

Anthropologies, Climate Change and Disasters

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Office hours: TBA

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Time: Tuesdays, 16:00-17:30, room 9, Gołębia 9

Form: lecture with discussion

ECTS: 6

Short description

In recent years, anthropologists are becoming more engaged in theoretical and research endeavours, which look at anthropocene from future-oriented, disastrous and crisis-driven perspective. This stems from the increasing uncertainties of the contemporary world, which often take a form of “dark” global framings with climate crisis and disasters continuously impacting different local contexts across the globe. Following new theoretical and empirical developments in environmental anthropology, the course explores and discusses social, cultural, economic and political contexts of anthropocene. In particular, the course outlines and problematises four classical elements – earth, water, air and fire – in their complex relations to political economy, climate crisis and disasters. Throughout the course, various case studies concerning earthquakes and soil degradation, floods and draughts, heat and bushfires, hurricanes and pollution, will be analysed and discussed. The idea of the course is to use classical elements as points of departures to show the precarious living in the times of Anthropocene.

While exploring climate crisis and disasters, the course will raise and discuss, the following anthropological issues: ANTHROPOCENE (the origins and critique of nature–culture divide; developments in environmental anthropology); FUTURE (future orientations and reasoning, anticipation, speculation, affective and temporal understanding of future); CRISIS AND DISASTER (uncertainties and risks; multiple crises; anthropological approaches to disasters); SOCIAL RESILIENCE (local responses to climate crisis and disasters, adaptation, preparedness); RESISTANCE (social movements; activism; ‘radical’ politics; social change); FORCED DISPLACEMENT (climate mobilities; environmental migration and refugees-to-be).

Each issue will be theoretically introduced and contextualised through ethnographic case study involving earth, water, air and fire.

Assignments:

Each class will start with an introductory lecture followed by case study and a discussion based on the assigned readings. During each class, students’ attendance (20%) and participation in discussion (30%) will be assessed. In addition, students will be divided into 4-5 teams, which collaboratively will prepare an Intervention on a topic related to course (50%). Intervention will be a final assignment and might include different means and methods, all of which will be discussed and explained during the introductory class.

Selected Readings:

S. A. Crate and M. Nuttall (eds.) (2009) *Anthropology and Climate Change. From Encounters to Actions*. New York–London: Routledge.

S. A. Crate and M. Nuttall (eds.) (2016) *Anthropology and Climate Change. From Actions to Transformations*. New York–London: Routledge.

- K. Hastrup and C. Rubow (eds.) (2014) *Living with Environmental Change. Waterworlds*. New York–London: Routledge.
- K. Hastrup and K. F. Olwig (eds.) (2012) *Climate Change and Human Mobility. Global Challenges to the Social Sciences*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- K. Hastrup and M. Skrystrup (eds.) (2014) *The Social Life of Climate Change Models. Anticipating Nature*. New York–London: Routledge.
- S. M. Hoffman and R. E. Barrios (2020) *Disaster upon Disaster. Exploring the Gap between Knowledge, Policy, and Practice*. Oxford: Berghahn Books.
- A. Oliver-Smith, S. M. Hoffman (eds.) (2020) *The Angry Earth. Disaster in Anthropological Perspective*. New York–London: Routledge.
- D. Riboli, P. J. Stewart, A. J. Strathern and D. Torri (eds.) (2021) *Dealing with Disasters. Perspectives from Eco-Cosmologies*. London–New York: Palgrave.
- J. F. Salazar, S. Pink, A. Irving and J. Sjöberg (eds.) (2017) *Anthropologies and Futures. Researching Emerging and Uncertain Worlds*. London–New York: Bloomsbury.