

V-SAK 6: Forslag til endring av pensum for SOSANT2000 - Central themes in contemporary anthropology

Saken legges frem for Programrådet:

TIL ORIENTERING:

TIL UTTAELSE:

TIL BEHANDLING:

ETTER AVTALE:

Programrådet bes behandle forslaget fra emneansvarlige Elina Hartikainen og Alessandro Ripa:

The proposed changes in the course content reflect 1) recent developments in anthropological theory; and 2) the expertise of the two convenors (Elina Hartikainen and Alessandro Ripa). To this end, we have modified three sessions, and added one new one. The changes to the sessions are described below:

- Multispecies ethnography and the Anthropocene (week 6): This new session replaces the session “is human to culture as non-human is to nature?” to account for the growing number of multispecies approaches in anthropology. The text by van Dooren et al. presents a thorough overview of the field, including a discussion of the ethical and political motivations underpinning this field of study. The text by Tsing is an accessible reflection on multispecies relations in a post-extractive landscape that should be familiar to many students. As such it provides a beautifully-written example of what a multispecies approach can achieve in addressing the so-called Anthropocene (and will allow the lecturer to introduce a discussion on the notion of the Anthropocene building on the previous session on Infrastructure).



- **Persons, Subjects, and Selves (week 7):** The new readings chosen for this session reorient the focus of the session previously titled “Persons and Properties” from anthropological discussions on property and culture to ones on the construction of personhood, subjectivity and selves. The motivation for this shift in focus is four-fold. 1) The changes allow for a focused discussion of the influence of Foucault on anthropological discussions of subjectivity. This will be of use for students also as a foundation for the discussion of neoliberal agency in week 10. 2) The changes allow for bringing in readings and discussions focused on religion (a domain that was not explicitly addressed by readings in earlier versions of the course). 3) Finally, the perspectives on Islam (Fernando) and child sponsorship programs (O’Neill) provided by the readings offer students useful tools for complicating common understandings of these topics.
- **Media and Publics (week 8):** This session expands the focus of the session previously titled “digital and mediated networks and relations” to a broader discussion of how anthropologists have engaged and theorized media and publicity, including digital and social media. In addition, the texts chosen for the session provide students with ethnographic examples and analytical tools for thinking about how different media forms and practices relate to such phenomena as politics, the state, the nation, and identity formation and how they can be and have been mobilized for different political agendas. Each of the texts chosen (Cody, Bonilla & Rosa, Graan) make important interventions to the anthropological discussion on media and publics that are grounded in evocative and approachable ethnographic analyses. The text by Graan also provides an excellent and easily accessible overview of research on publics and publicity in anthropology that will allow students to position the session’s readings in the context of broader disciplinary discussions.

- Bureaucracy (week 9): This session replaces the session “Cultural Appropriations and the Appropriation of Culture.” It introduces students to the anthropological study of a topic that has come to be the object of important theorization in anthropology in recent years and that students can be expected to encounter on a regular basis in their personal and professional lives: bureaucracy. In so doing, the session 1) offers a treatment of recent developments in anthropological research on the state, while also 2) demonstrating the relevance of anthropology for understanding the worlds students encounter both inside and outside the classroom (here, we are also thinking about students’ post-graduation professional trajectories that can be expected to include employment in and with various bureaucratic structures). The text by Lea provides an excellent critical overview of recent anthropological research on bureaucracy, that also attends to why people may desire engagements with state bureaucracies. The text by Bernstein powerfully complicates commonplace understandings of bureaucrats as but cogs in a machine by offering a close ethnographic analysis of bureaucratic speech in Taipei. Please note that beside the above-mentioned changes in the content of some sessions, we have also re-ordered them. We believe that the new order adds further coherence to the course, by gradually introducing students to key themes in the discipline that build on one another as the weeks go by. Hence the session on migration will directly build on the session of globalisation, adding a mobility-centred perspective to the study of globalisation’s cultural dimensions. Likewise, the three sessions on Science, Technology and the Material; Infrastructure; and Multispecies ethnography are intimately connected, moving from a broader discussion of non-human agency in scientific practices and technologies, to a focus on material infrastructure, and finally a discussion of non-human world-making practices through the multispecies focus. This will equip students with different understanding of how agency has been discussed in anthropology, and how it is relevant to understanding the current environmental crisis (a theme many will be passionate about). These sessions are followed by a turn to an examination of Foucault’s influence on anthropological analyses of

Personhood, Subjectivity and the Self that will provide the foundation for the following weeks' discussions of Media and Publics, Bureaucracy, and Neoliberalism. The latter three sessions introduce students to three key ways in which anthropologists have theorized sociality and politics in today's world culminating in a discussion on Neoliberalism. The session on Neoliberalism also introduces students to recent discussions in anthropology on the anthropological imagination that will be continued in the following week's discussion on Colonialism, Culture and its Others. The course remains committed to presenting a comprehensive picture of current and topical themes in anthropological research, and to discuss a wide range of case studies, theoretical, as well as methodological approaches. Course structure and assessment methods remain the same.

SYLLABUS

Please note that all new texts are highlighted in **yellow**. At the end we have added a list of removed texts highlighted in **red**.

1) Culture and Society

Clifford, J. 1986 [2020]. Introduction : Partial Truths. In: Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography. Berkeley: University of California Press (1-26)

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

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2) Globalisation

Appadurai, A. 1996. Global Ethnoscapes : Notes and Queries for a Transnational Anthropology. In: *Modernity at large [electronic resource] : cultural dimensions of globalization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press (48-65)

Gupta, Akhil ; Ferguson, James. 1992. Beyond "Culture": Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference. *Cultural Anthropology* 7(1): 6-23.

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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): 211-238.

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4) Science, Technology and the Material

(Moved Latour's text to this session in order to foreground a discussion of non-human agency in the study of technologies. This will also serve as useful background for the following two sessions, focusing respectively on infrastructure and multispecies studies)

de Laet, M., & Mol, A. (2000). The Zimbabwe Bush Pump: Mechanics of a Fluid Technology. *Social Studies of Science*, 30(2), 225–263. <https://doi.org/10.1177/030631200030002002>

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)

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5) Infrastructure

Larkin, B. 2013. The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 42(1): 327-343

Anand, N. Gupta, A and H. Appel. 2018. Introduction: Temporality, Politics, and the Promise of Infrastructure. In: *The Promise of Infrastructure*. Durham: Duke University Press (1-40)

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6) Multispecies ethnography and the Anthropocene

(This new session replaces the session “is human to culture as non-human is to nature?” to account for the growing number of multispecies approaches in anthropology)

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.

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7) Persons, Subjects, and Selves

(This session reorients the focus of the session previously titled “Persons and Properties” to account for the influence of Foucault on anthropological discussions on personhood and subjectivity)

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. [16 pages]

O’Neill, Kevin Lewis. 2013. “Left behind: Security, Salvation, and the Subject of Prevention.” *Cultural Anthropology* 28 (2): 204–26 [22 pages]

8) Media and Publics

(This session expands the focus of the session previously titled “digital and mediated networks and relations” to a broader discussion of how anthropologists have engaged and theorized media and publicity, including digital and social media.)

Cody, Francis. 2009. “Daily Wires and Daily Blossoms: Cultivating Regimes of Circulation in Tamil India’s Newspaper Revolution.” *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 19 (2): 286–309. [23 pages]

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. [13 pages]

Graan, Andrew. 2022. “Marketing Logics and the Politics of Public Spheres: On Discursive Engineering and Enclosure.” *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 32 (2): 301–25. [24 pages]

9) Bureaucracy

(This new session replaces the session “Cultural Appropriations and the Appropriation of Culture.” The session 1) introduces students to recent developments in anthropological research on the state, while also 2) demonstrating the relevance of anthropology for understanding the worlds students encounter both inside and outside the classroom)

Lea, Tess. 2021. “Desiring Bureaucracy.” *Annual Review of Anthropology* 50: 59–74. [15 pages]

Bernstein, Anya. 2017. “Bureaucratic Speech: Language Choice and Democratic Identity in the Taipei Bureaucracy.” *PoLAR* 40 (1): 28–51. [23 pages]

10) Neoliberalism and the Anthropological Imagination

Gershon, Ilana. 2011. Neoliberal Agency. *Current Anthropology* 52 (4): 537-555. [18 pages]

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. [12 pages].

11) Colonialism, Culture and its Others

Said, Edward. 1989. Representing the Colonized, Anthropology’s Interlocutors. *Critical Inquiry* 15 (2): 205-225. [20 pages].

de la Cadena, Marisol. 2010. Indigenous Cosmopolitics in the Andes: Conceptual Reflections Beyond “Politics.” *Cultural Anthropology* 25 (2): 334-370. [36 pages]

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. [21 pages]

Sahlins, Marshall. 1999. Two or Three Things I know about Culture. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 5 (3): 399-421 [22 pages]

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REMOVED TEXTS

Berson, Josh. 2010. "Intellectual Property and Cultural Appropriation." *Reviews in Anthropology* 39: 201–28.

Coleman, E. 2010. Ethnographic Approaches to Digital Media. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 39: 487-505.

Comaroff, John & Jean Comaroff. 2001. On Personhood: An Anthropological Perspective from Africa. *Social Identities* 7 (2): 267-283.

Handler, Richard. 2003. Cultural Property and Culture Theory. *Journal of Social Archaeology* 3 (3): 353-364.

Miller, Daniel et al. 2018. Digital Anthropology. *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Anthropology*

Schneider, Arndt. 2003. "On 'Appropriation': A Critical Reappraisal of the Concept and Its Application in Global Art Practices." *Social Anthropology* 11 (2): 215–29.

Strathern, M. 1995. Future kinship and the study of culture. *Futures* 27(4): 423-435.

Povinelli, E. 1995. Do rocks listen? The cultural politics of apprehending Australian aboriginal labor. *American Anthropologist* 97(3): 505-518.