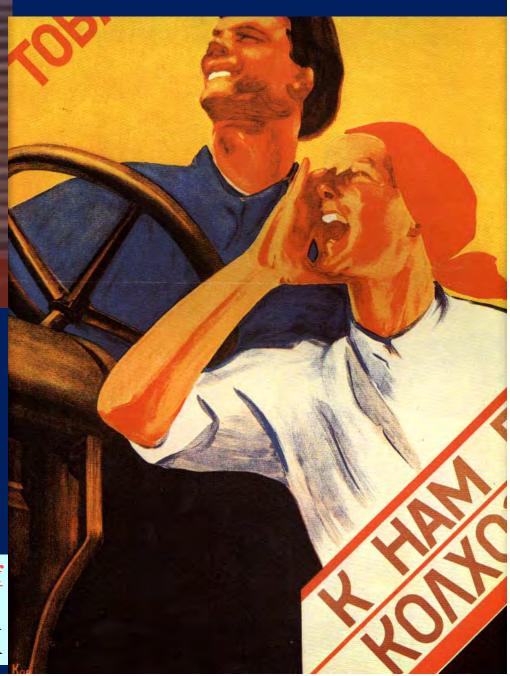


SOCIAL CHANGE: A Graduate Seminar in Historical Sociology

Tuesdays, 9:30-12:10 Davison Hall 128 Rutgers University, Spring 2019 (16.920.572.01)

Convened by **Böröcz József**

jborocz (at) rutgers.edu office hours: TBA



This is a graduate reading seminar probing the intellectual foundations of the comparative-historical sociology of social change and, more specifically, of modernity, by mapping on each other two narratives: /1/ the—for lack of a better term—"scholarly" language of the social sciences and /2/ intellectual production treated, since the west European Enlightenment, as something different from the above, labeled "fiction."

The course addresses some fundamental conceptual issues of comparative historical research and surveys some of the best studies on various aspects of social change available in English, paying special attention to notions of teleology, coloniality, and their particularly noxious product, Euro-centrism. It works through discussions of the issues emerging form the readings, and József's occasional summaries of contextual and/or background information. Class discussion—a scholarly, intellectual give-and-take—is thus the most important component of this course. You are required to come completely prepared, including a thorough, "quality-time" reading of the texts, and a mature, constructive, active and intellectually exciting agenda. There will be occasional, short "homework"-style assignments, some of which may not show up in this syllabus.

You are required to prepare a one-page summary of the key points of each week's films and readings and upload them to <u>sakai.rutgers.edu</u>, **by 6 pm on the Monday preceding each class meeting**. These outlines will serve both as tools to start the discussion and as items in a collectively produced archive of the ideas from this class for later reference.

Grading—an uncanny manifestation of the urge, so characteristic of modernity, to quantify the un-quantifiable—will be based on a judicial combination of /1/ your contribution to constructing the class as an creative intellectual space, /2/ your short assignments, and /3/ your paper.

For your *paper*, develop a maximum 5000-word study on a topic that falls within the broadly conceived subject matter of the course. Book reviews are unacceptable. I will be happy to consider alternative genres as long as their choice is well justified (documentary video, photo-essay, etc.). The ideal project will relate some unique empirical material to theoretical issues relevant to social change in a creative way. Submit a title-plus-150-word topic statement to me as soon as possible, but no later than the class on **March 12**. Do use my office hours to discuss possible topics and approaches. You may submit your outline via email (see my address above). We shall use the last two classes for a mini-conference of the projects, to receive comments/suggestions/criticisms. The final version of the paper is due **5 pm**, **May 2**, **2019**. Submit it by email to me at jborocz@rutgers.edu.

January 22:

Intro: Class Organisation + Basic Issues in Social Change



The Danube Exodus (Dir.: Péter Forgács, Hungary, 1998)

January 29: The Eurowhite Man Knows Be(a)st

FILM: I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO (dir.: Raoul Peck, USA, 2016)

Kipling, Rudyard. 1890. "The Mark of the Beast." Kipling, Rudyard. 1988. "White Man's Burden."

Weber, Max. 1920 (1998).

"'Prefatory Remarks' to
Collected Essays in the
Sociology of Religion." Pp. 14964 in *The Protestant Ethic and*the Spirit of Capitalism, Los
Angeles, 2nd Roxbury Edition.

Gerschenkron, Alexander. 1952 (1992). "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective." Pp. 131-58 in Mark Granovetter and Richard Swedberg (eds.) *The Sociology of Economic Life*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.



THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN .- The Journal, Detroit.



February 5: **Get Modern, Man!**

FILM: METROPOLIS

(Dir.: Fritz Lang, Germany, 1927)

Eisenstadt, Shmuel N. 1964. "Social Change, Differentiation and Evolution." American Sociological Review, 29,3(June):375-86.

Lerner, Daniel. 1968. "Modernization. Social Aspects." Pp. 386-95. in David L. Sills (ed.) *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences. Volume 10*. New York: The Macmillan Company & the Free Press.

Portes, Alejandro. 1973. "Modernity and Development: A Critique." Studies in Comparative International Development, 1973, 8, 3(Fall): 247-279.

Buck-Morss, Susan. 2000. "Hegel and Haiti," Critical Inquiry, 26 (Summer): 821-865.

Böröcz József. 1997. "Social Change with Sticky Features and the Failures of Modernizationism." *Innovation*. 10,2: 161-70.

Feburary 12: The Re-Morphation

FILM: I AM CUBA

(Mikhail Kalatozov / Mikheil Kalatozoshvili, USSR-Cuba, 1964)

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1848 (2000). Manifesto of the Communist Party.

Kafka, Franz. 1916 (2003). "The Metamorphosis."

Ghodsee, Kristen R. 2017. "Why Women Had Better Sex Under Socialism." New York Times, August 12.





February 19:

Empire, Coloniality and Histories for Valid Persons

FILM:BATTLE OF ALGIERS (Gillo Pontecorvo, Italy-Algeria, 1966)

Böröcz, József and Mahua Sarkar. 2012. "Empires." in Anheier, Helmut and Mark Juergensmeyer (eds.) *The Encyclopedia of Global Studies*.

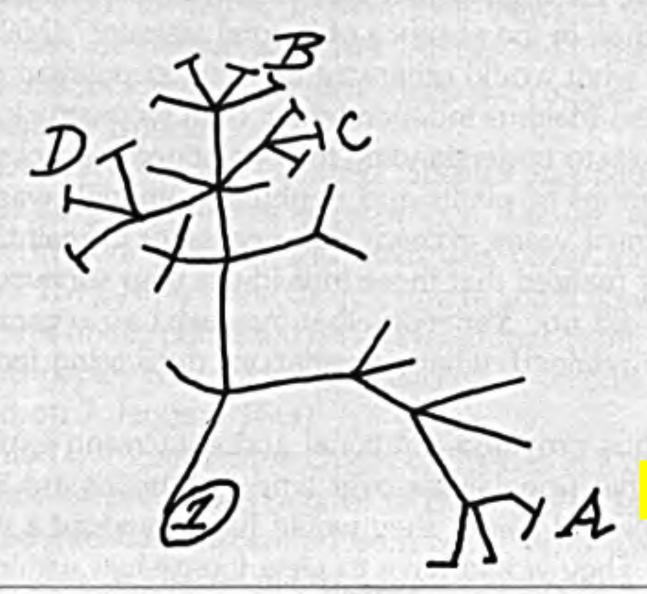
Böröcz, József and Mahua Sarkar. 2012. "Colonialism." in Anheier, Helmut and Mark Juergensmeyer (eds.) *The Encyclopedia of Global Studies*.

Rodney, Walter. 1968 (2001). "<u>African History</u> <u>In the Service of the Black Liberation</u>." *Small Axe*, 10 (September):66-80.

Carter, Martin. 1974 (1993). "A Free Community of Valid Persons. Address to the University of Guyana's Eighth Convocation Ceremony." *KYK-over*, 44:30-2.

Robinson, Cedric J. 1983. *The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. **Part 3: Black Radicalism and Marxist Theory** (pp. 175-318).





February 26:

Denial of Co-Evalness

Fabian, Johannes. 1983. *Time and the Other. How Anthropology Makes Its Object*. New York: Columbia University Press

Recommended:

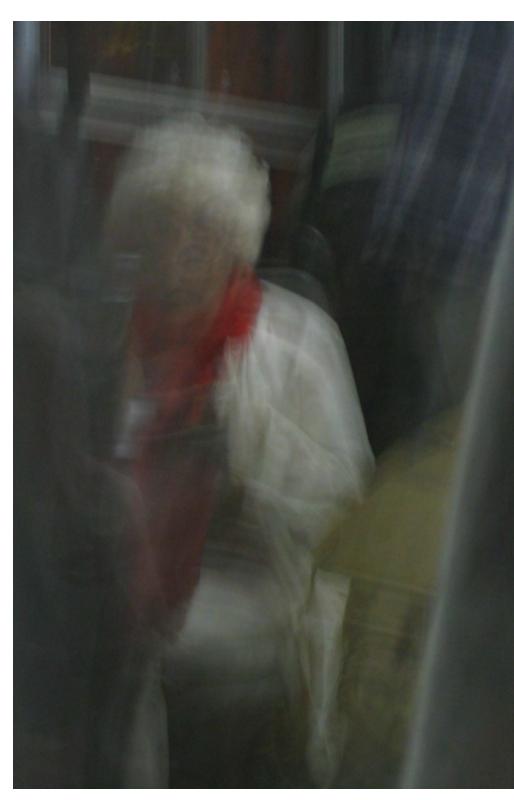
Durkheim, Emile. 1915 (1965). The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life. New York: The Free Press.

FILM: EVEN THE RAIN

(Dir.: Iciar Bollain, Spain, Bolivia, 2010)

Charles Darwin (1837)





March 12:

Identities: Invention, Tradition, Nationalism

FILM: PATHER PANCHALI (Dir.: Satyajit Ray, India, 1955)

Hobsbawm, Eric and Terence Ranger (eds.) 1983. *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Only the following chapters:

- 'Introduction: Inventing Tradition's by Eric Hobsbawm (1-14)

- "<u>Mass-Producing Traditions: Europe, 1870-1914</u>" by Eric Hobsbawm (263-308)

Anderson, Benedict. 1983 (1991). *Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism.* Revised edition. London: Verso.

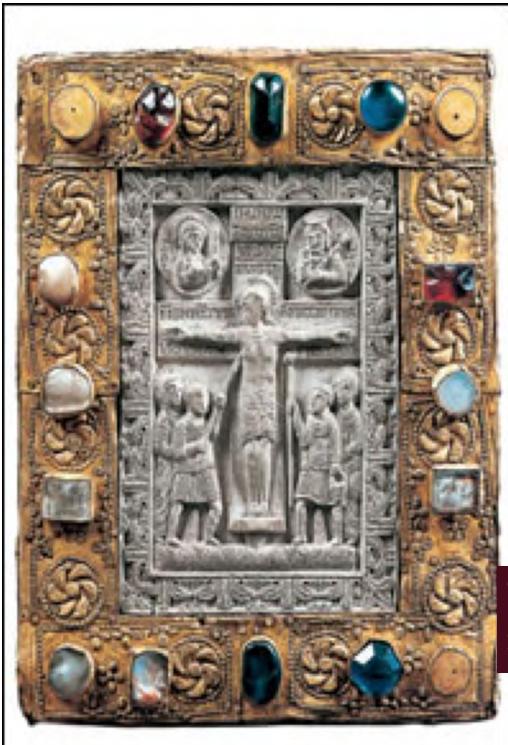
Balibar, Etienne. 1988. "<u>Racism and Nationalism</u>." Pp. 37-68 in Etienne Balibar and Immanuel Wallerstein: *Race, Nation, Class. Ambiguous Identities*. London: Verso.

Chatterjee, Partha. 1993. <u>The Nation and Its</u>
<u>Fragments. Colonial and Postcolonial Histories</u>.
Princeton: Priceton UP. Only the following chapters:

- "Whose Imagined Community?" Pp. 3-13
- "The Colonial State." Pp. 14-34







April 9: Microhistory : Reconstruction of Life Worlds 1

FILM1: WE ARE YOUNG, WE ARE STRONG

(Dir.: Burhan Kurbani, Germany, 2014)

FILM2: ROCKING THE NATION (Dir.: Bori Kriza, Hungary, 2007)

Ginzburg, Carlo. 1980. *The Cheese and the Worms. The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller*. (Transl. by John and Ann Tedeschi.) Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.



Davis, Natalie Zemon. 1983. *The Return of Martin Guerre*. Cambridge:
Harvard UP.

April 23: Subjecthood / History

FILM: LAGAAN. ONCE UPON A TIME IN INDIA

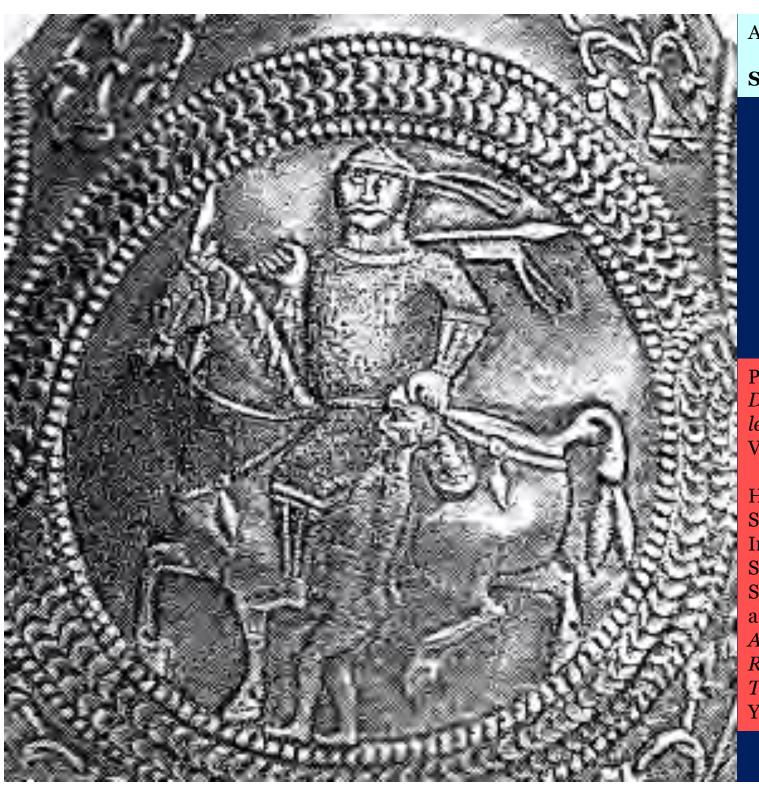
(Dir.: Ashutosh Gowarker, India, 2001)



Scott, Joan Wallach. 1991. "The Evidence of Experience." Critical Inquiry, 17, 4 (Summer): 773-97.

Olick, Jeffrey K. and Joyce Robbins. 1998. "Social Memory Studies: From "Collective Memory" to the Historical Sociology of Mnemonic Practices." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 24:105-140.

Hammer, Ricarda. 2017. "Epistemic Ruptures: History, Practice, and the Anticolonial Imagination," in Tarak Barkawi and George Lawson (eds.) *International Origins of Social and Political Theory* (Political Power and Social Theory, Volume 32) Emerald Publishing Limited, 153-180.



April 30:

Standpoints / Histories

FILM: BEFORE THE RAIN Dir.: Milcho Manchevski, Macedonia, 1994

Pavi**ć**, Milorad. 1989. Dictionary of the Khazars. A lexicon novel. New York: Vintage.

Harding, Sandra. 2003. "How Standpoint Methodology Informs Philosophy of Social Science." Chapter 3 in Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Bieber and Patricia Leavy (eds.) Approaches to Qualitatative Research. A Reader on Theory and Practice. New York: Oxford University Press.