

Syllabus

Anthropologies, Climate Change and Disasters

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Office hours: TBA

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The course aim is to enhance students' knowledge and develop critical understanding of recently emerging new theoretical trends in anthropology, which focus on climate crisis and disasters.

After completing the course, students:

- have achieved a basic knowledge about contemporary anthropological approaches to anthropocene, including socially-induced disasters
- have a substantive knowledge about the roles, meanings and impacts of climate crisis on local contexts
- know and understand the main anthropological methods of analysing social responses and resilience vis-à-vis climate crisis and catastrophes

Conditions of gaining credits/ Evaluation of Student Learning:

- Attendance – 20%
- Participation in class discussion – 30%
- Intervention – 50%

In order to gain credits, student must achieve at least 61% of assignments

Learning activities and teaching methods:

- Critical reading
- Discussions

- Presentation (Power Point)
- Interventions

Assessment methods and criteria for this course:

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.

Further requirements:

Students will be provided with a weekly class schedule and reading list assigned to each class.

ECTS: 6

Short description of the course:

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.

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.