

University of California, Berkeley
Department of Anthropology
Spring Semester 2014
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Office hours, in Kroeber 333
Fridays 10:00-12:00 & by apt.
510-643-2012

Bodies, Epidemiologies, and the Politics of Knowledge

Anthropology 250X
Wednesdays 12:00-2:00
Kroeber Hall 221

The relationship between medical anthropology and epidemiology has largely proceeded in the form of parallel monologues. In some cases, however, anthropologists trained in epidemiology have attempted to create points of dialogue, such as analyses of the categories of people, space, and time used by epidemiologists. In other cases, practitioners have drawn on material from the other discipline, particularly in analyzing particular disease, conceptions of risk, or ways of classifying populations.

This seminar will provide a collective forum for rethinking and extending these efforts. A major strategy will involve moving beyond a single “epidemiology” to consider cultural, social, critical, and other epidemiologies and how they have produced critiques of the assumptions of “hegemony epidemiology” and proposed alternative perspectives. Beyond examining existing bridges and forms of critical engagement, the goal is to think anthropologically about epidemiology as knowledge-production, enumeration, narrative, circulation, categorization, labor, writing, and digital neoliberalism.

Three examples will provide concrete sites for examining how knowledge is produced through particular anthropological and epidemiological modalities: the “discovery” of Kuru in New Guinea, influenza epidemics, and the epidemiology of Berkeley, California. Students will be asked to bring in their own examples for analysis in nearly every class, often revolving around a text selected by each participant and analyzed in relationship to each topic. Additionally, each student will undertake a research project that examines one site or modality of epidemiological knowledge-production and/or its “translation” into policy and/or practice. The final classes will focus on these projects.

Requirements

1. Faithful preparation of readings for class and participation in seminar meetings.
2. Choose an article in a “high impact” journal that reports epidemiological data or an epidemiological report produced by a local, state, national, or international public health institution; send the instructor a PDF for uploading into the “Homework” archive in the bSpace site; be prepared to talk about an aspect of your text relevant to a particular week’s topic. (See the “Homework” entries below; if the report is long, please just send a section.)
3. Written précis of final research project, due on 19 February.
4. During the final class meetings, make a presentation on your own epidemiologically-related research, providing copies (on bSpace, paper, and/or digital projection) of relevant materials.
5. An approx. 20-25 pp. (double-spaced) research paper, due Friday 9 May. Please submit both a hardcopy (in the instructor’s box in the Anthropology office) and an electronic version.

Required Texts:

- Anderson, Warwick. 2008. *The Collectors of Lost Souls: Turning Kuru Scientists into Whitemen*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Krieger, Nancy. 2011. *Epidemiology and the People's Health: Theory and Context*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lindenbaum, Shirley. 2013[1979]. *Kuru Sorcery: Disease and Danger in the New Guinea Highlands*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm.
- Trostle, James A. 2005. *Epidemiology and Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Themes and Readings**Week 1 Let the Dialog Begin**

22 January

Week 2 Anthropology and Epidemiology: Rethinking Epidemiological Categories

29 January

- Trostle, James A. 2005. *Epidemiology and Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-121, 168-174.
- Nichter, Mark, 2008. *Global Health: Why Cultural Perceptions, Social Representations, and Biopolitics Matter*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, pp. 107-118.

Recommended:

- Janes, Craig R., Ron Stall, and Sandra M. Gifford, eds. 1986. *Anthropology and Epidemiology: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Health and Diseases*. Dordrecht, Holland: D. Reidel.

Homework: choose your text (see Requirements, #2 above); send PDF to instructor by 28 January, 5:00pm.

Week 3 Multiplying Epidemiologies, Deconstructing Assumptions

5 February

- Krieger, Nancy. 2011. *Epidemiology and the People's Health: Theory and Context*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Preface, Chap. 1, 5-8 (3-41, 126-295).

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Recommended:

- Baer, Hans, Merrill Singer, and Ida Susser. 2013[1997]. *Medical Anthropology and the World System*. (Third Edition.) Westport, CT: Greenwood, pp. 31-54.

Homework: Construct a textbox on contested definitions—science, theory, and hypothesis—based on Krieger 2011:18-21 (as tailored to your text and approach)

Week 4 Latin American Social Medicine and Critical Epidemiology

12 February

- Breilh, Jaime. 2003. Science and Interculturality, a typescript translation of Chapter VII in: *Epidemiología crítica: Ciencia emancipadora e interculturalidad*. Buenos Aires: Lugar Editorial.
- Breilh, Jaime. 2008. Latin American Critical ('Social') Epidemiology: New Settings for an Old Dream. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 37:745-750.
- Waitzkin, Howard. 2011. *Medicine and Public Health at the End of Empire*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm, pp. 9-24 and 43-62.
- Laurell, Asa Cristina. 2000. Structural Adjustment and the Globalization of Social Policy in Latin America. *International Sociology* 15(2):306-25.

Recommended readings:

- Breilh, Jaime. 2003. *Epidemiología crítica: Ciencia emancipadora e interculturalidad*. Buenos Aires, AR: Lugar Editorial.
- Almeida Filho, Naomar de. 1989. *Epidemiologia sem números: uma introdução crítica à ciência epidemiológica*. Rio de Janeiro: Campus.
- Menéndez, Eduardo L. 2009. *De sujetos, saberes y estructuras: Introducción al enfoque relacional en el estudio de la salud colectiva*. Buenos Aires: Lugar Editorial.
- Laurell, Asa Cristina. 2003. What Does Latin American Social Medicine Do When It Governs? The Case of the Mexico City Government. *American Journal of Public Health* 93:2028-31.

Homework: Provide a LASM/critical epidemiology-based critique of your text.

Week 5 Bodies that Count, Counting Bodies

19 February

- Hacking, Ian. 1990. *The Taming of Chance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-10.
- Bowker, Geoffrey C., and Susan Leigh Star. *Sorting Things Out: Classification and Its Consequences*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1999, pp. 1-50, 53-106.

Recommended:

- Asa, Talal. 1994. Ethnographic Representation, Statistics and Modern Power. *Social Research* Vol. 61(1): 55-88.
- Poovey, Mary. 1998. *A History of the Modern Fact: Problems of Knowledge in the Sciences of Wealth and Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Porter, Theodore. 1995. *Trust in Numbers: The Pursuit of Objectivity in Science and Public Life*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Trostle, James. 2010. On Creating Epidemics, Plagues, and Other Wartime Alarms and Excursions: Enumerating versus Estimating Civilian Morality in Iraq. In *Plagues and Epidemics: Infected Spaces Past and Present*, ed. D. Ann Herring and Alan C. Swedlund, pp. 61-80. Oxford: Berg.

Homework: Analyze the numbers in your text.

Week 6 Making Numbers (Im)Mobile

26 February

- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 1992. *Death without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*. Berkeley: Univ. of Calif. Press, pp. 268-339 (esp. 273-276, 286-303).
- Sangaramoorthy, Thurka. 2012. Treating the Numbers: HIV/AIDS Surveillance, Subjectivity, and Risk. *Medical Anthropology* 31(4): 292-309.
- Adams, Vincanne. 2013. Evidence-Based Global Public Health: Subjects, Profits, Erasures. In *When People Come First: Critical Studies in Global Health*, Joao Biehl and Adriana Petryna, eds., pp. 54-90. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Harvey, T.S. 2008. Where there is no Patient: An Anthropological Treatment of a Biomedical Category. *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* 32(4):577-606.

Recommended:

- Briggs, Charles L., and Clara Mantini-Briggs. 2003. *Stories in the Time of Cholera: Racial Profiling in a Medical Nightmare*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 256-297.
- Sangaramoorthy, Thurka. 2014. *Treating AIDS: Politics of Difference, Paradox of Prevention*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Week 7 Writing Epidemiology: Numbers, Narratives, Knowledge, and Texts

5 March

- Gupta, Akhi. 2012. *Red Tape: Bureaucracy, Structural Violence, and Poverty in India*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, pp. 141-159.
- Briggs, Charles L., and Daniel C. Hallin. 2007. Biocommunicability: The Neoliberal Subject and Its Contradictions in News Coverage of Health Issues. *Social Text* 25(4):43-66.
- Avilés, L. A. 2001. Epidemiology as Discourse: The Politics of Development Institutions in the *Epidemiological Profile of El Salvador*. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 55(3):164-171.
- Leung, Margaret W., Irene H Yen, and Meredith Minkler. 2004. Community Based Participatory Research: A Promising Approach for Increasing Epidemiology's Relevance in the 21st Century. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 33(3):499-506.

Recommended:

- Clifford, James. 1988. *The Predicament of Culture: Twentieth-Century Ethnography, Literature, and Art*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 21-54.

Homework: Analyze your text in terms of its techniques of inscription, that is, with respect to such issues as its fundamental assumptions, modes of argumentation, material underpinnings, projected audience, etc., reflecting also on modes of knowledge production and inscription that are not pursued.

Week 8 Digitalization and Epidemiological Intelligence

12 March

- Brownstein, John S., Clark C. Freifeld, and Lawrence C. Madoff. 2009. Digital Disease Detection—Harnessing the Web for Public Health Surveillance. *New England Journal of Medicine* 360(21):2153-2157.
- Centola, Damon. 2013. Social Media and the Science of Health Behavior. *Circulation* 127:2135-2144.

- King, Nicholas B. 2002. Security, Disease, Commerce: Ideologies of Postcolonial Global Health. *Social Studies of Science* 32(5/6):763-789.
- Lakoff, Andrew. 2008. The Generic Biothreat, or, How We Became Unprepared. *Cultural Anthropology* 23(3):399-428.
- Briggs, Charles L. 2011. Communicating Biosecurity. *Medical Anthropology* 30(1):6-29.

Recommended:

- Boyer, Dominic. 2013. *The Life Informatic: Newsmaking in the Digital Era*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Homework: Choose a site (such as ProMED, Google Flu Trends, Google Dengue Trends, WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network [GOARN], etc.) and explore how it works and what it claims to do.

Week 9 The Epidemiological Production of Diversity

19 March

- Shah, Nayan. 2001. *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco's Chinatown*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 120-157.
- Molina, Natalia. 2006. *Fit to Be Citizens? Public Health and Race in Los Angeles, 1879-1939*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 75-115.
- Montoya, Michael J. 2007. Bioethnic Conscription: Genes, Race, and Mexicana/o Ethnicity in Diabetes Research. *Cultural Anthropology* 22(1):94-128.
- Fullwiley, Duana. 2008. The Biological Construction of Race: 'Admixture' Technology and the New Genetic Medicine. *Social Studies of Science* 38(5):695-735.
- Diez Roux, Ana V. 2012. Conceptual Approaches to the Study of Health Disparities. *Annual Review of Public Health* 33:41-58.

Recommended:

- Farmer, Paul. 1992. *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- _____. 1999. *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Kraut, Alan M. 1994. *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the "Immigrant Menace."* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Menéndez, Eduardo L. 1981. *Poder, estratificación y salud: Analisis de las condiciones sociales y económicas de la enfermedad en Yucatán*. Mexico, DF: La Casa Chata.
- Wailoo, Keith. 2001. *Dying in the City of the Blues: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race and Health*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Homework: Construct a genealogy of the social categories that appear in your text.

26 March: spring break

Week 10 Berkeley: An Epidemiological Tour

2 April

City of Berkeley. 2013. *Health Status Report 2013*. Berkeley: Public Health Division, City of Berkeley. http://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Health_Human_Services/Level_3_-_Public_Health/BerkeleyHealthReport_online_FINALv2.pdf

Week 11 Making Kuru

9 April

Lindenbaum, Shirley. 2013[1979]. *Kuru Sorcery: Disease and Danger in the New Guinea Highlands*. (Second edition.) Boulder, CO: Paradigm, chap. 1-2, 5-9, 11, and 13.

Anderson, Warwick. 2008. *The Collectors of Lost Souls: Turning Kuru Scientists into Whitemen*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, Introduction, chap. 3, 4, 7.

Week 12 A Bad Case of the Flu

16 April

Gojovic, Marija Zivkovic, Beate Sander, David Fishman, Murray D. Krahn, and Chris T. Bauch. 2009. Modelling Mitigation Strategies for Pandemic (H1N1) 2009. *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 181(10):673-680.

Jones, James Holland, and Marcel Salathé. 2009. Early Assessment of Anxiety and Behavioral Response to Novel Swine-Origin Influenza A(H1N1). *PLoS ONE* 4(12): e8032.

Lowe, Celia. 2010. Viral Clouds: Becoming H5N1 in Indonesia. *Cultural Anthropology* 25(4):625-649.

MacPhail, Theresa. 2010. A Predictable Unpredictability: the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic and the Concept of "Strategic Uncertainty" within Global Public Health. *Behemoth* 3:57-77.

Caduff, Carlo. 2012. The Semiotics of Security. On the Biopolitics of Informational Bodies in the United States. *Cultural Anthropology* 27(2):333-357.

Recommended:

Neustadt, Richard E., and Harvey V. Fineberg. 1978. *The Swine Flu Affair: Decision-Making on a Slippery Disease*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, pp. 1-16.

Herring, D. Ann, and Stacy Lockerbie. 2010. The Coming Plague of Avian Influenza. In *Plagues and Epidemics: Infected Spaces Past and Present*, ed. D. Ann Herring and Alan C. Swedlund, pp. 179-191. Oxford: Berg.

Ungar, Sheldon. 2008. Global Bird Flu Communication: Hot Crisis and Media Reassurance. *Science Communication* 29(4):472-497.

Week 13 Workshop I

23 April

Week 14 Workshop II

30 April

Friday 9 May, 12:00pm, research paper due