

Fall 2006

Interdisciplinary Research in Africa

Course number: 16:016:502

Crosslisted under:

Anthropology 524 (16:070:524)

Geography 605 (16:450:605)

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The course meets Mondays 12:35-3:35 pm in 131 Blake Hall (Cook campus)

Course description

This course raises the largest question of graduate training: What kind of intellectual – engaging in what ways with readers, collaborators, and subjects – do I wish to become? We will address this question in its mundane and sublime aspects, covering ethics, methods, and one’s voice as a writer. With respect to ethics, I refer to the whole range in which one approaches people and institutions from which one wants to learn. What kinds of responsibility and accountability does fieldwork engender? Do such obligations bear differently upon us in the case of poor, as opposed to rich, informants? The section on methods will deal with three kinds of data: oral, written, and materialist – a division that scrambles the conventional distinction between qualitative and quantitative data. Needless to say, all these methods entail multi-sited research. Finally, the course ends with issues of voice. How do we select our audiences and, when we write, how do we balance advocacy for and criticism of those whom we studied in the field? In what circumstances and to what end, should we write reflexively – that is, include our own actions and feelings in the narrative? This course will appeal to social scientists and historians planning Masters or Doctoral-level research. Most of the reading material will concern Africa, but – as the themes are of general relevance – non-Africanists are certainly encouraged to attend. Students who wish to improve their writing will find this course particularly useful. We will spend one hour per week revising a paragraph written by one student – an exercise that brings to life the saying “no pain, no gain.”

Reading

All the readings in the required (non-indented) parts of the syllabus are on reserve as hard copies in the Chang Library on Cook Campus. They are also all on electronic reserve. The books listed below are available for purchase at the Cook/Douglass Coop Store.

- Burns, J.M. 2002. *Flickering Shadows: Cinema and Identity in Colonial Zimbabwe*. Athens, Ohio: University of Ohio Press.
- Ferguson, James. 2006. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Hughes, David M. 2006. *From Enslavement to Environmentalism: Politics on a Southern African Frontier*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- Livingston, Julie. 2005. *Debility and the Moral Imagination in Botswana*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- West, Harry. 2005. *Kupilikula: Governance and the Invisible Realm in Mozambique*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- White, Luise. 2000. *Speaking with Vampires: Rumor and History in Colonial Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press. \$25

Other requirements

Each student will submit a term paper or equivalent writing project. Each student will also present the work of a fellow student in draft form on either 26 April or 3 May.

Grading

The grade rests on (1) in- class participation, (2) the presentation of reading material during one of the seminars, (3) the presentation of another student's draft final paper at the end of the course, and (4) the student's own final paper.

Introduction

Week 1: Getting to know each other (11 September)

Week 2: Where and what is Africa? (18 September)

- Robinson, Pearl T. 2003. "Area studies in search of Africa." In David L. Szanton, ed. *The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- MacGaffey, Janet and Remy Bazenguissa-Ganga. 2000. *Congo-Paris: Transnational Traders on the Margins of the Law*. Oxford, UK: James Currey. Pp. 1-27, 173-85.
- McClintock, Anne. 1995. *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*. New York: Routledge. Chapter 1.
- Carney, Judith. 2001. *Black Rice: the African Origins of Rice Cultivation in the Americas*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Pp. 1-30.

Recommended:

- Atkins, Keletso. 1996. "The 'black Atlantic communication network': African American Sailors and the Cape of Good Hope connection." *Issue* 24(2): 23-25.
- Gilroy, Paul. 1993. *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Chapter 1.
- Cruikshank, Julie. 2005. *Do Glaciers Listen: Local Knowledge, Colonial Encounters, and Social Imagination*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. Chapter 6.
- Guyer, Jane. 2004. "Anthropology in area studies." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 33:499-523.
- Stoller, Paul. 2002. *Money has no Smell: the Africanization of New York City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. – ordered from RU 2 June
- Taussig, Michael. 1986. *Shamanism, Colonialism, and the Wild Man: a Study of Terror and Healing*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Naipaul, V.S. 1979. *A Bend in the River*. New York: Knopf. Pp. 3-34.

Ethics, or the Practical Politics of Research

Week 3: Studying the less powerful (25 September)

Guest: Julie Livingston, History, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Livingston, Julie. 2005. *Debility and the Moral Imagination in Botswana*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Introduction, Chapters 2, 4, 5, Conclusion.

American Anthropological Association, Code of Ethics,

<http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/ethcode.htm>

Tapela, Barbara Nompumelelo. 2006. "New architecture, old agendas: perspectives on social research in rural communities neighboring the Kruger National Park in South Africa." Teleseminar of the Transboundary Protected Areas Research Initiative, Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, 28 June.

Proceedings of the Transboundary Protected Areas Research Initiative (TPARI) teleseminar, 28 June 2006.

Bourgois, Philippe. 1990. "Confronting anthropological ethics: ethnographic lessons from Central America." *Journal of Peace Research* 27(1):43-54.

Recommended:

- Condominas, Georges. 2006 [1965]. *L'Exotique est Quotidien: la Vie Quotidienne d'une Ville Montagnard du Vietnam*. Paris: Pocket. Pp. 590-632.
- Katz, Cindy. 2001. "Growing girls/closing circles: limits on the spaces of knowing in rural Sudan and United States cities." In Dorothy L. Hodgson, ed. *Gendered Modernities: Ethnographic Perspectives*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Schumaker, Lyn. 2001. *Africanizing Anthropology: Fieldwork, Networks, and the Making of Cultural Knowledge in Central Africa*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Week 4: Studying the more powerful (2 October)

Ferguson, James. 2006. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neo-Liberal World Order*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Chapter 5.

Suzuki, Yuka. 2001. "Drifting rhinos and fluid properties: the turn to wildlife production in western Zimbabwe." *Journal of Agrarian Change* 1(4): 600-25.

West, Harry. 2005. *Kupilikula: Governance and the Invisible Realm in Mozambique*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Part 3.

Recommended:

Geschiere, Peter. 1997. *The Modernity of Witchcraft: Politics and the Occult in Postcolonial Africa*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press. – get in office

Nader, Laura. 1972. "Up the anthropologist." Unpublished ms.

Week 5: Studying institutions (9 October)

Hughes. 2006. *From Enslavement to Environmentalism*. Chapter 6,7.

Ferguson, James. 2006. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4.

Rabinow, Paul. 1989. *French Modern: Norms and Forms of the Social Environment*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Pp. 1-16, 277-319.

Recommended:

Bornstein, Erica. 2005. *The Spirit of Development: Protestant NGOs, Morality, and Economics in Zimbabwe*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Mitchell, Timothy. 1988. *Colonizing Egypt*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Scott, James. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition have Failed*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Bayart, Jean-François. 1993. *The State in Africa: the Politics of the Belly*. New York: Addison Welsey. Ordered from ILB 19 June 2006

-- 2000. "Africa in the world: a history of extroversion." *African Affairs* 99:217-67.

Bayart, Jean-François, Stephen Ellis, and Béatrice Hibou. 1999. *The Criminalisation of the State in Africa*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Ordered from RU 19 June

Chabal, Patrick and Jen-Pascal Dalos. 1999. *Africa Works: Disorder as a Political Instrument*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Markowitz, Lisa. 2001. "Finding the field: notes on the Ethnography of NGOs." *Human Organization* 60(1):40-46.

Uvin, Peter. 1992. "Regime, surplus, and self-interest: the international politics of food aid." *International Studies Quarterly* 36(3):293-312.

Week 6: Studying representations (16 October)

Guest: Philip Rothwell, Spanish and Portuguese, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Said, Edward. 1993. *Culture and Imperialism*. New York: Knopf. Chapter 1.

Jarosz, Lucy. 1992. "Constructing the dark continent: metaphor as geographic representation of Africa." *Geographiska Annaler*, Series B, 74:104-15.

Rothwell, Philip. 2004. *A Postmodern Nationalist: Truth, Orality, and Gender in the Work of Mia Couto*. Lewisburg: Bucknell University Press. Chapters 1 and 5.

Wilmsen, Edwin. 1995. "Primitive politics in sanctified landscapes: the ethnographic fictions of Laurens van der Post." *Journal of Southern African Studies* 21(2): 201-23.

Comaroff, Jean and John Comaroff. 2001. "Naturing the nation: Aliens, apocalypse and the postcolonial state." *Journal of Southern African Studies* 27(3):627-51.

Recommended:

Pratt, Mary Louise. 1992. *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation*. London: Routledge.

Behrend, Heike. 2000. "Feeling global: the Likoni ferry photographers of Mombasa, Kenya." *African Arts* 33:70-79.

Ward, David. 1989. *Chronicles of Darkness*. London: Routledge.

Coetzee, J. M. 1988. *White Writing: on the Culture of Letters in South Africa*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Pp. 1-11.

Said, Edward. 1979. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage.

Methods

Week 7: Documentary methods (23 October) – This class will meet in David's lab.

Hughes, David M. 2006. *From Enslavement to Environmentalism*. Introduction, Chapters 1,2,4.

Primary sources referred to in footnote 5, p. 212; footnote 6, p. 212, footnote 55, p. 215; Minutes of the Vhimba Area Development Committee. I will distribute these texts.

Burns, J.M. 2002. *Flickering Shadows: Cinema and Identity in Colonial Zimbabwe*.

Athens, Ohio: University of Ohio Press.

Recommended:

Cooper, Frederick. 1996. *Decolonization and African Society: the Labor Question in French and British Africa*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Fabian, Johannes. 2000. *Out of their Minds: Reason and Madness in the Exploration of Central Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Parsons, Neil. 1998. *King Khama, Emperor Joe, and the Great White Queen: Victorian Britain through African Eyes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Elkins, Caroline. 2005. *Imperial Reckoning. The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya*. New York: Henry Holt.

Week 8: Oral methods (30 October) – This class will meet in David's lab.

Hughes, David McDermott. 2006. *From Enslavement to Environmentalism: Politics on a Southern African Frontier*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. Chapter 3.

Interview notes if in English [photocopy; do not post to web]

White, Luise. 2000. *Speaking with Vampires: Rumor and History in Colonial Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Recommended

Bravman, Bill. 1990. "Using old photographs in interviews: some cautionary notes about silences in fieldwork." *History in Africa* 17:327-34.

Vansina, Jan. 1985. *Oral Tradition as History*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

Cole, Jennifer. 2001. *Forget Colonialism? Sacrifice and the Art of Memory in Madagascar*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Week 9: Materialist methods (6 November) – This class will meet in David's lab.

Guest: Angelique Haugerud, Anthropology, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Haugerud, Angelique. 1993. *The Culture of Politics in Modern Kenya*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 5.

Hughes, David McDermott. 2006. "Hydrology of hope: farm dams, conservation, and whiteness in Zimbabwe." *American Ethnologist* 33(2):269-87.

Shipton, Parker. 1984. "Strips and patches: a demographic dimension in some African land-holding and political systems." *Man new series* 19(4):613-34.

Rocheleau, Diane. 2005. "Maps as power tools: locating communities in space or situating people and ecologies in place?" In J. Peter Brosius, Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, and Charles Zerner, eds. *Communities and Conservation: Histories and Politics of Community-Based Natural Resource Management*. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press. Chapter 13.

Recommended:

Fairhead, James and Melissa, Leach. 1996. *Misreading the African Landscape: Society and Ecology in a Forest-Savanna Mosaic*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Richards, Paul. 1985. *Indigenous Agricultural Revolution: Ecology and Food Production in West Africa*. Boulder, CO: Westview.

Moore, Henrietta L. 1994. *Cutting down Trees: Gender, Nutrition, and Agricultural Change in the Northern Province of Zambia, 1890-1990*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Voice

Week 10: Positionality (13 November)

Guests: Abena Busia, English, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Walton Johnson, Africana Studies, Rutgers-New Brunswick

- Busia, Abena P.A. 1998. "Re:locations – rethinking Britain from Accra, New York, and the map room of the British Museum." In David Bennett, ed. *Multicultural States: Rethinking Difference and Identity*. London: Routledge. Pp. 267-81.
- Johnson, Walton. 1990. "Blacks researching in a white world." In Pierre Hugo, ed. *Truth be in the Field: Social Science Research in Southern Africa*. Pretoria: University of South Africa. Pp. 129-40.
- Appiah, Kwame Anthony. 1992. *In my Father's House: Africa in the Philosophy of Culture*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. Pp. vii-xi, 3-27.
- Breytenbach, Breyten. 1996. *The Memory of Birds in Times of Revolution*. New York: Harcourt Brace and Company. Pp. 124-32.

Recommended

- Amadiume, Ife. 1997. *Reinventing Africa: Matriarchy, Religion, and Culture*. London: Zed. Pp. 1-26.
- Bates, Robert H., V.Y. Mudimbe, and Jean O'Barr, eds. 1993. *Africa and the Disciplines: the Contributions of Research in Africa to the Social Sciences and Humanities*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Brantlinger, Patrick. 1988. *Rule of Darkness: British Literature and Imperialism, 1830-1914*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Chapter 6.
- Mudimbe, V.Y. 1988. *The Invention of Africa*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- 1994. *The Idea of Africa*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Lindqvist, Sven. 1996. "Exterminate all the Brutes." Translated by Joan Tate. New York: the New Press.
- Cocks, P. 1995. "The rhetoric of science and the critique of imperialism in British social anthropology, c. 1870-1940." *History and Anthropology* 9:93-119.
- Mafeje, Archie. 1998. "Anthropology and independent Africans: suicide or end of an era?" *African Sociological Review* 2:1-43.
- Wainaina, Binyanvanga. 2006. "How to write about Africa." *Granta* 92.

Week 11: Collaboration and criticism (20 November)

Guests: Richard Schroeder, Geography, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Genese Sodikoff, Anthropology, Rutgers-Newark

- James, Wendy. 1973. "The anthropologist as reluctant imperialist." In Talal Asad, ed. *Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter*. Atlantic Highlands, NJ: Humanities Press. Pp. 41-69.

- Hughes, David M. and Filomena Barbosa. 1995. "The socio-economic impact of the Coutada 16 hunting concession." Maputo: the World Bank.
- Hughes, David M. 2000. "To spread opportunity across space: smallholder-led resettlement in eastern Zimbabwe." Harare: Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources.
- 2005. "Third nature: making space and time in the Great Limpopo Conservation Area." *Cultural Anthropology* 20(2): 157-84.
- Jones, Brian T.B. 2003. Written criticism of an earlier version of Hughes (2005).
- Schroeder, Richard. 1999. "Community, forestry, and conditionality in the Gambia." *Africa* 69(1):1-21.
- Correspondence related the above article.
- Sodikoff, Genese. Reading to be announced.

Week 12: Reflexivity and story-telling (27 November)

- Hughes, David McDermott. 2006. *From Enslavement to Environmentalism*. Preface and Chapter 5.
- Ferguson, James. 2006. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Chapter 6.
- West, Harry. 2005. *Kupilikula: Governance and the Invisible Realm in Mozambique*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Prologue, Acknowledgements, Introduction, Part 1 and Part 2.

Recommended:

- Crapanzano, Vincent. 1985. *Waiting: the Whites of South Africa*. New York: Random House.
- Malkki, Liisa. 1995. *Purity and Exile: Violence, Memory, and National Cosmology among Hutu Refugees in Tanzania*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1988. *Works and Lives: the Anthropologist as Author*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. Chapter 1.
- Van Onselen, Charles. 1996. *The Seed is mine: the Life of Kas Maine, a South African Sharecropper, 1894-1985*. New York: Hill and Wang.

Week 13: Afro-pessimism (4 December)

- Kaplan, Robert D. 1994. "The coming anarchy." *Atlantic Monthly* 44-76.
- Besteman, Catherine. 2005. "Why I disagree with Robert Kaplan." In Besteman, Catherine and Hugh Gusterson, eds. *Why America's Top Pundits are Wrong: Anthropologists Talk back*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 5.
- Ferguson, James. 2006. *Global Shadows*. Introduction, Chapters 7 and 8.
- Hughes, David McDermott. 2006. *From Enslavement to Environmentalism*. Chapter 7.

Recommended

- Mbembe, Achille. 2001. *On the Postcolony*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Mbembe, Achille. 2002a. "African modes of self-writing." *Public Culture* 14(1):239-73.
-- 2002b. "On the power of the false." *Public Culture* 14(3):629-41.

Week 14: Student paper presentations (11 December)

Papers are due Thursday 14 December by 4pm.