

SOSANT 9100A Recent Theory in Anthropology

Oslo-Aarhus collaboration Spring 2018

The Temporalities of Materials in Everyday Life

Lecturers: Mads Daugbjerg, Nefissa Naguib, Marianne Lien

Time: 30th May – 1st June

Place: University of Oslo

5 ECTS

This three-day PhD course, organised jointly between the Oslo and Aarhus Anthropology Departments, explores recent theories and methodologies of temporality and materiality in dialogue with the ethnographic material of the participants. Examples include the life and relational agency of tangible objects informing human and non-human everyday living, such as seeds, food, tools, technologies, documents, keepsakes and souvenirs, as well as infrastructural elements like buildings, fences, bridges, urban areas and ruins, this could also include intangible figures or ideas (e.g. ghosts, markers of memory, or ‘progress’, or ‘heritage’). Participants will be invited to underscore moments when the vitality of attachments and memories of things provided a core in their ethnographic ‘raw’ material.

Together we will explore various questions, such as:

- *In what senses are the things and materials we encounter in social anthropology marked or unmarked by time?*
- *How is temporality inscribed in everyday practices and everyday life, and how is it rendered meaningful through ethnographic analysis?*
- *How may we understand the historicity, biographies, politics and practices of things and material structures in social theory, and how can we make them part of our transitions from fieldwork to analysis?*
- *How are notions like ‘progress’, ‘memory’, ‘heritage’, ‘past’ and ‘hope’ inscribed in materials and material practices?*

Participants and organisation: The course will be taught by three senior instructors from the two organising universities. It will combine lectures, theoretical discussions, possibly excursions, and engagement with PhD students’ work-in-progress. While lectures will elaborate a few chosen themes, the central focus will be the students’ own ethnographic material. Therefore, the course is targeted at participants who have returned from fieldwork.

Preparations include readings and a short preparatory essay (2-3 pages) focusing on a particular item or material structure from your field submitted in advance. Additionally, each student will make a short (5-10 minutes) presentation in class of their ongoing work, related to or extending the preparatory essay. Further instructions for these activities will be circulated along with the readings, by April 3rd.

Sign-up deadline: March 20th UiO-students sign up via StudentWeb all other students sign up by sending an email to henvendelser@sai.uio.no Include name, working title of your thesis, abstract of thesis/chapter (300 words), when you plan to submit, and your institutional affiliation. 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.

After the course, participants will submit a written essay for evaluation (6-7000 words) by September 1st. 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. Students from the PhD program at Aarhus University will have the option of 3 ECTS for participation without submitting the final essay.

For further information, please see

<http://www.uio.no/studier/emner/sv/sai/SOSANT9100A/index.html>