

DESIGN ANTHROPOLOGY OF BORDERS

Ph.D. and Master Course in Cultural Anthropology, 7.5 ECTS, Fall 2017, Uppsala University. The course is open to students enrolled at masters programs at Uppsala University.

OBJECTIVE

The aim of the course is to provide an understanding of the anthropology of objects, sites and spaces as borders and bordering processes through implying different ethnographic as well as design concepts and methods.

CONTENT

While borders of different kinds seem to be everywhere, yet some borders are more visible than others due to their design; some perform heavier than others due to their distinctive material qualities; some are more lethal than others because of the way they perform; some borders operate not only to repress but to produce different sorts of subject, wealth and capital and they do so due to their specific design and materiality.

In recent years, an emerging movement in social sciences and humanities, including anthropology, is taking place which calls for a greater attention towards objects, materials, infrastructures and their performative, spatial and temporal qualities that recognises and consequently generates a different form of politics. Similarly, scholars of migration and border studies have payed attention to the performativity and materiality of borders for instance through discussing technologically and materially designed apparatuses regulating mobility and migration.

Following such emergence, this experimental course by weaving two modes of inquiry aims to provide a space for thinking and discussing as well as intervening in how the materiality and performativity of borders operate and what they produce through their designs in different sites and moments. Building on recent scholarship in *anthropology of borders* and *design anthropology*, this course aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice through multi-modal learning.

In this course, on the one hand, students will read the texts in which scholars and practitioners examine the materiality and performativity of borders in contemporary time. On the other hand, the course by engaging design methods of inquiry such as mapping, visualisation, prototyping, probing, etc. will include practice and project based explorations of borders in different contexts introduced to the class through lectures and seminars. Possible contexts for project could include but not limited to borders in urban spaces operating through logistics and infrastructures, gentrification processes, integration discourses and practices; geopolitical and historical borders operating through off shore visa policies, European border regime, colonial borders and demarcations, development and humanitarian work as well as borders in and by technological configurations such as algorithms, biometrics, surveillance, big data, drones, social media, etc.

TEACHING

Teaching activities include series of lectures, seminars, tutoring and workshops. Class attendance is obligatory. The language of instruction is English. For each seminar students are required to do an exercise.

EXAMINATION

Besides active participation in the course and short exercises, the students are expected to conduct and present a specific project that addresses encounters, negotiations and challenges around a border site of their choice. For the project, they can work individually or in a group of two if they wish. Second,

they are expected to deliver an essay of max. 3000 words reflecting critically on the process of their work by analysing and referring to the course literature and their ethnographic practice.

Students will be assessed for their active participation in class, their oral presentations of the project and for the quality of their final paper.

LITERATURE

DESIGN ANTHROPOLOGY & MATERIALITY

Design Anthropology

- Murphy, K. M. (2016). Design and Anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 45, 433-449. (16 pages)
- Gunn, W., Otto, T., & Smith, R. C. (Eds.). (2013). *Design anthropology: theory and practice*. London: Bloomsbury (Selected chapters-150 p.)
- Suchman, L. (2011). Anthropological relocations and the limits of design. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 40. (18 pages)

Anthropology of Material Culture

- Appadurai, A. (2013). "The Social Life of Design" in *The Future as Cultural Fact. Essays on the Global Condition*. London and New York: Verso.
- Ingold, T. (2012). Toward an ecology of materials. *Annual review of anthropology*, 41, 427-442. (15 pages)
- Larkin, B. (2013). The politics and poetics of infrastructure. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 42, 327-343. (16 p.)
- Hull, M. S. (2012). Documents and bureaucracy. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 41, 251-267. (16 p.)

BORDERS

Ethnography of Borders

- Khosravi, S. (2010) 'Illegal' Traveler: An auto-ethnography of borders, Palgrave MacMillan. (131 p.)
- Fassin, D. (2013). *Enforcing order: An ethnography of urban policing*. Polity Press. (selected chapters - p.xxx)
- Jansen, S. (2013). People and things in the ethnography of borders: materialising the division of Sarajevo. *Social Anthropology*, 21(1), 23-37.

Materiality of Borders

- Johnson, C., Jones, R., Paasi, A., Amoore, L., Mountz, A., Salter, M., & Rumford, C. (2011). Interventions on rethinking 'the border' in border studies. *Political Geography*, 30(2), 61-69. (8 p.)
- Shapira, H. (2013). The Border: Infrastructure of the Global. *Public Culture*, 25(2 70), 249-260.
- Heller, C & Pezzani, L 2014, 'Liquid traces', in Forensic Architecture (eds.), *Forensis: The Architecture of Public Truth*, Steinberg Press, pp. 657-684.
- Andersson, R. (2016). Hardwiring the frontier? The politics of security technology in Europe's 'fight against illegal migration'. *Security dialogue*, 47(1), 22-39.

Technological Borders

- Amoore, L. (2006). Biometric borders: Governing mobilities in the war on terror. *Political geography*, 25(3), 336-351. (15 p.)
- Tawil-Souri, H. (2015). Cellular Borders: Dis/Connecting Phone Calls in Israel-Palestine. *Signal Traffic: Critical Studies of Media Infrastructures*, 157-182. (25 p)
- Verstraete, G. 2003. "Technological Frontiers and the Politics of Mobility in the European Union". In *Uprootings/Regroundings: Questions of Home and Migration*, edited by Sara Ahmed, Claudia Castada, Anne-Marie Fortier, and Mimi Sheller, 225-249. London: Bloomsbury.

Urban Borders

- Graham, S. (2010) "Ubiquitous Borders" in *Cities Under Siege*. London: Verso. Pp.89-152 (63 p.)
- Caldeira, T. P. (1996). Fortified Enclaves: The New Urban Segregation. *Public culture*, 8(2), 303-328. (25 p.)
- Keshavarz, M. (2017). "Undesigning Borders: Spaces of Borders and Counter-Practices of Looking" in Coombs, G, Sade, G., McNamara, A. (eds.) *Undesign: Critical Perspectives at the Intersection of Art and Design*. London: Routledge (15 p.)

Geopolitical Borders

- Casas-Cortes, M., Cobarrubias, S., & Pickles, J. (2013). Re-bordering the neighbourhood: Europe's emerging geographies of non-accession integration. *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 20(1), 37-58. (21 p.)
- Reeves, M. (2014). *Border work: spatial lives of the state in rural Central Asia*. Cornell University Press.
- Green, S. (2012). A sense of border. In Wilson, T. and Donnan, H (eds.) *A Companion to Border Studies*, Wiley Blackwell, 573-592. (19 p.)

Suggested Reading

- Rael, R. (2017). *Borderwall as Architecture: A Manifesto for the US-Mexico Boundary*. Univ of California Press.
- De León, J. (2015). *The land of open graves: Living and dying on the migrant trail* (Vol. 36). Univ of California Press.(384 pages)
- Reviel Netz. (2004). *Barbed wire: An ecology of modernity*. Wesleyan University Press.
- Weizman, E. (ed). (2015) *Forensis: The Architecture of Public Truth*. Sternberg Press
- Ascher, K. (2005). *The works: Anatomy of a city*. Penguin Group USA.
- Neilson, B. and Mazzadra, S. (2013) *Border as Method or the Multiplication of Labour*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- van Reekum, R., & Schinkel, W. (2017). Drawing lines, enacting migration: visual prostheses of bordering Europe. *Public Culture*, 29(1 81), 27-51.