Seminar

Cultivating Theory – Transcultural Approaches in Agrarian Studies

Wednesday 9:15 am-10:45 am – Room 112, KJC

Abstract
This seminar explores recent theoretical advances in transcultural studies of agriculture and global food systems. Agri-Culture has moved to the center of theoretical advances in transcultural studies and related disciplines such as Anthropology, Geography, History and Development Studies. On one hand, this seminar situates agriculture in the Anthropocene to examine current concerns such as the limits to the socio-ecological expansion of cultivation and the resource question, the recent agrarian crisis in South Asia, food security, global warming, peak oil, land grabbing, agro-biodiversity conservation, biofuels, as well as the development, use and proliferation of genetically modified organisms (GMO). However, on the other hand, it is also attentive to the theoretical possibilities of studying agrarian knowledge systems, socio-natural entanglements and the location of agriculture in the history of capitalist world-ecology from a transcultural perspective.

16.10.13 Introduction

23.10.13 Agrarian Questions in the Anthropocene


Additional Reading:


Presentation (Name and Topic): __________________________

30.10.13 **Agri | Culture : Farming and Knowledge**


Additional Reading:


Presentation (Name and Topic): __________________________

Presentation (Name and Topic): __________________________

06.11.13 **Agriculture and Science and Technology Studies**


Ingram, Mrill (2011): Fermentation, rot, and other human-microbial performances, in: Goldman, Mara; Nadasdy, Paul; Turner, Matthew (eds):

Additional Reading:


Presentation (Name and Topic):

13.11.13  **Contested Agronomy**


Additional Reading:


Presentation (Name and Topic):

20.11.13  **No class**

27.11.13  **Global Food Regimes – Governing through Standards? (Certified) Organic and Fair Trade**


Additional Reading:


Presentation (Name and Topic):

04.12.13 Biotechnology and Science Wars


Additional Reading:


Presentation (Name and Topic):

11.12.13 No class

12.12.13 Guest Lecture by Glenn Davis Stone: “Power, Experiment, and Knowledge in Indian Agriculture: Creation, Sustenance, and Destruction” (mandatory)

Karl Jaspers Centre, Room 212, 6pm-8pm
Text: Draft position papers by the participants (will be circulated beginning of December)

Karl Jaspers Centre, Room 212

17.12. **Public Lecture by Jason Moore**: "The End of Cheap Food? Agriculture and accumulation crisis in the capitalist world-ecology" (optional)
Karl Jaspers Centre, Room 212, 6pm-8pm

18.12.13 **Agriculture and Capitalist World Ecology**

**Guest Lecture by Jason Moore**


Additional Reading:


08.01.14 **Classical and New Ethnographies of Agriculture**

Presentations:


Name: 

Name: 

Name: 

Name: 

14.01.14  Public Lecture by Prakash Kumar: "From Green Revolution to Biotech Seeds: The Meaning of Gandhian Opposition in India" (optional)

South Asia Institute, Room E11, 4pm-6pm

15.01.14  American Hegemony and Indian Agriculture (1947 - 2002)

Guest Lecture by Prakash Kumar


Additional Reading:


22.01.14  Agriculture and Justice: Approaches from Political Ecology and Environmental Justice


Additional Reading:


Presentation (Name and Topic): ________________________________

28.01.14  **Final Discussion**

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**Term paper (2 CP)**

The term paper (6000 words) has to be handed in by 31st March, 2014. A draft with title, abstract and bibliography is due in the last seminar session on 22nd January 2014. Ethnographic papers welcome.

**Active participation, preparation of core readings (4 CP)**

In addition to active participation in class and the reading of the mandatory texts, students will submit a brief reading response (min. 250 words) in the form of a comment with discussion questions for the readings for that day. For each question, the student will be expected to show familiarity with the reading material by referring to page numbers and other referential markers. Students will be expected to submit these reading responses on the “News Forum” on moodle by 12 noon every Tuesday. The list for the week will then be used to structure part of class discussion and students may be asked to further clarify their comments. Every student will be expected to have three reading responses in all by the end of the semester.

**Presentation/Workshop report (1 CP)**

*Presentation*: 15-20 minutes, powerpoint presentation, printed handout (due 2 days prior to the session), or

*Workshop report*: summary of one workshop-day (13/14 December), 1500-2000 words per day, focus on main points & discussion, co-authorship welcome, publication on JRG website possible