

THEORIZING FOLKLORE III: DIFFERENTIATION, IDENTIFICATION, AND THE FOLK

English 7350.03 and Comparative Studies 7350.03

Autumn, 2017

Thursday 9:10-12:10 Denney 419

Office hours Thursday 12:15-1:30 and by appointment

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Theories of High and Low Culture

This seminar explores the emergence of notions of tradition and modernity and their reproduction in Eurocentric epistemologies and political formations. We will consider the implications of these concepts for differentiations among high and low, local and global, oral and written, etc. Readings will include Anderson, Bourdieu, Butler, Canclini, Chakrabarty, Clifford, Derrida, Foucault, Herder, Latour, Mignolo, Pateman, Poovey and Vico. We will critically reread foundational works published between the 17th century (especially German Romanticists) and the present--along with philosophical texts with which they are in dialogue--in terms of how they are imbricated within and help produce traditionalities and modernities.

Requirements:

1. Oral Presentation on one of the readings. Your presentation should include:
 - ❖ a concise summary of the central arguments of the reading (also posted to Carmen, either before or after your presentation)
 - ❖ a discussion of the ideas presented, especially considering the binary oppositions addressed in the article and your suggestions for thinking about how they are productive (or not)
 - ❖ questions for class discussion
2. One reference to contribute to a collective annotated bibliography on the general topic of high and low culture tradition and modernity, globalization and local cultural change, or the critique of Romanticism, the Enlightenment, the Reformation from a folkloristic perspective. Most students will include this in their oral presentation on one of the readings, but that is not required.
3. A term paper, either an 8-10 page conference paper or a longer draft of work in progress.
4. Oral presentation of your term paper, 5 minutes of summary followed by 5 minutes of class discussion,

Texts: All readings are available Carmen/Canvas with the exception of journal articles available on line.

Reading Assignments

August 24: Introduction

Conceptualizing Differentiations: Type and Token (Wollheim); Family Resemblance (Wittgenstein); semiotic oppositions (Eco); proper nouns (Bateson); dialectic and negative dialectic; self and other; tradition and modernity

August 31: The emergence of the concept of the folk

Vico in *The Rise of Modern Mythology*

Herder in *The Rise of Modern Mythology*

Bogatyrev and Jakobson "Folklore as a Special Form of Creation"

Burke, Peter. "The Discovery of the People" in *Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe*

Redfield "Peasantry: Part-Societies"

-----"A Community Within Communities"

Recommended:

Selections from "The Mythical Past": Rousseau, Engels, Nietzsche, Freud, Crawley, Marett, Levy- Bruhl, Tylor, and Lee from Primitive Heritage eds. Margaret Mead and Nicolas Calas.

Wordsworth "The Lyrical Ballad"

Ronald Hutton, 'The English Reformation and the evidence of folklore', Past and Present, 148 (1995), pp. 89-116 (28pp)

Kaneff from "Who Owns the Past"

September 7: Considering Pastness, Modernity's Other, History/Dialectic

Briggs and Bauman "Creating Modernity's Others in Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century England: antiquarian and philological inflections

Rearick, selection from *Beyond the Enlightenment*

Levi-Strauss, Claude "History and the Dialectic" and "The Science of the Concrete" from *The Savage Mind*

Benjamin, Walter "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" and "Theses on History" from *Illuminations*

D Chakrabarty Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History: Who Speaks for "Indian" Pasts?- *Representations*, 1992

Carmen Ortiz "The Uses of Folklore by the Franco Regime" *Journal of American Folklore* vol 112 446 1999 479-496

September 14: The Collection

Grimm "Circular concerning the collecting of folk poetry" from Dundes

Haraway Teddy Bear Patriarchy: Taxidermy in the Garden of Eden, New York City, 1908-1936 in *Primate Visions* (on carmen)

Von Sydow "Geography and folk tale oicotypes"

Stewart "The collection, paradise of consumption" from *On Longing*

Hacking "Making up People"

Noyes "On Sociocultural Categories"

Recommended: Cara and Baron Introduction to special issue of *Journal of American Folklore* on Creolization

September 21: high/low; marked/unmarked/Music

Bourdieu The sense of distinction in *Distinctions* (on carmen)

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara. "Disputing taste" in *Destination Cultures*

Kirshenblatt-Gimbett "Sounds of Sensibility"

Gregory Bateson "A Theory of Play and Fantasy" from *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*

Silverman "Trafficking in the Exotic with 'Gypsy Music: Balkan, Roma, Cosmopolitanism, and 'World Music' Festivals

Jackson, Michael "Listening Otherwise"

Recommended:

Bahktin excerpt from *Rabelais and His World*

September 28: Authenticity/tradition/invention/style/Dance and Performance

Chan Park "Authentic Audience" in P'ansori, a Korean Storytelling Tradition
The Journal of American Folklore, Vol. 113, No. 449 (Summer, 2000), pp. 270-286

Bendix "Tourism and cultural displays: inventing traditions for whom?"
Journal of American Folklore 102 no 404 1989 pp 131-146

Sabra Webber "In Defense of (Maghribi) Folklore" in *Romancing the Real*

Linnekin, Jocelyn "Cultural Invention and the Dilemma of Authenticity"
American Anthropologist, Vol. 93, No. 2 (Jun., 1991), pp. 446-449

Handler, Richard and Jocelyn Linnekin "Tradition, Genuine or Spurious"
The Journal of American Folklore, Vol. 97, No. 385 (Jul. - Sep., 1984), pp. 273-290

Bendix, Regina from *In Search of Authenticity*

Hobsbawm, "The Invention of Tradition"

Hufford, Mary "Folklore in Appalachia"

Recommended:

Hymes, Folklore's nature and the sun's myth

October 5: Local Global/High Low/Science Magic/Sacred Secular/Belief/Disbelief

Barber, Benjamin "Jihad vs. McWorld" *The Atlantic Monthly*. March 1992.

Geertz, Clifford. "Local Knowledge:

Amy Shuman "Dismantling Local Culture"

Marilyn Strathern "Parts and Wholes: refiguring relationships in a post-plural world"

Bennett, Gillian "Belief and Disbelief"

Mullen, Patrick "Belief and the American Folk" *Journal of American Folklore*
113: 448, 2006 pp 119-143

Recommended:

Mahmood, Saba "Secularism, Hermeneutics, and Empire: The Politics of Islamic Reformation. *Public Culture* 18:2. 2006.

Autumn Break October 12 no class

No class October 19

October 26: Material culture: art/craft; Geographies/Diasporas

Glassie, Henry "Material Culture" in *Material Culture*

Hunt, Marjorie "Born into the Stone"

Babcock, Barbara "Pueblo Cultural Bodies" *Journal of American Folklore* 107 (423): 40-54. 1994.

Lucy Lippard the Lure of the Local manipulating memory chapter (also about heritage tourism)

Clifford, James. "Diasporas." *Cultural anthropology* 9.3 (1994): 302-338.

Kirshenblatt, Gimblett, Barbara response to Clifford
<http://www.nyu.edu/classes/bkg/web/>

Recommended:

Selected Readings by Ruskin, Morris, and others from Arts and Crafts Movement

Hasan-Rokem, Galit "Jews as Postcards, or Postcards as jews: Mobility in a Modern Genre" *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 2009, 99:4, pp 5-5-546.

Pigg, Stacy. 1992. "Inventing Social Categories Through Place: Social Representations and. Development in Nepal." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* Vol. 34, No. 3 (Jul., 1992), pp. 491-513 (available in online journals)

Sontag, Susan. "Notes on Camp"

Jamir, Toshimenla « Engendering Public Space in Naga Society: Tradition and Modernity" *Indian Folklore*: 33. July 2009.

November 2: Orality, Literacy, Language, Normalcy

James Gee "Orality and Literacy: From the Savage Mind to Ways with Words" Tesol, 1986. on line at http://static.aston.ac.uk/lis/tesol/Quarterly-1967-2003/Vol_20_4.pdf#page=112

Briggs, Charles "Communicability, Racial Discourse, and Disease" *Annual Review of Anthropology* 2005, Vol. 34 Issue 1, p269-291, 23p

Butler, Judith "Burning acts, injurious speech" from *Excitable Speech*

Davis, Lennard "Rethinking Normalcy, Normalization, and Cognitive Disability"

Recommended:

Finnegan, Ruth "Style and Performance"

----- "Some Approaches to the study of oral poetry"

Shuman, Amy "Disability, Narrative Normativity, and the Stigmatized Vernacular of Communicative (in)Competence" in *Diagnosing Folklore*

November 9: History/Dialectic; Nature/Culture

Canclini "From the Primitive to the Popular: Theories about Inequality between Cultures"

Hufford, Mary. 2003 "Reclaiming the Commons: Narratives of Progress, Preservation, and Ginseng." In *Culture, Environment, and Conservation in the Appalachian South*, ed. Benita J. Howell. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. http://www.sas.upenn.edu/folklore/faculty/mhufford.html#Selected_Recent_Publications

John Roberts "African American Diversity and the Study of Folklore" *Western Folklore*

Haraway, Donna "Teddybear Patriarchy"

Ortner, Sherry "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?"

Recommended:

Abrahams "Shouting Match at the Border"

Adorno and Horkheimer Excerpt from *Dialectic of the Enlightenment*

November 16 Disciplinary Differentiations in the study of Everyday Life

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara "On Difference" *Journal of American Folklore* 107: 424, 233-238

----- "Mistaken Dichotomies" *Journal of American Folklore* 101: 400, 14-155.

---additional essays on aesthetics and everyday life:
<http://www.nyu.edu/classes/bkg/web/>

DeCerteau "A Very Ordinary Culture: A Commonplace: Ordinary Language"
in *The Practice of Everyday Life*. University of California Press.

Recommended:

Derrida, Jacques "Structure, sign and play" from *Writing and Difference*

November 23 Thanksgiving, no class

November 30 Student Presentations of Work-in-Progress

Term Papers Due December 14 by email to shuman.1@osu.edu or in Carmen dropbox

Plagiarism

"It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the [Code of Student Conduct](#)."

Attendance

Please inform the instructor of any excused absences. You are responsible for the material covered whether or not your absence is excused.

Disability

"Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://ods.osu.edu/>

Class Cancellation

In the unlikely event of class cancellation due to emergency/weather, I will post an announcement on Carmen and request that a note be placed on the door.