

SOCIAL THEORY - FALL 2007 - SYLLABUS 1.0.

First Class: Sept. 18.

(1) INTRODUCTION: ETHNOGRAPHY & SOCIAL THEORY

READINGS For Sept. 18: [read as much of the six *items as you can by Sept 18;
indented items are commentaries or counterpoints]

Ethnography & Social Theory

*Malinowski, B. 1922. Methodological Introduction to Argonauts

*Mauss, Marcel. 1925. *Essai sur le don* [The Gift] pp 1-45; Conclusion.

*Fleck, Ludwik. 1935. *The Genesis and Development of a Scientific Fact.*

expansion: Martin, Emily. 1994. *Flexible Bodies: Tracking Immunity in
American Culture from the Days of Polio to the Age of AIDS*

*Shapin, Steve and Simon Shafer. 1985. *Leviathan and the Air Pump: Hobbes,
Boyle and The Experimental Life.* Intro & ch. 1; (ch. 4 jazz)

[HaydenR: QC166.S47]

Commentary in Latour, Bruno 1990- *We Have Never Been Modern:* ch. 2.

Kuhn, Thomas. 1955. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions.*

Merton, Robert K. 1973. *The Sociology of Science* (collected essays).

Play, Spiel, Aesthetics, Politics

*Hansen, Miriam Bratu. 2004. "Room-for-Play: Benjamin's Gamble with
Cinema. *October* 109 (summer): 3-45

*Lipsitz, George. 2007. *Footsteps in the Dark: The Hidden Histories of
Popular Music.* Intro & ch. 1.

Supplementary [We will return to these.]

Dumit, Joseph. 2005. *Picturing Personhood.* [re. visualization & interpretation]

Fischer, Michael M.J. 1986. "Ethnicity and the Postmodern Arts of Memory"
in J. Clifford & G. Marcus, ed. *Writing Culture.*

Geertz, Clifford. "Person, Time and Conduct in Bali" *Interpretation of Culture*

Martin, Emily. 1994. *Flexible Bodies.*

Foucault, Michel. 1966/70 *The Order of Things:* ch. 1. (on *Las Meninas*)

Fischer, M. 2003. "Las Meninas & Robotic-Virtual Surgical Systems" in

Emergent Forms of Life and the Anthropological Voice. pp 309-32.

Levi-Strauss, Claude. 1949. "The Effectiveness of Symbols" in *Structural
Anthropology.* [re ritual and embodiment]

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Deep Play" in *Interpretive Anthropology.*

[re. ethnographic example & interpretive object]

Taussig, Michael T. *Mimesis and Alterity.*

Marx, Karl. *The 18th Brumaire of Louis Napoleon.* [re. theater and politics]

Derrida, Jacques. 1994. *Spectres of Marx.* [12 plagues of modernity]

25 Sept.

**(2) CREATING USEABLE SOCIAL THEORIES FOR 21ST CENTURY:
METANARRATIVES AND LOCAL NARRATIVES**

[skim Fischer, we will return to it; read the other starred items more carefully]

- *Beck, U. 1985/1992. *The Risk Society*. Ch. 1 & 2.
[update: Beck, U. 1997/2000. What is Globalization?
- *Deleuze, Gilles. 1990/1992 "Postscript on the Societies of Control"
October. 59, pp. 3-7. [original: *L'Autre journal*, no. 1, May 1990]
On line at: <http://www.n5m.org/n5m2/media/texts/deleuze.htm>
<http://www.watsoninstitute.org/infopeace/vy2k/deleuze-societies.cfm>
- *Fischer, M. 2007. Four Recombinant Genealogies for an Anthropology of
Science and Technology. *Cultural Anthropology* 22(3).
- Foucault, Michel. 1966/1971. *The Order of Things*, ch. 1,
- Foucault, Michel. 1975/1977. *Discipline and Punish*: Pt I, ch. 1 (famous opening
chapter); Part II ch. 1, sec. 1; and ch. 2 (Panopticon)
- Levi-Strauss, Claude. 1962/66. *La Pensee Savage*, ch. 1, 9.
- *Lyotard, J. 1979. *The Postmodern Conditions of Knowledge*.
[update: Readings, Bill. The Ruins of the University.

Supplementary:

- Fischer, M. 2007. "Culture and Cultural Analysis as Experimental Systems"
- Marcus, G. and M. Fischer. *Anthropology as Cultural Critique: the Human
Sciences in an Experimental Moment*. 2nd edition Intro (xv-xxxiv), pp1-44
- Fischer, M. 2003. *Emergent Forms of Life and the Anthropological Voice*.
Intro, & Ch. 10 "In the Science Zone: The Yanomami and the Fight for
Representation" pp 370-92.
- Virno, Paolo. 2001/04. *A Grammar of the Multitude*. Forward pp 7-18 by
S. Lotringer. PP 21-23, 40-45, 49-70, 76-79, 81, 84-93.

2 October.

**(3) THE FORCE OF THE SOCIAL:
THE DURKHEIMIAN CHALLENGE & SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY)**

RETURN TO: Malinowski, Mauss, Fleck, Shapin and Shafer.

Demographic Transition

- Malthus, Thomas. 1826. *Essay on Population*, 2nd ed. or later
on line: <http://www.econlib.org/library/Malthus/malPlong1.html>
- Cultural & Technology Supplement:
- Geertz, Clifford. 1963. *Agricultural Involution*.
- LeRoy Ladurie, Emmanuel. 1974. *The Peasants of Languedoc*.

Ritual Process:

- *Durkheim, Emile. 1912. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*: ch. Piacular Rites, & Conclusion
- *Crapanzano, Vincent. 1980. "Rite of Return: Circumcision in Morocco." *Psychoanalytic Study of Society*. Vol 9. ed. W. Meunsterberger & L. Bryce Boyer.

Organ Transplantation

- Sanal, Aslihan 2004. "Robin Hood' of Techno-Turkey, or, Organ Trafficking in the State of Ethical Beings." *Culture, Medicine, & Psychiatry*
- Cohen, Lawrence 1999. "Where it Hurts: Indian Material for an Ethics of Organ Transplantation." *Daedalus*, 128(4): 135-66. [gender, debt, markets]
- Das, Veena. 2000. "The practice of Organ Transplants: networks, documents, translations" in Lock, Cambrosio, Young, ed., *Living With New Medical Technologies*. [cultural presuppositions of the law]
- Fox, R & J. Swazey. 1992. *Spare Parts: Organ Replacement in American Society* ch 2,3,8 ['tyranny of the gift'] [Dewey RD120.7.F68]

Statistical and Mechanical Models

- * Levi-Strauss, C. "Mechanical and Statistical Models" *Structural Anthropology*
- *Perrow, Charles. *Normal Accidents*, 2nd edition (1999): last chapter
- Douglas, Mary. 1966. *Purity and Danger*.
- Douglas, Mary and Aron Wildavsky. 1982. *Risk and Culture*.
- Perin, Constance. 2004. *Shouldering Risks: The Culture of Control in the Nuclear Power Industry*.
- Vaughan, Diane. 1997. *The "Challenger" Launch Decision: Risky Technology, Culture, and Deviance at NASA*.

(9 October: No Class).

16 October

**(4) SUBJECTIVITY AND DISPLACEMENTS OF THE RATIONAL:
THE FREUDIAN & LACANIAN CHALLENGE)**

Goodman, Allegra. *Intuition*

- ✓ Obeyesekere, Gananath. *Medusa's Hair*: selections.
- ✓ Malinowski, Bronislaw. . *Sex and Repression in Savage Society*. Part I & II.
- ✓ Marcus, G. & M. Fischer. *Anthropology as Cultural Critique*: ch. 3
"Conveying Other Cultural Experience: The Person, Self and Emotions"
- Luhrman, Tanya. *Of Two Minds*

- ✓ Brooks, Peter. "The Case of the Wolf-Man" (from *Reading for the Plot*)
Held, David. *Introduction to Critical Theory*: ch. on Oedipus Complex reworked
by. Horkheimer and Adorno.
- ✓ Jacques Lacan, "The Function and Field of Speech in Psychoanalysis" *Ecrits*
Ragland, Ellie and Dragan Milovanovic, ed.. 2004. Lacan: Topologically Speaking:
Introduction; ch. 1 (Lafont, Jean. "Topology & Efficiency");
a|w@⁷ ch. 3 (Ragland, Ellie. "Lacan's Topological Unit & the Structure of Mind.")
- ✓ Levi-Strauss, Claude. "The Effectiveness of Symbols." (read with ch. 6
in Ragland & Milovanovic: Zak Watson, "Floating between Original
and Semblance")

Foucault, Michel. *The Hermeneutics of the Subject. Lectures at the College
de France 1981-82.*

Foucault, Michel. *The History of Madness.*

Foucault, Michel. *Psychiatry and power.*

Biehl, Joao, Byron Good, and Arthur Kleinman, ed. 2007. *Subjectivity:
Ethnographic Investigations.*

Fischer, M. "To Live with What Would Otherwise Be Unendurable: ReturnZ(s)
to Subjectivities" in Biehl et al., ed. 2007.

Good, Byron and Mary-Jo DeVecchio Good. "The Subject of Mental Illness:
Psychosis, Mad Violence and Subjectivity in Indonesia."

23 October

**(5) SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION, SOCIAL FORMATIONS, MULTIPLE
HISTORICAL HORIZONS: THE MARXIAN CHALLENGE**

Cohen, Lawrence. 2004. "Operability: Surgery at the Margins of the State".

Das, V. & D. Poole, ed., *Anthropology at the Margins of the State*

Cohen, Lawrence 1999. "Where it Hurts: Indian Material for an Ethics of
Organ Transplantation." *Daedalus*, 128(4): 135-66.

Bendix, R. & S. Lipset. 1951. "Social Status & Social Structure" *British
Journal of Sociology*, 2(2&3).

Derrida, J. 1994. *Spectres of Marx* : ch. 3 "Wars & Tears: Tableau of an
Ageless World".

Beckert, Sven. 2004. *Emancipation and Empire: Reconstructing the Worldwide
Web of Cotton Production in the Age of the American Civil War.* AHR 109

(5) <http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/109.5/beckert.html>

➔ Marx, Karl - *The 18th Brumaire of Louis Napoleon*

Marx, Karl - *Capital*, v 1: 71-73 (commodity fetishism), 371-429 (machines),
713-74 (primitive accumulation)

- Marx, Karl -*Grundrisse* - Intro 83-111; social relations & exchange value 136-67; circulation & value 186-203; accumulation & social relations 221-38; simple exchange 240-73; exchange of labor 274-75; labor as objectified value 304-310; [precapitalist economic formations 469-514].
- Nimtz, August. 2000. *Marx and Engels: Their Contribution to the Democratic Breakthrough*.

- Petryna, Adriana. 2001. *Life Exposed: Biological Citizenship after Chernobyl*. ^{Emily}
- Petryna, Adriana. 2005. "Ethical Variability: Drug Development and Globalizing Clinical Trials. *American Ethnologist*. 32(2): 183-197.
- Fortun, Kim. 2001. *Advocacy After Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders*.
- Masco, Joseph. *The Nuclear Borderlands: The Manhattan Project in Postcold War New Mexico*.
- Rabinow, Paul. 1995. *Making PCR*.
- Sunder Rajan, Kaushik. 2006. *Biocapital: The Constitution of Postgenomic Life*.

30 October

(6) MEANINGFUL SOCIAL ACTION IN POST-BUREAUCRATIC WORLDS: THE WEBERIAN CHALLENGE, HERMENEUTICS & INTERPRETIVE ANTHROPOLOGY

- ✓ Weber, Max - 1904. *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*.
- Gadamer, Hans-Georg. *Truth and Method*. pp 5-39.
- ✓ Geertz, Clifford. 1973. *The Interpretation of Culture: "Deep Play," "Thick Description," "Person, Time & Conduct in Bali", "Religion as a Cultural System"*
- Marcus, G. & M. Fischer. *Anthropology as Cultural Critique: ch. 5 (Repatriation of Anthropology as Cultural Critique), ch. 6 (Two Contemporary Techniques of Cultural Critique)*
- Fischer, M. 1983 "Imam Khomeini: Four Ways of Understanding." in J. Esposito, ed., *Voices of Islamic Resurgence*.

Supplements:

- Berger, P. & T. Luckmann. 1967. *The Social Construction of Reality*.
- Burke, Kenneth. 1962. *A Grammar of Motives, and A Rhetoric of Motives*.
- Cassirer, Ernst. 1942. *The Logic of the Cultural Sciences*.

6 November

(7) MEDIA, THE CULTURE INDUSTRY, TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL RELATIONS: THE CHALLENGE OF THE FRANKFURT SCHOOL AND CRITICAL THEORY

RETURN TO: Benjamin, Hansen, Taussig, Lipsitz (and Weber and Freud)

Key Terms: historization, dialectics (advanced dialectic dialectics), critique (immanent critique), concrete objects (contradictions), constellation, rationalities, ratio, kitch-avant garde, dommercial logic, domination (Hegel)

*Buck-Morss – essay on Hegel & Haiti

*Hansen, Miriam 1993. "Of Mlce and Ducks: Benjamin and Adorno on Disney."61
South Atlantic Quarterly, 92(1): 61-47.

*Hansen, Miriam Bratu. 2004. "Room-for-Play: Benjamin's Gamble with
Cinema. October 109 (summer): 3-45

*Leonard, Robert J. 1999. "Seeing is Believing": Otto Neurath, Graphic Art, and
the Social Order. in N. DeMarchi & C.D.W. Goodwin, ed. *Economic
Engagements with Art.*

Habermas, Juergen. 1962/1989 *The Structural Transformation of the
Public Sphere.*

Weber, Max. *The Sociology of Music*

Adorno, Theodor W. ET 2006. *Philosophy of New Music*

Jenemann, David. 2007. *Adorno in America.*

Lipsitz, George. 2007. *Footsteps in the Dark: chapters on jazz, hip hop, techno*

Benjamin, Walter. 1936. "Art in the Mechanical Age of Reproduction."

1928 *One Way Street*: "Filling Station", "Fire Alarm,"
"Stereoscope," "Technical Aid," "To the Planetarium"

Buck-Morss, Susan. 2000. *Dreamworld and Catastrophe: The Passing of
Mass Utopia in East and West.*

Clifford, James. "On Ethnographic Surrealism" 1988. *Predicament of Culture.*

Clifford, James. "On Ethnographic Allegory" 1986. *Writing Culture*

Fischer, M. 2004. "Las Meninas and Robotic-Virtual Surgical Systems"
Ch. 9.1, *Emergent Forms of Life and the Anthropological Voice.*

Fischer, M. 1986. "Ethnicity and the Postmodern Arts of Memory."
Writing Culture

Leslie, Esther. 2002. *Hollywood Flatlands: Animation, Critical Theory and the
Avant-garde.*

Leslie, Esther. 2000. *Walter Benjamin: Overcoming Conformism.*

Ch 1: pp 1-41 (on "Filling Station," "Fire Alarm," & "To the
Planetarium); ch 3: pp 63-68 (on "Technical Aid" & "Stereoscope")
pp 73-78 ("A Descriptive History of Tecknik").

Lipsitz, George. 1994. *Dangerous Crossroads: popular music, postmodernism,
And the poetics of place.* ch.

Lipsitz, George. 1990. *Time Passages: collective memory and American popular
culture.*

- Poster, Mark . 1990. *Mode of Information: poststructuralism and social context.*
 Taussig, Michael T. 1992. *The Nervous System: a particular study of the senses*
 Taussig, Michael T. 1993. *Mimesis and Alterity..*

Ethnographies of Simulation/Visualization Technologies

- *Dumit, Joe. 2004. *Picturing Personhood: Brain Scans and Biomedical Identity.*

13 November

(8) STRUCTURALISM & POSTSTRUCTURALISM: FRENCH THEORY

- Barthes, Roland. 1957. *Mythologies.*
 Lacan, Jacques. 1969-70/published 1991/2007. *The Other Side of Psychoanalysis: Seminar XVII*
 Levi- Strauss, Claude.
 1962. *La pensee savage.*
 1964/1970. "Overture" to *The Raw and the Cooked*, p 1-32.
 1971/1981. "Finale" to *The Naked Man*, p 625-95.
 1975/1979. *The Way of the Masks*, ch. 1.
 "The Effectiveness of Symbols" Structural Anthropology.
 "Social Structure" in Structural Anthropology
 "Structural Analysis in Linguistics and Anthropology"
 "The Story of Asdiwal"

supplementary:

- Levi-Strauss. 1949/1969. *The Elementary Forms of Kinship*
 Morgan, Louis Henry. 1870. *Systems of consanguinity and affinity of the human family*
 Malinowski, B. 1927. *Sex & Repression in Savage Society*

 Deleuze, Gilles & Felix Guattari. 1980/1987. *A Thousand Plateaus.*
 Derrida, Jacques. 1993/1997. *Specters of Marx: The State of the Debt, the Work of Mourning, and the New International.*
 Foucault, Michel. 1966/1970. *The Order of Things.*

linguistics as background

- Saussure, Ferdinand de. 1961. *Cours de linguistique générale*
 Chomsky, Noam. 1957. *Syntactic Structures.*

commentaries

- Bourg, Julian. 2007. *From Revolution to Ethics: May 1968 and Contemporary French Thought.*
 Leonard, Miriam. 2005. *Athens in Paris: Ancient Greece and the Political in Post-War France.*
 Ross, Kristin. 1995. *Fast Cars, Clean Bodies: decolonization and the Reordering of French culture.*

20 November

(9) MATERIAL SEMIOTIC OBJECTS, ANIMAL RELATIONS, COMPANION SPECIES, AND ECOLOGY

RETURN TO: Benjamin's Anthropological Materialism (Hansen 2004)

Haraway, Donna. 2007. *When Species Meet*.

Haraway, Donna. 2003. *The Companion Species Manifesto*.

Haraway, Donna. 1997. *Modest.Witness@Second.Millennium: FemaleMan@_ Meets_OncoMouse™* ch2.

Haraway, Donna. 1989. *Primate Visions: Gender, Race and Nature in the World of Modern Science*.

Hdry, Sarah Blaffer. 1977. *The Langurs of Abu: Female and Male Strategies of Reproduction*.

Kittler, Friedrich. 1985/ 1990 *Discourse Networks 1800/1900*.

Ronell, Avital. 1989. *The Telephone Book*

Ronell, Avital. 2005. *The Test Drive*.

Fischer, M. "Emergent Forms of (Un)Natural Life."

Franklin, Sarah 2007. *Dolly Mixtures: The Remaking of Genealogy*.

Ecology:

Davis, Mike. "Ecocide in Marboro Country." 2002. *Dead Cities & Other Tales*.

Levi Strauss, C. "The Story of Asdiwal."

Masco, Joseph. *The Nuclear Borderlands: The Manhattan Project in Postcold War New Mexico*.

White, Richard. 1995. *The Organic Machine: The Remaking of the Columbia River*

Wohlforth, Charles. 2004. *The Whale and the Supercomputer: On the Northern Front of Climate Change*.

re. environmental issues and democratic organization

Allen, Barbara. 2003. *Uneasy Alchemy: Citizens and Experts in Louisiana's ChemicalCorridor Disputes*.

Lerner, Steve. 2005. *Diamond: A Struggle for Environmental Justice in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor*. MIT

Wright, Beverly. 2003. "Race, Politics, and Pollution: Environmental Justice in the Mississippi Chemical Corridor" *Just Sustainabilities*, ed. J. Agyeman, R.D. Bullard, & B. Evans.

Brown, Phil and Mikkelson - *No Safe Place: Toxic Waste, Leukemia, & Community Action*. Rotch: RJ 416.L4.B76

Crawford, Colin. - *Uproar at Dancing Rabbit Creek: Battle over Race, Class and the Environment*.

George, Timothy. 2001 - *Minamata: Pollution & the Struggle for Democracy in Postwar Japan*

Harr, Jonathan 1996 - *A Civil Action* RotchR, BarkerR: KF228.A7.H37

Fortun, Mike. 2007. *Promising Genomics*

Hayden, Cori. 2003. *When nature goes public : the making and*

aking

of bioprospecting in Mexico.

Helmreich, Stefan. 2008. *Alien Ocean: An Anthropology of Marine Biology and the Limits of Life.*

Helmreich, Stefan. "Life@Sea: Networking Marine Biodiversity into Biotech Futures." in Sarah Franklin and Margaret Lock, ed.

Remaking Life and Death: Towards an Anthropology of the Biosciences.

Helmreich, Stefan. 2003. "Trees and Seas of Information: Alien Kinship and the Biopolitics of Gene Transfer in Marine Biology and Biotechnology." *American Ethnologist* 30(3):341-359.

Jasanoff, Sheila. 2005. *Designs on Nature: Science and Democracy in Europe and the United States.*

Kay, Lily. 1999. *Who Wrote the Book of Life? A History of the Genetic Code.*

Landecker, Hannah. 2006. *Culturing Life*

Martin, Emily. 1994. *Flexible Bodies: Tracking Immunity in American Culture From The Days of Polio to the Age of AIDS.*

Myers, Natasha 2007. *Modeling Proteins, Making Scientists: An Ethnography of Pedagogy and Visual Cultures in Contemporary Structural Biology*

Rabinow, Paul. 1999. *French DNA.*

[Werth, Barry 1994. *The Million Dollar Molecule*]

Rapp, Rayna. 1999. *Testing Women, Testing the Fetus: The social impact of amniocentesis in America.*

Reardon, Jenny. 2005. *Race to the Finish: Identity and Governance in Genomics.*

Rheinberger, Hans-Joerg. 1997. *Towards a History of Epistemic Things: Synthesizing Proteins in the Test Tube.*

Sunder Rajan, Kaushik. 2006. *Biocapital: The Constitution of Postgenomic Life*

**(11) NEW MEDIA, VISUALIZATION, NETWORKS, INFRASTRUCTURES,
OPEN SOURCE**

- Kelty, Chris. 2007. *Two Bits: Free Software and the Social Imagination after the Internet.*
- Rosling, Hans. <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=4237353244338529080&sourceid=searchfeed>
- Fischer, M. 2004. *Mute Dreams, Blind Owls, and Dispersed Knowledges: Persian Poesis in the Transnational Circuitry.*
- Landecker - microcinematography
- Dumit - 2004. *Picturing Personhood*
- Myers, Natasha 2007. *Modeling Proteins, Making Scientists: An Ethnography of Pedagogy and Visual Cultures in Contemporary Structural Biology*

11 December
(12) Wrap-Up.