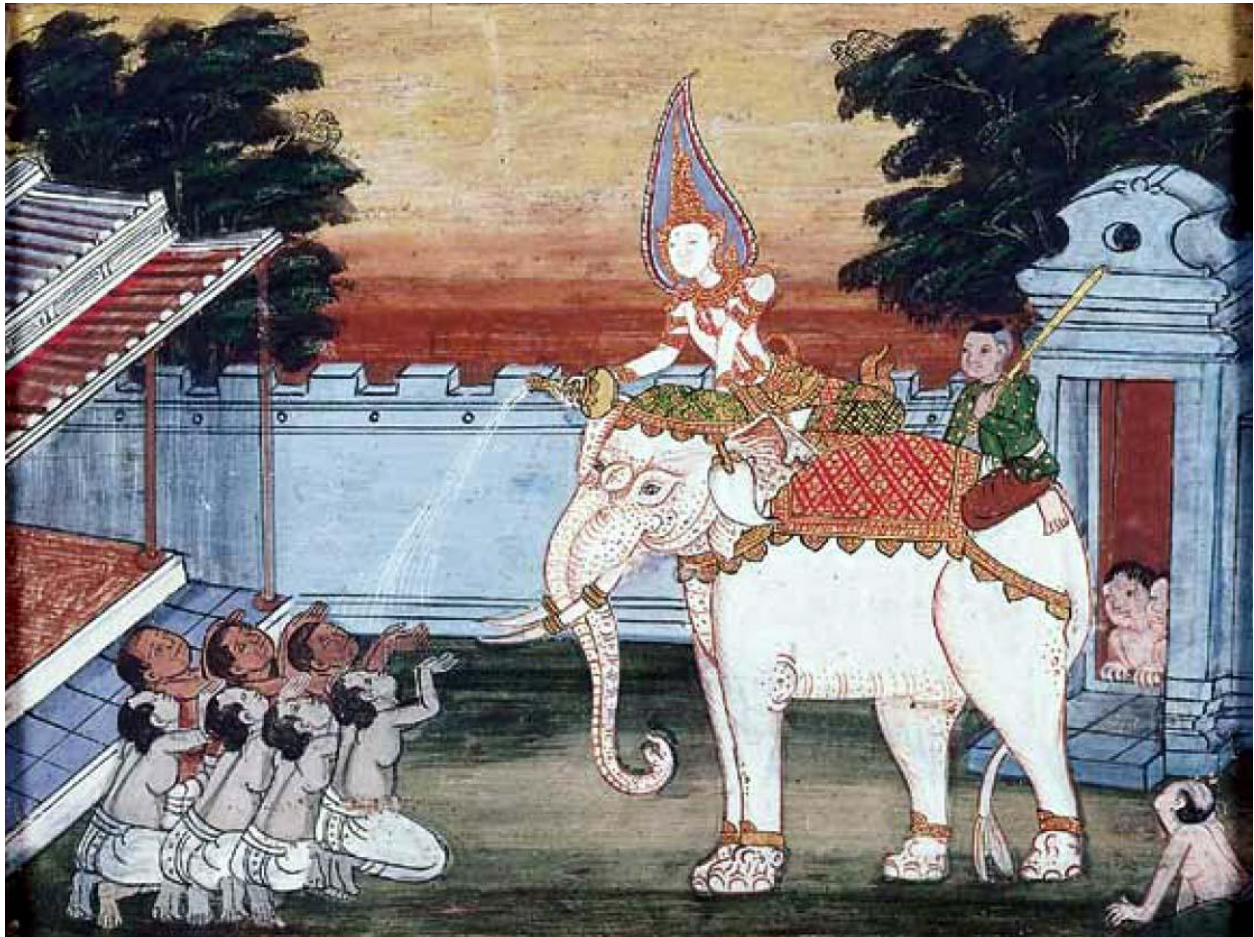


Political and Economic Anthropology

AHAN6002



Semester 2 (2011) Mondays 9.15 – 11.15 and Tuesdays 12.15 - 1.15

LR10

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Political and Economic Anthropology

Module convener: Dr Samantha Hurn s.hurn@tsd.ac.uk

Social anthropology is distinguished from subjects such as economics or political science by its holistic range, the attention it gives to the diversity of culture and society across the world, and the capacity this gives the discipline to re-examine conventional Euro-American assumptions. This module will provide students with detailed insight into a range of political and economic systems found in diverse social and cultural contexts. Students will be asked to engage with the complex ways in which humans produce and consume material goods and services in relation to their particular lifestyles and livelihoods. The production and consumption of material goods reveals a great deal about power relationships, and as a result, the module will demonstrate the synergies which exist between the fields of political and economic anthropology. Thematic areas which will be covered include capitalistic exchange and wage labour, subsistence economies, ceremonial exchange and reciprocity, political systems and forms of governance, globalisation and its impact on political identity and economic relations.

Assignments:

Examination (30%)

One paper (2 questions in 2 hours – equivalent to 2000 words).

Course work (70%)

One essay (4,000 words).

Submission date:

Essay: tbc – please see Moodle.

Exam: tbc.

Essay questions:

1. Discuss and analyse Sahlins' position that "Money is to the West what kinship is to the rest".
2. Assess whether or not political patronage can be considered a form of ceremonial exchange.
3. Discuss and analyse the links between a society's mode of subsistence and its political organisation.
4. Assess and evaluate the impacts of capitalist modes of production in previously self-sufficient or subsistence economies.
5. Assess and evaluate the socio-political and economic roles of women in relation to Melanesian 'big men'.

Topic 1: Introduction

- Carrier, J. G. 2005. *A handbook of economic anthropology*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar
- Cohen, A. 1969. Political Anthropology: The Analysis of the Symbolism of Power Relations. *Man* [New Series], Vol. 4, No. 2 (Jun., 1969), pp. 215-235 JSTOR
- Dowling, J. H. 'The Relationship between Anthropology and Economics' *Journal of Economic Issues*. Vol. 16, No. 2 (Jun., 1982): 481-484 JSTOR
- Firth, R. 1967. *Themes in economic anthropology*. London: Tavistock Publications.
- Gledhill, J. (ed) 2000. *Power and its disguises: anthropological perspectives on politics*. London: Pluto Press.
- Gledhill, J., Bender, B. & Larsen, M. T. (eds) *State and society: the emergence and development of social hierarchy and political centralization*. London: Unwin Hyman
- Lewellen, T. C. 2003. *Political anthropology: an introduction*. London: Praeger
- Narotzky, S. 1997. *New directions in economic anthropology*. London: Pluto Press.
- Nugent, D. & Vincent, J. (eds.) *A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics*. Oxford: Blackwell
- Salisbury, R. F. 1973. 'Economic Anthropology' *Annual Review of Anthropology*. Vol. 2, (1973): 85-94
- Schneider, H. K. 1974. *Economic man: the anthropology of economics*. London: Collier Macmillan
- Wilk, R. 1996. *Economies and cultures: foundations of economic anthropology*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press
- Winckler, E. A. 1969. 'Political Anthropology' *Biannual Review of Anthropology*. Volume 6: 301 – 386.

Topic 2: Production

- Bird-David, N. 1992. 'Beyond "The Original Affluent Society": a culturalist reformulation' *Current Anthropology*. 33 (1): 25 – 47. (including comments and reply). JSTOR
- Cohen, R. & Middleton, J. 1967. *Comparative political systems: studies in the politics of pre-industrial societies*. Garden City, N.Y : Published for the American Museum of Natural History [by] the Natural History Press
- Cook, S. 1974. 'Review: 'Structural Substantivism': A Critical Review of Marshall Sahlins' Stone Age Economics' *Comparative Studies in Society and History* Vol. 16, No. 3 (Jun., 1974): 355-379 JSTOR
- Gudeman, S. 1986. *Economics as culture: models and metaphors of livelihood*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- Ingold, T. 1980. *Hunters, pastoralists, and ranchers: reindeer economies and their transformations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kahn, J. S. & Llobera, J. R. 1980. *The anthropology of pre-capitalist societies*. London: Macmillan
- Meillassoux, C. 1981. *Maidens, meal and money: capitalism and the domestic community*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sahlins, M. D. 1988. *Stone age economics*. London: Routledge. (available as a free PDF from [http://www.slgardiner.com/ERES/Sahlins172b\(185-230\).pdf](http://www.slgardiner.com/ERES/Sahlins172b(185-230).pdf))
- Seddon, D. 1978. *Relations of production: Marxist approaches to economic anthropology*. London: Cass

Topic 3: Distribution/Exchange

- Appadurai, A. 1988. 'Introduction: commodities and the politics of value' in Appadurai, A. (ed.) 1988. *The social life of things: Commodities in cultural perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Bailey, F. G. 1969. *Stratagems and spoils: a social anthropology of politics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Bailey, F. G. 1971. *Gifts and poisons: the politics of reputation*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Campbell, S. F. 1983. 'Attaining rank: a classification of Kula shell valuables' in Leach, E. & J. (eds.) *The Kula: New perspectives on Massim exchange*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 301.2995 KUL
- Carrier, J. G. 1998. 'Property and social relations in Melanesian anthropology' in Hann, C. M. (ed) *Property Relations. Renewing the anthropological tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- *Feil, D. 1982. 'From pigs to pearlshells: the transformation of a New Guinea Highlands exchange economy' in *American Ethnologist*. Volume 9
- *Feil, D., Damon, F. H. & Gregory, C. A. 1982. 'Alienating the Inalienable' *Man*. Volume 17 (2)
- Gell, A. 1992 The technology of enchantment and the enchantment of technology, in J. Coote and A. Shelton (eds) *Anthropology, art and aesthetics*, pp 40-63. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Godelier, M. 1999. *The enigma of the gift*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Godelier, M. & Strathern, M. (eds) 1991. *Big men and great men: personifications of power in Melanesia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Grant, R. W. 1988. 'Locke's Political Anthropology and Lockean Individualism' *The Journal of Politics* Vol. 50, No. 1 (Feb., 1988), pp. 42-63 JSTOR
- Gregory, C. A. 1982. *Gifts and commodities*. London: Academic Press.
- Hurn, S. (2008) 'The 'Cardinauts' of the Western coast of Wales: Exchanging and exhibiting horses in the pursuit of fame' *Journal of Material Culture*. Volume 13 (3).
- Kirch, P. V. 1989. *The evolution of the Polynesian chiefdoms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Liep, J. 1986. 'Further comments on inalienable wealth' in *American Ethnologist*. Volume 13 (1)
- Leip, J. 2001 'Airbourne kula: The appropriation of birds by Danish ornithologists' in *Anthropology Today*. Volume 17, No. 5
- MacKenzie, M. A. 1998. *Androgynous objects : string bags and gender in central New Guinea*. Amsterdam : Harwood Academic 301.2995 MAC
- Malinowski, B. 1922. *Argonauts of the western Pacific: an account of native enterprise and adventure in the archipelagoes of Melanesian New Guinea*. London: Routledge 301.2995 MAL
- Thomas, N. 1991. *Entangled objects : exchange, material culture, and colonialism in the Pacific*. Harvard University Press. 301.299 THO
- Waldron, J. 1989. 'John Locke: Social Contract versus Political Anthropology' *The Review of Politics*. Vol. 51, No. 1 (Winter, 1989) pp. 3-28 JSTOR
- Watt, R. J. 1986. 'On inalienable wealth' in *American Ethnologist*. Volume 13 (1)
- Weiner, A. 1985. 'Inalienable wealth' in *American Ethnologist*. Volume 12 (2)
- Weiner, A. 1986. 'Comment on inalienable wealth' in *American Ethnologist*. Volume 13 (2)
- Weiner, A. B. 1983. *Women of value, men of renown : new perspectives in Trobriand exchange*. Austin, Tex. : University of Texas Press 301.4109953 WEI

- Weiner, A. B. 1988. *The Trobrianders of Papua New Guinea*. London : Holt, Rinehart and Winston 301.29953 WEI
- Weiner, A. B. 1992. *Inalienable possessions : the paradox of keeping-while-giving*. Berkeley, Calif. : University of California Press 301.412099 WEI
- Woodburn, J. 1998. 'Sharing is not a form of exchange: an analysis of property sharing in immediate return hunter-gatherer societies' in Hann, C. M. (ed) *Property relations : renewing the anthropological tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Topic 4: Consumption

- Appadurai, A. (ed) 1986. *The social life of things: commodities in cultural perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Billig, M. M. 2000. 'Institutions and culture: Neo-Weberian economic anthropology' *Journal of Economic Issues*. 30 (4): 771 - 788
- Douglas, M. 1996. *The world of goods: Towards an anthropology of consumption*. London: Routledge.
- Dyer, A. W. 1989. 'Making Semiotic Sense of Money as a Medium of Exchange' *Journal of Economic Issues*. Vol. 23, No. 2 (Jun., 1989): 503-510 JSTOR
- Hawkins, G. & Muecke, S. (eds) 2003. *Culture and waste: the creation and destruction of value*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield
- Maurer, B. 2006. 'The Anthropology of Money' *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 35: 15 – 36.
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- Miller, D. 2010. *Stuff*. London: Polity Press.
- Parry, J. & Bloch, M. 1989. *Money and the morality of exchange*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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Topic 5: Control/Domination

- Bailey, F. G. 1969. *Stratagems and spoils: a social anthropology of politics*. Oxford: Blackwell
- Bryant, J. M. 2006. 'The West and the Rest Revisited: Debating Capitalist Origins, European Colonialism, and the Advent of Modernity' *The Canadian Journal of Sociology*. 31 (4): 403 – 444.
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Meintjes, H. 2001. 'Washing machines make lazy women. Domestic appliances and the negotiation of women's property in Soweto' *Journal of Material Culture*. Volume 6 (3)

Middleton, J. & Tait, D. (eds) 1970. *Tribes without rulers: studies in African segmentary systems*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul

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Topic 6: Persuasion and other means...

Bailey, F. G. 1969. *Stratagems and spoils: a social anthropology of politics*. Oxford: Blackwell

Barth, Frederick. 1959. *Political Leadership Among the Swat Pathans*. London: Athlone.

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Nuijten, M. 2003. 'Power, community and the state: the political anthropology of organisation in Mexico' *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. Volume 12 (3): 691 – 692.

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Stoller, P. 1987. *In sorcery's shadow*. Chicago: Uni of Chicago Press.

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West, H. 2001. 'Sorcery of construction and socialist modernization: Ways of understanding power in postcolonial Mozambique' *American Ethnologist*. 28 (1): 119 – 150.

Topic 7: Gender

Bell, D. et al. 1993. *Gendered fields: women, men, and ethnography*. London: Routledge.

Brandes, S. 1981. Like Wounded Stags: Male sexual Ideology in an Andalusian Town; in Ortner, S. and Whitehead, H. *Sexual Meanings: the cultural construction of gender and sexuality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Campbell, J.K 1964. *Honour, Family and Patronage. A Study of Institutions and Moral Values in a Greek Community*. Oxford: Clarendon Press

- Cowan, J. K. 1990. *Dance and the body politic in northern Greece*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
- Dubisch, J. 1986. *Gender and Power in Rural Greece*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
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- Hurn, S. (2008) 'What's Love Got to Do With It? The Interplay of Sex and Gender in the Commercial Breeding of Welsh Cobs' *Society & Animals*. 16 (1)
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- Ong, A. & Peletz, M. G. 1995. *Bewitching women and pious men: Gender and body politics in southeast Asia*. Berkeley: Uni of California Press.
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- Weiner, A. B. 1972. *Women of Value, Men of Renown*. University of Texas Press.

Topic 8: Resistance, conflict and development

- Acheson, J. M. 2006. 'Institutional Failure in Resource Management' *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 35: 117 – 34.
Available at: <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.anthro.35.081705.123238>
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- Caplan, P. (ed.) 1995. *Understanding disputes: the politics of argument*. Oxford: Providence
- Comaroff, J. 1985. *Body of power; Spirit of Resistance: the Culture and History of a South Africa People*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
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- Griller, R. 1985. *Social anthropology and development policy*. London: Tavistock Publications.
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- Ruttan, V. W. 1988. 'Cultural Endowments and Economic Development: What Can We Learn from Anthropology?' *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. Vol. 36, No. 3, Supplement: Why Does Overcrowded, Resource-Poor East Asia Succeed: Lessons for the LDCs? (Apr., 1988): S247-S271
- Saul, M. 2004. 'Money in Colonial Transition: Cowries and Francs in West Africa' *American Anthropologist*. 106 (1): 71 – 84.
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- Stoller, P. 1995. *Embodying colonial memories: Spirit possession, power and the Hauka in west Africa*. New York: Routledge.
- Taussig, M. T. 1980. *The devil and commodity fetishism in South America*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press.