

Current Anthropological Research: Initiatives and Insights

This course gives a comprehensive introduction to a specific area of contemporary anthropological investigation. Current research trends and recent theoretical developments are explored through critical discussions with emphasis on anthropology's evolving engagement with the selected field. The course offers a unique opportunity to be acquainted with diverse aspects of the methodological, epistemological and theoretical of the research process, aspects that lie at the very basis of anthropological analysis and practice, and of ethnographic production.

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Provide an overview of the field of study addressed in the course, with particular reference to its history and theoretical and methodological debates [KNOWLEDGE]
- Explain the current state-of-art of research in the field of study addressed in the course [KNOWLEDGE]
- Explain the various methodological and theoretical considerations that must be taken in order to further develop the field of study [SKILLS]
- Apply key concepts and perspectives from the course and its field of study independently, in the understanding and analysis of local and global processes [GENERAL COMPETENCE]

Course theme spring 2016:

This is an advanced theory course on anthropology and comparison. The course will give an introduction to the role of comparison in the history of anthropological theory. Comparison is foundational to anthropology, both theoretically and methodologically. It is however rarely questioned and discussed as such. Rather, it is often a taken for granted, and implicit, aspect of our work. In this course we will unpack and discuss some of the main challenges and theoretical problems implied in different methods of comparison. We will look at the ways in which different schools and theoretical directions have developed and practiced comparative methods.

Key current positions in anthropological theory will be presented and discussed, for instance the implications of what has been called "the ontological turn" in anthropology for the comparative potential of the discipline.

These problems will be discussed in relation to ethnographies developed in the Gender and Pentecostalism research group, and the lectures will be based on different chapters of a book manuscript currently under production. The course will be given in English and is recommended for MA students and advanced BA students.

SANT 285-01 AUTUMN 2017

The Global Anthropology of Climate Change

Course lecturer: Professor Edvard Hviding

Climate change is often said to be the greatest global challenge of our time. In December 2015, all 195 countries of the world reached a shared decision for the first time in history: this

unprecedented consensus was the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that concluded COP21, the 21st ‘Conference of the Parties’ of the UNFCCC. But climate change is also a contested topic in contemporary political debate and activism, and disagreement over climate change can as such be seen as a prime manifestation of ‘post-factual’ conditions, in which the assumed truths of science are denied or cast into doubt. In the words of prominent climate scientist Mike Hulme, climate change is ‘an environmental, cultural and political phenomenon which is reshaping the way we think about ourselves, our societies and humanity’s place on Earth’ – and it is something on which humans disagree. Meanwhile, ethnography from every corner of the world increasingly conveys messages about how local people perceive, suffer from, react and respond to, and express existential uncertainties from the tangible effects of global warming. The course takes these arguments and observations as its starting point, and examines how anthropology is responding to the empirical and analytical challenges represented by worldwide consequences of climate change – from the melting ice of the Arctic to the rising seas of the Pacific, and in the meeting rooms of global conferences. Climate change is simultaneously a local factor of environmental change, a scientific field of advanced study, and a global political discourse. While anthropologists have traditionally been familiar with the localised places of human settlement and activity where people tend to experience the surrounding environment of mountain, forest, savanna, river or ocean in rather direct ways, the character of climate change as both local environmental experience and global discourse requires new anthropological approaches that range beyond the local and that connect many different levels of scale. In this, anthropology has a potential for expanding into a channel for interdisciplinary relationships – integrating perspectives on global climate change that range across the natural and social sciences and humanities, from poetry to oceanography.

BOOKS

Crate, Susan A. and Mark Nuttall (eds) 2016. *Anthropology and Climate Change: From Actions to Transformations*. London: Routledge. 450p.

Dove, Michael (ed) *The Anthropology of Climate Change: An Historical Reader*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. 344p.

Hulme, Mike 2009. *Why We Disagree About Climate Change: Understanding Controversy, Inaction and Opportunity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 430p.

Jetnil-Kijiner, Kathy 2017. *Iep Jāltok: Poems from a Marshallese Daughter*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. 80p.

ARTICLES

Barnes, Jessica et.al. 2013. ‘Contribution of anthropology to the study of climate change.’ *Nature Climate Change*, 3: 541-544. 4p. [doi:10.1038/nclimate1775]

Hviding, Edvard 2016. ‘Europe and the Pacific: Engaging Anthropology in EU Policy-Making and Development Cooperation’, in *Engaged Anthropology: Views from Scandinavia*, Tone Bringa & Synnøve N. Bendixsen (eds.), 147-166. New York: Palgrave-MacMillan. 19p. [doi 10.1007/978-3-319-40484-4_8]

Nicholls, Robert J. and Anny Cazenave 2010. 'Sea-Level Rise and Its Impact on Coastal Zones'. *Science*, 328 (5985), 1517-1520. [doi: 10.1126/science.1185782]

Rudiak-Gould, Peter 2013. 'We Have Seen it with Our Own Eyes': Why We Disagree on Climate Change Visibility. *Weather, Climate, and Society*, 5: 120-132.