

## Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO)

Academic year 2019-2020

### The Anthropology of Human Rights

**ANSO118 - Autumn - 6 ECTS**

[Schedule & Room](#)

### Course Description

Human rights are one of the most profound legacies of the 20th century, an attempt by politicians, policy makers, scholars, and humanitarians to erect obstacles against future state violence and other crimes against humanity. Over time, human rights have become a global phenomenon with unexpected outcomes and effects. Though developed by nations and transnational in scope, human rights ideas have been adapted and reworked in local contexts worldwide, becoming the object of as well as a resource for popular struggle, state policymaking, and transnational movements. All of this makes human rights a perfect object of anthropological inquiry: human rights are at once a global force and a set of resources that find distinct expressions in a variety of local settings. This course examines the historical origins and expansion of human rights thinking, and the impacts this has had on national formations, local contexts and individual subjectivities. It explores the various ways in which anthropologists have studied human rights and their specific contribution to this interdisciplinary field of study. Students will become familiar with classic ethnographies of human rights struggles in local contexts as well as more recent ones that examine the global institutions and transnational networks via which human rights are produced.

### > PROFESSOR

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## Syllabus

### Teaching Method

The course is taught using a diversity of teaching methods and resources. In addition to weekly readings, students are encouraged to watch films (all films selected for this course are available via this link: <https://vimeopro.com/graduateinstitutelibrary/the-anthropology-of-human-rights> Password: ANSO118), reflect on contemporary world affairs by liaising debates discussed in class with current

news, and prepare questions/comments prior to seminars. Seminars will be composed of short interactive lectures, followed by classroom discussions, debates and exercises as well as guest lectures by human rights experts and activists.

### **Learning Outcome**

By the end of the module, it is intended that students will have the following learning outcomes:

1. Describe major trends in the historiography of human rights.
2. Summarize key debates in the anthropology of human rights (cultural relativism vs universalism, global institutions vs local reception, the paradoxical effects of the bureaucratization of human rights)
3. Compare and appraise diverse disciplinary perspectives on human rights (law; anthropology; international relations; history).
4. Identify and assess the contemporary international human rights regime (United Nations; regional institutions; national bodies; international and local advocates).
5. Apply human rights to broader concerns (humanitarianism; post-conflict reconstruction).

### **Transferable, practical and generic skills**

1. Refined ability to identify and access appropriate primary and secondary research resources.
2. Ability to collate and critically analyse those resources in relation to complex issues in the field
3. Ability to present concise and cogently structured arguments, both orally and in writing
4. Ability to work together with others as well as independently, including effective time management
5. Ability to deploy a range of communication and information technology skills.

### **Assessment**

Students' performance will be evaluated on the basis of classroom participation and the quality of the written assignments. Participants have to show familiarity with the assigned readings that will be discussed in class.

More precisely students will be requested to:

- Study on a weekly basis the assigned readings and participate actively in classroom discussions.
- Discuss some readings at least once during the semester; be capable of situating them in relation to readings for other weeks in order to highlight the general thrust of the course; pose a few questions to initiate the debate.
- Submit an essay outline of no more than 2000 words (title; personal motivation; questions; relevance of the topic; short bibliography), due by **28 November 2019** to be discussed with the instructor. The topic should be one related to the course, but it is not restricted to the lectures' titles and assigned readings.
- Write a final paper of no more than 5000 words (excluding bibliography and annexes), due by **19 December 2019**, building on the essay outline.

Grade will be determined as follows: 20% for general participation in class; 20% for the outline; 60% for the final essay.

The seminar provides 6 ECTS. Attendance is mandatory and represents 1 ECTS, the readings, presentation and discussion 2 ECTS, and the written papers 3 ECTS.

## Course Policies

- Papers should be written in English or French, double-spaced, using standard 12 point font, with 1 inch margins. The student's name, the paper's title, the date, the course's title and page numbers must be mentioned.
- Quotations and bibliography must follow the Chicago Manual of Style or the Harvard Referencing System.
- Students must hand in papers on time electronically as a Word file (no need to provide a hard copy). Papers that are sent late without a valid reason or importantly exceed the word limit will not receive a grade higher than 4.0.
- Students who missed more than two classes without being excused by the instructor will not receive a grade higher than 4.0.
- Plagiarism constitutes a breach of academic integrity and will not be tolerated. Students who present the work of others as their own will receive a 0.
- Assigned readings will be made available as electronic reserve on the class' website.

# Course Outline

## **PART 1: HISTORY, LAW, ANTHROPOLOGY**

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### **Session 1 – The Historical Emergence of Human Rights (September 19)**

#### Compulsory readings:

- Samuel Moyn,  
2012. "Substance, Scale, and Saliency: The Recent Historiography of Human Rights." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 8: 123-40.
- Wasserstrom, Jeffrey N., Greg Grandin, Lynn Hunt, and Marilyn B. Young.  
2007. *Human Rights and Revolutions*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. (Read Lynn Hunt's chapter)
- Slotte, Pamela, Miia Halme-Tuomisaari.  
2015. *Revisiting the Origins of Human Rights*. Cambridge University Press. (Introduction)

#### Additional readings:

- Hunt, Lynn.  
2008. *Inventing Human Rights: A History*. W. W. Norton & Company.
- Moyn, Samuel.  
2010. *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History*. Harvard University Press.
- Ishay, Micheline R.  
2008. *The History of Human Rights: From Ancient Times to the Globalization Era*. University of California Press. Stammers, Neil.  
2009. *Human Rights and Social Movements*. Pluto Press.
- Rajagopal, Balakrishnan.  
2003. *International law from below: development, social movements, and Third World resistance*. Cambridge University Press.

### **Session 2 – The Anthropology of Law, Dispute Processes and Legal Pluralism (September 26)**

#### Compulsory readings:

- Nader, Laura.  
1989. « The Crown, the Colonists and the Course of Zapotec Village Law ». In June Starr and Jane Collier (eds). *History and Power in the Study of Law: New Directions in Legal Anthropology*. Cornell University Press.
- Nader, Laura.  
2001. "The Underside of Conflict Management - in Africa and Elsewhere". *IDS Bulletin*. Vol 32(1)
- Randeria, Shalini  
2003. Cunning states and unaccountable international institutions: legal plurality, social movements and rights of local communities to common property resources. *European Journal of Sociology/Archives Européennes de Sociologie*, 44(1), pp.27-60.
- Beyer, Judith.  
2015. "Customizations of Law: Courts of Elders (Aksakal Courts) in Rural and Urban Kyrgyzstan". *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, 38(1), pp.53-71.

#### Further readings

- Gluckman, Max,  
2017. *Politics, Law and Ritual in Tribal Society*. Routledge. (chapter 5 : Dispute and settlement)
- Nader, Laura.

1990. *Harmony ideology: Justice and control in a Zapotec mountain village*. Stanford University Press (introduction)

Nader, Laura.

1996. "Coercive harmony: The political economy of legal models." *Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers*: 1-13.

### **Session 3 – Anthropologists and human rights : From rejection to active engagement (October 3)**

#### Compulsory readings:

American Anthropological Association

1947 'Statement on Human Rights', *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 49, No. 4. [Read: Washburn, W. (1987) 'Cultural Relativism, Human Rights and the AAA', *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 89, No. 4].

Goodale, Mark.

2006. « Introduction to "Anthropology and Human Rights in a New Key" ». *American Anthropologist* 108 (1): 1- 8.

Goodale, Mark.

2006. 'Toward a Critical Anthropology of Human Rights'. *Current Anthropology* 47 (3): 485–511.

Wilson, Richard Ashby.

2006. 'Afterword to "Anthropology and Human Rights in a New Key": The Social Life of Human Rights'. *American Anthropologist* 108 (1): 77–83.

#### Further Readings:

Farmer, Paul.

2004. *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor* (California Series in Public Anthropology).

Sanford, Victoria.

2003. *Buried Secrets: Truth and Human Rights in Guatemala*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Messer, E.

1993. 'Anthropology and Human Rights', *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 22.

Sanford, Victoria.

2003. *Buried Secrets: Truth and Human Rights in Guatemala*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Speed, Shannon.

2006. 'At the Crossroads of Human Rights and Anthropology: Toward a Critically Engaged Activist Research'. *American Anthropologist* 108 (1): 66–76.

Wilson, Richard.

1997. *Human Rights, Culture and Context: Anthropological Perspectives*. Pluto Press.

Tate, Winifred.

2007. *Counting the Dead: The Culture and Politics of Human Rights Activism in Colombia*. Berkeley, Los Angeles: University of California Press.

## **PART 2 : CULTURE AND RIGHTS**

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### **Session 4 – The Universalism vs Cultural Relativism debate (October 10)**

#### Compulsory readings

Cowan, Jane K.

2006. 'Culture and Rights after Culture and Rights'. *American Anthropologist* 108 (1): 9–24.

Merry, Sally Engle.

2003. 'Human Rights Law and the Demonization of Culture (And Anthropology Along the Way)'. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 26 (1): 55–76.

Montgomery, Heather. 2001. 'Imposing rights? A case study of child prostitution in

Thailand.' In Cowan and al. *Culture and rights: Anthropological perspectives*: 80-101.  
Archambault, Caroline S. "Ethnographic empathy and the social context of rights: "Rescuing"  
Maasai girls from early marriage." *American Anthropologist* 113.4 (2011): 632-643

Additional readings:

Benhabib, S.

2002. *The Claims of Culture: Equality and Diversity in the Global Era*  
(Princeton: Princeton University Press).

Cowan, Jane K., Marie-Bénédicte Dembour, et Richard Wilson.

2001. *Culture and rights: Anthropological Perspectives*. Cambridge University Press.  
(Introduction)

Dembour, M. – B.

1996. 'Human rights talk and anthropological ambivalence: The  
particular context of universal claims' in Harris, O. (ed.) *Inside and Outside the Law :  
Anthropological Studies of Authority and Ambiguity* (London : Routledge).

2001. 'Following the Movement of a Pendulum: Between  
Universalism and Relativism' in Cowan, J., M. Dembour and R. Wilson (eds) *Culture and  
Rights: Anthropological Perspectives* (Cambridge: CUP).

Donnelly, J.

2007. 'The Relative Universality of Human Rights', *Human Rights  
Quarterly*, Vol. 29, No. 2. [See also responses in *Human Rights Quarterly* Vol. 30, No. 1].

Engelke, M.

1999. 'We Wondered What Human Rights He was talking About:  
human rights, homosexuality and the Zimbabwean International Book Fair', *Critique of  
Anthropology*, Vol. 19, No. 3. Available electronically through the library website.

Engle, Karen.

2001. « From Skepticism to Embrace: Human Rights and the American Anthropological  
Association from 1947-1999 ». *Human Rights Quarterly* 23 (3): 536- 59.

Geertz, C.

1984. 'Anti Anti-relativism', *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 86, No. 2.

Goodale, M. and S. E. Merry (eds)

2007. *The Practice of Human Rights: Tracking Law Between the Global and the Local*.  
(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Harris-Short, S.

2003. 'International Human Rights Law: Imperialist, Inept and  
Ineffective? Cultural Relativism and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child', *Human  
Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 25 No.

Howell, S.

2003. 'The Diffusion of Moral Values in a Global Perspective', in T. H.  
Eriksen (eds) *Globalisation: Studies in Anthropology*. (London: Pluto).

Ibhawoh, B.

2000. 'Between Culture and Constitution: Evaluating the Cultural  
Legitimacy of Human Rights in the African State', *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 22, No. 3.

Levitt, P., and S. Merry

2009. 'Vernacularization on the ground: local uses of global women's rights in Peru, China,  
India and the United States', *Global Networks*, Vol. 9 No. 4.

Merry, Sally Engle.

2001. 'Changing Rights, Changing Culture'. In Cowan et al. (Eds) *Culture and rights:  
Anthropological perspectives*. Cambridge University Press.

Mutua, M.

2002. *Human Rights: A Political and Cultural Critique* (Philadelphia: University of  
Pennsylvania).

Pollis, A.

2000. 'A New Universalism' in Pollis, A. and P. Schwab (eds) *Human Rights: New Perspectives, New Realities* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner).
- Tilly, J. T.  
2000. 'Cultural Relativism', *Human Rights Quarterly* Vol. 22, No. 2.
- Waltz, S. E.  
2004 'Universal Human Rights: The Contribution of Muslim States', *Human rights quarterly*, Vol. 26 No. 4.
- Wilson, Richard  
1997. 'Human Rights, Culture and Context: An Introduction' Wilson, R. (ed.) *Human Rights, Culture and Context, Anthropological Perspectives* (London: Pluto Press).

## **Session 5 – Vernacularization, Translation, Adaptation, Frictions (October 17)**

### Compulsory readings

- Merry, Sally Engle  
1997. 'Legal Pluralism and Transnational Culture: The Ka Ho'okolokolonui Kanaka Maoli Tribunal, Hawai'i, 1993' in Wilson, R. (ed.) *Human Rights, Culture and Context* (London: Pluto).
- Cheng, S.  
2011. 'The Paradox of Vernacularization: Women's Human Rights and the Gendering of Nationhood', *Anthropological Quarterly* , Vol. 84, No. 2.
- Englund, Harri.  
2006. *Prisoners of Freedom: Human Rights and the African Poor*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Read Intro and chapt 2)
- Curtis, Jennifer.  
2014. *Human Rights as War by Other Means: Peace Politics in Northern Ireland*. University of Pennsylvania Press. (Read Chapt 1 and 7)

### Additional readings

- Tagliarinaa, D.  
2015. 'Power, privilege and rights: how the powerful and powerless create a vernacular of rights', *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 36, No. 6.
- Englund, H.  
2012. *Human Rights and Village Headmen in Malawi: Translation beyond Vernacularization*. In J.Eckert, B. Donahoe, C. Strümpell and Z. Özlem Biner (eds) *Law against the State: Ethnographic Forays into Law's Transformations*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
- Goldstein, D.  
2007. 'Human Rights as Culprit, Human Rights as Victim: Rights and Security in the State of Exception', in M. Goodale and S. E. Merry (eds) *The Practice of Human Rights: Tracking Law Between the Global and the Local*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
- Goldstein, D.  
2012. 'Whose Vernacular? Translating Human Rights in Local Context', in Goodale M. (ed.) *Human Rights at the Crossroads* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).
- Goodale, M.  
2007. 'Locating Rights, Envisioning Law Between the Global and the Local', in Goodale, M. and S. E. Merry (eds) *The Practice of Human Rights: Tracking Law Between the Global and the Local*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- McCorquodale, R. and R. Fairbrother  
1999. 'Globalization and Human Rights', *Human Rights Quarterly* Vol. 21, No. 3.
- McGrew, A. G.  
1998. 'Human rights in a global age: Coming to terms with globalisation' in Evans, T. (ed.)

- Human Rights Fifty Years On: A Reappraisal (Manchester: MUP).
- Merry, Sally Engle  
2005. 'Anthropology and Activism', *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, Vol. 28 No. 2.
- Merry, S. and R. Stern  
2005. 'The Female Inheritance Movement in Hong Kong: Theorizing the Local/Global Interface', *Current Anthropology*, Vol. 46, No. 3.
- Murray, D. A. B.  
2006. 'Who's right? Human rights, sexual rights and social change in Barbados', *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, Vol. 8 No. 3.
- Preis, A.  
1996. 'Human Rights as Cultural Practice: An Anthropological Critique', *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 18, No. 2.
- Thomas, F.  
2007. 'Global Rights, Local Realities: Negotiating Gender Equality and Sexual Rights in the Caprivi Region, Namibia', *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, Vol. 9 No. 6.
- Zwart, T.  
2012. 'Using Local Culture to Further the Implementation of International Human Rights: The Receptor Approach', *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 34, No. 2.
- Meernik, J. et al  
2012. 'The Impact of Human Rights Organizations on Naming and Shaming Campaigns', *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 56.
- Mihr, A., and H. P. Schmitz  
2007. 'Human Rights Education (HRE) and Transnational Activism', *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 29 No. 4.
- Nelson, P. J., and E. Dorsey  
2008. *New Rights Advocacy: Changing Strategies of Development and Human Rights NGOs*. (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press).
- Orentlicher, D. F.  
1990. 'Bearing Witness: the Art and Science of Human Rights Fact-Finding', *Harvard Human Rights Journal*, Vol. 83
- Smith, J et al  
1998. 'Globalizing Human Rights: The Work of Transnational Human Rights NGOs in the 1990s', *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 20, No. 2.
- Tate, W.  
2007. *Counting the Dead : The Culture and Politics of Human Rights Activism in Colombia*. Berkeley, Calif. ; London: University of California Press.
- Welch, C. E.  
2000. *NGOs and Human Rights: Promise and Performance*. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press).
- Wilson, R.  
1997. 'Representing Human Rights Violations: Social Contexts and Subjectivities' in Wilson, R. (ed.) *Human Rights, Culture and Context, Anthropological Perspectives* (London: Pluto Press).

## **Session 6 – The Politics of Culture (1): Indigenous Rights (October 24)**

### Compulsory readings

- Wright, Susan  
1998. "The Politicization of 'Culture'." *Anthropology today*. Vol 14(1). Pp 7-15.
- Kuper, Adam  
2003. 'The Return of the Native', *Current Anthropology*, Vol. 44, No. 3.  
[See Kenrick, J., and J. Lewis (2004) 'Indigenous Peoples' Rights and the Politics of the Term 'Indigenous'', *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 20 No. 2.]



- Conklin, Beth  
1997. 'Body paint, feathers, and VCRs: aesthetics and authenticity in Amazonian activism', *American Ethnologist*, 24, No. 4.
- Speed, Shanon  
2002. Global discourses on the local terrain: human rights and indigenous identity in Chiapas. *Cultural Dynamics*, 14(2), 205-228.

Further readings

- Barnard, A.  
2006. 'Kalahari revisionism, Vienna and the 'indigenous peoples' debate', *Social Anthropology*, Volume 14, No. 1.
- Bowen J. R.  
2000. 'Should we have a universal concept of "Indigenous People's" Rights?: Ethnicity and essentialism in the twenty-first century', *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 16, No. 4
- Brulotte, R.  
2009. "'Yo soy nativo de aquí": The Ambiguities of Race and Indigeneity in Oaxacan Craft Tourism', *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* Vol. 14, No. 2.
- Chernela J.  
2006. 'Recent Advances and Retreats in Indigenous Rights in Brazil', *Journal of Latin American Anthropology*, Vol. 11, No. 1.
- Clifford, J.  
1988. 'Identity in Mashpee' in Clifford, J. *The Predicament of Culture: Twentieth Century Ethnography, Literature, and Art* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press).
- Clifford, J.  
2000. 'Taking Identity Politics Seriously' in, P. Gilroy, L. Grossberg, and A. McRobbie, eds. *Without Guarantees: In Honour of Stuart Hall*. London Verso.
- Colchester M.  
2002 'Indigenous Rights and the Collective Consciousness', *Anthropology Today* 18:1-3.
- Conklin B A.  
2002. 'Shamans versus pirates in the Amazonian treasure chest', *American anthropologist* Vol. 104, No. 4.
- Corntassel, J.  
2008. 'Towards Sustainable Self-Determination: Rethinking the Contemporary Indigenous Rights Discourse', *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*, Vol. 33, No. 1.
- French, J. F.  
2002. 'Dancing for Land: Law-Making and Cultural Performance in Northeastern Brazil', *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* Vol. 25, No. 1.
- Goggin, S.  
2011. 'Human rights and 'primitive' culture: misrepresentations of indigenous life', *The International Journal of Human Rights*, Vol. 15, No. 6.
- Guenther M, Kenrick J, Kuper A, Plaice E, Thuen T, et al.  
2006. 'Discussion: the concept of indigeneity', *Social Anthropology* Vol. 14, No. 1.
- Handler, R.  
1986. 'Authenticity', *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 2 No. 1.
- Hodgson D.  
2002. 'Precarious alliances: the cultural politics and structural predicaments of the indigenous rights movement in Tanzania', *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 104, No. 4.
- Hodgson, D.  
2002. 'Comparative Perspectives on the Indigenous Rights Movement in Africa and the Americas', *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 104. No. 4.
- Holder, C. L. and J. J. Corntassel  
2002. 'Indigenous Peoples and Multicultural Citizenship: Bridging Collective and Individual Rights', *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 24, No. 1.

- Jackson, J. E.  
2007. 'Rights to Indigenous Culture in Colombia', in Goodale, M. and S. E. Merry (eds) *The Practice of Human Rights: Tracking Law Between the Global and the Local*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Jung C.  
2004. 'The politics of indigenous identity: neoliberalism, cultural rights, and the Mexican Zapatistas', *Social Research*, Vol. 70, No. 2.
- Karlsson B G.  
2003. 'Anthropology and the 'Indigenous Slot': Claims to and Debates about Indigenous Peoples' Status in India,' *Critique of Anthropology*, Vol. 23, No. 4.
- Kenrick, J. and J. Lewis  
2004. "Indigenous peoples' rights and the politics of the term 'indigenous'.", in *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 20. No. 2.
- Kuper, A.  
2005. *The Reinvention of Primitive Society: Transformations of a Myth*, 2nd ed. edition. (London: Routledge).
- Lee R. B.  
2006. 'Twenty-first century indigenism', *Anthropological Theory*, Vol. 6, No. 4.
- McIntosh I, Colchester M, Bowen J, Rosngren D.  
2002. 'Defining oneself and being defined as, indigenous', *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 18, No. 6.
- Muehlebach A.  
2001. "'Making place" at the United Nations: indigenous cultural politics at the U.N. working group on indigenous populations', *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 16, No. 3.
- Niezen, R.  
2003. *The Origins of Indigenism: Human Rights and the Politics of Identity*. (Berkeley ; London: University of California Press)
- Oakdale S.  
2004. 'The culture-conscious Brazilian Indian: representing and reworking Indianness in Kayabi political discourse', *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 31, No. 1.
- Parker E.  
1992. 'Forest islands and Kayapo resource management in Amazonia - a reappraisal of the Apete', *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 94, No. 2.
- Povinelli, E. A.  
2002. *The Cunning of Recognition: Indigenous Alterities and the Making of Australian Multiculturalism*. (Durham: Duke University Press).
- Samson, C.  
2001 'Rights as the Reward for Simulated Cultural Sameness: the Innu in the Canadian Colonial Context' in Cowan, J., M. Dembour and R. Wilson *Culture and Rights: Anthropological Perspectives* (Cambridge: CUP).
- Short, D.  
2007. 'The Social Construction of Indigenous 'Native Title' Land Rights in Australia', *Current Sociology*, Vol. 55 No. 6.
- Sissons, J.  
1993. 'The Systematisation of Tradition: Maori Culture as a Strategic Resource', *Oceania*, Vol. 64.
- Speed, S.  
2007. *Rights in Rebellion: Indigenous Struggle and Human Rights in Chiapas* (Stanford: Stanford University Press).
- Sylvain, R.  
2015. 'Foragers and fictions in the Kalahari: Indigenous identities and the politics of deconstruction', *Anthropological Theory*, Vol. 15 No. 2.
- Turner, T.  
1991. 'Representing, resisting, rethinking: Historical Transformations of Kayapo Culture and Anthropological Consciousness' in Stocking, G. (ed.) *Colonial Situations:*

*History of Anthropology* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press).

## **Session 7 – The Politics of Culture (2): Islam and women’s rights (October 31)**

### Compulsory readings

Abu-Lughod, Lila.

2002. ‘Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others’. *American Anthropologist* 104 (3): 783–90.

Billaud, Julie.

2009. Visible under the Veil: Dissimulation, Performance and Agency in an Islamic Public Space. *Journal of International Women’s Studies* 11.1 (2009): 120-135.

Mir-Hosseini, Ziba.

2006. Muslim Women’s Quest for Equality: Between Islamic Law and Feminism. *Critical inquiry*, 32(4), pp.629-645.

Mir-Hosseini, Ziba.

2002. The Conservative–Reformist Conflict Over Women’s Rights in Iran. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, 16(1), pp.37-53.

### Aslo watch

Ziba Mir Hosseini’s 1997 documentary film « Divorce Iranian Style ».

Movie can be accessed via this link:

<https://vimeopro.com/graduateinstitutelibrary/the-anthropology-of-human-rights>

Password: ANSO118

### Additional readings:

Billaud, Julie.

2013. “A Simple Way of Getting to Paradise”: Ethics and Affects in British Sharia Councils. In Göle (Eds) *Islam and public controversy in Europe*, pp.159-172.

Babül, Elif M.

2015. The Paradox of Protection: Human rights, the Masculinist State, and the Moral Economy of Gratitude in Turkey. *American Ethnologist* 42(1): 116-130.

## **PART 3: HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBALIZATION – BEYOND THE LOCAL/GLOBAL**

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### **Session 8 – Global Governance: Assemblages, Frictions, Flows (November 7 – tutor in NYC. Course taught by TA?)**

#### Compulsory readings

Tsing, Anna.

2000. “The Global Situation”. *Cultural Anthropology*, 15(3), pp.327-360.

Babül, Elif M.

2012. ‘Training Bureaucrats, Practicing for Europe: Negotiating Bureaucratic Authority and Governmental Legitimacy in Turkey’. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 35 (1): 30–52.

Allen, Lori.

2013. *The Rise and Fall of Human Rights: Cynicism and Politics in Occupied Palestine*. Stanford University Press. (Read Intro and chapt 2)

Speed, Shannon.

2005. ‘Dangerous Discourses’. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 28 (1): 29–51.

### Additional readings:

Feldman, Gregory.

2011. 'Illuminating the Apparatus: Steps toward a Nonlocal Ethnography of Global Governance'. In *Policy Worlds: Anthropology and the Analysis of Contemporary Power*, Berghahn Books. London: Shore, Wright, Però.

Xavier Inda, Jonathan and Renato Rosaldo.

2002. *The Anthropology of Globalization: A Reader*. Blackwell. (Introduction and chapter 2)

Collier, Stephen.

2006. "Global assemblages". *Theory, Culture & Society*, 23(2-3), pp.399-401.

Tsing, Anna.

2011. *Friction: An ethnography of global connection*. Princeton University Press.

Appadurai, Arjun.

1996. *Modernity at Large: cultural dimensions of globalization*. U of Minnesota Press.

Ong, Aihwa and Collier, Stephen.

2007. *Global assemblages: Technology, Politics and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*. Blackwell (Introduction).

### **Session 9 – Transnational activism and advocacy (November 14) – Intervention of Charles Heller, Forensic Oceanography project.**

#### Compulsory readings

Merry, Sally Engle.

2006. 'Transnational Human Rights and Local Activism: Mapping the Middle'. *American Anthropologist* 108 (1): 38–51.

Heller, Charles and Pezzani, Lorenzo

2014. Liquid traces: Investigating the deaths of migrants at the EU's maritime frontier. *Revue européenne des migrations internationales*, 30(3), pp.71-107.

Pezzani, Lorenzo, & Heller, Charles

2013. A disobedient gaze: strategic interventions in the knowledge (s) of maritime borders. *Postcolonial Studies*, 16(3), 289-298.

#### Additional Readings

Goodale, M.

2007. 'Locating Rights, Envisioning Law Between the Global and the Local', in Goodale, M. and S. E. Merry (eds) *The Practice of Human Rights: Tracking Law Between the Global and the Local*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

McLagan, Meg.

2006. "Introduction: Making Human Rights Claims Public". *American Anthropologist*, 108(1), pp.191-195.

### **Session 10 – The UN human rights system (November 21)**

#### Compulsory readings

Cowan, Jane, and Julie Billaud.

2015. 'Between Learning and Schooling: The Politics of Human Rights Monitoring at the Universal Periodic Review'. *Third World Quarterly* 36 (3).

Kelly, Tobias.

2009. 'The UN Committee Against Torture: Human Rights Monitoring and the Legal Recognition of Cruelty'. *Human Rights Quarterly* 31 (3): 777–800.

Sapignoli, Maria.

2017. A Kaleidoscopic Institutional Form: Expertise and Transformation in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In Niezen and Sapignoli (Ed.) *Palaces of Hope: The Anthropology of Global Organizations*, pp.87-105.

Halme-Tuomisaari, Miia.  
2018. "Methodologically blonde at the UN in a tactical quest for inclusion".  
*Social Anthropology*. 26(4).

#### Additional readings

Cowan, Jane. 2013. 'Before Audit Culture: A Genealogy of International Oversight of Rights'. In  
*The Gloss of Harmony: The Politics of Policy-Making in Multilateral Organisations*, Pluto press.  
London.

## **PART 4: HUMAN RIGHT BUREAUCRACY AND 'GOOD GOVERNANCE'**

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### **Session 11 – Transparency, Good governance, Expertise (November 28)**

#### **Deadline for submitting your essay outline.**

#### Compulsory readings

Ballesteros S, Andrea.  
2012. Transparency Short-Circuited: Laughter and Numbers in Costa Rican Water Politics.  
*PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, 35(2), pp.223-241.

Bear, Laura, and Nayanika Mathur.  
2015. 'Remaking the Public Good: A New Anthropology of Bureaucracy'. *The Cambridge Journal of Anthropology* 33 (1): 18–34.

Hetherington, Gregg.  
2012. 'Agency, Scale, and the Ethnography of Transparency'. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 35 (2): 242–47.

Billaud, Julie.  
2015. 'Keepers of the Truth: Producing "transparent" Documents for the Universal Periodic Review'. In *Human Rights and the Universal Periodic Review: Rituals and Ritualism*, edited by Hilary Charlesworth and Emma Larking. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

#### Additional readings

Ballesteros S., Andrea.  
2012. 'Transparency in Triads'. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 35 (2): 160–66.

Eltringham, Nigel.  
2013. 'Illuminating the broader context': anthropological and historical knowledge at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 19 (2): 338-355.

Thomson, Marnie Jane.  
2012. 'Black Boxes of Bureaucracy: Transparency and Opacity in the Resettlement Process of Congolese Refugees'. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 35 (2): 186–205.

Hetherington, Gregg.  
2011. *Guerrilla Auditors: The Politics of Transparency in Neoliberal Paraguay*. Duke University Press.

Kingsbury, Benedict.  
1997. 'The Concept of Compliance as a Function of Competing Conceptions of International Law'. *Michigan Journal of International Law* 19: 345.

Mathur, Nayanika.  
2012. 'Transparent-Making Documents and the Crisis of Implementation: A Rural Employment Law and Development Bureaucracy in India'. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 35 (2): 167–85.

———. 2014. '7 The Reign of Terror of the Big Cat: Bureaucracy and the Mediation of Social Times in

- the Indian Himalaya'. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 20: 148–65.
- Riles, Annelise.  
2006. 'Anthropology, Human Rights, and Legal Knowledge: Culture in the Iron Cage'. *American Anthropologist* 108 (1): 52–65.
- . 2006b. *Documents: Artefacts of Modern Knowledge*. University of Michigan press.
- Sharma, Aradhana.  
2013. 'State Transparency after the Neoliberal Turn: The Politics, Limits, and Paradoxes of India's Right to Information Law'. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 36 (2): 308–25.
- Strathern, Marilyn.  
2000. 'The Tyranny of Transparency'. *British Educational Research Journal* 26 (3): 309–21.
- Webb, Martin.  
2012. 'Activating Citizens, Remaking Brokerage: Transparency Activism, Ethical Scenes, and the Urban Poor in Delhi'. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 35 (2): 206–22.

## **Session 12 – Producing Accountability: Documents, audit cultures, indicators (December 5)**

### Compulsory readings :

- Riles, Annelise.  
1998. 'Infinity within the Brackets'. *American Ethnologist* 25 (3): 378–98.
- Merry, Sally Engle.  
2011. 'Measuring the World: Indicators, Human Rights, and Global Governance: With CA Comment by John M. Conley'. *Current Anthropology* 52 (S3): S83–95.
- Davis, Kevin E., Benedict Kingsbury, and Sally Engle Merry.  
2012. 'Indicators as a Technology of Global Governance'. *Law & Society Review* 46 (1): 71–104.
- Garsten, Christina, and Kerstin Jacobsson.  
2011. 'Transparency and Legibility in International Institutions: The UN Global Compact and Post-Political Global Ethics'. *Social Anthropology* 19 (4): 378–93.

### Additional readings

- Löwenheim, Oded.  
2008. 'Examining the State: A Foucauldian Perspective on International "Governance Indicators"'. *Third World Quarterly* 29 (2): 255–74.
- Cabot, Heath.  
2012. 'The Governance of Things: Documenting Limbo in the Greek Asylum Procedure'. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 35 (1): 11–29.
- Garsten, Christina, and Magnus Boström.  
2008. *Organizing Transnational Accountability*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Navaro-Yashin, Yael.  
2007. 'Make-Believe Papers, Legal Forms and the Counterfeit Affective Interactions between Documents and People in Britain and Cyprus'. *Anthropological Theory* 7 (1): 79–98.
- Hull, Matthew S.  
2012. 'Documents and Bureaucracy'. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 41 (1): 251–67.
- Hull, Matthew S.  
2012. *Government of Paper: The Materiality of Bureaucracy in Urban Pakistan*. University of California Press.
- Shore, Chris.  
2008. 'Audit Culture and Illiberal Governance: Universities and the Politics of Accountability'. *Anthropological Theory* 8 (3): 278–98.
- Shore, Chris, and Susan Wright.

2000. 'Coercive Accountability: The Rise of Audit Culture in Higher Education'. In *Audit Cultures: Anthropological Studies in Accountability, Ethics and the Academia*, Routledge.
- Shore, Cris, and Susan Wright.  
1997. *Anthropology of Policy: Critical Perspectives on Governance and Power*. Routledge.
- . 2015a. 'Audit Culture Revisited: Rankings, Ratings, and the Reassembling of Society'. *Current Anthropology* 56 (3): 421–44.
- . 2015b. 'Governing by Numbers: Audit Culture, Rankings and the New World Order'. *Social Anthropology* 23 (1): 22–28.

## **PART 5: HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMANITARIANISM AND POSTWAR TRANSITION**

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### **Session 13 – Human Rights and « democracy building »: the case of Afghanistan (December 12)**

#### Compulsory readings

- Daulatzai, Anila.  
2006. Acknowledging Afghanistan: Notes and queries on an occupation. *Cultural Dynamics*, 18(3), pp.293-311.
- Wimpelmann, Torunn.  
2013. Nexuses of knowledge and power in Afghanistan: the rise and fall of the informal justice assemblage, *Central Asian Survey*, 32:3, 406-422.
- De Lauri, Antonio.  
2013. Law in Afghanistan: A critique of post-2001 reconstruction. *Journal of Critical Globalisation Studies* 6, no. 1 (2013): 4-29.
- Billaud, Julie,  
2012. "The Making of Modern Afghanistan: Reconstruction, Transnational Governance and Gender Politics in the New Islamic Republic," *Anthropology of the Middle East* 7(1), pp. 18-37.

#### Additional readings

- Billaud, Julie.  
2015. *Kabul Carnival: Gender Politics in Postwar Afghanistan*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, Introduction, Chap. 2 & 3.
- De Lauri Antonio.  
2013. "Corruption, Legal Modernization and Judicial Practice in Afghanistan," *Asian Studies Review* 37(4), 2013, pp. 527-545
- De Lauri, Antonio.  
2013. 'Access to Justice and Human Rights in Afghanistan'. *Crime, law and social change*, 60(3), 261-285.

### **Session 14 – Transitional Justice: the ICC, International Tribunals and Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (December 19)**

#### Compulsory readings

- Selimovic, J. M.  
2010. Perpetrators and victims: Local responses to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. *Focaal*, Vol. 57
- Niezen, Ronald.  
2016. Templates and Exclusions: Victim Centrism in Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian residential schools. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 22(4): 920-938.

- Wilson, Richard Ashby.  
2003. Anthropological Studies of National Reconciliation Processes. *Anthropological Theory* 3(3): 367-387.
- Eltringham, Nigel.  
2013. 'Illuminating the broader context': anthropological and historical knowledge at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 19(2): 338-355.

#### Further readings

- Anders, G.  
2014. 'Contesting Expertise: Anthropologists at the Special Court for Sierra Leone', *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, Vol. 20, No. 3.
- Arendt, H.  
1994 [1963] *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. (Harmondsworth: Penguin).
- Eltringham, N.  
2014. "When we walk out; what was it all about?": Views on "new beginnings" from within The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda", *Development and Change*, Vol. 45 No. 3.
- Wilson, R. A.  
2011. 'Through the Lens of International Criminal Law: Comprehending the African Context of Crimes at the International Criminal Court', *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, Vol. 11 No. 1.

#### Films:

- Singer, Henry and Rob Miller.  
2018. *The Trial of Radko Mladic*.
- Panh, Rithy.  
2003. *S21 : The Khmer Rouge Killing Machine*.
- Schroeder, Barbet.  
2007. *Terror's advocate*. (Documentary film on the life and work of Jacques Vergès).
- Stevens, Barry.  
2010. *Prosecutor*. (documentary film which follows the Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo through the first trials of the newly formed International Criminal Court)

All films for this course can be accessed via this link :

<https://vimeopro.com/graduateinstitutelibrary/the-anthropology-of-human-rights>

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