
*THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF ENTITLEMENT, PROPERTY, AND
KINSHIP*

Lecturers: Keir Martin (UiO), Sylvia Yanagisako (Stanford and UiO)

Place: University of Oslo

Time: 28-30 April 2020.

This three-day PhD course explores recent anthropological approaches to property, kinship and entitlement. We begin with the axiom that both property and kinship are social relations among people and as such call for analyses of the dynamic processes through which they have been constituted, reproduced, and changed over time. Rather than accept conventional distinctions between tangible and intangible property, private and public property, nature and commodities, durable and ephemeral property, this course scrutinizes the cultural and social processes through which these categories themselves are constructed and along with them relations of inequality, entitlement, and difference. At a time when new claims to property are increasingly asserted and challenged in a variety of contexts, an understanding of the different bases upon which property rights can be claimed and upon which they can be distinguished from other types of social obligation is a central component of anthropological analyses of the production of new inequalities and differentiations globally.

Participants and organisation: This course combines lectures and discussions of theory with analytic explorations of PhD students' work-in-progress. Brief lectures by the faculty will initiate each of the four sessions on key themes and clusters of reading, but the bulk of time will be devoted to critical discussion of the readings and their usefulness for students' research projects.

Sign-up deadline: Students for the course need to sign up by April 1st. UiO-students sign up via StudentWeb. All other students sign up by sending an email til henvendelser@sai.uio.no Include name, working title of your thesis, abstract of thesis/chapter (300 words), when you plan to submit, your institutional affiliation and 1-2 page document outlining how your interest in the course and your PhD research relates to the issues in the course outline. Priority will be given to PhD candidates in the anthropology programs in Oslo, Aarhus and Bergen. Other PhD candidates will be admitted if space permits.

Preparations and requirements: Students are expected to have read the course bibliography before the first day of the course. At the first session of the course, each student will make a 5-10 minute oral presentation of their ongoing work and how it is related to the course. Further instructions for these activities will be circulated along with the readings, by April 7th.

After the course, participants will submit a written essay for evaluation (6-7000 words) by September 1st. The essay should evidence thoughtful engagement with the

course materials that have been most useful in shaping the student's analysis and writing. Full participation in the course, including pass on the final essay, equals 5 ECTS credits. It will also be possible for students to participate in course activities without submitting the final essay, and without credits.

Schedule of sessions

To be announced at a later date.

Key themes and clusters of readings

1. Overview: the history of property

Alan Ryan. 1988. Property. University of Minnesota Press.

2. Economy, kinship and value

Strathern, M. 1988. Work: Exploitation at Issue. Chapter 6 of *The Gender of the Gift: Problems with Women and Problems with Society in Melanesia*. Pp. 133-170. Berkeley. University of California Press.

Gregory, C. 1997. Mercantile Kinship. Chapter 5 of *Savage Money: The Anthropology and Politics of Commodity Exchange*. Pp.167-215. Amsterdam. Harwood Academic Publishers.

Wiber, M and Lovell, P. 2004. Property, kinship and cultural capital: the ethics of modelling kinship in sustainable resource management. *Anthropologica*. 46(1):85-98.

Martin, K. 2018. Wage-Labour and a double-separation in Papua New Guinea and Beyond. *JRAI*. (14). 24(1):89-101.

3. Accumulation and intergenerational transmission

Marcus, G. 1985. Spending: The Hunts, silver and dynastic families in America. *European Journal of Sociology*. 26(2):224-259.

Yanagisako, S. 2002. Capital and Gendered Sentiments. Chapter 5 of *Producing Culture and Capital: Italian Family Firms*. pp. 145-173. Princeton. Princeton University Press.

Miller, D. 2007. What is a Relationship? Is Kinship Negotiated Experience? *Ethnos*. 72(4):535-544.

Rofel, L and Yanagisako, S. 2019. On Generation. Chapter 5 of *Fabricating Transnational Capitalism*. pp. 228-63. Durham. Duke University Press.

4. The Transformation of Value

Verdery, K. 1994. The Elasticity of Land: Problems of Property Restitution in Transylvania. *Slavic Review*. 53(4):1071-1109.

Humphrey, C and Verdery, K. 2004. Introduction. In C. Humphrey and K. Verdery (eds.) *Property in Question: Value Transformation in the Global Economy*. Pp. 1-30. London. Bloomsbury Academic.

Kirsch, S. 2011. Science, property, and kinship in repatriation debates. *Museum Anthropology*. 34(2):91-96.

5. Dispossession and Restitution

Bhandar, B. 2018. Introduction: Property, Law, and Race in the Colony". Pp. 1-32 of *Colonial Lives of Property. Law, Land, and Racial Ownership*. Durham. Duke University Press.

Guha, R. 1996[1963]. Introduction. Pages 1-11 of *A Rule of Property for Bengal: An Essay on the Idea of Permanent Settlement*. Durham. Duke University Press.

Moore, D. 2005. Preface ix-xiii and chapter 8: "Spatial Subjection" pp. 250-280 of *Suffering for Territory: Race, Place and Power in Zimbabwe*. Durham. Duke University Press.

Stout, N. 2019. Put Out: Bank Seizure at the Poverty Line. Chapter 2 of *Dispossessed: How Predatory Bureaucracy Foreclosed on the American Middle Class*. pp. 66-100. Berkeley. University of California Press. Chapter 2: