



V-SAK 9/24: ENDRINGER I PENSUM FOR SOSANT1300 – ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Saken legges frem for Programrådet:

- Til behandling
- Til orientering
- Til diskusjon
- Til uttalelse

Forslagsstiller: Emneansvarlig Theodoros Rakopoulos

Forslag til vedtak

Programrådet vedtar forslaget til endringer i pensum for SOSANT1300 – Economic Anthropology.

Endringsforslag

- Holmes, Seth M., 2013. *Fresh fruit, broken bodies: migrant farmworkers in the United States*. University of California Press

To be substituted by:

Rakopoulos, Theodoros. 2017 (2023). *From clans to co-ops: Confiscated mafia land in Sicily*. Oxford and NY: Berghahn.

- Meyer, Birgit. 1998. Commodities and the Power of Prayer: Pentecostalist Attitudes Towards Consumption in Contemporary Ghana. *Development and Change*

To be substituted by:

Ong, Aihwa. 1988. The Production of Possession: Spirits and the Multinational Corporation in Malaysia. *American ethnologist*.



Begrunnelse for forslaget

First and foremost, we need to change the monograph, currently Seth Holmes' *Fresh fruit, broken bodies: Migrant farmworkers in the United States* (University of California Press). Since I joined SAI and for years before, the same book has been assigned to students for this course. There has been a decade now, when the book was published in 2013 and was soon adopted by SAI, so it would only make sense to consider a change.

The change becomes particularly pertinent when thinking of the book's nature, which actually does not have much to do with economic anthropology. It is a very low-on-theory discussion of labour migration written by a medical anthropologist. The book's prioritizing on pain, the body, and health have been well received – however, they simply do not speak to the core of economic anthropology, and do not square well with other readings, which are more focused on the main tenets of the subdiscipline.

I would suggest my book, *From clans to co-ops: Confiscated mafia land in Sicily* (Berghahn, 2017) to substitute Seth Holmes' book. It is published within the Human Economy series and is a classic ethnography within the Economic Anthropology genre. It is available on paperback at a very reasonable price (20 US dollars) and is also available open access from the Berghahn website. As I am following pedagogical courses and completing my Pedagogic education at UiO these days, I realise that research-driven teaching is what contemporary educators recommend – and in fact in hindsight I think I should have suggested this book earlier. This book is a point of reference for issues of (especially agrarian) labour, cooperation, and land administration (three main foci of Economic Anthropology), while it also draws on gender and kinship analysis in thinking householding, informality, and the state.

This change will likely very slightly increase the amount of pages for the course, given the Holmes book is 327 page, of which about a couple chapters are omitted, leaving 234pp., whereas the Rakopoulos book is 240 pages.

Another suggestion concerns a change in the 5th teaching block, dedicated to moral economy. Aihwa Ong's paper (available but not obligatory online in the course's curriculum) should substitute Birgit Meyer's paper. Meyer's piece is interesting, but its focus on consumption does not square well with the other paper for that week (Taussig's) which is more about production, alienation, and colonialism – just like Ong's. The change in page numbers is one page less, as Ong's is a slightly smaller article.