

## Anthropology & Sociology of Development (ANSO)

Academic year 2016 - 2017

## Biomedicine and 'Life': Global Perspectives

**ANSO064 - Autumn - 3 ECTS**

### Course Description

This course covers key developments in biomedicine in the late 20th and early 21st centuries to ask (a) how 'new' biomedical technologies and biomedicine are problematizing 'old' health concerns and (b) what now is to count as life/death, health/illness, and normal/pathological. These seemingly unique categories are undergoing unprecedented transformations as biomedicine redefines the meaning of 'life' in the new century. The topics covered include emerging global complexities in defining health, illness (especially in the context of epigenetics and related [bio]technologies of population screening), medical surveillance, and the rise of 'new' pharmaceuticals. In addition, the course confronts the very idea of death, dying, and the availability of organs for transplantation around the globe. The course also introduces biologically, ethically, and socially complex 'emergent life forms': human stem cells.

### > PROFESSOR

*Aditya Bharadwaj*

[aditya.bharadwaj@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:aditya.bharadwaj@graduateinstitute.ch)

Office hours : by appointment

Office : MdP P1-507

Phone : +41 22 908 4405

### > ASSISTANT

*Lauren Riggs*

[lauren.riggs@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:lauren.riggs@graduateinstitute.ch)

Office hours: TU 13h–15h

Office : MdP P1-550B

## Syllabus

### Sessions:

- **Friday, 04 November 2016:**
  - 9:00am to 12:15pm (S7)
- **Saturday, 05 November 2016:**
  - 9:00am to 12:30pm (S7)
- **Friday, 11 November 2016:**
  - 9:00am to 12:15pm (S7)
- **Saturday, 12 November 2016:**
  - 9:00am to 12:30pm (S7)

### Grading

100% Final Paper of 2500-4000 words on topics to be agreed upon during the course.

The final paper must be submitted **by Saturday 10 December 2016.**

## Readings

Please note **suggested readings** are recommended texts only. Additional materials and references may be introduced in class.

### Friday, 04 November 2016 9:00am to 12:15pm (S7)

#### Biomedicine and Healthy Life

The notion of “healthy life” has become established in many guises cross-culturally. However, mid-twentieth century biomedicine conjoined the idea of health and life to mean something rather specific. This session discusses some of these complexities and asks what does it mean to live a healthy life under biomedical dispensation around the globe?

**Key terms and phrases:** Organic; mechanistic; cyborg; “life lived in the silence of the organs”; pharmaceuticals; structural violence.

#### Suggested Readings:

1. Adams, V. 2016. *Metrics: What Counts in Global Health*. Durham: Duke University Press.
2. Biehl, J and Petryna, A. 2013. *When People Come First: Critical Studies in Global Health*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
3. Biehl, J. 2007. *A Life: Between Psychiatric Drugs and Social Abandonment*. In Biehl, J; Good, B and Kleinman, A. (eds.). *Subjectivity: Ethnographic Investigations*. Berkeley: University of California Press
4. Clarke, A.E.; Mamo, L.; Fosket, J.R.; Fishman, J.R. and Shim, J.K. 2010. *Biomedicalization: Technoscience, Health, and Illness in the US*. Durham: Duke University Press. Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 7 and Epilogue.
5. Dumit, J. *Drugs for Life: How Pharmaceutical Companies Define Our health*. Durham: Duke University Press.
6. Farmer, P. 2004. An Anthropology of Structural Violence. *Current Anthropology* 45: 305–326.
7. Inhorn, M.C. and Wentzell, E.A. 2012. *Medical Anthropology at the Intersections: Histories, Activisms, and Futures*. Durham: Duke University Press. Introduction, Chapter 3, Chapter 4.
8. Kleinman, A. 1997. *Writing at the Margin: Discourse between Anthropology and Medicine*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

### Saturday, 05 November 2016 9:00am to 12:30pm (S7)

#### New Horizon of Normality and Pathology

The story of medicine is predicated on certain key demarcations that sought to separate the normal and the pathological as well as healthy and ill as antithetical states in need of active management. This session will focus on how the idea of lapsing into a state of pathology or illness and the restoration of a normative state of health and normality became central to biomedicalised approach to health. Is so doing the session will track how this strict separation fundamentally assumes health to be a normative constant in a globalised world.

**Key terms and phrases:** Cure, disease, health and illness; what do we mean by health?

#### Suggested Readings:

1. Canguilhem, G. 1989. *The Normal and the Pathological*. New York: Zone Books.
2. Das, V. 2015. *Affliction: Health, Disease, Poverty*. New York: Fordham University Press. Introduction, Chapter 7.
3. Farmer, P. 2005. *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights and the New War on the Poor*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
4. Fassin, D. and D'Halluin, E. The Truth from the Body: Medical Certificates as Ultimate Evidence for Asylum Seekers. *American Anthropologist* 107(4):597–608.
5. Keating, P and Cambrosio, A. 2003. *Biomedical Platforms: Realigning the Normal and the Pathological in Late Twentieth Century Medicine*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
6. Lock, M. 2012. The Epigenome and Nature/Nurture Reunification: A Challenge for Anthropology. *Medical Anthropology* 32(4): 291-308

7. Manderson, L and Smith-Morris, C. 2010. *Chronic Conditions, Fluid States: Chronicity and The Anthropology of Illness*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.
8. Ticktin, M. 2011. *Casualties of Care: Immigration and the Politics of Humanitarianism in France*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Introduction, Chapter 6.

### **Friday, 11 November 2016 9:00am to 12:15pm (S7)**

#### **Instrumental and Surgical Vivisections**

The biomedical view of the body can be defined as “operable”. This session highlights how dissection as a pedagogical moment to surgical interventions and laboratory-based speciation came to be predicated on a hermetically sealed view of biomedicine as both discipline and practice. The session explores how this view impacts a fundamentally uneven global landscape of biomedicine.

**Key terms and phrases:** Biomedical training; imaging; surgery; gaze; laboratory ‘life’; reengineering health.

#### **Suggested Readings:**

1. Bharadwaj, A. 2013. Experimental Subjectification: The Pursuit of Human Embryonic Stem Cells in India. *Ethnos* 79:1, pp. 84–107.
2. Cohen, L. 1999. Where it hurts: Indian Material for an Ethic of Organ Transplantation. *Daedalus* 128:135.
3. Collins, H.M. 1994. Dissecting Surgery: Forms of Life Depersonalised. *Social Studies of Science* 24:311-33.
4. Davenport, B.A. 2000. Witnessing and the Medical Gaze: How Medical Students Learn to see at a Free Clinic for the Homeless. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 14(3): 310-327.
5. Foucault, M. 2003. *Birth of the Clinic: An Archaeology of Medical Perception*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.
6. Good, B.J. 1994. *Medicine, Rationality, and Experience: An Anthropological Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
7. Prentice, R. 2013. *Bodies in Formation: An Ethnography of Anatomy and Surgery Education*. Durham: Duke University Press.
8. Scheper-Hughes, N and Lock, M. 1987. The Mindful Body: a Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1:6-41.

### **Saturday, 12 November 2016 9:00am to 12:30pm (S7)**

#### **Imbrication of Life and Death**

Biomedicine and medical biotechnologies have radically readjusted the meaning of life and death. From living on life support to assisted end of life through to seemingly opposing ends of the life course – birth and death – emerge curiously conjoined as the process of conceiving and supporting life increasingly becomes “pregnant with death”. Drawing on cross-cultural examples the session will discuss how life and death paradoxically reinstate each other in a (bio)technologically and (bio)medically unequal world.

**Key terms and phrases:** Life beyond death; death in the biotechnological mode; organs; regeneration; stem cells.

#### **Suggested Readings:**

1. Bharadwaj, A. Inhorn, M.C. 2015. Conceiving Life and Death: Stem Cell Technologies and Assisted Conception in India and the Middle East. In Das, Veena and Han, Clara (eds). *An Anthropology of Living and Dying in the Contemporary World*. Berkeley: University of California Press Berkeley.
2. Bosshard, Georg. 2012. Assisted Dying – In Search of Appropriate Assistants. *The King's Law Journal*, 23:141- 148.
3. Das, V and Han, C (eds). *An Anthropology of Living and Dying in the Contemporary World*. Berkeley: University of California Press Berkeley. Introduction.
4. Franklin, Sarah, and Margaret Lock, eds. 2003. *Remaking Life and Death: Toward an Anthropology of the Biosciences*. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press.

5. Kaufman, Sharon R., and Lynn M. Morgan. 2005. "The Anthropology of the Beginnings and Ends of Life." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 34:317–41.
6. Lock, Margaret. 2002. *Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and Reinvention of Death*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
7. Sanal, A. 2011. *New Organs Within US: Transplant and the Moral Economy*. Durham: Duke University Press.
8. Schepher-Hughes, N. 2000. The Global Traffic in Human organs. *Current Anthropology* 41:191-224.