2021 Exam Questions 4011

1. This course has used the idea of borders to explore how theory works. Sub-disciplines define and use borders analytically in different ways, but specific texts are not always explicit about their theoretical framing. Drawing from course materials and outside sources, discuss the idea of borders in geography from a conceptual point of view, comparing and contrasting how borders are theorised. You are encouraged to discuss theory at different levels of abstraction from the broadest ontological framing, to the epistemological (and thus empirical) implications of how borders are framed. You must use a minimum of 2 different sub-disciplines from the course.

2. Place, space, scale and environment are considered core concepts in geography. Like borders, they are conceptualised and used differently across sub-disciplines. Drawing from course materials and outside sources, discuss how 1 or 2 of these concepts are conceptualised and the implications they have for research questions. It is recommended that you focus your discussion, do not try to cover all 4 concepts. You are encouraged to discuss theory at different levels of abstraction from the broadest ontological framing, to the epistemological (and thus empirical) implications for research. You can use a specific example if helpful.

3. The course was designed to reflect the sub-disciplinary specialisations of the staff which included: political, labour, urban, economic, feminist & decolonial, and environmental geography. A number of themes (besides borders) run through the material such as: inequality, the economic system, ethics, knowledge politics, social justice, labour and urban issues, among others. We also discussed some useful key themes at the final panel debate: calculation, dispossession, border crossing, order, and truth.

   Select a minimum of 2 different sub-disciplines from the course, identify the theme (or themes) you want to address and discuss how it is (they are) theoretically similar and different across the sub-disciplines. You are encouraged to discuss theory at different levels of abstraction from the broadest ontological framing, to the epistemological (and thus empirical) implications for research. Use both course materials and outside sources.

4. Compare and contrast the important current issues for 2 different sub-disciplines / topics from the course. Use course materials and outside sources to elaborate current research and conceptual concerns and the implications for the research questions asked. You are encouraged to discuss theory at different levels of abstraction from the broadest ontological framing, to the epistemological (and thus empirical) implications for research.