



V-SAK 32/25: Endring i pensum for SOSANT2000 – Central themes in contemporary anthropology

Saken legges frem for Programrådet:

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

Forslagsstillere: Emneansvarlige Elina Hartikainen og Alessandro Rippa

Bakgrunn

We propose to change one of the required readings for Week 8 (Media and Publics). The proposed change concerns a reading by Austin Bryan that was added to the course reading list last year. This change responds to one of the instructor's (Elina) experiences with teaching the text and assessment of students' engagement with it. While students found the reading engaging, it did not work as well as we had hoped to provide students with an understanding of key themes in the anthropological study of media and publics. In response to these observations, we propose to substitute the reading with Charles L. Briggs' article "Why Nation-States and Journalists Can't Teach People to be Healthy." This is a classic text in the field of media anthropology, which offers a clear and theoretically sophisticated introduction to key questions and problems in the anthropological study of media and publics. In addition, its focus on the construction of "sanitary subjects" offers opportunities to draw connections between the week's focus on media and publics and the previous week's focus on persons, subjects and selves.



PROPOSED CHANGED READING LIST FOR WEEK 8 (MEDIA AND PUBLICS)

Bonilla, Yarimar, and Jonathan Rosa. 2015. "#Ferguson: Digital Protest, Hashtag Ethnography, and the Racial Politics of Social Media in the United States." *American Ethnologist* 42 (1): 4–17.

Briggs, Charles L. 2003. "Why Nation-States and Journalists Can't Teach People to Be Healthy: Power and Pragmatic Miscalculation in Public Discourses on Health." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 17 (3): 287–321.

REMOVED TEXT

Bryan, Austin. 2019. "Kuchu Activism, Queer Sex-Work and 'Lavender Marriages,' in Uganda's Virtual LGBT Safe(r) Spaces." *Journal of East African Studies* 13 (1): 90–105.

NEW COMPLETE READING LIST

The reading list for this course is composed of a selection of required "core readings" and a selection of supplementary readings. Students are asked to read at least one of the supplementary readings each week in addition to the required "core readings." Students may engage both core and supplementary readings in their reflection essays and exam essays.

CORE READINGS (Total number of pages: 532)

1. Culture and Society

Stocking, G. 1966. Franz Boas and the Culture Concept in Historical Perspective. *American Anthropologist*. 68(4):867-882.

Clifford, J. 1986. Partial Truths. [In](#) *Writing Culture*. University of California Press. Pp. 1-26.



2. Globalisation

Appadurai, A. 1989. Global Ethnoscapes: Notes and Queries for a Transnational Anthropology. In *Modernity at large: cultural dimensions of globalization*. University of Minnesota Press. Pp. 48-65.

Gupta, A and Ferguson, J. 1992. Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity and the Politics of Difference. *Cultural Anthropology*. 7(1):6-23.

3. Movement and Migration

Andersson, R. 2014. Time and the Migrant Other: European Border Controls and the Temporal Economics of Illegality. *American Anthropologist*. 116(4):795-809.

Glick Schiller, N. 2011. Localized neoliberalism, multiculturalism and global religion: Exploring the agency of migrants and city boosters. *Economy and Society*, 40(2):184–210.

4. Science, Technology and the Material

De Laet, M; and Mols, A. 2000. The Zimbabwe Bush Pump: Mechanics of a Fluid Technology. *Social Studies of Science*. 30(2):225-263.

Latour, B. 2005. Third Source of Uncertainty: Objects too have agency. In: *Reassembling the Social: an introduction to actor-network-theory*. Oxford. Oxford University Press (63-86)

5. Infrastructure

Larkin, B. 2013. The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure. *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 42:327-343.

Anand, N, Gupta, A and Appel, H. 2018. *Introduction. The Promise of Infrastructure*. Durham: Duke University Press. Pp. 1-40.



6. Multispecies ethnography and the Anthropocene

Thom van Dooren, Eben Kirksey, Ursula Münster; Multispecies Studies: Cultivating Arts of Attentiveness. *Environmental Humanities* 1 May 2016; 8 (1): 1–23.

Tsing, Anna. 2017. The buck, the bull, and the dream of the stag: Some unexpected weeds of the Anthropocene. *Suomen Antropologi* 42(1): 3–21.

7. Persons, Subjects, and Selves

Lamoreaux, Janelle. 2016. “What If the Environment Is a Person? Lineages of Epigenetic Science in a Toxic China.” *Cultural Anthropology* 31 (2): 188–214.

O’Neill, Kevin Lewis. 2013. “Left behind: Security, Salvation, and the Subject of Prevention.” *Cultural Anthropology* 28 (2): 204–26.

8. Media and Publics

Briggs, Charles L. 2003. “Why Nation-States and Journalists Can't Teach People to Be Healthy: Power and Pragmatic Miscalculation in Public Discourses on Health.” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 17 (3): 287–321.

Bonilla, Yarimar, and Jonathan Rosa. 2015. “#Ferguson: Digital Protest, Hashtag Ethnography, and the Racial Politics of Social Media in the United States.” *American Ethnologist* 42 (1): 4–17.

9. Bureaucracy

Richard, Analiese M. 2021. “‘Countering Documents with Documents’: The Politics of Independent Environmental Auditing in Mexico.” *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 44 (2): 223–39.



Mathur, Nayanika. 2014. "The Reign of Terror of the Big Cat: Bureaucracy and the Mediation of Social Times in the Indian Himalaya." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 20 (S1): 148–65.

10. Neoliberalism and the Anthropological Imagination

Gershon, Ilana. 2011. Neoliberal Agency. *Current Anthropology* 52 (4): 537-555.

Eriksen, Thomas Hylland et al. 2015. The concept of neoliberalism has become an obstacle to the anthropological understanding of the twenty-first century. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 21 (4): 911-923.

11. Colonialism, Culture, and its Others

Said, Edward. 1989. Representing the Colonized, Anthropology's Interlocutors. *Critical Inquiry* 15 (2): 205-225.

de la Cadena, Marisol. 2010. Indigenous Cosmopolitics in the Andes: Conceptual Reflections Beyond "Politics." *Cultural Anthropology* 25 (2): 334-370.

12. Revision and Summary

Thomas, Nicholas. 1992. Substantivization and Anthropological Discourse: The Transformation of Practices into Institutions in Neotraditional Pacific Societies. In *History and Tradition in Melanesian Anthropology*, ed. James G. Carrier. Pp. 64-85.

Sahlins, Marshall. 1999. Two or Three Things I know about Culture. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 5 (3): 399-421.



SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS (students are asked to read one supplementary reading each week – readings will amount to approximately 15-20 pages/week)

1. Culture and Society

Boas, F. 1930. *Some Problems of Methodology in the Social Sciences*. Pp. 260-269.

Radcliffe-Brown, A. 1940. On Social Structure. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. 70(1):1-12.

Geertz, C. 1973. *Thick Description: Towards an Interpretive Theory of Culture*. Pp. 310-323.

2. Globalisation

Tsing, A. 2000. The Global Situation. *Cultural Anthropology*. 15(3):327-360.

Friedman, J. 2000. Globalization, Class and Culture in Global Systems. *Journal of World Systems Research*. 6(3):636-656.

Eriksen, T. 2005. *How can the Global be Local: Islam, the West and the Globalisation of Identity Politics*. Pp. 25-40.

3. Movement and Migration

Vigh, H. 2018. Displaced Utopia: On Marginalisation, Migration and Emplacement in Bissau. *Identities*. 25:2,192-209.

Knowles, C. 2011. Cities on the Move: Navigating Urban Life. *City*. 15(2):135-153.

Gregson, N., Crang, M., Ahamed, F., Akhtar, N. & Ferdous, R. 2010. Following Things of Rubbish Value: End-of-Life ships, 'Chock-Chocky' Furniture and the Bangladeshi Middle Class Consumer. *Geoforum*. 41:846-854.



4. Science, Technology and the Material

Hornborg, A. 2015. The Political Economy of Technofetishism: Agency, Amazonian Ontologies and Global Magic. *Hau*. 5(1):35-57.

Povinelli, E. 1995. Do Rocks Listen? The Cultural Politics of Apprehending Aboriginal Australian Labour. *American Anthropologist*. 97(3):505-518.

Lien, M; and Law, J. 2011. 'Emergent Aliens': On Salmon, Nature and their Enactment. *Ethnos*. 76(1):65-87.

5. Infrastructure

Carse, A and Lewis, J. 2016. Toward a Political Ecology of Infrastructure Standards: Or, How to Think about Ships, Waterways, Sediment and Communities Together. *Environment and Planning*. 49(1):9-28.

Brenda Chalfin (2017) 'Wastelandia': Infrastructure and the Commonwealth of Waste in Urban Ghana, *Ethnos*, 82:4, 648-671.

Harvey, P & Knox, H. 2012. The Enchantments of Infrastructure. *Mobilities*. 7:4, 521-536.

6. Multispecies ethnography and the Anthropocene

Tsing, A. 2012. "Unruly edges: mushrooms as companion species." *Environmental Humanities* 1:141–154.

Ingold, T. 2000. "Culture, nature, environment: Steps to an ecology of life". In: Ingold, T. *The Perception of the Environment*, New York and London: Routledge. Pp. 13-26.



Hetherington, Kregg. 2019. "Introduction. Keywords of the anthropocene." In *Infrastructure, environment, and life in the anthropocene*, ed. Kregg Hetherington. Durham: Duke University Press. Pp. 1–13.

7. Persons, Subjects, and Selves (March 8, 2024)

Fernando, Mayanthi L. 2010. "Reconfiguring Freedom: Muslim Piety and the Limits of Secular Law and Public Discourse in France." *American Ethnologist* 37 (1): 19–35.

Gershon, Ilana. 2016. "'I'm Not a Businessman, I'm a Business, Man': Typing the Neoliberal Self into a Branded Existence." *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 6 (3): 223–46.

8. Media and Publics

Bryan, Austin. 2019. "Kuchu Activism, Queer Sex-Work and 'Lavender Marriages,' in Uganda's Virtual LGBT Safe(r) Spaces." *Journal of East African Studies* 13 (1): 90–105.

Sheet, Douaa. 2023. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN THE AGE OF NEW SOCIAL MEDIA: The War on Silence in the Tunisian Truth Commission's Facebook-Mediated Public Hearings. *Cultural Anthropology* 38 (3): 361–385.

Stout, Noelle. 2016. "#INDEBTED: Disciplining the Moral Valence of Mortgage Debt Online." *Cultural Anthropology* 31 (1): 82–106.

9. Bureaucracy (March 19, 2024)

Drybread, K. 2022. "Conjuring Criminals: Sympathetic magic and bureaucratic paperwork in a Brazilian juvenile prison" *American Ethnologist* 49 (1): 104–17.

Bernstein, Anya. 2017. "Bureaucratic Speech: Language Choice and Democratic Identity in the Taipei Bureaucracy." *PoLAR* 40 (1): 28–51.



Graeber, David. 2012. Dead Zones of the Imagination: On violence, bureaucracy, and interpretive labor. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 2 (2): 105-128.

10. Neoliberalism and the Anthropological Imagination

Fleming, Mark D. 2016. "Mass Transit Workers and Neoliberal Time Discipline in San Francisco." *American Anthropologist* 118 (4): 784–95.

Moberg, Mark. 2014. "Certification and Neoliberal Governance: Moral Economies of Fair Trade in the Eastern Caribbean." *American Anthropologist* 116 (1): 8–22.

Kipnis, Andrew B. 2008. "Audit Cultures: Neoliberal Governmentality, Socialist Legacy, or Technologies of Governing?" *American Ethnologist* 35 (2): 275–89.

11. Colonialism, Culture, and its Others

Chao, Sophie. 2020. "A Tree of Many Lives: Vegetal Teleontologies in West Papua." *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 10 (2): 514–29.

Simpson, Audra. 2017. "The Ruse of Consent and the Anatomy of 'Refusal': Cases from Indigenous North America and Australia." *Postcolonial Studies* 20 (1): 18–33.

Jobson, Ryan Cecil. 2020. "The Case for Letting Anthropology Burn: Sociocultural Anthropology in 2019." *American Anthropologist* 122 (2): 259–71.