature covered in class, or additional materials relevant to their field.

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: The Problem-space of Globalization in Anthropology

Jonathan Xavier Inda and Renato Rosaldo. 2008 "Tracking Global Flows". In: *The Anthropology of Globalization*. Jonathan Xavier Inda and Renato Rosaldo, Eds. Blackwell Publishing

Anna Tsing, 2000. The Global Situation. In: *Cultural Anthropology*. Vol. 15/ 3. Pp: 327-360.

Nancy Scheper-Hughes, 2009. "The Ethics of Engaged Ethnography". In: *Anthropology News*. Vol. 50, N 6, Sep.

Didier Fassin, 2008. "Beyond good and evil: Questioning the anthropological discomfort with morals". In: *Anthropological Theory* 8: 333

Week 3: Spaces and Times of Globalization

David Harvey. 1990, c1989. *The Condition of Postmodernity*. Blackwell, Chapters 7-11, 17 (pp. 121-189 and 308-326)

David Harvey, 2006. "Neoliberalism and the Restoration of Class Power". From: *Spaces of Global Capitalism*. Verso

Comaroff and Comaroff, 2000. Millennial Capitalism: First Thoughts on a Second Coming. In: *Public Culture* 12.2 291-343

Pierre Bourdieu, "The essence of neoliberalism" *Le Monde Diplomatique*, December 1998.

Week 4: Diagnosing the Present Global

Urry, J 2003. Extracts from: *Global Complexity* Cambridge Polity Press (Pp 1-17, 39-76)

Ann Laura Stoler, 2008. "Imperial Debris: Reflections on Ruins and Ruination". In: *Cultural Anthropology* May 2008, Vol. 23, No. 2: 191-219.

Niklas Luhmann, 1998. *Observations of Modernity*. Stanford University Press. ch 1,5

Week 5 – Sep 22: Neoliberalism and the powers of freedom

David Harvey, 2005. "Freedom's Just Another Word" In: *Neoliberalism*. Oxford U Press. Pp. 5-38, 64-86.

Nikolas Rose, 1999. Extracts from: *Powers of Freedom. Reframing Political Thought*. Cambridge University Press (Pp 15-61, 61-136 and 137-167,)

Rabinow, P and Rose, N 2006. "Biopower Today" In: *Biosocieties* 1 195-217

Week 6 Global flows

Karen Ho, 2008. "Situating Global Capitalisms: A View from Wall Street Investment Banks". In: *The Anthropology of Globalization*. J.X. Inda and R. Rosaldo, Eds. Blackwell Publishing

Saskia Sassen. 1998. "The Informal Economy." From: *Globalization and Its Discontents*. The New Press (pp. 153-169)

Chrystia Freeland, 2011. "The Rise of the New Global Elite" In: *The Atlantic* Jan/Feb

Josiah Heyman and Howard Campbell 2009. "The Anthropology of Global Flows ..." In: *Anthropological Theory* 9/2 131-48

Further Readings:

Janine Wedel, 2009. *Shadow Elite: How the World's New Power Brokers Undermine Democracy, Government, and the Free Market*. Basic Books

Timothy Mitchel, 2002. *Rule of Experts, Egypt, Technopolitics, Modernity*. Berkeley University Press

MODERNITY AT LARGE, ARJUN APPADURAI

John Pilger, 2002. *The New Rulers of the World*. Verso

Week 7: Global Technologies of Governing

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri. 2000. "Biopolitical Production", "Passages of Sovereignty", and "Capitalist Sovereignty". In: *Empire*. Harvard University Press. (Chapters 1.2, Part 2, 3.6 (<http://webpages.ursinus.edu/rrichter/frames82.htm>))

Michel Foucault, 2008 From: "The Birth of Biopolitics"

Collier, St and Ong, A Global Assemblages, Anthropological Problems. In: *Global Assemblages*. Blackwell

Aihwa Ong, 2005. "Ecologies of Expertise: Assembling Flows, Managing Citizenship". In: *Global Assemblages*. A. Ong and St. Collier, Eds. Blackwell Publishing

Week 8: Cultural Globalization and Subjectivity

Comaroff and Comaroff, 2009. *Ethnicity Inc*. Chicago University press. Ch 2,6

Rose, N, 1992. "Governing the Enterprising Self". In: *The Values of the Enterprise Culture*, Heels and Morris, Eds. London: Routledge (141-164)

Daromir Rudnyckyj, 2009. "Spiritual Economies: Islam and Neoliberalism in Contemporary Indonesia" In: *Cultural Anthropology*. Vol. 24/1 Pp.: 104-141

Biehl, J and Locke, P 2010. "Deluze and the Anthropology of Becoming". In: *Current Anthropology*. Vol 51. N3.

Week 9: Governing in the Global Age: Citizenship and Ethics

Ferguson, James, 2006. Extracts from: *Global Shadows*. Duke University Press. Ch 1,2,6

Miriam Ticktin and Ilana Feldman, 2010. Introduction. From "In the Name of Humanity". Duke University Press

Tania Li, 2007. The will to improve: Governmentality, development, and the practice of politics. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Ch 4, 7

Further readings:

Annelise Riles 2000. *The Network Inside Out*. University of Michigan Press

Giorgio Agamben. 1998. "Biopolitics and the Rights of Man," "The Camp as the Nomos of the Modern". In: *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Stanford University Press (Pp. 127-135, 166-180).

Ananya Roy 2010. *Poverty Capital: Microfinance and the making of Development*. Routledge

Week 10: Immigration Tests the New Order

Saskia Sassen, 1996. "Immigration Tests the New Order". From: *Losing Control? Sovereignty in an Age of Globalization*. (59-100)

Nicholas De Genova and Peutz N 2010 "Introduction" to *The Deportation Regime*

Nina Glick Schiller 2005 Transnational Social Fields and Imperialism: Brining a Theory of Power to Transnational Studies. In: *Anthropological Theory* 5/4 439-61

Fassin, Didier 2005: "Compassion and Repression: The Moral Economy of Immigration Policies in France" in *Cultural Anthropology* Vol 20 (3)

Further readings:

Basch, L Schiller, N. Blanc K. (Eds.) 1994. *Nations Unbound: Transnational Projects and Deterritorialized Nation-States*. Gordon and Breach Science Publishers. (Chapters 1, 2, 4).

Week 11: The transformation of work and employment

Manuel Castells, 1996. "The Transformation of Work and Employment: Networkers, Jobless, and Fleximers". In: *The Rise of the Network Society*. Blackwell. (pp. 201-272)

Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russel Hochschild, 2006 "Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Work in the New Economy". In: *Globalization: The Transformation of Social Worlds*. D. S. Eitzen and M.B. Zinn Eds. Thomson Wadsworth. Pp. 175-184

Saskia Sassen, 2006. "Global cities and Survival Circuits" In: *Globalization: The Transformation of Social Worlds*. D. S. Eitzen and M.B. Zinn Eds. Thomson Wadsworth pp. 196-215

Biao, Xiang 2007. *From: Global "Body Shopping:" An Indian labor System in the Information Technology Industry*. Princeton University Press

Colet Elizabeth 2009. "Blue Cards and the Global battle for Talent": web link:
http://www.epc.eu/documents/uploads/41255650_Blue%20Cards%20and%20the%20global%20battle%20for%20talent.pdf

Week 13 – Nov 10: Ethics of the Technoscientific Objects

Sarah Franklin, 2005. "Stem Cells R Us: Emergent Life Forms and the Global Biological". In: *Global Assemblages*. A. Ong and St. Collier, Eds. Blackwell Publishing

Joao Biehl 2010 *Human Values and Political Life in the Wake of Global Aids Treatment*.
From: *In the Name of Humanity*

Zerner Charles, 2010. "Biomimesis and the Weaponization of Life" From: *In the Name of Humanity*

Andrew Lakoff, *The Generic Biothreat, or, How We Became Unprepared*. In: *Cultural Anthropology* Aug. 2008, Vol. 23, No. 3: 399-428. (Supplemental material and discussion available at <http://www.culanth.org/?q=node/20>)

Further Readings

Stephen J. Collier, 2008. "Enacting catastrophe: preparedness, insurance, budgetary rationalization" In: *Economy and Society*, Vol. 37, 2,
<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=t713685159~tab=issueslist~branches=37-v37>pp. 224 - 250

Tara O'Toole and Donald Henderson, 2006. "A Clearly Present Danger: Confronting the Threat of Bioterrorism". In: *Globalization: The Transformation of Social Worlds*. D. S. Eitzen and M.B. Zinn Eds. Thomson Wadsworth pp. 239-245

Week 14 – Nov 24: Global Rights

Ronnie Lipschutz, 2004. "Constituting Political Community: Globalization, Citizenship and Human Rights" In: *People out of Place*. A. Bryck and G. Shafir (Eds.) Routledge

Andrew Moravcsik, 2000. "The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe". In: *International Organization* 54(2), Spring. Pp. 217–252

Talal Asad, 2000. "What do Human Rights Do? An Anthropological Inquiry". In: *Theory & Event*, Vol 4 (4)

Richard Wilson, 2010. "Crimes against Humanity and the Conundrum of Race and Ethnicity at the International Criminal Tribunal." From: *In the Name of Humanity*

Further readings

Brett Bowden, 2003. "The Perils of Global Citizenship". In: *Citizenship Studies*. 7/3 (Pp. 349-62) [Available on the web]