

Spring 2024 - ANG 6286 - Thurs per. 5-7 (11:45a-2:45p) Rogers Hall 0106

Seminar in Contemporary Theory: Anthropology's Infrastructural Turn

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Office 451 Grinter, Office hrs. Tues 12-2p & by appt.

Infrastructure exerts a force — not simply in the materials and energies it avails, but also the way it attracts people, draws them in, coalesces and expends their capacities. Thus, the distinction between infrastructure and sociality is fluid and pragmatic rather than definitive. People work on things to work on each other, as these things work on them. — Abdou Malik Simone (2012)



Art by Alicia Lazzaroni, Bangkok Opportunistic Ecologies

Course Description and Objectives

From water, waste and energy to infrastructures of extraction, communication, and economic transaction, this course in contemporary anthropology theory and practice addresses a wide variety of infrastructures: classic and emergent, analog and digital, sustainable and not. We ask, what can large scale infrastructures tell us about the promises and failures of high modernity? What alternatives emerge in their place and what visions of progress, social order and technical possibility do they chart? How do infrastructures – whether power grids, public toilets, or surveillance software – tie people together as well as keep us apart? Where do non-human others stand in the process to shape wider life-worlds? Using an array of theoretical toolkits, we examine diverse approaches to infrastructural operation, fabrication, breakdown, repair and reimagination. Frameworks include the politics and poetics of infrastructure, people as infrastructure, new materialism, science and technology studies, and speculative design. Perspectives drawn from design anthropology, the visual arts and multi-modal anthropology

will be used to further develop research questions and methods of investigation and analysis of infrastructural issues. Cases will be drawn from around the world including the contemporary US. In addition to shared course materials, each student will have the opportunity to focus on infrastructures of their choice. Class activities will include local fieldtrips and online discussions with infrastructure scholars and experts.

Textbooks and Reading Assignments:

Required course materials will be available via Canvas.

Additional recommendations for student reading will be indicated on class Canvas pages.

Students are expected to complete reading and course assignments prior to the assigned class.

Assignments and Grading

Assignments				
1. Notes, Quotes, Queries	8 x 5pts.ea = 40pts	10 quotes from class reading; 3 questions; 250-word discussion for the upcoming class.	Submit on Canvas by 8a on the day of class. Two points will be subtracted for each day late.	Bring your comments and quotes to class along with accessible versions of class materials.
2. Fantasy proposals	3 x 10 pts = 30pts	Craft a 500-700word 'fantasy' research proposal. 1. Identify place/problem/object or issue. 2. Develop a set of questions or concerns. 3. Propose methods/modes of evidence & investigation. 4. Justify significance. 5. Draw on 3+ class resources.	Submit on Canvas by 8a on the day of class. Two points will be subtracted for each day late. Rewrites will be permitted for work submitted on time.	Be prepared to share your proposal in class. Choice of topic may be speculative. The goal is to think concretely as well as creatively about research problems. Topics should be plausible if not actual.

3.Final Project/Essay	20pts	Choice of A. 10pg Reflection on local infrastructure research or B. development of 10pg independent research proposal.	Submit on Canvas by 4p. May 1. *2pg outline due April 23. **Work may be collaborative if terms of collaboration are defined and approved by B.Chalfin by 4/11/24.	Research Reflections and Proposals must include Multi-modal elements.
4.Class Participation	10pts	Participation in-class discussions and activities, including active-listening and engaged response.		

Student Outcomes	
	Become conversant in established and emerging approaches to infrastructure in anthropology.
	Demonstrate capacity to compare different theories of infrastructure.
	Gain understanding of anthropology's conversation with allied fields such as geography, science and technology studies, media studies, arts and political science.
	Become familiar with diverse methodologies to investigate infrastructure.
	Learn to apply methods, including collaborative and multi-modal methods, to research problems.
	Develop and articulate your own research questions in relation to infrastructure.
	Gain skills in proposal writing and knowledge of both public-facing and academic scholarship.

Total 100 points. For letter grades, the scale is as follows:

Grade	Scale	Grade	Scale
A	94-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-93%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%

B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	E	<60%

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should register with the disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Accommodations should be communicated with us ideally before our first full class session on January 22.

Course Evaluations – GatorEvals: Students in this class are participating in the new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF’s CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>.

Student Conduct and Academic Honesty and Integrity: Cheating, copying other’s work, plagiarism, and other acts of academic misconduct are unethical. UF and the instructor consider these to be serious offenses. The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the Instructor(s). Students should behave in accordance to the University of Florida’s [student conduct code](#).

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

Harassment and Discrimination: Harassment is defined as conduct that (1) is of any type (written, oral, graphic, or physical), (2) is directed towards or against a person because of their personal status (i.e., race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, political affiliation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, pregnancy or others), and that (3) unreasonably interferes with the individual’s work, education, or participation in activities or programs at UF or creates a working or learning environment that a reasonable person would find threatening. “Discrimination” is defined as a conduct that (1) adversely affects any aspect of an individual’s employment, education, or participation in activities or programs at UF, and (2) is based on one or more personal characteristics listed above. Any student who feels that his/her rights have been violated may speak to the instructor who will direct the complaint through the proper university channels, or the student may directly file a complaint with UF Department of Human Resources.

Campus Resources: Students experiencing personal problems that are interfering with their academic performance are encouraged to contact the [Counseling and Wellness Center](#):

- Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or (352) 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575. Students experiencing personal problems that are interfering with their academic performance are encouraged to contact the Counseling and Wellness Center.

Academic Resources:

- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>
- Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Schedule of Topics:

	UNIT I: ORIGINS & ORIENTATIONS	
1/11	1.Course Overview	Infrastructure Exercise
1/18	<p>2.Orientations:</p> <p>What is infrastructure?</p> <p>Why does it matter to Anthropology?</p> <p>What are new ways anthropologists and allied practitioners might think about and respond to infrastructural issues?</p>	<p>Carse, A. 2017. “Keyword: Infrastructure,” in Harvey et al. <u>Infrastructures and Social Complexity</u>. Routledge.</p> <p>Appel, H et al. 2015. “Introduction: The Infrastructure Toolbox,” CA Theorizing the Contemporary.</p> <p>Dunne, A & F. Raby 2013. <u>Speculative Everything</u> Preface vi-vii, Ch.3 Design as Critique. MIT.</p> <p>Star, S. 1999. “The Ethnography of Infrastructure.” <u>American Behavioral Scientist</u>. 43/3.</p> <p>Simone, A. 2021. Ritornello: People as Infrastructure. <u>Public Culture</u>. 16/3</p> <p>Simone, A. 2015. Afterword..the between of infrastructure. <u>City</u>. 19/2-3.</p> <p>Burch, M. et al. 2021, Geographies...against Infrastructures of Harm. <u>Design and Culture</u> 15/2.</p>

1/25	<p>3. Conceptual Tool Kits and Turning Points.</p> <p>What are core and emergent questions and concerns?</p> <p>What convergences across disciplines explain anthropology's infrastructural turn?</p>	<p>Rothstein, A. 2015. How to see infrastructure: a guide for seven billion primates. <u>Rhizome</u>. https://rhizome.org/editorial/2015/jul/2/how-see-infrastructure-guide-seven-billion-primate/?ref=journal_p1_post_title</p> <p>Gluckman, M. 1940, "The Bridge" Analysis of a Social Situation in Modern Zululand." <u>Bantu Studies</u>.</p> <p>Foucault, M. 1977 "Panopticism" <u>Discipline and Punish</u>. Vintage. Selections.</p> <p>Scott, J. 1998. <u>Seeing Like a State</u>. Yale. selections</p> <p>Mitchell, T. 2002. "Technopolitics" in <u>Rule of Experts</u>, California.</p> <p>Latour, B. 2005. "From Real Politik to Ding Politik" in <u>Making things public</u>.</p> <p>Collins, S. et al. 2017. Multimodality: An Invitation. <u>American Anthropologist</u>. 119/1.</p>
	<p>UNIT II: CITIES, STATES & TECHNOPOLITICS</p>	
2/1	<p>4. Infrapolitics & Public Goods</p>	<p>Von Schnitzler, A. 2016. <u>Democracy's Infrastructure</u>, Princeton. selections.</p> <p>Anand, N. 2017. <u>Hydraulic City</u>. Duke. Selections.</p> <p>Fennell, C. 2016. <u>Are we all Flint?</u> Limn #7</p> <p>Jackson, S. 2014. "Rethinking Repair" in <u>Media Technologies</u>. MIT.</p>
2/8	<p>5. Infrastructure, Labor & the Right to the City.</p> <p>Guest Lecture: Trash Talkin': Designing a hospital city. sTo</p>	<p>Millar, K. 2018 <u>Reclaiming the Discarded</u>, Duke. Selections.</p> <p>Amin, A. 2014. "Lively Infrastructure," <u>Theory, Culture and Society</u>. 31/7-8.</p> <p>Purcell, M. 2002. "Excavating Lefebvre." <u>Geojournal</u>. 58/2-3</p>

	<p>Len, NY Dept of Sanitation Artist in Residence. Pugh Hall. 5:30p.</p>	<p>Chu, J. When Infrastructures Attack..disrepair in China. <u>American Ethnologist</u> 41/2.</p> <p>Addie, J-P. 2021. Urban Life in the shadows of infrastructural death. <u>Urban Geography</u>. 9.</p> <p>Grigsby, J & D. Sojoyner. 2019. "Black Removal in S.Central LA." <u>Anthropology News</u>.</p>
<p>2/15</p>	<p>6. Digital Media and Virtual Worlds.</p> <p>http://steffenkoehn.com/paketown/</p>	<p>Kohn, S & N. Sire, 2022, "Fragile connections: community computer networks...Havana." <u>American Anthropologist</u>. 124/2.</p> <p>Chalfin, B. 2012. "Border Security as Late-Capitalist Fix" in <u>A Companion to Border Studies</u>. Wiley.</p> <p>Johnson, A. 2019. Data Centers as infrastructural in-betweens. <u>American Ethnologist</u>. 46/1.</p> <p>Star, S. & K. Ruhlederr. 1996 "Steps toward an ecology of infrastructure." <u>Information Systems Research</u>. 7/1.</p> <p>Jones. M. 2017. Digital Humanities Quarterly. Review of Starosielski, N. 2015. <u>The Undersea Network</u>.</p> <p>Optional: download Pake Town app</p>
<p>2/22</p>	<p>7.Incipient Infrastructure, Affect and Aesthetics</p> <p>Watertowers & Industrial Sublime https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/bernd-becher-and-hilla-becher-718/who-are-bechers</p>	<p>Larkin, B. 2013. "Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure." <u>Annual Review of Anthropology</u>. 42/1.</p> <p>Schwenker, C. 2015. SENSE in The Infrastructure Toolbox," <u>Cultural Anthropology</u>. Theorizing the Contemporary.</p> <p>Stamatopoulou-Robbins, S. 2020, Ch.4 "Gifted" in <u>Waste Siege</u>. Stanford.</p> <p>Ludwig. S. 2021. "This is Ficgayo." <u>Africa Today</u> 68/2.</p> <p>Rich, K. et al. 2023 "Reading Infrastructure." <u>The Aesthetic life of Infrastructure: Race, Affect, Environment</u>. Northwestern,</p> <p>Advani, R. Interview with A. Masquelier on her book "FADA: Boredom and Belonging in Niger." <u>CAMP Anthropology online</u>.</p>

		M. Degani, 2018. Review of C. Melly “Bottleneck” (Chicago, 2017)
	UNIT III: GLOBALIZATION, EXTRACTION, LOGISTICS	
2/29	8. Infrastructures of Energy & Extraction	<p>Barry, A. 2006. Technological Zones, <i>European Jnl of Social Theory</i>. 9/2.</p> <p>Boyer, D. 2014. <i>Energopower. An Introduction. Anthropological Quarterly</i>. 87/2.</p> <p>Labban, M. 2013 Review of T. Mitchell, “Carbon Democracy”, <u>Antipode online</u></p> <p>Adunbi, O. 2011. “Oil and Competing Subjectivities in Nigeria.” <u>African Studies Review</u>. 54/3.</p> <p>Willow. A. 2019. Review of D. Boyer and C. Howe, <u>Energopolitics & Ecologics</u>. <i>Anthropological Quarterly</i>. 92/4.</p> <p>Howe, C. 2019. “Introduction,” <u>Ecologics: Wind and Power in the Anthropocene</u>. Duke.</p>
3/7	9. Ports, Ships & Logistical Worlds	<p>Schober, E. et al. 2022. Container Ships. <u>Oxford Research Encyclopedia</u>.</p> <p>Neilson, B and N. Rossiter eds.2021. <u>Logistical Worlds, Infrastructure, Software, Labor</u>. No.3 Valparaiso. Open Humanities Press.</p> <p>Zeiderman, A. 2020. In the Wake of Logistics: Situated afterlives of race and labor. <u>Environment and Planning D</u>. 39/3.</p> <p>Easterling, K. <i>Extrastatecraft</i> <u>https://www.kellereasterling.com/books/extrastatecraft-the-power-of-infrastructure-space</u></p> <p>https://walkerart.org/calendar/2023/allan-sekula-fish-story</p> <p>https://walkerart.org/calendar/2023/allan-sekula-fish-story</p>
	Unit IV: NATURE, INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT	

3/21	10. Nature as Infrastructure	<p>Carse, A. 2012. Nature as Infrastructure. <u>Social Studies of Science</u>. 42/4.</p> <p>Ballester, A. Ch. 1 The Underground as Infrastructure in Kregg Hetherington (ed.), 2019, <u>Infrastructure, Environment, and Life in the Anthropocene</u>, Duke.</p> <p>Wakefield, S 2019. Making Nature into Infrastructure..Oysters. <u>Nature and Space</u>. 3/3.</p> <p>Stoezter, B. 2018. Ruderal Ecologies...Berlin. <u>Cultural Anthropology</u>. 33/2.</p> <p>Jensen, C. 2017. Ch.17 Multinatural Infrastructure: Phnom Pehn Sewage. <u>Infrastructure and Social Complexity</u>. Harvey et al.</p> <p>https://www.societyandspace.org/articles/inhabiting-the-postapocalyptic-city (online forum)</p>
3/28	11. Patchy Anthropocene Class Project & Field Trip	<p>Tsing, A., A. Matthews, N. Bubandt 2019. Patchy Anthropocene..Retooling of Anthropology. <u>Current Anthropology</u>. 60/supplement 2.</p> <p>Ottinger, G. 2022. Becoming Infrastructure: Integrating Citizen science into disaster response. <u>Citizen Science Theory and Practice</u>. 7/1.</p> <p>Vaughn, R. 2022. On the viral politics of wastewater epidemiology. <u>Society and Space</u>. online. April 25.</p> <p>https://ethnographystudio.org/happenings/la-river-tour</p>
	Unit V: DESIGN & INFRASTRUCTURAL FUTURES	
4/4	12. Humanitarian Infrastructures	<p>Cross, J. et al. 2019. Energy and Displacement in Eight Objects. <u>Royal Institute of International Affairs</u></p> <p>Collier, S. et al. 2017. Humanitarian Infrastructures, “Little Development Devices: Humanitarian Goods.” <u>Limn</u>. 9.</p> <p>Sissiqui, A. 2023. Ch.5 Design as Infrastructure & pp.45-47. <u>Architecture of Migration</u>. Duke.</p>
4/11	13. Infrastructure and Anthropological Futures	<p>https://savageminds.org/2015/07/09/visual-turn-i-artistic-and-infrastructure-frictions/</p>

		<p>Khandekar, A. et al. 2021. Moving Ethnography: Infrastructuring Doubletakes...Experimental Collaborative Methods. <i>Science and Technology Studies</i>. 34/3.</p> <p>Hunt. J. 2018. Ch. 6 Prototyping the Social...at the intersection of design and culture. In <u>Design Anthropology</u>. A.Clarke ed. Bloomsbury. 97-100.</p>
4/18	14. Final class	Discussion and Wrap-Up