

## Political Geographies of Development: Rule, Space, Subjectivity

\*Note: This syllabus is subject to change.

Instructor: Sapana Doshi  
Office: 438 Harvill  
Email: [sdoshi@email.arizona.edu](mailto:sdoshi@email.arizona.edu)

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### *Overview*

This is a course on critical theories of development governance where “development” is understood as a set of uneven processes of capital accumulation and dispossession, competing ideologies of intervention and practices of rule. With a primary focus on political geographies in the Global South, it will investigate theories of the state, modalities of rule and subjectivity to understand how development is governed (or not), advanced (or resisted) and reproduced (or reworked). The course starts with the premise that subjects of development are not simply determined by unidirectional state machinations or rationalities of rule but also constitutive of them through social formations, collective mobilizations, institutions and individual practices. Furthermore, global interconnections, histories, contingencies and specificities of place also fundamentally contour the ways in which people encounter the crises and contradictions of capitalist development, past and present. The seminar will explore how political geographies of development are shaped by histories of struggle over cultural meaning, space and material resources with a strong focus on embodied experiences and articulated relations of power and difference (class, gender, ethnicity, race, caste, etc.). The course includes a mix of articles, chapters and books bringing geographers working on critical development studies into conversation with other multi-disciplinary scholars. The course is guided by key social theory texts on the governance, subjectivities and cultural politics of capitalist development especially the work of Gramsci and Foucault and contemporary postcolonial, Marxist and feminist interpretations and engagements with these texts.

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### *Requirements*

This is a reading intensive seminar that will be most successful if everyone comes well prepared for discussion.

Each student will be expected to perform the following:

1. Prepare a one-page commentary on the week’s reading and circulate it to the class (in the discussion section of D2L) by Tuesday evening before Wednesday’s seminar. While it may be helpful to state key arguments, the one-pagers should not simply summarize the readings, but critically engage the literature, making linkages between the pieces and/or to your own work.

You might discuss how the readings engage with questions of development governance, how well authors substantiate their claims, and additions that would strengthen their arguments. You could also explore a concept or two within the readings and relate it/them to your own work. The one-pagers are your opportunity to reflect on the readings in a way that is productive for you. They are also very useful references for dissertation writing and comps so it does indeed pay to put some effort into them.

2. Lead/chair one or two class discussions (possibly with one other student). You should begin with a short 10-minute presentation of the key theoretical and conceptual issues in the reading(s) for that week. It would also be useful to make linkages to key themes or problems addressed in previous sessions.
3. Submit a final paper. Details to follow.

Format of the class: The first period of the class (1.25 - 1.5 hours in) will be a discussion of the key readings assigned for the week. After I do a brief contextualization to situate the readings within a larger set of literatures and debates, I will hand the class over to be chaired by 1 or 2 students. The student chair(s) will take 10 minutes or so to frame the book/articles and pose a set of key questions. The student chair(s) is/are then responsible for leading and guiding the discussion. When convenient, we will take a short break and continue the discussion (possibly of some additional questions that I will raise). I will end the class with a brief segue into the following week's readings. Students should feel free to participate in the last portion of the class as well.

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### *Readings by Week*

Week 1: January 9

Introduction to the course

### **a history of the present**

Week 2: January 16

Gillian Hart 2010 "D/developments after the Meltdown." *Antipode* 41: 117-141

David Harvey 2005 *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (selections)

Aihwa Ong 2007 "Neoliberalism as a mobile technology"

James Ferguson 2010 "The Uses of Neoliberalism"

Suggested background readings:

Stuart Hall 2011 "The Neoliberal Revolution"

Wendy Larner 2000 "Neo-liberalism: Policy, Ideology and Governmentality"

Marion Fourcade-Gourinchas and Sarah L. Babb 2002 "The Rebirth of the Liberal Creed: Paths to Neoliberalism in Four Countries"

## **the hegemony of market society**

Week 3: January 23

Stuart Hall 1986 “Gramsci’s Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity”

Michael Burawoy 2004 “The Complementary Convergence of Gramsci and Polanyi”

Antonio Gramsci (selections from the Prison Notebooks)

Suggested:

Karl Polanyi *The Great Transformation*

*Gramsci: Space, Nature, Politics* 2013 (selections) Edited by Michael Ekers, Gillian Hart, Stefan Kipfer and Alex Loftus

## **authority, expertise, knowledge**

Week 4: January 30

Michael Goldman 2006 *Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice in the Age of Globalization* (selections)

Tim Mitchell 1991 “America’s Egypt”

James Ferguson 1990 (summary article of *The Anti-politics Machine*)

Suggested:

James Scott 1998 *Seeing Like a State*

## **dispossessions of land, labor and resources**

Week 5: February 6

David Harvey 2003 “Accumulation by Dispossession” in *The New Imperialism*

Gillian Hart 2006 “Denaturalizing Dispossession”

Jim Glassman 2006 “Primitive accumulation, accumulation by dispossession, accumulation by ‘extra-economic’ means”

Silvia Federici *Caliban and the Witch* (selections)

Suggested:

Massimo De Angelis “Separating the Doing from the Deed”

## **the politics of representation in the colonial present**

Week 6: February 13

Joel Wainwright *Decolonizing Development*

(Wainwright will be the SGD colloquium speaker on February 15)

## **governmentality, community, state-effect**

Week 7: February 20

Michel Foucault *Security, Territory, Population* (selections)

Michael Watts 2010 “The Antimonies of Community”

James Ferguson and Akhil Gupta 2002 “Spatializing States: Towards an Ethnography of Neoliberal Governmentality”

Timothy Mitchell “Society, Economy and the State-effect”

Suggested:

Thomas Blom Hansen and Finn Stepputat 2000 *States of Imagination: Reflections on the Postcolonial State*

Giles Mohan and Stokke 2000 “Participatory Development and Empowerment: The Dangers of Localism”

Nik Rose 1998 *Powers of Freedom*

## **states of structural violence**

Week 8: February 27

Akhil Gupta 2012 *Red Tape: Bureaucracy, Structural Violence and Poverty in India*

(Sapana is organizing an “Author Meets Critics” at AAG 2013 on Gupta’s book)

## **citizenship, sovereignty, exception**

Week 9: March 6

Michel Foucault *Society Must Be Defended* (selections)

Michel Foucault *Birth of Biopolitics* (selections)

Giorgio Agambem *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life* (selections)

Achille Mbembe “Necropolitics”

Spring Break

## **necropolitics, biopolitics, value**

Week 10: March 20 (Melissa Wright will be giving the Jan Monk Lecture on March 22)  
Melissa Wright 2011 Necropolitics, Narcopolitics, and Femicide: Gendered Violence on the Mexico-U.S. Border

Melissa Wright 2004 From Protests to Politics: Sex Work, Women's Worth, and Ciudad Juarez Modernity

TBA (maybe Gayatri Spivak "Scattered Speculations on the Theory of Value")

## **graduated sovereignty, graduated citizenship**

Week 11: March 27  
Aiwaha Ong *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty* (selections)

## **the (geo)politics of social reproduction**

Week 12: April 3  
Katherine Mitchell, Sallie Marston, Cindi Katz 2001 "Life's Work"

Cindi Katz 2001 "Vagabond Capitalism"

Louis Althusser "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses"

Jennifer Casolo and Sapana Doshi 2013 "Domesticated Dispossession? Towards a Transnational Feminist Geopolitics of Development"

Sallie Marston 2000 "The Social Construction of Scale"

Suggested:

Isabella Bakker and Rachel Silvey 2008 *Beyond States and Markets: The Challenges of Social Reproduction*. (selections)

Paul Willis 1981 "Cultural Production is Different from Cultural Reproduction is Different from Social Reproduction is Different from Reproduction" *Interchange*

Week 13: April 10 CANCELLED FOR AAG

## **movements, articulations, difference**

Week 14: April 17  
Ruth Wilson Gilmore. *The Golden Gulag*

Week 15: April 24  
Wendy Wolford *This Land is Ours Now: Social Mobilization and the Meanings of Land in Brazil*

## urbanization and the governing of “surplus humanity”

Week 16: May 1

Partha Chatterjee 2004 *The Politics of the Governed* (selections)

Gavin Smith 2011 “Selective Hegemony and Beyond-Populations with “No Productive Function”: A Framework for Enquiry

Mike Davis *Planet of Slums* (selections)

May 8 Papers due

Other suggested readings on ngoization, resistance and the local:

Stuart Hall 1986 “Race, Articulation and Societies Structured in Dominance”

Tania Li 2000 “Articulating indigenous identity in Indonesia: resource politics and the tribal slot” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 42:149–79.

Yogendra Shakhya and Katherine Rankin “The Politics of Subversion in Development Practice”

Giles Mohan and Stokke 2000 “Participatory Development and Empowerment: The Dangers of Localism”

Nancy Postero

Aradhana Sharma

Richa Nagar

Sarah Radcliffe

Cindi Katz (on resistance in *Signs* 2001 or on neoliberal subjectivities in *Antipode* 2005)

Donald Moore 1997 “Remapping Resistance”

Arturo Escobar 2008 *Territories of Difference*

Ruth Wilson Gilmore 1999 “You Have Dislodged a Boulder”

Walker, Jones, Ruddick and Frohling “When participation meets empowerment”

K. McKinnon “An orthodoxy of ‘the local’: post-colonialism, participation and professionalism in northern Thailand” *The Geographical Journal*

Other suggested readings on urbanization:

Ananya Roy & Nezar Alsayyad 2004 *Urban Informality in Transnational Perspective* (1-30)

Oren Yiftachel 2008 “Gray Spaces”

Stefan Kipfer “City, Country, Hegemony: Antonio Gramsci’s Spatial Historicism”