

## Infrastructure Theory

Fall 2013

Katie Stewart kstewart@mail.utexas.edu

Tuesdays 9-12

Office hours: Tuesday 12-2

### Books

Mrázek R. 2002. *Engineers of Happy Land: Technology and Nationalism in a Colony*.

Princeton University Press

*Public Culture*. Special issue on Infrastructures of the Urban. No 70

### Writing Workshop Format

Each week we will all write one 200-300 word or two 100-200 word evocative/theoretical pieces inspired by the reading and developing aspects of a project. We will read them aloud and discuss. There will also be separate time devoted to discussing the reading.

#### 1. 9/3 Introduction

Larkin, Brian. The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure. (forthcoming *Annual Reviews of Anthropology*)

"Infrastructure: Introductory Commentary by AbdouMaliq Simone." *Curated Collections, Cultural Anthropology Online*, November 26, 2012,

[http://production.culanth.org/curated\\_collections/11-infrastructure/discussions/12-infrastructure-introductory-commentary-by-abdoumaliq-simone](http://production.culanth.org/curated_collections/11-infrastructure/discussions/12-infrastructure-introductory-commentary-by-abdoumaliq-simone)

"Infrastructure: Commentary from Filip De Boeck." *Curated Collections, Cultural Anthropology Online*, November 26, 2012,

[http://production.culanth.org/curated\\_collections/11-infrastructure/discussions/7-infrastructure-commentary-from-filip-de-boeck](http://production.culanth.org/curated_collections/11-infrastructure/discussions/7-infrastructure-commentary-from-filip-de-boeck)

"Infrastructure: Commentary from Nikhil Anand, Johnathan Bach, Julia Elyachar, and Daniel Mains." *Curated Collections, Cultural Anthropology Online*, November 26, 2012,

[http://production.culanth.org/curated\\_collections/11-infrastructure/discussions/6-infrastructure-commentary-from-nikhil-anand-johnathan-bach-julia-elyachar-and-daniel-mains](http://production.culanth.org/curated_collections/11-infrastructure/discussions/6-infrastructure-commentary-from-nikhil-anand-johnathan-bach-julia-elyachar-and-daniel-mains)

#### 2. 9/10 Cultural Anthropology

Nading, Alex. 2012. Dengue Mosquitoes are Single Mothers: Biopolitics Meets Ecological Aesthetics in Nicaraguan Community Health. *Cultural Anthropology* 27(4):572-596

Anand, N. 2011. PRESSURE: The PoliTechnics of Water Supply in Mumbai. *Cultural Anthropology* 26(4):542-564.

Fisch, M. 2013. Tokyo's Commuter Suicides and the Society of Emergence. *Cultural Anthropology* 28 (12).

Mains, Daniel. 2012. Blackouts and Progress: Privatization, Infrastructure, and a Developmentalist State in Jimma, Ethiopia. *Cultural Anthropology* 27(1):3-27.

3. 9/17. Mrázek R. 2002. *Engineers of Happy Land: Technology and Nationalism in a Colony*. Princeton University Press

#### **4. 9/24. Mobilities**

- Conradson, David and Alan Latham. 2007. The Affective Possibilities of London: Antipodean Transnationals and the Overseas Experience. *Mobilities* 2(2): 231-254
- Khan, N. 2006. Flaws in the Flow Roads and Their Modernity in Pakistan. *Social Text* 24(4 89):87–113.
- Stewart, K. 2013. Matter Poems. *Cultural Geographies*.
- Morris RC. 2010. Accidental Histories, Post-Historical Practice?: Re-reading Body of Power, Spirit of Resistance in the Actuarial Age. *Anthropological Quarterly* 83(3):581–624.

#### **5. 10/1. Matter, the Real, the Infrastructural**

- Isabelle Stengers. Wondering about Materialism.
- Manuel DeLanda. Emergence, Causality, Realism.
- Humphrey, C. 2005. Ideology in Infrastructure: Architecture and Soviet Imagination. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 11(1):39–58.
- Hayden Lorimer. Scaring Crows.

#### **6. 10/8. Sensory Infrastructure**

- Taussig M. 2004. *My Cocaine Museum*. University of Chicago Press. (selections)
- Steinmüller, Hans. 2011. The Moving Boundaries of Social Heat: Gambling in Rural China. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 17 (2): 263–28

#### **7. 10/15. Speculative Ethnographies of Infrastructure**

- Simone, A. 2004. People as infrastructure: intersecting fragments in Johannesburg. *Public Culture* 16(3):407–429.
- Larkin, Brian. 2004. Degraded Images, Distorted Sounds: Nigerian Video and the Infrastructure of Piracy. *Public Culture*.16(2): 289-314
- Fortun, Kim. 2012. Ethnography in Late Industrialism. *Cultural Anthropology* 27(3).
- Boeck FD. 2011. Inhabiting Ocular Ground: Kinshasa's Future in the Light of Congo's Spectral Urban Politics. *Cultural Anthropology* 26(2):263–286.

#### **8. 10/22. Infrastructures of the Urban**

- Public Culture*. Special issue on Infrastructures of the Urban. No 70 duke 978 0 8223 6788 8

#### **8. 10/29. Insubstantial Rhythm, Liquidity, Luminosity**

- Phillip Vannini. 2012. In time, out of time: Rhythmalizing Ferry Mobilities. *Time and Society*. 21.
- Bille, Mikkel and Tim Flohr Sorensen. 2007. An Anthropology of Luminosity: The Agency of Light. *Journal of Material Culture* 12:263
- Thrift, Nigel. 2012. The insubstantial pageant: producing an untoward land. *Cultural Geographies*. 1-28
- Seigworth, Gregory and Matthew Tiessen. 2012. Mobile Affects, Open Secrets, and Global Illiquidity: Pockets, Pools and Plasma. *Theory, Culture and Society* 29:47.

### **9. 11/5 Atmosphere/The Insubstantial**

- Anderson, Ben. 2009. "Affective atmospheres." *Emotion, Space and Society* no. 2 (2):77-81.
- Bohme, Gernot. Atmosphere as the fundamental concept of a new aesthetics.
- Stewart, Kathleen. 2011. Atmospheric Attunements. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 29 (3): 445 – 453.
- Abram, David. 2009. The Air Aware: Mind and Mood on a Breathing Planet. *Orion*. 28(5):16-25.
- Sloterdijk, Peter. Airquakes. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 2009, 27:41-57

### **10. 11/12. Theory, Culture and Society**

- Harvey P. 2012. The Topological Quality of Infrastructural Relation: An Ethnographic Approach. *Theory, Culture, and Society* 29(4-5):76–92.
- Friedrich Kittler. 2006. Lightning and Series – Event and Thunder. *Theory, Culture, and Society* 23:63
- Brian Massumi. 2009. National Enterprise Emergency: Steps Toward an Ecology of Powers. *Theory, Culture and Society* 26(6): 153-185

### **11. 11/19. Ethnography of Infrastructure**

- Star, SL. 1999. The Ethnography of Infrastructure. *American Behavioral Scientist* 43(3):377–391.
- Star, SL and Ruhleder K. 1996. Steps Toward an Ecology of Infrastructure: Design and Access for Large Information Spaces. *Information Systems Research* 7(1):111–134.
- Dewsbury, John. 2003. Witnessing Space: 'knowledge without contemplation', *Environment and Planning A* 35:1907-1932
- Koch, Regan and Alan Latham, 2012. Rethinking urban public space: accounts from a junction in West London. *Transactions*.

### **12. 11/26. Environment and Planning**

- Dourish, Paul and Genevieve Bell. The infrastructure of experience and the experience of infrastructure: meaning and structure in everyday encounters with space. *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*, 2007, 34, 414-430.
- Vannini, Phillip and Jonathan Taggart. 2013. Voluntary simplicity, involuntary complexities, and the pull of remove: the radical ruralities of off-grid lifestyles. *Environment and Planning A*, 45: 295-311.
- Thrift, Nigel. 2011. Lifeworld, Inc. and what to do about it. *Environment and Planning D* 29:5-26.
- McCormack, D. 2007. Molecular Affects in Human Geographies. *Environment and Planning A* 39:359-377.

### **13. 12/3. Non-Representational Theory**

- Anderson, Ben and Paul Harrison. The promise of non-representational theory. In *Taking Place*. Eds Anderson and Harrison.
- Vannini, Phillip. 2011. The techne of making a ferry: a non-representational approach to

passengers' gathering taskscapes. *Journal of Transport Geography*. 19:1031-1036

Latham, Alan and Derek McCormack. 2009. Thinking with images in non-representational cities: vignettes from Berlin. *Area* 41(3):252-262.

Stewart, K. 2013. New England Red. In *Non-Representational Theory*, Vannini, P ed.

### **Recommended additional reading**

- Abram, D. *The Spell of the Sensuous*  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Becoming Animal*
- Appel, Hannah. 2012. Walls and white elephants: Oil extraction, responsibility and infrastructural violence in Equatorial Guinea. *Ethnography* 13: 439-465.
- Javier Auyero and Agustín Burbano de Lara. 2012. In harm's way at the urban margins. *Ethnography*. 13: 531-557.
- Badiou, Alain. *Logics of Worlds*.
- Beller J. 2012. *The Cinematic Mode of Production: Attention, Economy, and the Society of the Spectacle*. Lebanon: Dartmouth University Press.
- Berlant, L. the commons
- Blesser, Barry and Linda-Ruth Salter. *Spaces Speak: Experiencing Aural Architecture*.
- Bogost, Ian. *Alien Phenomenology*.
- Bryant, Levi R., Nick Srnicek, and Graham Harman. 2011. *The Speculative Turn: Continental Materialism and Realism*. Melbourne: re.press.
- Böhme, Gernot. 1993. "Atmosphere as the Fundamental Concept of a New Aesthetics." *Thesis Eleven* no. 36:113-126.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1998. "Atmosphere as an Aesthetic Concept." *Daidalos* no. 68:112-115.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2006b. "Atmosphere as the Subject Matter of Architecture." In *Natural History*, edited by
- Carse, A. 2012. Nature as infrastructure: Making and managing the Panama Canal watershed. *Social Studies of Science* 42(4):539-563.
- Chen, Mel. *Animacies*.
- Choy, Tim. *Ecologies of Comparison*.
- Collier S and Lakoff A. 2008. The vulnerability of vital systems: How "critical infrastructure" became a security problem. *The Politics of Securing the Homeland: Critical Infrastructure, Risk and Securitisation*:40-62.
- Cool, Diana. *New Materialisms*.
- Dalakoglou D and Harvey P. 2012. Roads and Anthropology: Ethnographic Perspectives on Space, Time and (Im) Mobility. *Mobilities* 7(4)
- Dalakoglou D. 2012. "The Road from Capitalism to Capitalism": Infrastructures of (Post)Socialism in Albania. *Mobilities* 7(4):571-586.
- Deleuze G. 1992. Postscript on the Societies of Control. *October*:3-7.
- Dourish, Paul. *Divining a Digital Future*.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Where the Action is*
- Edensor, Tim. *Geographies of Rhythm*.
- Edwards PN. 2003. Infrastructure and modernity: Force, time, and social organization in the history of sociotechnical systems. *Modernity and technology*:185-225.

- Edwards PN, Bowker GC, Jackson SJ, and Williams R. 2009. Introduction: an agenda for infrastructure studies. *Journal of the Association for Information Systems* 10(5):364–374.
- Elyachar, J. 2010. Phatic labor, infrastructure, and the question of empowerment in Cairo. *American Ethnologist* 37(3):452–464.
- Elyachar, J. 2011. The political economy of movement and gesture in Cairo. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 17(1):82–99.
- Fehnman, Richard. *QED: The Strange Theory of Light and Matter*.
- Fennell C. 2011. “Project heat” and sensory politics in redeveloping Chicago public housing. *Ethnography* 12(1):40–64.
- Gleik, James. *The Information: a History, a theory, a flood*.
- Graham S. 2010. *Disrupted Cities: When Infrastructure Fails*. Taylor & Francis.
- Guignon, Charles. 2003. "Moods in Heidegger's *Being and Time*." In *What is an Emotion?*, edited by Robert C. Solomon, 181-190. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Heidegger, Martin. 1962. *Being and Time*. New York: Harper and Row. First published 1927.
- Harvey P and Knox H. 2012. The Enchantments of Infrastructure. *Mobilities* 7(4):521–536.
- Helmreich, S. *Alien Ocean*.
- Ingold, Tim. 2007. Materials Against Materiality. *Archaeological Dialogues* 14 (01): 1–16.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Lines: A Brief History*.
- Ingold D, T and Howes, D. debate on the senses. 2011. *Social Anthropology*
- Jackson SJ, Edwards PN, Bowker GC, and Knobel CP. 2007. Understanding infrastructure: history, heuristics, and cyberinfrastructure policy. *First Monday* 12(6):
- Jain, S.L. *Injury: The Politics of Product Design and Safety Law in the United States*.
- Jakobson, R. 1985. Closing Statements: Linguistics and Poetics. Innis RE. *Semiotics: An Introductory Anthology*. Pp. 145-175. Indiana University Press.
- Kaplan, Robert and Kaplan Ellen. *Hidden Harmonies: The life and times of the Pythagorean theorem*.
- Kelty, Christopher. 2010. Introduction: Culture In, Culture Out. *Anthropological Quarterly*, Volume 83, Number 1, Winter 2010, pp. 7-16
- Koch, Regan and Alan Latham, 2012. The hard work of domesticating a public space. *Urban Studies*, 50(6)
- Knox H and Harvey P. 2011. Anticipating Harm Regulation and Irregularity on a Road Construction Project in the Peruvian Andes. *Theory Culture Society* 28(6):142–163.
- Kockelman, Paul. *Agent, Person, Subject, Self: A Theory of Ontology, Infrastructure and Interaction*.
- Kockelman P. 2010. Enemies, parasites, and noise: How to take up residence in a system without becoming a term in it. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 20(2):406–421.
- Koolhaas, Rem. *Delirious New York*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *S, M, L, XL*.
- Larkin, Brian. *Signal and Noise: media, infrastructure and urban culture in Nigeria*.

- Latham, Alan. 2011. Topologies and the multiplicities of space-time. *Dialogues in Human Geography* 1:312.
- Latour, Bruno. 1999. *Pandora's Hope: Essays on the Reality of Science Studies*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Reassembling the Social*.
- Manning, Erin. *Relationescapes*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Always More than One: Individuation's Dance*
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Politics of Touch*
- Mattelart A. 2000. *Networking the World, 1794-2000*. U. Of Minnesota Press.
- McCullough, Malcolm. *Ambient Commons*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Digital Ground*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Abstracting Craft*.
- Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. 1964. *The Primacy of Perception And Other Essays on Phenomenological Psychology, the Philosophy of Art, History, and Politics*. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2002. *Phenomenology of Perception*. London: Routledge. First published 1962.
- Meyer B. 2009. *Aesthetic formations: media, religion, and the senses*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Mollers, N. and Zachmann, K. 2012. *Past and Present Energy Societies*
- Morton, T. *Ecology without Nature*.
- Nikhil Anand Municipal disconnect: On abject water and its urban infrastructures. *Ethnography*. 13: 487-509
- Nye, David E. 1996. *American Technological Sublime*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Ogden, Laura. *Swamplife: People, Gators and Mangroves Entangled in the Everglades*.
- O'Neill, Bruce. 2012. Of camps, gulags and extraordinary renditions: Infrastructural violence in Romania. *Ethnography*. 13: 466-486
- O'Neill, Kevin. 2012. There is no more room: Cemeteries, personhood, and bare death. *Ethnography*. 13: 510-530.
- Ogawa, Tadashi. 2004. "The Horizontal Character of Phenomena and the Shining-forth of Things." *Research in Phenomenology* no. 30 (1):146-157.
- Paterson, Mark. 2007. *The Senses of Touch: Haptics, Affects and Technologies*. Oxford: Berg.
- Pennartz, Paul J.J. 2006. "Home: The Experience of Atmosphere." In *At Home: An Anthropology of Domestic Space*, edited by Irene Cieraad, 95-106. New York: Syracuse University Press.
- Posner, Michael. *Cognitive Neuroscience of Attention*.
- Raffles, Hugh. *Insectopedia*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *In Amazonia*.
- Rancière, Jacques. 2006. *The Politics of Aesthetics: The Distribution of the Sensible*. London : Continuum.
- Readies, DJ. *Intimate Bureaucracies: A Manifesto*.
- Rickert, Thomas. *Ambient Rhetoric: The Attunements of Rhetorical Being*.
- Rodgers, Dennis and O'Neill, Bruce. Infrastructural violence: Introduction to the special

- issue *Ethnography* 2012 13: 401-412
- Rodgers, Dennis. 2012. Haussmannization in the tropics: Abject urbanism and infrastructural violence in Nicaragua. *Ethnography* 13: 413-438.
- Roseman, SR. 1996. "How We Built the Road": The Politics of Memory in Rural Galicia. *American Ethnologist* 23(4):836–860.
- Sanders T. 2008. Buses in Bongoland Seductive analytics and the occult. *Anthropological Theory* 8(2):107–132.
- Schaberg, C. *The Textual Life of Airports*.
- Schivelbusch W. 1987. *The Railway Journey: The Industrialization and Perception of Time and Space*. University of California Press.
- Schivelbusch W. 1995. *Disenchanted Night: The Industrialization of Light in the Nineteenth Century*. University of California Press.
- Schmitz, Hermann, Rudolf Owen Müllan, and Jan Slaby. 2011. "Emotions outside the box - the new phenomenology of feeling and corporeality." *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* no. 10 (2):241-259.
- Serres M. 2007. *The Parasite*. U. Of Minnesota Press
- Shaviro, S. 2012. *Without Criteria: Kant, Whitehead, Deleuze and Aesthetics*.
- Simone, A. 2001. On the worlding of African cities. *African Studies Review*:15–41.
- Sloerdijk, P. *Bubbles*.
- Sloterdijk, Peter. 2005. Atmospheric Politics. *In Making Things Public: Atmospheres of Democracy*, edited by Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel, 944–951. Cambridge, MA : MIT Press .
- Sneath, D, Holbraad M, and Pedersen MA. 2009. Technologies of the imagination: An introduction. *Ethnos* 74(1):5–30.
- Sneath, D. 2009. Reading the Signs by Lenin's Light: Development, Divination and Metonymic Fields in Mongolia. *Ethnos* 74(1):72–90.
- Sterling, Bruce. *Shaping Things*.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Tomorrow Now*.
- Thibaud, Jean-Paul. 2011. "The Sensory Fabric of Urban Ambiances." *Senses & Society* no. 6 (2):203-215.
- Thrift, N. *Non-Representational Theory*.
- Thrift, N. 2004. Movement-Space: the changing domain of thinking result from the development of new kinds of spatial awareness. *Economy and Society* 33(4):582-602.
- Tytell, John. *Reading New York*.
- Ulmer, Gregory. *Teletheory*.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Internet Invention: From Literacy to Electracy*.
- Vannini, P. 2011. Constellations of (in)convenience: disentangling the assemblages of Canada's west coast island mobilities. *Social and Cultural Geography* 12(5).
- Youdell, Deborah, and Felicity Armstrong. 2011. "A politics beyond subjects: The affective choreographies and smooth spaces of schooling." *Emotion, Space and Society* no. 4 (3):144-150.