Introduction

This seminar builds upon the Ethnography of Space and Place course that provides an overview of the anthropology of space and place and spatial methodologies appropriate for students working in this sub field. This advanced seminar focuses more specifically on theories and ethnographies that address the social production of built environment including the social, economic, ideological, and technological forces and processes that result, or seek to result, in the physical creation of the material setting. As part of an overall anthropological theory of space and place it refers to a materialist emphasis on historical emergence and the political and economic formation of space. Henri Lefebvre (1991) is best known for his theorization of this area, however, there are other theorists who have contributed, including many anthropologists who use ethnographic research to uncover cultural, historical, and sociopolitical processes that produce spatial configurations and meanings.

The seminar includes readings and discussions on five major topics: 1) the social and cultural history of the production of spaces and spatial relations; 2) the political economy of space; 3) landscapes of power and resistance; 4) spaces of social reproduction and social control; and 5) the production of global space. Theoretical and ethnographic readings in each of these areas will be assigned and discussed in class. At the conclusion of this theoretical orientation, a second set of topics will be selected based on student interests and their ongoing research projects. These sessions provide an opportunity for students to develop their own research and theoretical thinking through presentations and supplementary readings that bridge the student research project and the broader theoretical and ethnographic literature.

Requirements include: 1) leading one or more class discussions, 2) presentation of research project or research area in class, 3) review and presentation of one or more ethnographies, and 4) a final paper due one week after the last class.

Course materials: Some of the articles have been placed on ereserves under the course name, while the rest are available through the library databases or anthrosource. All of the ethnographies have been placed on reserve, however, since they are required reading, students should also try other libraries or buy used books if possible. If a book cannot be located, I can lend a copy to the class leader for that day to scan and circulate the pdf. There are a few books that we will read only one chapter, and those will be scanned and circulated the week before class (or placed on ereserves). We have experienced problems with getting materials on ereserve and if this continues, we will organize a way to circulate the materials through our own network.
Syllabus

2/2 Introduction—Overview of the history of the anthropology of space and place

Recommended reading for those who did not take the Anthropology of Space and Place:


2/16 Social and Cultural History of the Production of Space and Spatial Relations: Foundational Readings (Emily, Andreina)

King, Anthony. 1980. *A Time for Space and a Space for Time: The Social Production of the Vacation House*. In *Buildings and Society: Essays on the Social Development of the Built Environment*. A. King, Ed. London: Routledge and Kegan. Pps 193-227. There are other selections in this volume that might match your interests better including chapters on the department store, the hospital, the mental asylum, the Hindu temple and others, and you might want to substitute one of these for the required reading.

Peattie, Lisa. 1970 (1968). *The View From the Barrio*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapters 2 and 3, Pps. 7-30. A classic and although the language is out of date, it is one of the first “production of space” ethnographies focused on this disjunction between planners and residents.

Kuper, Hilda. 1972. The Language of Sites in the Politics of Space. *American Anthropologist* 74(3) 411-425. Another classic in which the production of space is underplayed, but the importance of space is clear in terms of political meaning.

Chose one:


Blackmar, Betsy. 1979. ‘Re-walking the “Walking City”: Housing and Property Relations in New York City, 1780-1840’. *Radical History Review* 21: 131-148. There are other articles in this special issue that might match your interests including markets and charity hospitals.

Chose one:

2/23 Monday schedule

3/2 Ethnographic example: The Production of the Modern City


3/9 The Political Economy of Space: Foundational Readings (Benjamin, Manissa)


3/16 Ethnographic example: Political Economy and the Production of Community/Neighborhood


3/23 Landscapes of Power and Resistance: Foundational Readings (Hillary, Matt)


3/30 Ethnographic example: The Production of Urban Space and Middle Class Resistance


4/6 Spaces of Social Control and Spatial Governance: Foundational Readings (Joanna, Owen)


Rabinow, Paul. 1982. Ordonnance, Discipline, Regulations: Some Reflections on Urbanism. Humanities in Society 5(3-4) 267-278. (Also in Anthropology of Space and Place)


If you have not read this article, it is also recommended.

Low, Setha. 2001. The Edge and the Center: Gated Communities and the Discourse of Urban Fear. American Anthropologist 103(1). (Also in The Anthropology of Space and Place).

4/13 Ethnographic example: The Social Production of Space and Memory (Monica, Mathias)


4/20 Break week

4/27 The Production of Globalized Space (Pengfei, Einat)


Recommended


5/4 Presentations: Manissa, Jacob, Einat and Matt

5/11 Presentations: Ben, Emily, Owen, and Pengfei

5/18 Presentations: Martin, Andreina, Hillary, Monica

5/25 Papers due