



**V-SAK 28/24: Endring av emnebeskrivelse for SOSANT2140 Regional
Ethnography: East and Southeast Asia**

Saken legges frem for Programrådet:

- ☒ Til behandling
- ☐ Til orientering
- ☐ Til diskusjon
- ☐ Til uttalelse

Forslagsstillere: Emneansvarlige våren 2025, Yayi Zheng og Laur Kiik.

Merk at endring i pensum allerede er godkjent, og ikke skal behandles i programrådet. Pensumlisten er likevel inkludert her, fordi endringsforslagene for selve emnebeskrivelsen har sammenheng med endringene i pensum.

BAKGRUNN FOR FORSLAG

To reflect the revised syllabus, we propose two minor changes to the course description:

- a) adding “ethnicity and nationalism” among the topics to be covered
- b) changing the expression “multispecies worlds” to the broader expression “environmental problems”.

We propose to slightly revise a few session’s titles, for clarity, simplicity or precision:

“Relatedness and reciprocity in East Asia” → “Relatedness and reciprocity in China”



“Enclaves” → “Development and enclaves”

“Multispecies worlds and conservation” → “Environment and conservation”

“Urbanism and world-cities in East and Southeast Asia” → “Urbanism and world-cities”

“The Co-Production of Gender, Wealth, and Power in Urban Contexts” → “Gender, Wealth, and Power in Cities”

FORSLAG

Content description for SOSANT2140 – Regional Ethnography: East and Southeast Asia

This course gives an introduction into the ethnography of East and Southeast Asia, with an emphasis on current research interests related to that region. The course approaches East and Southeast Asia from a transnational perspective, addressing the historical legacies (colonialism, Cold War rivalries, trade) and current trends (migration, displacement, environmental crisis) that have shaped and continue to impact social and cultural lives in the region beyond the framework of the nation-state. By focusing on mobility, **ethnicity and nationalism boundaries**, sexuality and gender, **environmental problems multispecies-worlds**, **Indigeneity**, capitalism and urban change, we will explore, amongst other things, the following set of questions:

- How is relatedness produced in this part of the world?
- How does the gift economy and private life underpin the “formal” economy and state–society relations in China today?
- How is wealth being made in East Asian nightclubs, where men come to network amongst themselves, while women engage in the sexual and emotional labor that allows these connections to arise?
- How does the state come to be formed in the everyday in Southeast Asia, and what can we learn about state power and resistance by studying small-scale highland communities?
- How does being Indigenous become tied into contemporary resource struggles in Southeast Asia?



- How are fluid gender identities made sense of, and how does sexuality become tied into both nationalist and postcolonial projects across the two regions?
- And finally, what can we learn about Asia's changing position in an increasingly globalized world when we look at cases of capital, labor, and urban development in this dynamic region?

The course conveys knowledge about regional ethnography and provides thereby a basis for comparative ethnography.

As the course proceeds, the students will first obtain an overview of anthropological research traditions related to the region, and of main questions and themes that have been developed from regional ethnography. Subsequently, the main part of the course will focus on recent and current subject matters that shape contemporary anthropological research on the region.

Course plan and reading list spring 2025

(Changes are highlighted in yellow)

1) Introduction: East and Southeast Asia in Anthropology

- Thompson, E. C. 2012. "Anthropology in Southeast Asia: National Traditions and Transnational Practices." *Asian Journal of Social Science*, 40(5/6), 664–689.
- Lee, Alex Jong-Seok. 2021. "East Asian Savage: Untouched Orientalism and Imperial Anthropology." *Transnational Asia* 4(1): 1-39.
- King, Victor T. and William D. Wilder. 2003. "South-East Asia. A Field of anthropological enquiry?" In *The Modern Anthropology of Southeast Asia. An Introduction*, pp. 1-24.



2) Relatedness and reciprocity in China ~~Relatedness and reciprocity in East Asia~~

- Stafford, Charles. 2000. "Chinese patriliney and the cycles of Yang and Laiwang". *Cultures of Relatedness: New Approaches to the Study of Kinship*. Edited by Janet Carsten. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 35-54.
- Yang, Mayfair. 1989. "The Gift Economy and State Power in China." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 31: 25-54.
- Osburg, J. 2013. "Global Capitalism in Asia: Beyond state and market in China." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 72(4): 813-829

3) Ethnicity and nationalism ~~Borders, Boundaries, Zomia~~

- Anderson, Benedict. 2001. "Western nationalism and eastern nationalism". *New Left Review*. 9: 31-42. newleftreview.org
- Rajah, Ananda. 2002. "A 'nation of intent' in Burma: Karen ethnonationalism, nationalism and narrations of nation." *The Pacific Review* 15(4): 517-537.
- Gladney, Dru C. 1994. "Representing nationality in China: Refiguring majority/minority identities." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 53(1): 92-123.

4) Development and enclaves ~~Enclaves~~

- Chua, Liana. 2016, "Gifting, dam(n)ing and the ambiguation of development in Malaysian Borneo." *Ethnos*. 81 (4): 735-757. tandfonline.com
- Nyiri, Pal. 2012. "Enclaves of Improvement: Sovereignty and Developmentalism in the Special Zones of the China-Lao Borderlands." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 54(3): 533-562.
- Bach, Jonathan. 2017. Shenzhen: From Exception to Rule. In: Mary Ann O'Donnel, Winnie Wong and Jonathan Back (eds.) *Learning from Shenzhen: China's Post-Mao Experiment from Special Zone to Model City*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 23-38.



5) **Trans-nationalism, mobilities, credit**

- Tsing, Anna. 2003. "Natural Resources and Capitalist Frontiers." *Economic and Political Weekly* 38(48), 5100-5106.
- Tsing, Anna. 2000. "Inside the Economy of Appearances." *Public Culture* 12(1): 115-144.
- Chu, Julie. 2006. "To Be "Emplaced": Fuzhounese Migration and the Politics of Destination." *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* 13: 395-425.

6) **Environment and conservation** ~~Multispecies worlds and conservation~~

- Lowe, Celia. 2006. *Wild Profusion: Biodiversity Conservation in an Indonesian Archipelago*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press (Introduction, 1-26)
- Parreñas, Juno Salazar. 2016. "The Materiality of Intimacy in Wildlife Rehabilitation: Rethinking Ethical Capitalism through Embodied Encounters with Animals in Southeast Asia." *Positions* 24 (1): 97–127.
- Watanabe, Chika. 2015. "The Politics of Nonreligious Aid: A Japanese Environmental Ethic in Myanmar." In: Fountain, P., Bush, R., Feener, R.M. (eds) *Religion and the Politics of Development*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 225–242.

7) **Urbanism and world-cities** ~~Urbanism and world-cities in East and Southeast Asia~~

- Ong, Aihwa. 2011. Hyperbuilding: Spectacle, Speculation, and the Hyperspace of Sovereignty. In: Ananya Roy and Aihwa Ong (eds.) *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*. Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 205-226.
- Harms, Eric. 2014. "Urban Space and Exclusion in Asia." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 45: 45–61.
- Simone, Abdou Maliq. 2013. "Cities of Uncertainty: Jakarta, the Urban Majority, and Inventive Political Technologies." *Theory, Culture & Society* 30 (7-8), pp 243-263.



8) **Gender, Wealth, and Power in Cities** ~~The Co-Production of Gender, Wealth, and Power in Contexts~~

- Jager, Sheila Miyoshi. 1996. "Women, Resistance and the Divided Nation: The Romantic Rhetoric of Korean Reunification." *The Journal of Asian Studies*. 55 (1): 3-21. [jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)
- Allison, Anne. 1994. *Nightwork. Sexuality, Pleasure and Corporate Masculinity*. (introduction). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 7-30. [online ch](#)
- Cannell, Fenella. 2001. "Beauty and the idea of America". In Fenella Cannell: *Power and Intimacy in the Christian Philippines* (chapter 10), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 203-226.

9) **Globalizing Asia: Capital, Labour, and Resources in Transition**

- Li, Tania. 2014. *Land's End*. Durham: Duke University Press; pp. 1-29.
- Lee, Ching Kwan. "The Specter of Global China". *New Left Review*. 89, 2-38. [newleftreview.org](http://www.newleftreview.org)
- Kim, Jaesok. 2013. "Introduction", in *Chinese Labor in a Korean Factory. Class, Ethnicity, and Productivity on the Shop Floor in Globalizing China* (introduction), Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 1-34.

10) **Capitalism and Resistance: Work, Capital, and Spirituality**

- Rudnyckyjm, Daromyr. 2009. "Spiritual Economies: Islam and Neoliberalism in Contemporary Indonesia." *Cultural Anthropology*. 24 (1): 104-141. onlinelibrary.wiley.com
- Ong, Aihwa. 1987. *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline: Factory Women in Malaysia* (chapter 1). Albany: SUNY Press, pp. 1-10; 195-214. [sunypress.edu](http://www.sunypress.edu)
- Kendall, Laurel. 1996. "Korean Shamans and the spirits of capitalism." *American Ethnologist*. 98 (3): 512-527. [jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)



REMOVED TEXTS

- Osburg, John. 2013. *Anxious Wealth. Money and Morality Among China's New Rich*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Carsten, J. 1998. Borders, boundaries, tradition and state on the Malaysian periphery. In T.M. Wilson and H. Donnan (Edited by). *Border Identities: Nation and State at International Frontiers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 215-236.
- Errington, Shelly. 1983. "Embodied sumange' in Luwu". *The Journal of Asian Studies*. 42 (3): 545-570. [jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)
- Hinton, Alexander L. 1998. "“Why did you kill?: The Cambodian genocide and the dark side of face and honor.” *The Journal of Asian Studies*. 57 (1): 93-122. [jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)
- Howell, Signe. 1989. "To be angry is not human, but to be fearful is": Chewong concepts of human nature", in *Societies at peace: Anthropological perspectives*. Edited by Signe Howell and R. Willis. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 45–59. [online ch](#)
- Jonsson, Hjørleifur. 2014. *Slow Anthropology: Negotiating Difference with the lu Mien*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (Introduction)
- Keeler, Ward. 2016, "Shifting transversals: Trans women's move from spirit mediumship to beauty work in Mandalay". *Ethnos*. 81 (5): 792-820. [tandfonline.com](http://www.tandfonline.com)
- Kelsky, Karen. 1999. "Gender, Modernity, and Eroticized Internationalism in Japan." *Cultural Anthropology*. 14 (2): 229-255. onlinelibrary.wiley.com
- Kwon, Heonik. 2013. "Legacies of the Korean War. Transforming Ancestral Rituals in South Korea", *Memory Studies*. 6 (2): 161-173. [sagepub.com](http://www.sagepub.com)
- Kwon, Heonik. 2006. *After the Massacre: Commemoration and Consolation in Ha My and My Lai* (introduction). Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 1-10. [online ch](#)
- Mathews, Gordon. 2015. "East Asian Anthropology in the World." *American Ethnologist*, 11 (2): 364-372. onlinelibrary.wiley.com
- McKay, Deidre. 2010. 'A transnational pig: Reconstituting kinship among Filipinos in Hong Kong'. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, 11 (3-4): 330-344. [tandfonline.com](http://www.tandfonline.com)



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- Ong, Aihwa. 2000. "Graduated Sovereignty in Southeast Asia." *Theory, Culture & Society* 17(4): 55-75.
- Rosaldo, Michelle. 1983. "The shame of headhunters and the autonomy of the self". *Ethos*. 11(3): 135-151. jstor.org
- Scott, James. 1976. *The Moral Economy of the peasant. Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia* (introduction). New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 1-12. ucsd.edu
- Scott, James C. 2009. *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press (Chapter 1, pp. 1-40)
- Wikan, Unni. 1987. *Managing Turbulent Hearts (introduction)*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. xv – xxvi. [online ch](#)