070.712

Anthropologies of Risk

Thursday 11:00-1:00

Macauley 400

In this course we explore how the calculative and affective logic of risk shapes social and political life in modern societies. We begin by examining the historical emergence of risk and the political economies of securitization and circulation through which states have harnessed risk and statistical knowledge as a dynamic or logic of government. We then look at the concepts of moral subjectivity, collectivity, and ethical society that take shape in relationship to neoliberal concepts of distributed sovereignty, financialization, vulnerability and care. We conclude by looking at recent ethnographic studies of the affective social and administrative technologies through which knowledge about risk scenarios, climate, and nature are distributed and produced.

Requirements include active participation in all seminar discussions, leading at least two seminar discussions during the semester; and a final paper addressing the texts and issues discussed in class in relationship to your own research and/or other theoretical and ethnographic texts.

**January 30: Introduction**

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I. Calculative Economies

**February 6.**

Ian Hacking. 1990. *The Taming of Chance* . Cambridge & NY: Cambridge University Press; **read pp. 1-26, 47-63; 81-104; 160-216**

Francois Ewald. 1991. “Insurance and Risk.” In G. Burchell, C. Gordon & P. Miller, eds., *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality*, pp. 197-210. Univ. of Chicago Press.

Gerda Reith. 2004. “Uncertain Times: The Notion of ‘Risk’ and the Development of Modernity,” *Time and Society*, 13(2):383-402

**February 13.**

Michel Foucault. 2009. *Security, Population, Territory*. Picador; **read pp.1-114**

Nikolas Rose & Mariana Valverde. 1998. “Governed by Law?” *Social and Legal Studies,* 7(4): 541-551

**February 20.**

Michel Foucault. 2010. *The Birth of Biopolitics*. Picador **Read pp. 129-184.**

Castel, Robert. 1991. “From Dangerousness to Risk.” In G. Burchell et al (eds.). *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality, pp. 281-298*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press

**February 27.**

Ulrich Beck. 1996. “Risk and the Provident State.” *Risk, environment and Modernity: Towards a New Environmentalism*, pp. 27-43. Sage

Louise Amoore. 2011. “Data Derivatives: the Emergence of a Security Risk Calculus for Our Times,” *Theory, Culture and Society*, 28(6):24-43

J. Black. 2001. “Decentering Regulation: Understanding the Role of Regulation and Self-Regulation in a ‘Post-Regulatory’ World” In. M. Freeman (ed.), *Current Legal Problems*, 54, pp. 103-146. Oxford University Press

Frank Knight. 1961. *Risk, Uncertainty, Profit* (1921). London: LSE, reprint. **read: Chapters VII & XII(pp.197-232; 347- *375*)**

II. Moral Economies of Risk

**March 6**

Mary Douglas. 1994. *Risk and Blame*. London: Routledge **Read Part I , pp. 3-123 [**available as e-book at library]

Ian Hacking. 2003. “Risk and Dirt.” In R.V. Ericson & A. Doyle, eds. *Risk and Morality*, pp. 22-47. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

**March 13**

Ulrich Beck & Daniel Levy. 2013. “Cosmopolitanized nations: Re-imagining Collectivity in World Risk Society,” *Theory, Culture and Society*, 30(2):2-31

Mariana Valverde. 2003. “Targeted Governance and the Problem of Morality.” In R. Ericson & A. Doyle, eds. *Risk and Morality*, pp. 438-457. Toronto: University of Toronto Press

Nikolas Rose. 2005. “In Search of Certainty: Risk Management in a Biological Age,” *Journal of Public Mental health, 4(3):14-22*

E. Povinelli. 2001 “Radical Worlds: The Anthropology of Incommensurability and Inconceivability,” *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 30:319-334

**March 27**

Nikolas Rose. 2003. “The Neurochemical Self and its Anomalies.” In R. V. Ericson & A. Doyle, eds. *Risk and Morality*, pp. 407-37. Toronto: Univ of Toronto Press

Elisabeth Beck-Gernsheim. 2011. “Life as a Planning Project.” In S. Lash, Lash, B. Szerszynski, & b. Wynne, eds., *Risk, Environment and Modernity: towards a new Ecology*, pp.140-168. London: Sage

Robin Root. 2008 . “Controlling Ourselves, By Ourselves: Risk Assemblages on Malaysia’s Assembly Lines,” *Medical Anthropology*, 27(4):405-434

Bill Maurer. 1999. “Forget Locke. From Propietor to Risk Bearer in the new Logics of Finance,” *Public Culture*, 11(2):47-67

III. Exception, Projection, Device

**April 3:**

Giorgio Agamben. 2005. *State of Exception* (2003). Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Giorgio Agamben. 1996. “On Potentialitiy.” In *Potentialities: Collected Essays*, pp. 172-184*.* Stanford: Stanford University Press

Janet Roitman. 2014. *Anti-Crisis*. Durham & London: Duke University Press; **read especially chapters 2 & 3 (pp.42-90**)

Arjun Appadurai. 2013. “The Ghost in the Financial Machine.” In *The Future as Cultural Fact*, pp. 233-252. New York & London: Verso.

**April 10:**

Louise Amoore. 2013. “On the Line: Life Signatures and the Writing of the Border.” In *The Politics of Possibility: Risk and Security Beyond Probability*, pp. 79-104. Durham, NC: Duke University Press .

Adams, V., A. Clarke and M. Murphy. 2009 "Anticipation: Technoscience, Life, Affect and Temporality," *Subjectivity* 28 (Special issue on *Subjectivities)*: pp. 246-265

Lakoff, A., Klinenberg, E. 2010. “Of Risk and Pork: Urban Security and the Politics of Calculation,” *Theory and Society*. Vol. 39, pp. 503-525

Sarah J. Whatmore. 2013. “Earthly Powers and Affective Environments: *Theory, Culture and Society*, 30(7):33-50

**April 17**

Joshua Reno. 2011. “BeyondRisk: Emplacement and the Production of Environmental Evidence.” *American Ethnlogist*, 38(3):5226-530

Austin Zeiderman. 2012. “On Shaky Ground: the Making of Risk in Bogotá, “*Environment and Planning A*, 44: 1570-88

Brian Wynne. 1996. “May the Sheep Safely Graze? A Reflexive View of the Expert-Lay Knowledge Divide. In S. Lash, B. Szerszynski, & b. Wynne, eds., *Risk, Environment and Modernity: towards a new Ecology*, pp.44-83. London: Sage

Penelope Harvey & Hannah Knox. 2011. “Anticipating Harm: Regulation and Irregularity on a Road Construction Project in the Peruvian Andes,” *Theory, Culture and Society*, 28:142-163

**April 24**

Fabiana Li. 2011. “Engineering Responsibility: Environmental Mitigation and the Limits of Commensuration in a Chilean Mining Project,” *Focaal*, 60(1):61-73

M. Cooper. 2010. “Turbulent Worlds: Financial Markets and Environmental Crisis,” *Theory, Culture and Society*, 2(3):167-190

Toby Carroll. 2011. “The Cutting Edge of Accumulation: Neoliberal Risk Mitigation and the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline and its Impact,” *Antipode*, 44(2): 281-302

WorldBank Group. 2014. *Building Resilience: Integating Climate and Disaster Risk into Development*. (www.gfdrr.org)

**May 1**

**Discussion of student research**

**May 8**

**Study Week – NO CLASS**

**May 15**

**Final Paper DUE**