

Anthro 333/533  
Spring 1991

## SOCIAL AND CULTURAL THEORY

INTRO: Modernity and (Post)modernity: Positive, Critical & Hermeneutical Social Sciences

Vocabulary: modernity, modernism(s), (post)modernity, postmodernism(s)  
positive, critical, hermeneutic social sciences  
social, cultural, psychological levels/systems of analysis

Specificity of locuses in which modernisms arose

Berman, Marshall. All that is Solid Melts into Air: pp. 15-36 (intro), 88-102  
(Marx), 148-71 (Paris)  
(Lash, Scott. The Sociology of Postmodernism: ch. 8)  
(Harvey, David. "Paris 1850-1870" Consciousness & the Urban Experience.)

Jamil Dehlavi. "Towers of Silence" (1975 film)  
(Fischer, M.M.J.F. "Towards a Third World Poetics": intro & sec. on Towers of Silence)  
(Layoun, Mary. 1990. Travels of a Genre: The Modern Novel & Ideology.)

Characterizing the postmodern

Poster, Mark. The Mode of Information: chapter 3 (newspapers --> TV ads)  
(Kaes, Anton. "History & Film: Public Memory in the Age of Electronic Dissemination")  
(Xiaobing, Tang. "The Function of New Theory: What Does it Mean to Talk about  
Postmodernism in China?")

### I. THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION

#### A. What Is Social Theory?

vocabulary: system, structural change, ethnography, ethnology, anthropology  
comparative units of analysis: society, culture, nation state, mode of production, world sys  
schemas and dynamics of system transformation & sociological succession

#### B. The Utilitarians: assumptions & variant models

vocabulary: cybernetic/feedback systems, demographic transition model (Malthus)

(Malthus, T. 1824, rev. 1830. "A Summary View of the Principle of Population")  
(Parsons, Talcott. 1937. "Utilitarians" The Structure of Social Action)

### C. Marx's Theory of Social Revolution

vocabulary: mode of production, forces of production, relations of production, social formation, contradiction; use value, exchange value, surplus value, alienation; bourgeois revolution, proletarian revolution; class, peasants, petty bourgeoisie, bourgeoisie, fractions of the bourgeoisie; state; world-historical; time frames: revolutionary dramas vs social revolutions; social revolution vs political revolution

(Brinton, Crane. 1938. The Anatomy of Revolution.)

(Elster, Jon. Understanding Marx: ch. 7.2)

(Marx, K. 1857-58. Grundrisse der Kritik der Politischen Ökonomie. E.T. M. Nicolaus, Vintage: social relations & exchange value, pp 136-67; circulation & value, pp 186-203; accumulation & social relations, pp. 221-38; simple exchange, pp. 240-73; exchange of labor, pp. 274-75; labor as objectified value, pp. 304-10; pre-capitalist formations, pp. 47-516)

(Marx, K. & F. Engels. On Colonialism, "The British Rule in India" (10 June 1853)  
The Future Results of British Rule in India" (22 July 1853)

#### Example of France

Marx, K. The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte: ch. 1 & 7; (Ch. 2-6)

#### Example of Iran

(Fischer, M. Iran: From Religious Dispute to Revolution: 13-27, 123-29, 170-80, 181-96, 232-42.)

(Fischer, M. "Islam & the Revolt of the Petite Bourgeoisie." Daedalus 1982. )

#### Visual & Linguistic Media

Sewell, William. Work and Revolution in France.

Paulson, Ronald. Representations of Revolutions

Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, UCLA. French Caricature & the French Revolution, 1789-1799.

Fischer, M. & M. Abedi. Debating Muslims: Ch. 6, pp. 335-38, 352-79

Guha, Ranajit & Gayatri Spivak, ed. 1988. Selected Subaltern Studies:

Spivak- "Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography";

Guha - "On Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India"

Chakravabarty- "Conditions for Knowledge of Working Class Conditions"

Guha, R. Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India.

D. The Durkheimians & British Social Anthropology

Vocabulary: social facts, total prestations (gifts), social structure, mechanical vs organic solidarity, conscience collective, collective representations, social vs empirical individuals, repressive vs restitutive penal codes, sacred vs profane, secondary burials, ritual process, social drama, functionalism

Mauss, Marcel. 1925. *The Gift*.

Gluckman, Max. 1952. "Rituals of Rebellion in S.E. Africa." *Order & Rebellion in Tribal Africa* (1969)

Huntington, R. & Metcalf. 1979. *Celebrations of Death*

Turner, Victor. 1967. *The Forest of Symbols*.

Malinowski, Bronislaw. 1922. *Sex & Repression in Savage Society: Part I*.

(Cheater, Angela. 1989. *Social Anthropology: An Alternative Introduction*.)

Anthro 333/533  
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Fall 1990 - Rice Univ.

M. Fischer

### Social and Cultural Theory

Intro: Modernity & Postmodernity: Positive, Critical, & Hermeneutic Social Sciences

Films: Jamil Dehlavi, "Towers of Silence;" Ali Nasirian, "Agha-ye Halu";  
Parviz Kimaivi, "Moghol-ha"; Mohsen Makhmalbaf, "The Peddlers."

Theoretical efforts to describe the sociology of modernity/postmodernity and the roles of  
postmodernisms and postmodernisms in social context

Berman, Marshall. 1982. All that is Solid Melts into Air: pp. 15-36 (intro),  
88-102 (Marx), 148-71 (Paris), 290-312 (New York), 173-206  
(St. Petersburg)

Lash, Scott. 1990. Sociology of Postmodernism: ch. 8 (Paris, Vienna, Berlin);  
ch. 7 (discourse vs figure); rec.: ch. 6 (W. Benjamin); ch. 4 (convergences  
of Habermas and poststructuralists)

Poster, Mark. 1990. The Mode of Information: Poststructuralism and Social Context:  
ch.s 1-3

[rec.: Harvey, David. 1989. The Condition of Postmodernity.

Lytotard, Jean-Francois. 1979/1984. The Postmodern Condition].

### Subject Positionings

Guha, Ranajit & Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, ed. 1988. Selected Subaltern Studies.  
esp., Spivak, "Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography."

Guha, "On Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India."

Layoun, Mary. 1990. Travels of a Genre: The Modern Novel and Ideology:  
(Greece, ch. 2 & 5; Arabic world, ch. 3 & 6; Japan, ch. 4 & 7)

Santer, Eric. 1990. Stranded Objects: Mourning, Memory and Film in Postwar  
Germany. (epilogue; ch. 4 - Syberberg)

Visvanathan, Shiv & Harsh Sethi. 1989. "Bhopal: A Report from the Future."  
Lokayan Bulletin, May-June, pp 47-57.

Visvanathan, S. & Rajni Kothari. 1985. "Bhopal: The Imagination of a Disaster."  
Lokayan Bulletin, 3(4-5): 48-76.

Xiaobing Tang. 1990. "The Function of New Theory: What Does it Mean to Talk about  
Postmodernism in China?"

## Changing Anthropological Approaches (?) in a Changing World

- Marcus, G.E. & M.M.J. Fischer. 1986. Anthropology as Cultural Critique.  
Fardon, R., ed. 1990. Localizing strategies.  
Cheater, Angela. 1989. Social Anthropology: An Alternative Introduction.  
Geertz, C. 1973. The Interpretation of Cultures; 1963 Agricultural Involvement  
Levi-Strauss, C. 1963 Structural Anthropology; 1966 The Savage Mind  
Turner, Victor 1967 Forest of Symbols; 1957 Schism & Continuity  
Kroeber, Alfred. 1948. Anthropology.  
Wolf, Eric. 1982. Europe and the Peoples without History.

## Substantive Areas

### Multiculturalisms, Feminisms, Contesting Discourses, Transnationalisms

#### Britain & Cultural Studies

- Brantlinger, Patrick. "Cultural Studies in Britain" Crusoe's Footprints.  
Hall, Stuart. 1990. "The Emergence of Cultural Studies & the Crisis of  
the Humanities." October, No. 53, Summer 1990.  
Hall, Stuart. 1986. "Cultural Studies: Two Paradigms." In R. Collins et al.,  
Media, Culture and Society: A Critical Reader. Sage.  
Hebdige, Dick. 1987. Subculture: the Meaning of Style.

#### Germany & the Frankfurt School

- Held, David. 1980. Intro. to Critical Theory: Horkheimer to Habermas.  
Jay, Martin. 1973. The Dialectical Imagination, A History of the  
Frankfurt School & the Institute of Social Research, 1923-50.

#### France: Surrealism, Structuralism, Poststructuralism

- Clifford, James. "On Ethnographic Surrealism" in Predicament of Culture  
Friedlander, Judith. 1990. Vilna on the Seine.  
Hollier, Denis, ed., 1988. The College of Sociology, 1937-39.  
Roudinesco, Elisabeth. 1986/1990. Jacques Lacan & Co., A History of  
Psychoanalysis in France, 1925-1985.

#### U.S.A.: Anthropology & Cultural Studies

- Lipsitz, George. 1990. Time Passages: Collective Memory and American  
Popular Culture.  
Marcus, G.E. & M. M.J. Fischer. Anthropology as Cultural Critique.

#### Middle East

- Fischer, M. 1984. Towards a Third World Poetics. Knowledge & Society.  
Fischer, M.M.J. & M. Abedi. 1990. Debating Muslims: Cultural  
Dialogues in Postmodernity and Tradition.  
Laroui, Abdullah. 1976. The Crisis of the Arab Intellectual.

Lavie, Smadar. 1990. The Poetics of Military Occupation: Mzeina Allegories of Bedouin Identity under Israeli & Egyptian Rule.  
Mitchell, Timothy. 1988. Colonizing Egypt.

#### India

Bonner, Arthur. 1990. Averting the Apocalypse.  
Guha, R. 1983. Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India.  
Guha, R. & G. Spivak, ed. Selected Subaltern Studies.  
Lokayan Bulletin; Economic and Political Weekly.

#### Visual-Figural

India: Gutman, Judith. 1982. Through Indian Eyes: 19th & early 20th c. photography from India  
Uberoi, Patricia. 1990. "Feminine Identity and National Ethos in Indian Calendar Art." Economic & Political Weekly, April 28.  
Sengupta, Subroto. 1990. Brand Positioning. Tata/McGraw-Hill.

#### General Theory

Jameson, Fredric. 1990. Signatures of the Visible.  
Kaes, Anton. 1990. "History and Film: Public Memory in the Age of Electronic Dissemination." History & Memory, 2(1):111-29.  
Lewis, Lisa. 1990. Gender Politics & MTV: Voicing the Difference.: ch. 6  
"Female Address Video (1980-1986)"; rec. ch. 5  
Lyotard, Jean-Francois. "The Dream Work Does not Think." in Andrew Benjamin, ed., The Lyotard Reader. (Blackwell 1989).  
Lash, Scott. Sociology of Postmodernism: chapter 7.  
Moog, Carol. 1990. Are they Selling her Lips? Advertising & Identity: ch. 1.  
Poster, Mark. Mode of Information: ch. 2 (Baudrillard & TV ads)  
Zizek, Slavoj. "The undergrowth of enjoyment; how popular culture can serve as an introduction to Lacan." New Formations 9, Winter 1989.

#### Science: Ecology & Biotechnology

Bishop, Jerry E. & Michael Waldholz. 1990. Genome. Simon & Schuster.  
Holtzman, Neil A. 1989. Proceed with Caution: Predicting Genetic Risks in the Recombinant DNA Era. Johns Hopkins.  
Nussbaum, Bruce. 1990. Good Intentions: How Big Business & the Media Establishment Are Corrupting the Fight against AIDS. Atlantic Monthly.  
Teitelman, Robert. 1989. Gene Dreams: Wall Street, Academia, & the Rise of Biotechnology. Basic.  
Guha, Ramachandra. 1989. The Unquiet Woods: Ecological Change and Peasant Resistance in the Himalaya.

Physics:

Kevies, David J. 1990. "Begetting Big Science" NYRB 25 Oct 1990

Traweek, Sharon. 1988. Beamtimes & Lifetimes.

Visvanathan, Shiv. 1988. "Atomic Physics: The Career of an Imagination."  
In Ashis Nandy, ed., Science, Hegemony & Violence.

Visvanathan, Shiv. 1985. Organizing for Science: The Making of an Industrial  
Research Laboratory.