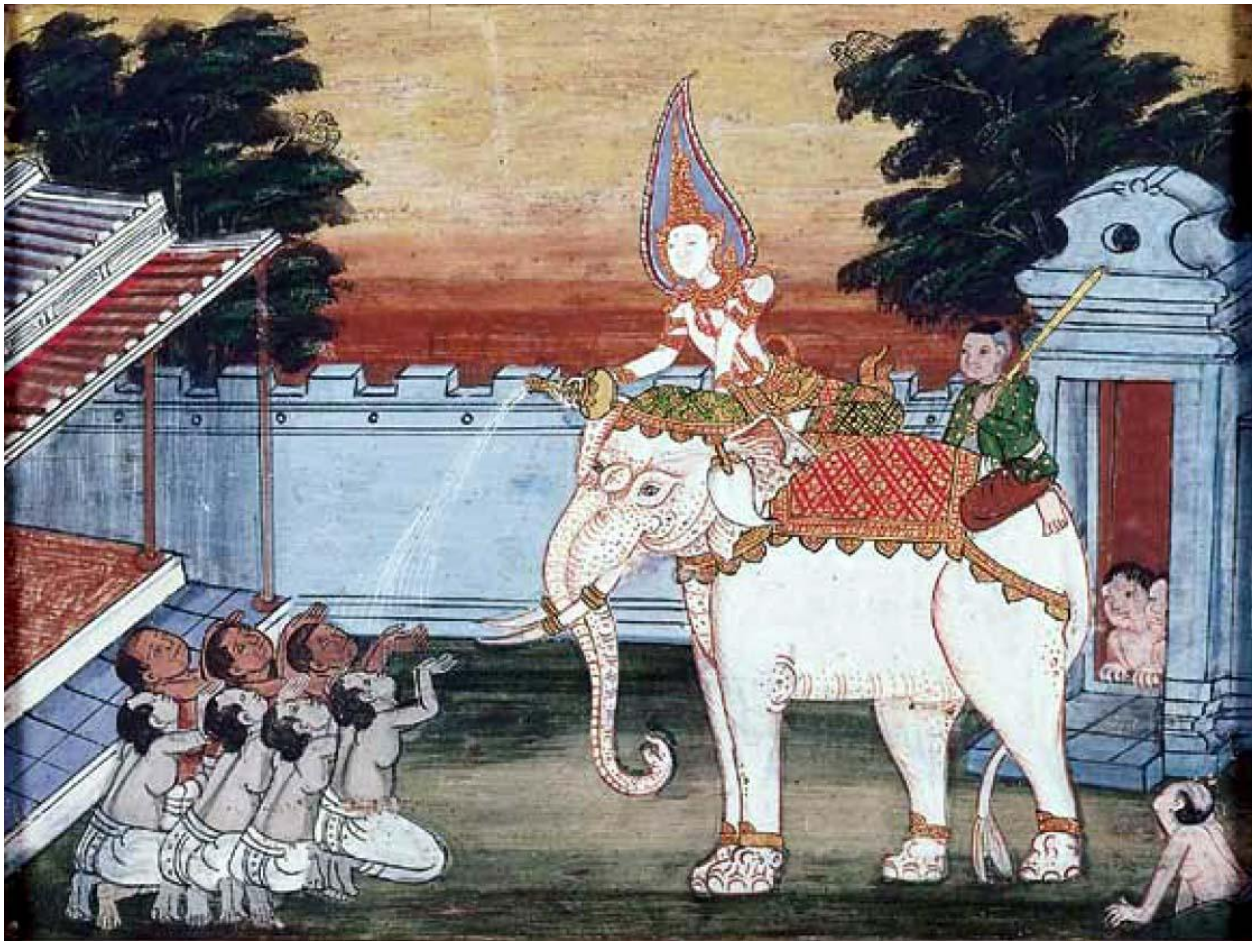
Political and Economic Anthropology

AHAN6002



Semester 1 (2010) Tuesdays 9.15 – 10.15 and Fridays 9.15 – 11.15

LR6

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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: 9th December 2010.
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)
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
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.
Available at: http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/full/10.1146/annurev.anthro.35.081705.123127
Miller, D. 1987. *Material Culture and Mass Consumption*. Oxford: Blackwell
Rutz, H. J. 1989. *The social economy of consumption*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America.

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.
Goody, J. 1998. 'Dowry and the rights of women to property' in Hann, C. M. (ed) *Property Relations. Renewing the anthropological tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Hart, K. 2007. 'Money is always personal and impersonal' *Anthropology Today*. 23 (5): 12 – 16.
Roitman, J. 2004. *An Anthropology of Economic Regulation in Central Africa*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
Available at: http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/s7890.pdf
Meillassoux, C. 1981. *Maidens, meal and money: capitalism and the domestic community*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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
Myers, F. R. (ed.) 2001. *Empire of things: regimes of value and material culture*. School of American Research Press

Nugent D. 1993. ‘Property relations, production relations and inequality: anthropology, political economy and the Blackfeet’ in *American ethnologist : a journal of the American Ethnological Society*, 20(2): 336-362.
Thomas, N. 1991. *Entangled objects : exchange, material culture, and colonialism in the Pacific*. London: Harvard University Press

Topic 6: Persuasion

Bailey, F. G. 1969. *Stratagems and spoils: a social anthropology of politics*. Oxford: Blackwell
Barth, Frederick. 1959. *Political Leadership Among the Swat Pathans*. London: Athalone.
Gledhill, J. 2000. *Power and its disguises*. London: Pluto Press.
Richards, A. & Kuper, A. 1971. *Councils in action*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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.
Mattern. M. 1998. *Acting in concert: Music, community, and political action*. London: Rutgers University Press

Topic 7: Gender

Bell, D. *et al*. 1993. *Gendered fields: women, men, and ethnography*. London: Routledge.
Godelier, M. 1986. *The Making of Great Men: Male Power and Domination Among the New Guinea Baruya*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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)
Josephides, L. 1985. *The production of Inequality: gender and exchange among the Kewa*. Taylor & Francis.
Reskin, B. F. 1988. ‘Bringing the Men Back in: Sex Differentiation and the Devaluation of Women's Work’ *Gender and Society*. Vol. 2, No. 1 (Mar., 1988): 58-81
Weiner, A. B. 1972. *Women of Value, Men of Renown*. University of Texas Press.

Topic 8: Resistance

Comaroff, J. 1985. *Body of power; Spirit of Resistance: the Culture and History of a South Africa People*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
Kray, C. A. 2007. ‘Women as border in the shadow of Cancún’ *Anthropology Today*. 23 (4): 17 – 21.
Mattern. M. 1998. *Acting in concert: music, community, and political action*. London: Rutgers University Press.
Miller, D. 1988. ‘Appropriating the state on a council estate’ *Man* Volume 23 (2)
Ong, A. 1987. *Spirits of resistance and capitalist discipline: factory women in Malaysia*. Albany: State University of New York Press
Saul, M. 2004. ‘Money in Colonial Transition: Cowries and Francs in West Africa’ *American Anthropologist.* 106 (1): 71 – 84.
Available at https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/m-saul/www/SaulMoneyinColonialAA.pdf
Taussig, M. T. 1980. *The devil and commodity fetishism in South America*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press.

Topic 9: Deception/Morality

Mattei, U. & Nader, L. 2008. *Plunder: when the rule of law is illegal*. Oxford: Blackwell.
Mars, G. 1994. *Cheats at work : an anthropology of workplace crime*. Aldershot; Brookfield, Vt: Dartmouth.
Parry, J. & Bloch, M. 1989. *Money and the morality of exchange*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Vincent, J. 1978. 'Political Anthropology: Manipulative Strategies' *Annual Review of Anthropology*. Vol. 7. pp. 175-194 JSTOR

Topic 10: Conflict/Degeneration

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
Applbaum, K. 2009. 'Free markets and the unfettered imagination of value: A response to Hart/Ortiz and Gudeman (AT24[6])' *Anthropology Today*. 25 (1): 26 – 7.
Caplan, P. (ed.) 1995. *Understanding disputes: the politics of argument*. Oxford: Providence
Gudeman, S. 2010. 'Creative destruction: Efficiency, equity or collapse?' *Anthropology Today*. 26 (1): 3 – 7.
Available at: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8322.2010.00708.x/pdf
Halstead, P. & O'Shea, J. (eds) 1989. *Bad year economics: cultural responses to risk and uncertainty*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Hart, K. 2008. 'After the disaster' in *Anthropology Today.* 24 (2): 1 – 3.

Topic 11: The way forward? Developmentalism and resource management

Escobar, A. 1988. 'Power and Visibility: Development and the Invention and Management of the Third World' *Cultural Anthropology*. Vol. 3, No. 4 (Nov., 1988): 428-443
Hill, P. 1986. *Development economics on trial: the anthropological case for a prosecution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Griller, R. 1985. *Social anthropology and development policy*. London: Tavistock Publications.
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