

Approaches to Knowledge and Truth: Ways of Knowing in Development Studies and Social Change

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I will not be holding regularly scheduled office hours this term but will be happy to meet by appointment.

Research ought to be trustworthy. This is a truism, whatever the subject matter, discipline, or site of the research, and whatever the identities and social locations of the researchers and of those their research concerns. But, depending on these and other factors, just what it means for research—and researchers—to be trustworthy is both variable and complex; and even for any particular researcher, being trustworthy in one context and in relation to one audience may well be at odds with being trustworthy to others. This seminar will explore these complexities both theoretically and as they arise in particular research projects. We will focus especially on two sorts of tensions around trustworthiness: (1) disciplinary and interdisciplinary: How do particular disciplinary methods serve to ground the trustworthiness of research in those disciplines, and how do methodological and other differences lead to—problematic or generative—tensions in interdisciplinary communication or collaboration? and (2) institutional and locational: What are the specific challenges for the trustworthiness of research based in universities such as the University of Minnesota on issues of concern to the Global South, and what sorts of practices either undermine or help to support individual and institutional trustworthiness? How do researchers' own, often multiple and complex, social locations help or hinder their trustworthiness in relation to the diverse others with whom they engage in the course of their work?

While most of the readings deal primarily with the second set of questions, we will spend about the last 45 minutes of each class session on (inter)disciplinarity:

Using examples of disciplinary methods/practices/norms as you have learned and are learning them, we will discuss how these travel

& translate: why are they taken in the discipline to underwrite trustworthiness? Do they do so for others outside that discipline?

TEXTS

Amanda Lock Swarr and Richa Nagar, *Critical Transnational Feminist Praxis*, SUNY Press

Linda Tuhiwai Smith, *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research & Indigenous Peoples*, Zed Books

Richa Nagar, *Muddying the Waters: Co-Authoring Feminisms across Scholarship & Activism*

REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Participate in discussions in class and on the Moodle, including posting Discussion Provocations at least 8 times during the term.**
- 2. Participate in a small group presentation on 11 December: see 23 October**
- 3. Write a letter to your future self (approximately 10 pages, i.e., 2500 words) about your expectations, hopes, and fears around the work you would like to do. Bring some of the reading we will be doing and the conversations we will be having into the discussion, by way of reminding your future self of some of what you have learned, been challenged by, and reflected upon.**

Note that you have access to your profile (under "Navigation" on the left), which you can edit in

various ways, including changing your name as it will appear when you post responses.

It is important for the success of the seminar that everyone be able to participate fully. If there is anything about the structure or the content of the course that you think might make your participation difficult, please let me know so we can work out something that will help.



News forum



Moodle Resources and Self-Help Guides



Moodle 2.8 Features Course



Suggested readings

I think you should be able to post attachments here--i.e., pdf's of things you mention in class or would otherwise suggest others might like to read. Please include a brief description of what you are posting.

11 Sept. Introductions

A discussion of how we each come to these questions.



Scheman, "Sustainable Epistemology"

This will give you an idea of how I approach the questions of the course.



DISCUSSION PROVOCATIONS

General instructions: Before the end of the day on Wednesday post a Discussion Provocation response to one or more of the readings for the week. Raise questions or criticisms, make connections, suggest topics for discussion. You should post a DP at least eight times in the course of the semester and are encouraged to respond to each other. Feel free to continue the discussion here at any point: the Wednesday

deadline is just to ensure that we can all have a sense of what folks want especially to talk about on Friday. Especially for weeks when we will be having guests joining us, think about and post questions you would like to pose to them. (They will have access to your posts though I can't be certain they will read them.)

18 Sept. Ananya Chatterjea

<http://cla.umn.edu/about/directory/profile/ananya>

Note: Ananya won't be able to make it until about 10:30, so we will start by discussing issues of research method--and Sebastian's post for this week is an excellent place to start--thanks, Sebastian!

Reading: Tinsley, Chatterjea, Wilcox, & Gibney, "So Much to Remind Us We Are Dancing on Other People's Blood" in Nagar and Swarr



DISCUSSION PROVOCATIONS

Ananya Dance Theatre performance: strongly encouraged!

“Roktim: Nurture Incarnadine”

September 18 and 19 @ 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM | [BUY TICKETS](#)

A transformative, interdisciplinary food story that honors the work of women to create a sustainable food system.



Ananya Dance Theatre • “Roktim” • Photo V. Paul Virtucio. L-R back: Chitra Vairava Ferreira, Jay Galtney, Lela Pierce, Magnolia Yang Sao Yia. L-R front: Leila Awadalla Wilcox, Prakshi Malik.

Ananya Dance Theatre is creating its new work, “Roktim: Nurture Incarnadine,” ab with land, seed, food, and nurture!

We will present “Roktim” with multiple performances by 11 dancers at The O’Shau Catherine University in St. Paul, September 18-19, 2015.

Women’s loving labor produces the elements of our sustenance. Women from glok defended the land and eco-systems with their lives and their continued work from aggressive industrialization. But the food system in which we exist often obscures

Inspired by the Seed Sovereignty Movement and farming practices in local communities, choreographer Ananya Chatterjea, visual artist Seitu Jones, and behavioral artist M partner with Frogtown Farm, Afro Eco, and the Indigenous Peoples' Task Force to length story reflecting and honoring the age-old work of women who cultivate, nurture and agriculture with emotional and blood labor to create a just and sustainable food shared future.

The O'Shaughnessy offers large print programs, seating for individuals in wheelchairs, accompanying companion seating located in the same area, and holds seating for those of hearing or visually disabled. If you have an accessibility request, please explain it and we will do our best to seat you in a location that accommodates your needs.

This production will begin and conclude outside The O'Shaughnessy on the front porch.

Tickets are now on sale!

Tier 1 \$27

Tier 2 \$22

Tier 3 \$17

Seniors and Students receive \$4 off tickets; MPR, Military, and St. Kate's Community College alumnae) receive \$2 off tickets.

Groups of 10+ save 15% off tickets.

**Prices include \$2 restoration fee.*



REFLECTIONS ON THE PERFORMANCE

Share your thoughts about the performance.....

25 Sept. Susan Gust and Cathy Jordan

<http://compact.org/resource-posts/susan-gust/>

<http://mncampuscompact.org/cli/tag/susan-gust/>

<http://www.peds.umn.edu/dogpah/faculty/cathy-jordan/>



Jordan & Gust, "The Phillips Neighborhood Healthy Housing Collaborative: Forging a Path of Mutual Benefit, Social Change and Transformation"



Jordan, Gust, & Scheman, "The Trustworthiness of Research"



Resources for community-based research



Jordan & Gust, 6 Tenets of CBPR

This is the list Susan and Cathy went through in class.....



DISCUSSION PROVOCATIONS

2 Oct. Craig Hassel

<http://fscn.cfans.umn.edu/faculty-staff/craig-hassel>



Doerfler, "Where the Food Grows on Water: The Continuance of Scientific Racism and Colonization"



Nibi-Manoomin Bridging Worldviews

The website has information about an on-going initiative that Craig Hassel has been central to (I have also been involved). There is information about this year's symposium (27-29 September), which you are invited to attend, as well as about the previous symposia and background information. *I especially urge you to look at the Stavenhagen and Whyte keynote addresses, the Traditional Knowledge Session slides, and the White Paper.*

note that hotel reservations need to be made by 14 September.



wild rice case study: scientist perspective



wild rice case study: tribal leader perspective



Star Tribune editorial



update on recent issues



DISCUSSION PROVOCATIONS

SEE 11 SEPT.

NOTE: It is easier to read your posts if you copy and paste them in rather than using attachments. Thanks!

9 October

Lessons and challenges from transnational feminist praxis

Reading in Nagar and Swarr:

Nagar & Swarr, "Introduction: Theorizing Transnational Feminist Praxis"

Alexander & Mohanty, "Cartographies of Knowledge & Power"

Desai, Bouchard, & Detournay, "Disavowed Legacies & Honorable Thievery"



DISCUSSION PROVOCATIONS

16 October

Lessons and challenges from transnational feminist praxis, ctd.

Reading in Nagar and Swarr:

Pratt & al, "Seeing Beyond the State"

Bullington & Swarr, "Conflicts & Collaborations"

Peake & De Souza, "Feminist Academic & Activist Praxis in Service of the Transnational"

Sangtin Writers, "Still Playing with Fire"

Critical Transnational Feminist Praxis Contributors, "Continuing Conversations"



23 Oct.

I will be out of town at a conference. Please use the time to discover shared--or, even better, interesting *unshared*--backgrounds, interests, commitments, and disciplinary perspectives that will form the basis of small groups (of 3 or 4) that will prepare a presentation to the seminar on the last day reflecting on the challenges you think you will be likely to encounter in your graduate work, especially those that arise from the tensions around trustworthiness.



preparation for small group formation

In order to help form your small groups, post something about the particular concerns you have around, e.g. (these are just suggestions): your disciplinary, familial, communal, national loyalties and commitments; how you imagine your work being judged and by whom, and why and how you care; whom you want to communicate with and learn from; what especially excites you, and what especially worries you, about graduate school and about the work you hope to go on to do. . .

30 Oct. Reflections on Sustainable Epistemology

These are some of the works that informed my "Sustainable Epistemology" paper



Latour, "Why Has Critique Run Out of Steam?"



Banerjee, "Who Sustains Whose Development?"



Alcoff, "Epistemology for the Next Revolution"



Escobar, "Imagining a Post-Development Era?"



Ana Komparic, Ethics of GMOs in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Ethics of Ubuntu


This paper was just published--I think it speaks to some of the concerns that have come up in class discussion.


 DISCUSSION PROVOCATIONS

6 Nov. Kate Derickson

<http://www.geog.umn.edu/people/profile.php?UID=kdericks>

 Derickson, "On the politics of recognition in critical urban scholarship"

 Derickson & Mackinnon, "Toward an Interim Politics of Resourcefulness for the Anthropocene"

 Derickson & Routledge, "Resourcing Scholar-Activism: Collaboration, Transformation, and the Production of Knowledge"

 DISCUSSION PROVOCATIONS

13 Nov. Decolonizing Methodologies

Reading: Smith, Introduction and Chapters 1-5

 DISCUSSION PROVOCATIONS

20 Nov. Decolonizing Methodologies ctd.

Reading: Smith, Chapters 6-12 & Conclusion

 DISCUSSION PROVOCATIONS

27 Nov. Thanksgiving break

Looking ahead: Note that the reading for next week is an entire book--one that I hope you will enjoy reading....

4 Dec. Richa Nagar

<http://cla.umn.edu/about/directory/profile/nagar>

Reading: *Muddying the Waters*



collaborative Grand Challenges proposal

The University is moving forward with identifying interdisciplinary "grand challenges". Faculty have been asked to submit proposals, and this is one that Richa Nagar and others submitted.



DISCUSSION PROVOCATIONS

11 Dec. Presentations

Small groups will present their reflections on transdisciplinary and translocal praxis (see description above, 23 October)

Hand in individual letters to your future self (see description in course outline)

Topic 16

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