

Disordered States

(CHDV 33302; ANTH 35120)

Eugene Raikhel

Comparative Human Development

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TIME AND LOCATION

Wednesdays 10:30 AM – 1:20 PM, Harper Memorial Library 103

OFFICE HOURS

Time may vary from week to week. For current office hours and to sign up, please visit: <https://wiki.uchicago.edu/display/~eraikhel/Office+hours>

Office hours are held in 5736 S. Woodlawn, #203

SUMMARY

This course examines the intersection between two areas of research that have recently experienced a resurgence in anthropology: (1) new ethnographic work on states and state-like institutions and (2) the literature on subjective experiences of remembering, trauma and suffering. In other words, this course covers different ways in which the relationships between persons and states in crisis have been conceptualized in recent anthropological work. We begin by examining the literature on social memory and history, then move to discuss trauma and political violence, and conclude with several weeks focusing on issues of sovereignty, citizenship and suffering.

While we will read material drawn from a number of settings, a substantial portion of the readings will focus on Russia and post-Soviet Eurasia. **This course may be counted towards the social sciences requirement of the Russian Studies major.**

PREREQUISITES AND FORMAT

This course is intended for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. The course will be run in a seminar format, with a minimum of lecturing on the part of the instructor. We will spend the majority of the time closely examining the texts for each week and discussing the problems they address. Please come to each class with two or

three questions regarding the reading (whether or not you are giving a presentation that week).

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following requirements and assignments:

- 1) **Participation** in weekly discussions.
- 2) **One in-class presentation** of the readings for a particular week. Working with one or two classmates, students will give one short (10-15 minute) presentation of the readings for a particular week. This should be a presentation of the themes, issues or problems that run through all of the readings, *not* a summary of the texts. Your presentation will serve to open our discussion, so please prepare some discussion questions for the class.
- 3) **Two short papers** (3,000 words each) analyzing a number of course readings. You will be expected to analyze a particular problem and establish your own position in relation to a number of the assigned texts. This can take the form of a conceptual analysis of an issue or problem discussed in the course, or an interpretation or analysis of fieldwork data which you have already carried out. The papers are due on April 27 and June 1 respectively.

A number of books will be available for purchase at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore and on reserve at Regenstein:

Required:

Joao Biehl, *Will to Live: AIDS Therapies and the Politics of Survival* (Princeton University Press, 2007).

Jennifer Cole, *Forget Colonialism: sacrifice and the art of memory in Madagascar* (University of California Press, 2001). [Also available as an e-book at: <http://site.ebrary.com.proxy.uchicago.edu/lib/uchicago/docDetail.action?docID=10051550>]

Serguei Oushakine, *The Patriotism Of Despair: Nation, War, and Loss in Russia* (Cornell University Press, 2009).

Adriana Petryna, *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens After Chernobyl* (Princeton University Press, 2002).

All other texts will be available in the "Course Documents" folder on Chalk.

SCHEDULE OF COURSE SESSIONS AND READINGS

March 30 – Course introduction

April 6 – History, memory and forgetting

Maurice Halbwachs, *The Collective Memory*. (Harper and Row: 1980[1950]).
Focus on pp. 44-49 (Chapter 1), 80-87 (Chapter 2) and 1-4, 12-15 (Chapter 4).

Frederic C. Bartlett, *Remembering: A Study in Experimental and Social Psychology* (Cambridge UP, 1932). pp. 197-214, 293-300.

Paul Connerton, *How Societies Remember* (Cambridge UP, 1989). Focus on Chapters 2 and 3 (pp. 41-104).

Mary Douglas, *How Institutions Think* (Syracuse UP, 1986), pp. 69-90.

Pierre Nora, 'Between Memory and History: *Les Lieux De Mémoire*', *Representations*, 1989, 7-24.

April 13 – Memory after colonialism

Jennifer Cole, *Forget Colonialism: sacrifice and the art of memory in Madagascar* (University of California Press, 2001).

April 20 – Memory after state socialism

Alexander Etkind. 2009 "Post-Soviet Hauntology: Cultural Memory of the Soviet Terror," - *Constellations*. An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory 16 (1): 182-200.

Robert Hayden, 'Recounting the Dead: The Rediscovery and Redefinition of Wartime Massacres in Late-and Post-Communist Yugoslavia', in *Memory, History, and Opposition Under State Socialism*, 1994, 167-189.

Greta Uehling, 'The Crimean Tatars in Uzbekistan: Speaking with the Dead and Living Homeland', *Central Asian Survey*, 20 (2001), 391-404.

Michele Rivkin Fish, 'Tracing Landscapes of the Past in Class Subjectivity: Practices of Memory and Distinction in Marketizing Russia', *American Ethnologist*, 36 (2009), 79-95.

Erik Mueggler, 1998. "A Carceral Regime: Violence and Social Memory in Southwest China." *Cultural Anthropology* 13(2): 167-92.

April 27 – No class

*** First paper due ***

May 4 – Loss, nostalgia and post-Soviet transformation

Serguei Oushakine, *The Patriotism Of Despair: Nation, War, and Loss in Russia* (Cornell University Press, 2009).

Alexei Yurchak. "Soviet Hegemony of Form: Everything Was Forever, Until It Was No More," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 45, No. 3, July 2003.

Svetlana Boym. (2001). Nostalgia and Post-Communist Memory. In *The future of nostalgia*. New York, Basic Books. Pp. 57-74.

May 11 – Violence and trauma

Cathy Caruth, "Unclaimed experience: trauma and the possibility of history," *Yale French Studies*, no. 79 (1991): 181-192.

Laurence Kirmayer, "Landscapes of memory: Trauma, Narrative and Dissociation," in Paul Antze and Michael Lambek, eds. *Tense Past: Cultural Essays in Trauma and Memory* (Routledge: 1996).

Allan Young, 2002. 'The Self-Traumatized Perpetrator as a "transient Mental Illness"', *L'Évolution Psychiatrique*, 67(4): 630-650.

Erica Caple James, 'The Political Economy of 'Trauma' in Haiti in the Democratic Era of Insecurity', *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*, 28 (2004), 127-149.

Didier Fassin and E. D'Halluin, 'Critical Evidence: The Politics of Trauma in French Asylum Policies', *Ethos*, 35 (2007), 300-329.

Film: Robert Lemelson, *40 Years of Silence: An Indonesian Tragedy*. (Elemental Productions: 2009).

May 18 – Sovereignty

Michel Foucault. "Two Lectures" 1980. *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977*.

Giorgio Agamben (1998 [1995]) *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, trans. Daniel Heller-Roazen. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. Selections.

Katherine Verdery. A Transition from Socialism to Feudalism? Thoughts on the Postsocialist State in *What was Socialism and What Comes Next*, (Princeton UP: 1996).

Caroline Humphrey. 2004. Sovereignty. In *A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics*, ed. D Nugent, J Vincent, pp. 418–36. Oxford: Blackwell

Vadim Volkov (1999) "Violent Entrepreneurship in Post-Communist Russia." *Europe-Asia Studies* 51: 741–754.

Mariella Pandolfi, "Laboratory Of Intervention The Humanitarian Governance of the Postcommunist Balkan Territories," in *Postcolonial Disorders* University of California Press, 2008.

May 25 – Biological citizenship

Adriana Petryna, *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens After Chernobyl* (Princeton University Press: 2002).

June 1 – Illness solidarities

*** Second paper due ***

Joao Biehl, *Will to Live: AIDS Therapies and the Politics of Survival* (Princeton University Press, 2007).

June 8 – Disordered states and political subjectivities

*** As this session takes place during reading week, attendance is optional for undergraduates ***

Byron J. Good, Subandi, and Mary-Jo Delvecchio Good. 2007 The subject of

mental illness: Psychosis, mad violence, and subjectivity in Indonesia. *In Subjectivity: Ethnographic investigations*. J. Biehl, B. Good, and A. Kleinman, eds. Pp. 243-272. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Begoña Aretxaga, 2008. "Madness and the Politically Real: Reflections on Violence in Post-dictatorial Spain." *Postcolonial Disorders* University of California Press: 43-61.

Stefania Pandolfo, 2008. "The Knot of the Soul: Postcolonial Conundrums, Madness, and the Imagination." *Postcolonial Disorders* University of California Press: 329-358.

Clara Han, 2011. "Symptoms of Another Life: Time, Possibility, and Domestic Relations in Chile's Credit Economy," *Cultural Anthropology*, 26(1): 7-32