

SA4860 Amerindian Socialities in Anthropological Perspective

Waorani women celebrating their victory in court.

Photograph by Dolores Ochoa / AP. In New York Times, May 15th, 2019 (source google images)

TIME. Tuesdays and Thursdays?? 11.00-13.00?? **PLACE:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the anthropological and ethnological literature on the peoples of the lowlands of South America. The course focuses on modes of constituting sociality, covering the following topics; relatedness, gender, kinship, personhood, the body; death, curing, shamanism, cosmology. mythology, social, economic and political organization, ecumene and Amerindian engagement with colonialism. The regional focus will be predominantly on Amazonia, including studies conducted in Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela and the Guianas.

As a whole the course aims to introduce you to the anthropological literature on the peoples who inhabit the lowlands of South America. It will also help you set about researching your own interests.

This course will: (1) provide an understanding of core debates shaping the anthropological and ethnological understanding of Lowland South America; (2) provide an introduction to the literature on Amerindians of the lowland areas of South America through a focus on modes of constituting sociality.

Assessment: - 3,000 word Research Essay – topic to be decided in consultation with course teacher through supervision.

Due DATE 13 April, 12pm.

Preliminaries

For an indigenous perspective, read 'The Falling Sky' – at once autobiographical account of a Yanomami leader's journey into shamanism and political activism, ecological manifesto and instigating cosmopolitical critique.

Kopenawa, Davi & Albert, Bruce. 2013. *The Falling Sky: Words of a Yanomami Shaman*. Harvard University Press.

In addition, read anthropologists' accounts of their field experiences. As well as introducing the anthropological literature on Amerindians in lowland South America, these will give you a feel for particular peoples, their histories, ethos, philosophies and ways of being, and the environments in which they dwell

Levi-Strauss, C. *Tristes Tropiques*

Clastres, P. *Chronicle of the Guayaki Indians*

Siskind, J. *To Hunt in the Morning*

Wagley, C. *Welcome of Tears*

Lizot, J. *Tales of the Yanomami*

Descola, P. *The Spears of Twilight*

Campbell, A *Getting to Know Waiwai*

Please read the chapters or articles marked with a star (*) BEFORE the relevant session

1. Introduction: Histories, Peoples, Languages (Week1, of 23 September)

* Aikhenvald Alexandra Y. 2013. '50. Amazonia: linguistic history' In *The Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration*, Edited by Immanuel Ness. Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

* Epps, Patience. 2009. Language Classification, Language Contact, and Amazonian Prehistory. *Language and Linguistics Compass*. 3/2: 581–606.

Epps, Patience and Salanova, Andrés Pablo (2013). "The Languages of Amazonia," *Tipiti: Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America*: Vol. 11: Iss. 1, Article 1, 1-28.

Stenzel, Kristine & Bruna Franchetto (eds.) 2017. *On this and other worlds: Voices from Amazonia*. Language Science Press.

Available at <http://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/167>

Links – <https://ailla.utexas.org/>

2.Environmental. (Week 1, of 23 September)

* Rival. Laura. 2016. 'Historical Ecology in Amazonia' (chapter 3) In *Huaorani Transformations in Twenty-First-Century Ecuador: Treks into the Future of Time*. University of Arizona Press. Pp. 91-112.

- Kawa, Nicholas C. 2016. *Amazonia in the Anthropocene: people, soils, plants, forests*. University of Texas Press
- Caufield, Catherine. 1991. *In the Rainforest: Report from a Strange, Beautiful, Imperilled World*. University of Chicago Press.
- Descola, P. 1994. *In the Society of Nature: A Native Ecology in Amazonia*. Cambridge: CUP.

3. Bodies, Persons, Memory (Week 2, of 30 September)

- *Kensinger, K. 1995. 'The body knows: Cashinahua perspectives on knowledge' (Chapter 22). In *How Real People Ought to Live*. pp.237-246.
- *McCallum, Cecilia. 1996. The Body that Knows: From Cashinahua epistemology to a medical anthropology of Lowland South America. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. v.10, p.347 - 372,
- Griffiths, T. 'Finding one's body: Relationships between cosmology and work in North-West Amazonia' p.247-261. In *Beyond the Visible and the Material*, Rival, Laura & Whitehead, Neil (eds.). 2001.
- Londoño-Sulkin, C.D. 2000. 'Though it comes as evil, I embrace it as good' Chapter 9 in Overing, J. and Passes, A. (eds.) *The Anthropology of Love and Anger: the Aesthetics of Conviviality in Native Amazonia*, 2000. pp.170-186.
- Santos-Granero, Fernando. 2006. "Sensual Vitalities: Noncorporeal Modes of Sensing and Knowing in Native Amazonia," *Tipiti: Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America*: Vol. 4: Iss. 1, Article 4. Pp. 56-80. Available at: <http://digitalcommons.trinity.edu/tipiti/vol4/iss1/4>
- Vilaça, Aparecida 2005. "Chronically unstable bodies. Reflections on Amazonian corporalities". *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 11 (3): 445-464.
- Walker, Harry. 2013. 'Vital shields' (chapter 2). In *Under a watchful eye: self, power, and intimacy in Amazonia*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

4. Gender, Knowledge, Agency (Week 2, of 30 September)

- *Gow, Peter. 1989. 'The perverse Child: desire in a native Amazonian subsistence economy'. *Man* 24/4:567-582
- *Siskind, Janet. 'Maloca: the plan of the social universe'. In *To Hunt in the Morning*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1973. Pp.47-66.
- Belaunde Luisa Elvira. Parrots and Oropendolas : the Aesthetics of Gender Relations among the Airo-Pai of the Peruvian Amazon. In: *Journal de la Société des Américanistes*. Tome 80, 1994. pp. 95-111
- High, Casey. 2015. C3. 'Like the Ancient Ones'. In *Victims and Warriors: Violence, History and Memory in Amazonia*. Pp.76-97
- McCallum, C. 2001. 'Creating Gender'. (Chapter 2) In *Gender and sociality in Amazonia: making real people*. London, New York: Berg. Pp.41-64.
- Mezzenzana, Francesca (2018) Difference Revised: Gender and Transformation among the Amazonian Runa, *Ethnos*, 83:5, 909-929,

INTERVAL – RETURN – March 2020

5. Shamanism, Curing, Power Week of 2 March 2020

- * Lagrou, E. 2018. Anaconda-becoming: Huni Kuin image-songs, an Amerindian relational aesthetics. *Horizontes Antropológicos*, 51 | pp., 17-49. Available at <https://journals.openedition.org/horizontes/2102#quotation>
- * Gow, Peter. Hallucination. (chapter 5) In *An Amazonian myth and its history*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. Pp. 130-157.
- Gow, Peter. 1996. River People: Shamanism and history in western Amazonia. In *Shamanism, History and the state*. Thomas, N.. & Humphrey, C. (eds.) Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Pp.90-113.
- Overing, Joanna. 1990 The Shaman as a Maker of Worlds: Nelson Goodman in the Amazon. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (n.s.) 25:602–619.
- Taussig, M. 1987. *Shamanism Colonialism and the Wild Man: A Study in Terror and Healing*. University of Chicago Press.
- Townsley, Graham. 1993. Song Paths: The Ways and Means of Shamanic Knowledge. *L'Homme* 33(2–4):449–468.
- Whitehead, Neil L. and Robin Wright. eds. 2004. *Darkness and Secrecy: The Anthropology of Assault Sorcery and Witchcraft in Amazonia*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press

6. Death, Eschatology, Alterity Week of 2 March 2020

- * Overing, Joanna “Death and the loss of civilized predation among the Piaroa of the Orinoco Basin, *L'Homme*, Special Issue, “La remontée de l'Amazone: Anthropologie et histoire des sociétés amazoniennes”, 126-28, avr d'Èc, 1993, XXXIII (24), pp.191-212.
- *McCallum, Cecilia. 1999. Consuming pity: The production of death among the Cashinahua. *Cultural Anthropology*. v.14, 4; pp.443-471.
- Taylor, A-C “Remembering to Forget: identity, memory and mourning among the Jivaro” *Man*, 28:653-78, 1993.
- Vilaca, Aparecida. 1997. Christians without Faith: Some aspects of the conversion of the Wari’ (Pakaa Nova)” *Ethnos*, 62(1-2):201-215,.
- Viveiros de Castro, E. 1992. “Beings of Becoming” (Chapter 9). In *From the enemy's point of view: humanity and divinity in an Amazonian society*. University of Chicago Press Pp. 252-272.

7. Alterity, Ontology, Socio-Cosmology Week of 8 March 2020

- *Overing, J. 1998. “Today I shall call him 'Mummy'” in J. Overing (ed) *Reason and Morality*. ASA Monographs. London. Tavistock. Pp.150-178. [1985]
- *Viveiros de Castro, E. 1998. “Cosmological Deixis and Amerindian Perspectivism” *JRAI* 4(3):469-88.

- Taylor, Anne Christine 1996 “The Soul’s Body and its States: An Amazonian Perspective on the Nature of Being Human.” *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 2:201–215.
- Turner, Terence S. 1995 “Social Body and Embodied Subject: Bodiliness, Subjectivity and Sociality among the Kayapo” *Cultural Anthropology* 10(2):143-70.
- Viveiros de Castro, E. 2007 The Crystal Forest: Notes on the Ontology of Amazonian Spirits. *Inner Asia* 9:153–172.
- Viveiros de Castro, E. 2012 Cosmological Perspectivism in Amazonia and Elsewhere. Masterclass Series, 1. Manchester: HAU Network of Ethnographic Theory. <http://www.haujournal.org/index.php/masterclass/article/view/72>,

8. Kinship, Relatedness, Alterity Week of 8 March 2020

- * Ewart, Elizabeth. 2013. ‘Introduction’ & ‘Villages – the view from the house’ (chapter ‘) In *Space and Society in Central Brazil: A Panará Ethnography*. Bloomsbury. Pp.1-57
- * Lea, Vanessa, “Mebengokre (Kayapo) onomastics: a facet of Houses as total social facts in Central Brazil” *Man*, 27:129-153, 1992. GN1
- Viveiros de Castro, E. 2009 The Gift and the Given: Three Nano-Essays on Kinship and Magic. In *Kinship and Beyond: The Genealogical Model Reconsidered*. Sandra C. Bamford and James Leach, eds. Pp. 237–268. New York: Berghahn Books.
- Costa, L. 2017. *The Owners of Kinship: Asymmetrical Relations in Indigenous Amazonia*. Hau books.
- Crocker, Christopher, “Selves and Alters among the Eastern Bororo”, in MayburyLewis (ed.) *Dialectical Societies: The Ge and Bororo of Central Brazil*, Cambridge, Mass. and London: Harvard University Press, 1979.

INTERVAL- Spring Break (16-29 March)

9. Cosmopolitics and Contemporary Colonialism Week of 30 March

- * ‘Cannibal Gold’ In Kopenawa, Davi & Albert, Bruce. 2013. *The Falling Sky: Words of a Yanomami Shaman*. Harvard University Press. Pp 282-298.
- * Cepek, Michael L 2016. There might be blood: Oil, humility, and the cosmopolitics of a Cofán petro-being, *American Ethnologist*, 43, 4, (623).
- Holst, Joshua. 2015. Colonial Histories and Decolonial Dreams in the Ecuadorean Amazon Natural Resources and the Politics of Post-Neoliberalism. *Latin American Perspectives*. 43 issue: 1, page(s): 200-220.
- Penfield, Amy. 2018. Extractive Pluralities: The Intersection of Oil Wealth and Informal Gold Mining. In *Venezuelan Amazonia, Indigenous Life Projects and Extractivism Ethnographies from South America*. Editors: Vindal Ødegaard, Cecilie, Rivera Andía, Juan Javier (Eds.). Palgrave MacMillan. Pp.75-93,
- De la Cadena, Marisol. 2010. Indigenous Cosmopolitics in The Andes: Conceptual Reflections beyond “Politics”. *Cultural Anthropology*. V.25/pp. 334-370.

Arturo Escobar. 2017. Sustaining the Pluriverse: The Political Ontology of Territorial Struggles in Latin America. In *The Anthropology of Sustainability: Beyond Development and Progress*. Eds. Marc Brightman & Jerome Lewis. Palgrave McMillan. pp. 237-256.

Vilaça, Aparecida. 2010. *Strange Enemies: Indigenous Agency and Scenes of Encounters in Amazonia*. Durham: Duke University Press,

10. Revision/open session for questions and debates Week of 30 March

As well as the main readings for each class, students on the course should also endeavour to familiarize themselves with at least two specific ethnographic cases. Choose among the following books (or consult the course leader):

Ethnographies and Monographs

Brown, Michael F. 1986 *Tsewa's Gift: Magic and Meaning in an Amazonian Society*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Costa, Luiz. 2017. *The Owners of Kinship: Asymmetrical Relations in Indigenous Amazonia*. Chicago: Hau books. Hau Open books (available online)

Descola, P. 1994. *In the Society of Nature: A Native Ecology in Amazonia*. Cambridge: CUP.

Fausto, Carlos. 2012. *Warfare and Shamanism in Amazonia*. CUP. [Electronic book]

Gow, P. 1991. *Of Mixed Blood: Kinship and History in Peruvian Amazonia*. Oxford: Clarendon. F3429.1U78G7 – 3 copies.

Gow, P. 2001. *An Amazonian myth and its history*. Oxford University Press . F3430.1P5G7 plus 3

Gregor, Thomas. 1977. *Mehinaku*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Gregor, Thomas. 1985 *Anxious Pleasures: The Sexual Lives of an Amazonian People*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

High, Casey. 2015. *Victims and Warriors: Violence, History and Memory in Amazonia*. Pp.76-97.

McCallum, C. *Gender and Sociality in Amazonia: How Real People are Made*. Oxford: Berg, 2001. F2520.1C38M3 (3 copies)

Siskind, J. *To Hunt in the Morning*

Vilaça, Aparecida. 2017. *Praying and preying: Christianity in indigenous Amazonia*. Univ of California Press. [Electronic book].

Vilaça, Aparecida. 2010. *Strange Enemies: Indigenous Agency and Scenes of Encounters in Amazonia*. Durham: Duke University Press,

Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo. 1992. *From the enemy's point of view: humanity and divinity in an Amazonian society*. University of Chicago Press . (F2520.1A77C28H7) plus 2