

**HSPS Part IIB Soc 6
Advanced Social Theory
2019-20**

Course Organizer: Professor Jennifer Gabrys

Aims and objectives

This course offers students the opportunity to pursue their interests in contemporary social theory at an advanced level. The course encourages students to use social theory in order to think creatively, constructively and critically about the ways in which the social and political world is changing today. The course takes for granted an intermediate level of knowledge of classical and contemporary social theory; students are expected to develop and extend their knowledge of key thinkers by reading their work in greater depth. However, the course itself is organized around *problems and issues*, not around thinkers and texts. The emphasis is on encouraging students to practice social theory by thinking theoretically about particular problems and issues. The course seeks to bring social theory alive by getting students to draw on the resources of social theory in order to understand the world of the 21st century and how it is changing.

Course aims:

- To enable students to pursue their interests in social theory at an advanced level.
- To enable students to read a selection of theoretical texts in detail.
- To encourage students to use social theory to analyse particular aspects or characteristics of contemporary societies.
- To encourage students to think creatively, constructively and critically about how the social and political world is changing today.

Course organization

The course is organized in terms of discrete modules – i.e., clusters of lectures or seminars. Each module consists of around four hours of lectures or seminar-based teaching, often scheduled as two two-hour sessions. The modules are focused on particular problems or themes and are taught by leading practitioners of social theory today. The content of the modules will vary from year to year, depending on the availability of members of staff. In 2019-20 the following modules will be offered:

Michaelmas 2019

Dr Jennifer Gabrys, Introduction to Advanced Social Theory (18 October—Friday)

Dr Michiel van Oudheutsen and Prof Jennifer Gabrys ‘Citizens and Collectives’ (23 and 30 October)

Dr Filipe Carreira da Silva, ‘Rethinking Populism’ (6 and 13 November)

Prof Jennifer Gabrys, ‘The Social Life of Truth, Facts and Evidence’ (20 and 27 November)

Dr Jana Bacevic ‘Knowing Differently: Feminist, Indigenous, and Decolonial Theory’ (4 December)

Lent 2020

Dr Ali Meghji, ‘Black Logic, Black Methods, #BlackLivesMatter’ (22 January)

Dr Mónica Moreno-Figueroa, ‘Internalised Racism’ (29 January and 5 February)

Dr Lucy van de Wiel, ‘Remaking Life’ (12 and 19 February)

Dr Michiel van Oudheutsen and Prof Jennifer Gabrys ‘Sociology of Futures’ (26 February and 4 March)

Prof Jennifer Gabrys, ‘From Social Theory to Social Practice’ (11 March)

Easter 2020

Prof Jennifer Gabrys, Revision Session (29 April)

Supervision

Supervision will be provided either by the individuals teaching the modules or by other supervisors who have agreed to supervise for this paper. One or two contacts are given for each module and they will either do the supervision or help arrange it. If students or Directors of Studies encounter difficulties they should contact the Course Organizer.

Revision

A one-hour revision class is scheduled at the beginning of Easter Term.

Assessment

The course will be assessed by means of a three-hour examination paper.

Brief description of modules and reading lists

MICHAELMAS TERM 2019

1. Citizens and Collectives – Dr Michiel van Oudheusden and Prof Jennifer Gabrys

This module will consist of two sessions that investigate theories and practices of citizens and collectives. The first session, ‘Making Citizens and “doing” Citizenship,’ taught by Dr van Oudheusden, will engage with citizenship in a broad theoretical and empirical sense. The session views citizenship as a set of varied practices through which citizens set the terms of civic membership and define civic rights and duties – often through political contestation and struggle. In this way, it seeks to avoid a too static, legal or juridical definition of citizenship as a set of (individual) rights and obligations; instead drawing attention to its social construction in various cultures, its rich histories, and inviting inquiry into possible citizenship futures.

The second session, ‘Technologies of Citizenship,’ taught by Prof Gabrys, will continue to explore how citizenship is articulated in practice, while also investigating how citizenship is increasingly mediated and articulated through technological infrastructures. The lecture will investigate how different effects and affects of citizenship materialize along with technologies of citizenship. If citizenship always includes fellow citizens, as articulated by Balibar, then who are the fellow citizens and communities that emerge along with technologies?

Session 1 (Dr van Oudheusden): Making and Doing Citizenship

Required Reading

Ezrahi, Y. 2012. “The Ethics and Pragmatics of the Democratic Political Imagination: On Choosing the Imaginaries We Want to Live By,” *Imagined Democracies: Necessary Political Fictions*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 299-320.

Hochschild, A.R. 2016. *Strangers in Their Own Land. Anger and Mourning on the American Right*, esp. ch. 10: “The Team Player: Loyalty Above All,” The New Press, NY, 153-167.

Mouffe, C. 2000. *The Democratic Paradox*. Verso: London.

Rose, N. 2012. “Thinking on the Edge: Democracy in the Contemporary Life Sciences,” *BioSocieties*, 7, 459-472. DOI:10.1057/biosoc.2012.26

Recommended Reading

- Hobson, K. 2013. "On the making of the environmental citizen," *Environmental Politics*, 22:1, 56-72, DOI: 10.1080/09644016.2013.755388.
- Horst, M. & Irwin, A. 2010. "Nations at Ease with Radical Knowledge On Consensus, Consensusing and False Consensusness," *Social Studies of Science*, 40/1, 105-126.
- Mookherjee, M. (2005). "Affective citizenship: feminism, postcolonialism and the politics of recognition," *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, 8:1, 31-50, DOI: 10.1080/1369823042000335830.
- Mutz, D.C. 2006, *Hearing the Other Side: Deliberative versus Participatory Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Ruitenberg, C.W. 2009. "Educating political adversaries: Chantal Mouffe and radical democratic citizenship education," *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, 28(3), 269-281.
- Turnhout, E. et al. 2010. "How Participation Creates Citizens: Participatory Governance as Performative Practice," *Ecology & Society* 15(4), 26; <https://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol15/iss4/art26/>
- West, T. 1996. "Beyond Dissensus: Exploring the Heuristic Value of Conflict," *Rhetoric Review*, 15(1), 142-155.

Session 2 (Prof Gabrys): Technologies of Citizenship

Required Reading

- Balibar, Étienne. 2015 [2012]. *Citizenship*. Cambridge: Polity Press. [especially Chapter 1: "Democracy and Citizenship: An Antinomic Relationship"]
- Gabrys, Jennifer. 2014. "Programming Environments: Environmentality and Citizen Sensing in the Smart City." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 2, no. 1, 30-48.
- Isin, Engin and Evelyn Ruppert. 2015. *Being Digital Citizens*. London: Rowman & Littlefield. [especially Chapter 1: "Doing Things with Words and Saying Words with Things," and Chapter 2: "Citizens and Cyberspace"]
- Nelson, Alondra. 2011. *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. [especially "Introduction: Serving the People Body and Soul" and Chapter 3, "The People's Free Medical Clinics"]

Recommended Reading

- Berlant, Lauren. 2007. "Citizenship." In *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*, edited by Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler, 37-42. New York: New York University Press.
- Berlant, Lauren, interviewed by David K. Seitz. 2013. "On Citizenship and Optimism." *Society + Space*, March 22. <http://societyandspace.org/2013/03/22/on-citizenship-and-optimism>.
- Hintz, Arne, Lina Dencik, and Karin Wahl-Jorgensen. 2017. "Digital Citizenship and Surveillance| Digital Citizenship and Surveillance Society — Introduction." *International Journal of Communication* 11, 731–739
- Irani, Lily. 2019. *Chasing Innovation: Making Entrepreneurial Citizens in Modern India*. Princeton University Press. [especially "Introduction: Innovators and their Others," and Chapter 3: "Teaching Citizenship, Liberalizing Community"]
- Isin, Engin. 2009. "Citizenship in Flux: The Figure of the Activist Citizen." *Subjectivity* 29, no. 1, 367-388.
- Jasanoff, Sheila. 2004. "Science and Citizenship: A New Synergy." *Science and Public Policy* 31, no. 2, pages 90–94.

- Ong, Aihwa. 2006. *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty*. Duke University Press. [especially "Introduction: Neoliberalism as Exception, Exception to Neoliberalism"]
- Shelton, Taylor and Thomas Lodato. 2019. "Actually Existing Smart Citizens." *City* (February 2019), 35-52; DOI: 10.1080/13604813.2019.1575115.

Essay questions

1. What is a sociological approach to citizenship and why should it matter?
2. How does citizenship feel?
3. In what ways does citizenship change through technologies and technological practices?

Supervision

Contact Dr M van Oudheusden at mpv28@cam.ac.uk

2. Rethinking Populism – Dr Filipe Carreira da Silva

Especially after the 2008 financial crisis, the term ‘populism’ has become one of the buzzwords of our time. Journalists, politicians, pundits and scholars alike have come to apply the term to a vast array of phenomena across the political spectrum: from anti-establishment political movements on both left and right (Greece’s Syriza, Spain’s Podemos, Italy’s Five Stars, the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street movements in the United States), through political leaders (e.g., Erdogan in Turkey, and Orban in Hungary) and candidates (e.g., Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders in the US), to parties and currents within parties challenging the traditional political mainstream from the inside (e.g., the National Front in France). Yet, amongst socio-political concepts, populism has pride of place as one of the most contentious, being variously characterized as ideology, logic, discursive frame, strategy/organization, a mode of political practice, or, for those privileging its performative aspects, political style.

In this module, I take one step back, and call this labelling into question. What unites and disunites the above mentioned phenomena? Does the ‘populist’ theoretical/ conceptual framework help us make sense and explain these phenomena, or, on the contrary, does such a framework inhibit our understanding of what these phenomena are and what they are about? Do the different understandings of populism itself, both conceptually and methodologically allow for significantly different levels of understanding and scientific analysis of the phenomena in question? In the first session, I discuss the rise of ‘populist politics’ in Europe and in the United States and examine different conceptualizations of ‘populism’ and their operationalization for the purpose of analysis. In the second session, I consider how populism has characteristics of utopian thinking: populist leaders use highly moralized images of the past to castigate the present and promise the eminent advent of a new future.

Session 1:

Required Reading

*Laclau, E. 2005. *On Populist Reason*. London: Verso.

*Silva, F.C and M.B. Vieira. 2018. "Populism as Logic of Political Action", *European Journal of Social Theory*.

Recommended Reading

- Abst, K. and S. Rummens. 2007. "Populism versus Democracy." *Political Studies* 55: 405-424.
- Arditi, B. 2008. *Politics on the Edges of Liberalism*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Canovan, M. 2002. "Taking Politics to the People: Populism as the Ideology of Democracy", in Y. Mény and Y. Surel (eds.), *Democracies and the Populist Challenge*. New York: Palgrave, pp. 25–44.
- Kriesi, H. and T. Pappas. 2015. *European Populism in the Shadow of the Great Recession*. ECPR Press.
- Mudde, C. and C.R. Kaltwasser. 2015. "Populism", in M. Freeden et al. (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 493-512.
- Wejnert, B. and D. Woods, 2014. *The Many Faces of Populism: Current Perspectives* (especially chapters 2, 3). Emerald Publishing.

Session 2:

Required Reading

- *Canovan, M. 1999. "Trust the People! Populism and the Two Faces of Democracy". *Political Studies* 43: 2-16.
- *Silva, F.C. and M.B. Vieira. 2018. "Populism and the Politics of Redemption", *Thesis Eleven*.

Recommended Reading

- Engels, F. 2015. *The Politics of Resentment*. University Park: Penn State University Press. Esp. Chap. 3.
- Mihai, M. 2016. *Negative Emotions and Transitional Justice*. New York: Columbia University Press. Esp. Chap. 2.
- Muller, J.-W. 2016. *What is Populism?* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Oakeshott, M. 1996. *The Politics of Faith and the Politics of Scepticism*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Wegner, P.E. 2002. *Imaginary Communities*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Essay questions

1. What factors led to the rise of populism in recent years?
2. Is populism an ideology?
3. "The utopia of the Populists was in the past, not the future." (Hofstadter) Discuss.

Supervision

Contact Dr FC Silva at fcs23@cam.ac.uk

3. The Social Life of Truth, Facts and Evidence – Prof Jennifer Gabrys

Truth, evidence and facts are phenomena that are increasingly scrutinized and discussed for their apparent instability and decline. From elections to referendums, news reporting and social media, as well as environmental and social crises, numerous concerns are arising about the veracity and integrity of these social events. This module will investigate the shifting terrain of truth, facts and evidence by engaging with theoretical and empirical research that addresses the social standing of facts and "reality." We will especially consider social events including climate change denial and "fake news," as well as civic epistemologies and citizen data, as instances where facts and evidence are put into question. We will attend to the different epistemological and ontological conditions in which social facts take hold, and we will consider the possible consequences of different formations of truth and evidence.

Session 1: Post-Truth, Denial, Disagreement and Doubt

Required Reading

- Callison, Candis. 2014. *How Climate Change Comes to Matter: The Communal Life of Facts*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press. [especially “Introduction,” and Chapter 2, “Reporting on Climate Change”]
- Jasanoff, Sheila and Hilton R. Simmet. 2017. “No Funeral Bells: Public Reason in a ‘Post-Truth’ Age.” *Social Studies of Science* 47, no. 5, 751-770.
- Latour, Bruno. 2004. “Why Has Critique Run out of Steam? From Matters of Fact to Matters of Concern.” *Critical Inquiry* 30 (Winter), 225-248.
- Oreskes, Naomi and Erik Conway. 2010. *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists: Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming*. New York: Bloomsbury.

Recommended Reading

- Bowker, Geoffry and Susan Leigh Star. 1999. *Sorting Things out: Classification and Its Consequences*. Cambridge: MIT Press. [especially “Introduction: To Classify Is Human”]
- Clifford, James. 1986. “Introduction: Partial Truths.” In *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography*, 1-26. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Gitelman, Lisa, ed. 2013. *“Raw Data” Is an Oxymoron*. Cambridge: MIT Press. [especially “Introduction,” and Geoffrey Bower, “Data Flakes”]
- Haraway, Donna. 1991. “Situated Knowledges,” In *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women*. New York: Routledge.
- Hulme, Mike. 2009. *Why We Disagree about Climate Change: Understanding Controversy, Inaction and Opportunity*. Cambridge University Press. [especially Chapter 1, “The Social Meanings of Climate”]
- Norgaard, Kari Marie. 2011. *Living in Denial: Climate Change, Emotions, and Everyday Life*. Cambridge: MIT Press. [especially Prologue and Introduction]

Session 2: Social Facts and Citizen Data

Required Reading

- Battle-Baptiste, Whitney and Britt Rusert, eds. 2018. *W.E.B. Du Bois’s Data Portraits*. Princeton Architectural Press. [especially Introduction, “The Cartography of W.E.B. Du Bois’s Color Line,” and “Plates”]
- Bigo, Didier, Engin Isin and Evelyn Ruppert, eds. 2019. *Data Politics: Worlds, Subjects, Rights*. New York: Routledge. [especially Chapter 1, “Data Politics” and Chapter 7, Tommaso Venturini, “From Fake News to Junk News”]
- Gabrys, Jennifer et al. “Just Good Enough Data: Figuring Data Citizenships through Air Pollution Sensing and Data Stories.” *Big Data & Society* 3, no. 2 (2016): 1-14, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2053951716679677>.
- Latour, Bruno. 1999. *Pandora’s Hope: Essays on the Reality of Science Studies*. Harvard University Press. [especially Chapter 1, “Do You Believe in Reality?”]

Recommended Reading

- Durkheim, Emile. 1982 (1895). “What Is a Social Fact?” In *The Rules of Sociological Method and Selected Texts on Sociology and its Method*, ed. Steven Lukes, trans. W. D. Halls. New York: Free Press.
- James, William. 2000 (1897-1907). *Pragmatism and Other Writings*. New York: Penguin Books. [especially Lecture 1 and Lecture 2]

- M'charek, Amade. 2013. "Beyond Fact or Fiction: On the Materiality of Race in Practice." *Cultural Anthropology* 28 (3): 420-442.
- Meng, Amanda and Carl DiSalvo. 2018. "Grassroots Resource Mobilization Through Counter-Data Action." *Big Data & Society* (July-December), 1-12.
- Nafus, Dawn. 2014. "Stuck Data, Dead Data, and Disloyal Data: The Stops and Starts in Making Numbers into Social Practices." *Distinktion: Journal of Social Theory* 15, no. 2, 208-222, DOI: 10.1080/1600910X.2014.920266.
- Poovey, Mary. 1998. *A History of the Modern Fact: Problems of Knowledge in the Sciences of Wealth and Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Essay questions

1. In what ways do the social conditions of facts challenge the category of "post-truth"?
2. Can the co-production of knowledge lead to more robust forms of evidence?
3. If knowledge is situated and partial, then how do collective realities and truths occur?

Supervision

Contact Prof Jennifer Gabrys at jg899@cam.ac.uk

4. Knowing differently: feminist, indigenous, and decolonial theory – Dr Jana Bacevic

This session will present some of the distinctive challenges to the Eurocentrism of social theory that have emerged in the course of the 20th and at the beginning of the 21st century. Some of these challenges have come from feminist theory and epistemology; some from Black, Latinx, and minority ethnic scholarship; some from queer studies; some from decolonial and postcolonial theory. Without aspiring to do full justice to any of these (and many other) perspectives, the session focuses on the implications of their ontological and epistemological critique for how we think about our research subjects (those we do research with), our research 'objects' (concepts we use in researching society), and ourselves as researchers or knowers. What does it mean to do, know, and practice theory differently? What are the implications of these critiques for academic knowledge production?

The readings provide an overview of the historical origins of these discussions in sociology and other disciplines, as well as some of the most recent debates concerning the practices of 'knowing otherwise' in the context of decolonizing the curriculum. They connect and overlap, in particular, with Topics 3, 5, 6 and 9, but also to the broader issues of identity and social justice, 'truth' and epistemic authority, and scientific knowledge practices.

Session 1:

Required reading:

- Bhambra, G. (2014). *Connected Sociologies*. London: Bloomsbury. Chapter 4: Global sociology: Indigenous, Subversive, Autonomous? (pp. 81–96); Chapter 5: Global sociology: Multiple, Southern, Provincial? (pp. 107– 114.)
- Connell, R.W. (1997). 'Why is classical theory classical?' *American Journal of Sociology* 102(6): 1511–57.
- Haraway, D. (1991). "Situated Knowledges," In *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women*. New York: Routledge. (note: also in recommended reading for Topic 3)
- Hill Collins, P. (2015). Intersectionality's Definitional Dilemmas. *Annual Review of Sociology* 41 (1), 1–20. (see also Recommended Reading for Topic 4, Bhambra, G. K. (2015). Black thought matters: Patricia Hill Collins and the long tradition of African

- American sociology, and Collins, P. H. (1986). Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought)
- Mignolo, W. D. (2009). Epistemic Disobedience, Independent Thought and Decolonial Freedom. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 26(7–8), 159–181.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0263276409349275>
- TallBear, K. (2015). Dossier: Theorizing Queer Inhumanisms: An Indigenous Reflection on Working Beyond the Human/Not Human. *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, Vol. 21(2-3), 230–235.

Recommended reading:

- Connell, R. (2007). *Southern Theory*. Cambridge: Polity. In particular Chapter 1, ‘Empire and the creation of a social science’ (pp. 3-26), and Chapter 2, ‘Modern social theory and its hidden assumptions’ (pp. 27-47).
- Connell, R. (2014). Using southern theory: Decolonizing social thought in theory, research and application. *Planning Theory*, 13(2), 210–223.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1473095213499216>
- Dotson, K. (2012). A Cautionary Tale: On Limiting Epistemic Oppression. *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 1, pp. 24-47.
- Fricker, M. (2007). *Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- McKinnon, R. (2016). Epistemic Injustice. *Philosophy Compass* 11/8: 437–446, 10.1111/phc3.12336.
- Savransky, M. (2017). A Decolonial Imagination: Sociology, Anthropology and the Politics of Reality. *Sociology*, 51(1), 11–26. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0038038516656983>
- Todd, Z. (2016). An Indigenous Feminist’s Take on the Ontological Turn: ‘Ontology’ is just another word for colonialism. *Journal of Historical Sociology* 29(1): 4-22.

Essay questions:

1. How do you understand the relationship between the historical constitution of sociology as a ‘metropolitan’ science and knowledge from ‘the periphery’?
2. Is epistemic pluralism irreconcilable with the concept of ‘truth’?
3. What does it mean to know ‘differently’ in the context of Western academia?

Supervision:

Contact Dr Jana Bacevic at jb906@cam.ac.uk

LENT TERM 2020

5. Black Logic, Black Methods, #BlackLivesMatter – Dr Ali Meghji

This session will use the work of Du Bois as a springboard for discussing the problem of liberation within the Black sociological tradition. In particular, we will investigate how the Black sociological tradition developed a very particular view on the relationship between theory and data in sociological research. In doing so, we will highlight how Black sociology puts forward a specific argument about what theory ought to be used for, and how theory can be used as a means for liberation and uplift. We will approach Black sociology through focusing on the critical social theory of Du Bois and Hill Collins, and reflect on the central tenets of Black sociology through the case study of #BlackLivesMatter.

Session 1:*Required Reading*

- Collins, Patricia Hill. 1998. *Fighting Words: Black Women and the Search for Justice*. Minneapolis: Univ Of Minnesota Press. (Especially Introduction; Part I, Chapter 2).
- Du Bois, W. E. Burghardt. 1898. 'The Study of the Negro Problems'. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 11: 1–23.
- Du Bois, W. E. B. (1990). My Evolving Program for Negro Freedom. *Clinical Sociology Review*, 8(1), 27–57.
- Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. 2016. *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*. Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books.

Recommended Reading

- Armstrong, E. G. (1979). Black Sociology and Phenomenological Sociology. *The Sociological Quarterly*, 20(3), 387–397.
- Bhambra, G. K. (2014). A sociological dilemma: race, segregation and US sociology. *Current Sociology*, 62(4), 472–492.
- Bhambra, G. K. (2015). Black thought matters: Patricia Hill Collins and the long tradition of African American sociology. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38(13), 2315–2321. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2015.1058497>
- Collins, P. H. (1986). Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought. *Social Problems*, 33(6), 14–32. <https://doi.org/10.2307/800672>
- Christian, B. (1987). The Race for Theory. *Cultural Critique*, (6), 51–63. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1354255>
- Du Bois, W. E. B. (2007). *Dusk of Dawn: An Essay Toward an Autobiography of a Race Concept*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Especially Chapters 5 and 6).
- Hunter, M. A. (2018). Black Logics, Black Methods: Indigenous Timelines, Race, and Ethnography. *Sociological Perspectives*, 61(2), 207–221. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0731121418758646>
- Khan-Cullors, Patrisse. 2018. *When They Call You a Terrorist*. New York, NY: St Martin's Press.
- Ransby, Barbara. 2018. *Making All Black Lives Matter: Reimagining Freedom in the 21st Century*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Wright II, E., & Calhoun, T. C. (2006). Jim Crow Sociology: Toward an Understanding of the Origin and Principles of Black Sociology via the Atlanta Sociological Laboratory. *Sociological Focus*, 39(1), 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380237.2006.10571274>

Essay questions

1. How can classical Black sociology help us to understand contemporary liberation movements?
2. How can we use Black sociology to reflect on the central aims of #BlackLivesMatter?
3. What role does social theory play in the struggles for freedom?

Supervision

Contact Dr Ali Meghji at am2059@cam.ac.uk

6. Domination, Resistance and Internalized Racism– Dr Mónica Moreno-Figueroa

The aim of this module is to explore the applicability of notions of ‘internal’, subjective, emotive, commonsensical, habitual on the one hand, and resistance, confrontation and opposition on the other, to social problems and notions of change. We will focus on the topic of racism (although many of the ideas may apply to interlocking oppressions such as classism, sexism, ageism, ableism) to guide a discussion on how sociology, cultural studies, critical race studies, feminist theory and related social sciences deal with the complexity of domination. By exploring the notion of internalized racism, we will consider what it takes to live through experiences of exclusion and privilege and also how those experiences develop logics to keep the systems of oppression in place.

Key questions will be: how can we think about social transformation at a point where the figure of protest and resistance has become predictable? How can we then grapple with the moments of compliance, habit, difficulty and at times inability to resist? How can we make it possible for a renewed sense of unity to develop between radicals and people who just tag along and do not engage in critiques of oppression? What do we lose when we romanticize resistance and do not consider how the contention of dominance operates? What do we gain when we keep the possibility of social transformation as a guiding force in our investigations? We will consider the concepts of domination, hegemony, ideology, common sense, habit, internalized oppression and resistance in relation to racism. We will look at how racism continues to renew its systematic and structural power, forms and pervasiveness and what the challenges are when exploring the roles people play in this.

Session 1: The internalised side of racism

Required Reading

- Hobson, J. (2005) *Venus in the Dark: Blackness and Beauty in Popular Culture*. New York and London: Routledge. “Chapter 4. The “Batty” Politic: Toward an aesthetic of the Black Female Body”.
- Hodge-Freeman, E. (2015) *The Color of Love: Racial Features, Stigma, and Socialization in Black Brazilian Families*. “Chapter 3. Home is where the Hurt Is: Affective Capital, Stigma and Racialisation”.
- Pyke, K. D. (2010) 'What Is Internalized Racial Oppression and Why Don't We Study It? Acknowledging Racism's Hidden Injuries', *Sociological Perspectives*, 53 (4); 551-572.
- Sullivan, S. (2015) *The Physiology of Sexist and Racist Oppression*. Introduction and Chapter 4. The Stomach and the Heart: On the Physiology of White Ignorance.
- Young, I. M. (2011) *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton University Press. “Chapter 2. The five faces of oppression”.

Recommended Reading

- Ahmed, S. (2017) *Living a Feminist Life*. “Conclusion 1. A Killjoy Survival Kit and Conclusion 2. A Killjoy Manifesto”.
- Fanon, F. (1991 (1967)) *Black Skin, White Masks*. (London: Pluto Press). “Chapter 5. The fact of blackness”.
- Lorde, A. (1983) *Zami, a New Spelling of My Name*. (Trumansburg, N.Y.: Crossing Press). Chapters 1 and 2 (at least).
- Rankine, C. (2014) *Citizen: An American Lyric*.

Session 2. Domination, Ideology, Habit and Resistance

Required Reading

- Pedwell, C. (2017) 'Transforming Habit: Revolution, Routine and Social Change', *Cultural Studies*, 31 (1): 93-120.
- Roseberry, W. (1994) 'Hegemony and the Language of Contention' in G. M. Joseph & Nugent, D. (eds) *Everyday Forms of State Formation: Revolution and the Negotiation of Rule in Modern Mexico* (Durham: Duke University Press); 355-366.
- Sullivan, S. (2006) *Revealing Whiteness: The Unconscious Habits of Racial Privilege*. (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press; Chesham: Combined Academic. Introduction and Chapter 1. Ignorance and Habit.
- Susen, S. (2014) 'Reflections on Ideology', *Thesis Eleven*, 124 (1); 90-113.
- Thompson, J. B. (1990) *Ideology and Modern Culture: Critical Social Theory in the Era of Mass Communication*. (Cambridge: Polity). "Chapter 1, The Concept of Ideology" - especially pages 52-72.

Recommended Reading

- Abu-Lughod, Lila. 1990. The romance of resistance: tracing transformations of power through Bedouin women. *American Ethnologist* 17(1):41-55.
- Bourdieu, P. (1990) *The Logic of Practice*. (Cambridge: Polity). "Chapter 8. Modes of Domination".
- Bourdieu, P. & R. Nice (1977) *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). "Chapter 4. Structures, Habitus, Power: Basis for a Theory of Symbolic Power".
- Eagleton, T. (2007) *Ideology: An Introduction*. (London: Verso).
- Gledhill, John. 2000. *Power and its disguises: anthropological perspectives on politics*. 2nd ed. London: Pluto Press. "Chapter 4. The political Anthropology of Colonialism: a Study of Domination and resistance".
- Gledhill, John. 2014. Indigenous autonomy, delinquent states, and the limits of resistance. *History and Anthropology*. 25, 4, p. 507-529
- Hall, S. (1986) 'Gramsci's Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity', *Journal of communication inquiry*, 10 (2); 5-27.
- Scott, J. C. (1990) *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts*. (New Haven: Yale University Press). Chapter 2. Domination, Acting and Fantasy.
- Sivaramakrishnan, K. 2005. "Some intellectual genealogies for the concept of everyday resistance". *American Anthropologist* 107(3): 346-355.
- Smith, Gavin. 2007. Hegemony. In *A companion to the anthropology of politics*, edited by David Nugent and Joan Vincent 216-230. Oxford: Blackwell.

Essay questions

1. To what extent do the dominated play a role in their own oppression?
2. In challenging racism how can we think critically about the relation between ideology and habit?

Supervision

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7. Remaking Life – Dr Lucy van de Wiel

This module will review recent debates in the social study of bioscience and biomedicine addressed to the changing status of the ‘biological’ as it becomes increasingly subject to technological intervention – sometimes referred to as the ‘remaking of life’. In the first two-hour session we examine Paul Rabinow’s contention that ‘nature will be remade as technique’ and that new forms of ‘biosociality’ will emerge in response to projects such as the Human Genome initiative. We will further develop this concern with readings by Sarah Franklin and Michelle Murphy in order to explore what, exactly, is meant by ‘biology’ in the context of reproductive technologies. If biology is becoming more ‘technologised’, does this also suggest a more biological model of technology? In what way might we reconceptualise both biology and technology, now that they appear to be increasingly merged? How can we situate these concerns in relation to the urgent and ongoing environmental crises of the 21st century? What are the (bio-)political dimensions of these questions?

In the second session we explore these questions with two contemporary case studies. Firstly, we will consider the 21st-century introduction of egg freezing as a means for having children later in life alongside Hannah Landecker’s ‘Living Differently in Time: Plasticity, Temporality and Cellular Biotechnologies.’ Landecker demonstrates how a sociology and cultural critique of biotechnology can offer a rethinking of what it means to ‘be biological’ and to live in time. The question of time is also central in the second case study: a new, visual reproductive technology for embryo selection called time-lapse embryo imaging. With Fox Keller’s concept of the ‘biological gaze’ and Sarah Franklin’s *Biological Relatives* we will critically examine the technoscientific knowledge practices that shape contemporary understandings of the biological.

Session 1:

Required Reading

- Clarke, Adele E., and Donna Jeanne Haraway. 2018. *Making Kin Not Population*. Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press. Introduction and “Making Kin in Chthulucene: Reproducing Multispecies Justice.”
- Franklin, Sarah. 2013. *Biological Relatives: IVF, Stem Cells, and the Future of Kinship*. Durham and London: Duke University Press. Introduction, Chapters 2 and 6 “Relatively Biological,” “Living Tools” and “Living IVF,” pp. 1-30, 68-101 and 185-220.
- Murphy, Michelle. 2012. *Seizing the Means of Reproduction*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, esp. “Introduction: Feminism in/as Biopolitics,” pp. 1-24.
- Rabinow, Paul. 1992. “Artificiality and Enlightenment.” In J. Crary and S. Kwinter (eds.), *Incorporations*. New York: Zone Books.

Recommended Reading

- Haraway, Donna. 1997. *Modest-Witness@Second-Millennium.FemaleMan-Meets-OncoMouse: Feminism and Technoscience*. New York and London: Routledge, esp. Chapter 5, “Fetus: The Virtual Speculum in the New World Order,” pp. 173-212.
- Rose, Nikolas. 2001. “The Politics of Life Itself.” *Theory, Culture & Society* 18 (6): 1–30. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02632760122052020>.

Session 2:*Required Readings*

- Franklin, Sarah 2013. *Biological Relatives: IVF, Stem Cells, and the Future of Kinship*. Durham and London: Duke University Press. Chapter 6 “IVF Live,” pp. 221-257.
- Keller, Evelyn Fox. 1996. “The Biological Gaze.” In George Robertson, Melinda Landecker, Hannah. 2005. “Living Differently in Time: Plasticity, Temporality and Cellular Biotechnologies.” *Culture Machine*, Vol 7.
- Mash, Lisa Tickner, Jon Bird, Barry Curtis, and Tim Putnam (eds.), *FutureNatural: Nature, Science and Culture*. London: Routledge, pp. 107-121.

Recommended Reading:

- Duden, Barbara. 1993. *Disembodying Women: Perspectives on Pregnancy and the Unborn*. Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press.
- Franklin, Sarah and Lock, Margaret. 2003. “Animation and Cessation: the Remaking of Life and Death” in S. Franklin and M. Lock (eds.), *Remaking Life and Death: Towards an Anthropology of Biomedicine*. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press, pp. 3-22.
- Landecker, Hannah. 2007. *Culturing Life: How Cells Became Technologies*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Petchesky, Rosalind Pollack. 1987. “Fetal Images: The Power of Visual Culture in the Politics of Reproduction.” *Feminist Studies*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (Summer), pp. 263-292.
- Van de Wiel, Lucy. 2015. “Frozen in Anticipation: Eggs for Later.” *Women’s Studies International Forum*, Vol 53, pp. 119-128.
- Van de Wiel, Lucy. 2019. “The Datafication of Reproduction: Time-Lapse Embryo Imaging and the Commercialisation of IVF.” *Sociology of Health & Illness*, Special Issue on Digital Health.

Essay questions

1. Is biology socially constructed?
2. Has human reproduction been changed by technology?

Supervision

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8. Sociology of Futures – Dr Michiel van Oudheusden and Prof Jennifer Gabrys

In this module we build on recent and emerging socio-technical, economic and environmental developments and challenges related to futures. The first session will address events such as the ‘nanotechnology revolution’ and climate change, to better apprehend the relationships between future making and policymaking, science fact and science fiction, and speculative and normative ethics. In doing so, we will consider the history and development of future studies and related fields with their own distinct aims, theories, methods, accomplishments and limitations. The second session will investigate the multiple ways in which futures are not just anticipated, but are also lived as the experience of ongoing and already experienced catastrophes and injustices. We will consider how futures are socially and politically inflected, and how a singular future collides with plural futures and contestations over trajectories of hope, imagination and pessimism. We will look at different narrations and analyses of endings of worlds as they relate to climate change and other future-present events.

Session 1 (Dr van Oudheusden): Imagining, Anticipating, Governing

Required Reading

- Adams, V., Murphy, M., Clarke, A.E. (2009). "Anticipation: Technoscience, Life, Affect, Temporality." *Subjectivity* 28, 246–265.
- Beckert, J. (2016). "Expectations and Uncertainty." In: *Imagined Futures: Fictional Expectations and Capitalist Dynamics*. Harvard University Press: Cambridge, MA, pp. 35-60.
- Guston, D. (2014). "Understanding 'anticipatory governance.'" *Social Studies of Science*, 44 (2), 218-242.
- Nordmann, A. (2014). "Responsible Innovation, the Art and Craft of Anticipation." *Journal of Responsible Innovation* 1, no. 1, 87-98, DOI: 10.1080/23299460.2014.882064.

Recommended Reading:

- Bennet, S. (2018). A role for art in policy-making? Policy Lab blog; <https://openpolicy.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/10/a-role-for-art-in-policy-making/>
- Borup, Mads, Nik Brown, Kornelia Konrad & Harro Van Lente. 2006. "The sociology of expectations in science and technology." *Technology Analysis & Strategic Management* 18, nos. 3-4, 285-298, DOI: 10.1080/09537320600777002.
- Geels, F.W. & Smit, W.A. (2000). "Failed technology futures: pitfalls and lessons from a historical survey." *Futures* 32, 867-885.
- Jasanoff, Sheila and Sang-Hyun Kim. 2009. "Containing the Atom: Sociotechnical Imaginaries and Nuclear Power in the United States and South Korea." *Minerva* 47, 119–146; DOI 10.1007/s11024-009-9124-4.
- Miles, I. (1993). "Stranger than fiction: How important is science fiction for futures studies?" April 1993, 315-321.
- Nordmann, A. & Rip, A. (2009). "Mind the gap revisited." *Nature Nanotechnology* 4 (May 2009), 273-274; www.nature.com/naturenanotechnology
- Williams, R. (2006). "Compressed Foresight and Narrative Bias: Pitfalls in Assessing High Technology Futures," *Science as Culture* 15 (4), 327-348, DOI: 10.1080/09505430601022668.
- Yusoff, K. & Gabrys, J. (2011). Climate change and the imagination. *WIREs Climate Change* 2, 516-534. DOI: 10.1002/wcc.117.

Session 2 (Prof Gabrys): Ends of Worlds and Futuring Otherwise

Required Reading

- Benjamin, Ruha. 2016. "Racial Fictions, Biological Facts: Expanding the Sociological Imagination through Speculative Methods." *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience* 2 (2): 1-28. doi:10.28968/cftt.v2i2.88.
- Danowski, Déborah and Eduardo Viveiros de Castro. 2017. *The Ends of the World*, trans. Rodrigo Nunes. Cambridge: Polity Press. [especially Chapter 1, "What Rough Beast" and Chapter 2, "Its Hour Come Round at Last"]
- Du Bois, W.E.B. 1920. "The Comet." In *Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil*. New York: Washington Square Press.
- Nelson, Alondra. 2002. "Introduction: Future Texts." *Social Text* 71 (Volume 20, Number 2), 1-15.
- Whyte, Kyle Powys. Indigenous Science (Fiction) for the Anthropocene: Ancestral Dystopias and Fantasies of Climate Change Crises, *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* 1, nos. 1-2 (2018), 224-242.

Recommended Reading:

- Ferreira da Silva, Denise. "Toward a Black Feminist Poethics: The Quest(ion) of Blackness toward the End of the World." *The Black Scholar* 44, no. 2 (2015): 85–86.
- Gabrys, Jennifer. 2019. "Ocean Sensing and Navigating the End of this World." *e-flux* 101, <https://www.e-flux.com/journal/101/272633/ocean-sensing-and-navigating-the-end-of-this-world>.
- Harney, Stefano and Fred Moten. 2013. *The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning & Black Study*. Brooklyn, NY: Autonomedia.
- Rifkin, Mark. 2017. *Beyond Settler Time: Temporal Sovereignty and Indigenous Self-Determination*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. [especially Chapter 1, "Indigenous Orientations" and Chapter 3, "The Duration of the Land"]
- Yusoff, Kathryn. 2018. *A Billion Black Anthropocenes or None*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Essay questions

1. Critically consider the data and methods of future(-oriented) studies.
2. Do future studies create better futures?
3. What is, and should be, the role of social scientists in 'anticipation'?

Supervision

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9. From Social Theory to Social Practice -- Prof Jennifer Gabrys

Social theory is often presented as an undertaking that is distinct from social practice. However, numerous studies of the social now work across these approaches and categories, and in so doing generate alternative and inventive engagements with social life. This final lecture will reflect on the overall structure of this paper that has put problems at the centre of theoretical inquiry. It will address how this approach raises the question of the role of practices both in the study of and engagement with sociality. We will analyse diverse approaches to practices within the social sciences, and we will consider how different configurations of theory and practice emerge within these works.

Session 1:*Required Reading*

- Gabrys, Jennifer. 2019. "Data Citizens: How to Reinvent Rights," in *Data Politics: Worlds, Subjects, Rights*, edited by Didier Bigo, Engin Isin and Evelyn Ruppert, pages 248-266. New York: Routledge.
- Gill, Natalie, Vicky Singleton, and Claire Waterton. 2017. "The Politics of Policy Practices." *The Sociological Review* 65, 2 (suppl), 3-19.
- Law, John. 2017. "STS as Method." In *The Handbook of Science and Technology Studies*, eds. Ulrike Felt, Rayvon Fouché, Clark A. Miller, and Laurel Smith-Doerr, 31-58. Cambridge: MIT press.
- Wynter, Sylvia and Katherine McKittrick. 2015. "Unparalleled Catastrophe for Our Species? Or, to Give Humanness a Different Future: Conversations." In *Sylvia Wynter: On Being Human as Praxis*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Recommended Reading:

- Balibar, Étienne, Barbara Cassin and Sandra Laugier. 2014. "Praxis." In *Dictionary of Untranslatables: A Philosophical Lexicon*, edited by Barbara Cassin, 820-832. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1990 *The Logic of Practice*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Gabrys, Jennifer, and Kathryn Yusoff. 2011. "Arts, Sciences and Climate Change: Practices and Politics at the Threshold." *Science as Culture* 21, no. 1, 1-24, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09505431.2010.550139>.
- Gad, Christopher and Casper Bruun Jensen. 2014. "The Promises of Practice." *Sociological Review* 62, no. 4, 1-21.
- James, William. 2000 (1897-1907). *Pragmatism and Other Writings*. New York: Penguin Books. [especially Lecture 1 and Lecture 2]
- Jasanoff, Sheila, ed. 2004. *States of Knowledge: The Co-Production of Science and the Social Order*. New York: Routledge.
- Lefebvre, Henri. 1996. *Writings on Cities: Henri Lefebvre*. Selected, translated and introduced by Eleonore Kofman and Elizabeth Lebas. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.
- Mol, Annemarie. 2002. *The Body Multiple: Ontology in Medical Practice*. Duke University Press.
- Schatzki, Theodore R., Karen Knorr-Cetina, and Eike von Savigny, eds. 2001. *The Practice Turn in Contemporary Theory*. New York: Routledge.

Essay questions

1. How is theory as it is applied to practice different than practice-based theorizations?
2. Compare two different approaches to practice: what versions of sociality do they mobilize and/or assume?

Supervision

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