Key Themes in Contemporary Anthropology

The course offers a selective overview of a number of key empirical and theoretical themes or fields of study in contemporary anthropology. The themes and reading lists are replaced on a regular basis to keep the course up to date. The course focuses attention on contextualizing and historicizing the themes in order to offer an understanding of how contemporary anthropology has developed. The overarching theme is “anthropology after globalization.” Intersecting sub-themes that follow from this are: “the global city,” “the anthropology of infrastructure,” “ethnographies of transport.” The course will be organized as a research practicum in which students will read and engage with academic journals and journal articles.

Course Requirements

1) You must attend the lectures and seminars and have prepared for the discussion by doing the readings ahead of time. If you cannot make it to a class, please email the instructor ahead of the meeting.

2) The class will be divided into smaller groups that will be in charge of introducing and leading discussion for one seminar.

3) Each group will read through all the abstracts of articles published in the last 10 years in a leading anthropology journal. The purpose of this exercise is to learn to quickly review articles in order to gain an overview of developments and further key themes in anthropology. Each group will briefly present the results of their discussion during a seminar on January 7 at 1 p.m.

4) Each student will choose some form of urban transportation as the starting point for the final exam. The student will conduct a mini-ethnography during half a day in Stockholm or some other city and use this as the basis for the exam. The ethnography will ideally develop a research problem that will be discussed in relation to at least two of the readings from each of the four sessions. This article will form the basis for the final take-home exam, which must be between 2500 and 3500 words. The exam must be uploaded to Mondo January 15, 2016 by 5 p.m.
Further Information

1) Please note that along with the lectures and seminars listed below, there a session of the writing course with Helena Wulff will be held between 3 and 6 p.m. on December 16 in B600.

2) On either December 17 or 18 I will meet with each of the smaller groups to discuss case studies for the exam and the journal project.

3) The presentation of the journal abstracts will be on January 7, B600 between 1 and 3 p.m.

If you want to discuss any issue individually, please speak to me or send me an email to set up a meeting.

1: Anthropology After Globalization

Lecture: December 3, B600, 1-3 p.m.
 Seminar: December 9, B600, 1-3 p.m.

Readings:


Recommended:


2: The Global City

*Lecture: December 4, B600, 1-3 p.m.*

*Seminar: December 11, B600, 1-3 p.m.*

**Readings:**


**Recommended:**


3: The Anthropology of Infrastructure

*Lecture: December 14, B600, 1-2:30 p.m.*
*Guest: Lisa Björkman, University of Louisville*

*Workshop with Lisa Björkman (voluntary): December 15, B600, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.*

*Seminar: December 16, B600, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.*
*Guest: Lisa Björkman*

*Readings:*


Lisa Björkman (2014) ”Un/known Waters: navigating the everyday risks of infrastructural breakdown in Mumbai“, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 34(3): 497-517


*Recommended:*


4: Ethnographies of Transport

*Lecture + seminar: January 8, B600, 13-16*
*Guest: Jenny Lindblad, KTH*


