

ANTH 200: Human Nature
Winter 2023 University of California, San Diego

Time/Zoom: Thurs 3:30-6:20; SSB 102

Instructor: Joseph Hankins; office hours Fri 10-12: <https://tinyurl.com/yckxbpx4>

Overview

This seminar explores the unfolding relationship between the human and the environments in which we live. We will approach this abundant literature through 1) an examination of relationships between the urban and the rural under contemporary racial capitalism and settler colonialism and 2) an examination of what has been called the “ontological turn” in anthropology and social sciences more generally, with attention to the possibilities and limitations of this turn in expanding other ways of living that stymie any easy human/nature split.

Obligations

Participation: Come to class ready to *listen* and to *talk*. Each activity is equally important in establishing yourself as part of this class and as an intellectual interlocutor more generally; be attentive to how you distribute your energy between these two tasks.

Discussion Questions: 7 times over the course of the quarter, post to the google drive 3 questions about the readings by 7am the day of each class. These questions can probe things you did not understand, or that you think are crucial to understanding the readings – or their interconnection – for that day. Then choose one question from your colleagues’ questions to (attempt to) answer and to bring to class discussion. Responses and discussion are crucial mechanisms for establishing trust and solidarity in the classroom. Please engage yourself and others with generosity.

Discussant: On the first day of class, you will sign up to serve as the discussant for one of our sessions. Your presentation should not exceed 30 minutes and should provide an overview of the material, a contextualization with respect to other work in the course, and critical engagement with the text and with discussion questions from class colleagues. Please see the reading guide for more instruction.

Final project: Due midnight (11:59pm) March 25 via email.

A 20-page paper (no more than 8000 words) moving through the works and discussions from the class put into context of your research interests. Present the core questions that drive your current research agenda; how do the materials and discussions from the class contribute to, provide grist for, or provoke frustration against which to push that might be useful in your research project? Please do not draw heavily from materials other than what we have covered in class. We will have workshop sessions in class to help you develop your ideas for this project.

Schedule

Wk 1 January 12 – The Nature of Anthropology

- Trouillot, Rolph. 2003. “Making Sense: The Fields in which We Work” in *Global Transformations*. P117-139. (Review “Anthropology and the Savage Slot” as well)
- Wolfe, Patrick. 1999. *Settler Colonialism and the Transformation of Anthropology: The Politics and Poetics of an Ethnographic Event*. Intro and Chp 2: 1-8, 43-68.
- Kauanui, J. Kehaulani. 2016. “‘A Structure, Not an Event’: Settler Colonialism and Enduring Indigeneity.” *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*. 5(1) 5pages.

Wk 2 January 19 – Settler Colonialism and the Organization of Space

- Cronon, William. 1983. *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*. Chps 1, 2, and 4. 58 pages.
- Mar, Tracey Banivanua and Penelope Edmonds. 2010. “Introduction: Making Space in Settler Colonies” in *Making Settler Colonial Space: Perspectives on Race, Place and Identity*, edited by Tracey Banivanua Mar and Penelope Edmonds. Pp. 1-24
- Brown, Nicholas A. 2013. “The Logic of Settler Accumulation in a Landscape of Perpetual Vanishing.” *Settler Colonial Studies*. 4(1): 1-26.
- Rifkin, Mark. 2014. “The Frontier As (Movable) Space of Exception.” *Settler Colonial Studies*. 4(2):176-180.

Wk 3 January 26 – Capitalism’s Urban / Rural Investments

- Smith, Neil. 1984. *Uneven Development: Nature, Capital, and the Production of Space*. Intro, Chps 1, 2, 6: 95 pages.
- Cronon, William. 1995. “The trouble with wilderness; or, getting back to the wrong nature” in *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature*. 24 pages.
- Cronon, William. 1991. *Nature’s Metropolis*. Chps 1-2: 23-96. Available via openaccess here: https://archive.org/details/isbn_9780393308730/mode/2up (might require UCSD ip address / vpn)

Wk 4 February 2 – Nature Control, Social Control

- Federici, Silvia. 2004. *Caliban the Witch*. Intro and chp 2: 11-19, 61-132.
- Moore, Donald, Jake Kosek, and Anand Pandian. 2003. *Race, Nature and the Politics of Difference*. Intro: 1-70.
- Agrawal, Arun. 2005. *Environmentality: Technologies of Government and the Making of Subjects*. Intro: 2-24.

Wk 5 February 9 – Policing Race and Gender as Topographic Depravity

- Finney, Carolyn. 2014. *Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors*. Intro and chp2: 1-50.
- Shah, Nayan. 2012. *Stranger Intimacy: Contesting Race, Sexuality and the Law in the North American West*. Intro: 12-23.
- Asaka, Ikuko. 2017. *Tropical Freedoms: Climate, Settler Colonialism, and Black Exclusion in the Age of Emancipation*. Intro, chp 1, 4: 1-52, 111-138. (available electronically through the UCSD library)

Wk 6 February 16 – An “Ontological Turn”

- Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo. 1998. “Cosmological Deixis and Amerindian Perspectivism.” *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 4(3):469-488.
- Jensen, Casper Bruun and Atsuro Morita. 2012. “Anthropology as Critique of Reality: A Japanese Turn.” *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 2(2):358-370.
- Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo. 2015. “Who is Afraid of the Ontological Wolf?: Some Comments on an Ongoing Anthropological Debate.” *The Cambridge Journal of Anthropology* 33(1):2-17.
- Graeber, David. 2015. “Radical Alterity is Just Another Way of Saying Reality.” *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 5(2):1-41.
- Holbraad, Martin. 2017. *The Ontological Turn*. Intro: 1-29. (Recommend whole book for those who want more on Wagner, Strathern, Viveiros de Castro)

Wk 7 February 23 – Cosmopolitics

- de la Cadena, Marisol. 2010. “Indigenous Cosmopolitics in the Andes: Conceptual Reflections Beyond ‘Politics’.” *Cultural Anthropology* 25(2):334-370.
- Kohn, Eduardo. 2015. “Anthropology of Ontologies.” *Annual Review of Anthropology* 44:311-327.
- Jensen, Casper Bruun. “New Ontologies? Reflections on Some Recent ‘turns’ in STS, Anthropology and Philosophy.” *Social Anthropology* 25(4):525-45.
- Cepek, Michael. 2015. “There Might be Blood: Oil, Humility, and the Cosmopolitics of a Cofan Petro-being.” *American Ethnologist* 43(4):623-635.

Wk 8 March 2 – Worlding and Posthumanism

- de la Cadena, Marisol and Mario Blaser. 2018. *A World of Many Worlds*. Intro: 1-23.
- Omura, Keiichi, Grant Jun Otsuki, Shiho Satsuka, and Atsuro Morita (eds.). *The World Multiple: The Quotidian Politics of Knowing and Generating Entangled Worlds*. Intro: 1-17.
- Tsing, Anna. 2018. “A Multispecies Ontological Turn?” in *The World Multiple*. 233-247.
- Escobar, Arturo. 2020. *Pluriversal Politics*. Preface to the English Edition and Intro: ix-xxiv, 1-12.
- Bignall, Simone and Daryle Rigney. 2018. “Indigeneity, Posthumanism and Nomad Thought” in *Posthuman Ecologies*. 159-181.
- Sundberg, Juanita. 2014. “Decolonizing Posthumanist Geographies.” *Cultural Geographies* 21(1):33-47.

Wk 9 March 9 – Geontopower and Late Liberalism

- Povinelli, Elizabeth. 2016. *Geontologies*. Intro: 1-29.
- Povinelli, Elizabeth. 2021. *Between Gaia and Ground*. Selections.

Wk 10 March 16 – Entanglements and Subsistence

- Gibson-Graham, J. K. 2009. “Waiting for the Revolution, or How to Smash Capitalism While Working at Home in Your Spare Time.” *Rethinking Marxism* 6(2):10-24.
- Blanchette, Alex. 2020. *Porkopolis: American Animality, Standardized Life, and the Factory Farm*. Intro and Part 5 “Viscera”: 1-30, 203-246.
- Shiva, Vandana and Maria Mies. *Ecofeminism*. Parts 6 and 7: 251-324.

Other recent ethnographies of interest

Making Peace with Nature: Ecological Encounters Along the Korean DMZ – Eleana Kim

Ruderal City: Ecologies of Migration, Race, and Urban Nature in Berlin – Bettina Stoetzer

Avian Reservoirs: Virus Hunters and Birdwatchers in Chinese Sentinel Posts – Frederick Keck

Decolonizing Extinction: The Work of Care in Orangutan Rehabilitation – Juno Salazar Parreñas

In the Shadow of the Palms: More-Than-Human Becomings in West Papua – Sophie Chao