

BIOLOGICAL CITIZENSHIP

Sociology 571

Fall 2019

Th 9:30 -12:10

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Office hours: By appointment

Davison Rm. 135

Following what some political theorists consider to be the evolution of civil, political, and social citizenship, medical sociologists, science studies scholars, and political sociologists have argued that modern democratic societies have entered a new era of biological citizenship. Based upon some shared biological characteristic--such as exposure to biological contaminants, physical disability, disease prognosis, or genetic predisposition--individuals may make a claim on the state for recognition and rights. Similarly, states may demand responsibilities of its subjects based upon these shared biological features. In what ways are ideas about citizenship and the relations between state and subject being reconfigured around ideas of biological difference? Are rights claims rooted in biology the basis for expanding individual rights or greater state control and exclusion? This course will explore these and other questions by delving into readings from sociologists, political scientists, and anthropologists on studies of science policy, medical activism, post-genomic race, drug development, and more.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Gain theoretical and empirical knowledge of biological citizenship
2. Critically analyze sociological research on the topic
3. Develop research questions and conduct original research on the topic

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.

COURSE LOGISTICS

Course Readings:

I will upload most of the readings on Sakai, however I urge you to buy and/or borrow hard copies of the following books, available at the usual online book vendors:

- Bellamy, Richard. 2008. *Citizenship: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Lemke, Thomas. 2011. *Biopolitics: An Advanced Introduction*. New York, NY; London: New York University Press.
- Happe, Kelly, Jennell Johnson, and Marina Levina, eds. 2018. *Biocitizenship: The Politics of Bodies, Governance, and Power*. New York: New York University Press.
- Petryna, A. (2002). *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens After Chernobyl*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Course Requirements:

Participation (15%)

A successful seminar requires the full participation of all members. I expect you to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and to engage in dialogue.

Weekly reading memos (20%)

Submit 2-page memo on the week's readings and topic. Memos are due Tuesdays at 8 pm on Sakai, weeks 2 through 12 (10 memos; no memo week 4).

Facilitate discussion of readings for two weeks (15%)

I will distribute a sign-up sheet on the first day of class. On the Wednesday before the class you will facilitate (by 8 pm), distribute a list of three questions to encourage conversation. Incorporate students' weekly memos.

Final paper and presentation (50%)

Write an 18-20-page paper (not including appendix or references) exploring a theme or topic from the course. There are three parts:

1. Proposal for your final paper, graded pass/fail. The proposal should be approximately 2 pages long and describes your thesis, research questions, and the methods you will use (include 3-5 references). DUE Friday November 15 at 5 pm on Sakai. (5%)
2. In-class presentation of final paper on Thursday December 5. Twelve to 15-minute PowerPoint presentation, followed by a 5 to 10-minute Q&A session. (5%)
3. Final paper. DUE Monday December 16 at 5 pm on Sakai. (40%)

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Subject to change)

Week 1: September 5

Introduction: What is citizenship?

- Bellamy, Richard. 2008. *Citizenship: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, Chapters 1-3.

Week 2: September 12

What is citizenship?

- Bellamy, *Citizenship*, chapters 4-5.
- Cohen, Elizabeth F. and Cyril Ghosh. 2019. *Citizenship*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, pp.48-75 (“Citizenship Theory Transformed”).
- Hannah-Jones, Nikole. 2019. “Our Democracy’s Founding Ideals Were False When They Were Written.” *The New York Times Magazine*, August 14.

Week 3: September 19

Biopolitics and biosociality

- Rabinow, P. (1996). “Artificiality and enlightenment: From Sociobiology to Biosociality.” In *Essays on the Anthropology of Reason* (pp. 91–111). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Lemke, Thomas. 2011. *Biopolitics: An Advanced Introduction*. New York, NY; London: New York University Press. [Skim Foucault, read rest]

Week 4: September 26

No Class Meeting

- Begin reading materials for weeks 5 and 6

Week 5: October 3

What is biological citizenship?

- Happe, Kelly, Jennell Johnson, and Marina Levina, eds. 2018. *Biocitizenship: The Politics of Bodies, Governance, and Power*. New York: New York University Press, Introduction.

- Petryna, A. (2002). *Life exposed: Biological Citizens After Chernobyl*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Rose, N., and Novas, C. 2005. “Biological Citizenship.” In S. J. Collier and A. Ong (Eds.), *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems* (pp. 439–463). Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

Week 6: October 10

What is biological citizenship? (Cont’d)

- Epstein, S. (2007). *Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Research*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, Introduction, Chs 1 - 7.
- Fitzgerald, R. (2008). Biological citizenship at the periphery: parenting children with genetic disorders. *New Genetics and Society* 27(3), 251–266.

Week 7: October 17

What is genetic citizenship?

- Heath, D., Rapp, R., and Taussig, K.-S. 2004. “Genetic Citizenship.” In D. Nugent and J. Vincent (Eds.), *A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics* (pp. 152–167). Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.
- Kerr, A. (2003). Genetics and citizenship. *Society*, 40(6), 44–50.
- Navon, Daniel. 2019. *Mobilizing Mutations: Human Genetics in the Age of Patient Advocacy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Intro & Ch 5.

Week 8: October 24

Biological citizenship as health activism

- Klawiter, Maren. 1999. “Racing for the Cure, Walking Women, and Toxic Touring: Mapping Cultures of Action within the Bay Area Terrain of Breast Cancer.” *Social Problems*, Volume 46(1): 104–126
- Benjamin, Ruha. 2013. *People’s Science: Bodies and Rights on the Stem Cell Frontier*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, Ch 1.
- Chowkwanyun, Merlin. 2018. “Biocitizenship on the Ground: Health Activism and the Medical Governance Revolution” in *Biocitizenship*.
- Roberts, Celia and Richard Tutton. 2018. “The Rise of Health Activism: The Importance of Social Class to Biosociality” in *Biocitizenship*.

Week 9: October 31

Biological citizenship and representation

- Epstein, *Inclusion*, Ch 9.
- Jenny Reardon. *Race to the Finish: Identity and Governance in an Age of Genomics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Introduction and Ch 6.
- Bliss, Catherine. 2012. *Race Decoded: The Genomic Fight for Social Justice*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, Introduction.
- Lee, Sandra Soo-Jin, Stephanie M. Fullerton, Aliya Saperstein, and Janet K. Shim. 2019. "Ethics of inclusion: Cultivate trust in precision medicine." *Science* 364(6444): 941-942.

Week 10: November 7

Biological citizenship as form of nation building

- Hinterberger, Amy. 2012. "Categorization, Census, and Multiculturalism: Molecular Politics and the Material of Nation." In *Genetics and the Unsettled Past: The Collision of DNA, Race, and History* (Keith Wailoo, Alondra Nelson, and Catherine Lee, eds.). New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- Banu Subramaniam. 2019. *Holy Science: The Biopolitics of Hindu Nationalism*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, Ch 4.
- Kelly, K. and M. Nichter. 2012. "The Politics of Local Biology in Transnational Drug Testing: Creating (Bio)Identities and Reproducing (Bio)Nationalism through Japanese "Ethnobridging" Studies." *East Asian Science, Technology and Society* 6(3):379–99.
- Nelson, Alondra. 2016. *The Social Life of DNA: Race, Reparations, and Reconciliation After the Genome*. New York: Beacon Press, Ch 8.

Week 11: November 14

Biological citizenship and state control of immigration

- Lee, Catherine and Torsten Voigt. 2019. "DNA Testing for Family Reunification and the Limits of Biological Truth." *Science, Technology, & Human Values*.
- Helén, Ilpo. 2014. "Biological Citizenship across the Borders: Politics of DNA Profiling for Family Reunification." *Distinktion: Scandinavian Journal of Social Theory* 15(3): 343–60.
- Lakhani, Sarah Morando, and Stefan Timmermans. 2014. "Biopolitical Citizenship in the Immigration Adjudication Process." *Social Problems* 61(3): 360–79.

- Karma R. Chávez. “The Necropolitical Functions of Biocitizenship: The Sixth International AIDS Conference and the U.S. Ban on HIV-Positive Immigrants” in *Biocitizenship*.

Week 12: November 21

Limits of biological citizenship

- Burgess, Sarah and Stuart J. Murray. 2018. “Carceral Biocitizenship: The Rhetorics of Sovereignty in Incarceration” in *Biocitizenship*.
- Wehling, P. (2011). Biology, Citizenship and the Government of Biomedicine: Exploring the Concept of Biology Citizenship. In U. Bröckling, S. Krasmann, and T. Lemke (Eds.), *Governmentality. Current issues and future challenges* (pp. 225–246). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Brekke, Ole Andreas, and Thorvald Sirnes. 2011. “Biosociality, Biocitizenship and the New Regime of Hope and Despair: Interpreting ‘Portraits of Hope’ and the ‘Mehmet Case.’” *New Genetics and Society* 30(4): 347–74.

PAPER PROPOSAL DUE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15 AT 5 PM ON SAKAI

Week 13: November 28 – NO CLASS – Happy Thanksgiving!

Tuesday November 26 is designated a Thursday schedule day. However, we will NOT meet this week.

Week 14: December 7

In-Class Presentations

FINAL PAPER DUE MONDAY DECEMBER 16 AT 5 PM ON SAKAI