

History 652
Research Seminar:
Geography, Identity, and Environment

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This seminar is intended to give you an opportunity to develop a research project of your choice, culminating in a 25pp. research paper. The seminar will interweave the following: the discussion of a) a set of core readings on changing ideas of the relationship between history and geography; b) the process of research and writing itself more generally; and c) reports on your own research. As the course unfolds, we'll move gradually from discussion of the readings to a focus entirely on the research projects, culminating in the papers.

Books: Please note that the syllabus, in its current form, now only uses three of these five, rendering the rest completely optional. However, they are all highly recommended, and available for purchase at the campus bookstore.

David Arnold, *The Problem of Nature*
Peter Sahlins, *Boundaries: The Making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees*
Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds., *The Invention of Tradition* (Cambridge:
Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey: The Industrialization of Time and
Space in the 19th Century*
George Chauncey, *Gay New York*

SCHEDULE

(e = on E-Reserves through Blackboard)

2/5 Introductory Meeting: History and/of Geography

2/12 The *Annales* School

- David Arnold, *The Problem of Nature*, pp. 1-47
- Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, selections (e)
- Emmanuel La Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou: The Promised Land of Error*, selections (e)
- Peter Burke, *The French Historical Revolution: The Annales School, 1929-1989*, selections (e)

2/19 Space and Modernity

- Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey: The Industrialization of Time and Space in the 19th Century*

- Edward W. Soja, "History: Geography: Modernity", from *Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory* (e)

2/26 **Environmental Histories**

- David Arnold, *The Problem of Nature*, pp. 48-140
- roundtable on environmental history in *Journal of American History* (e)

3/5 **Postcolonial Perspectives**

- Edward W. Said, *Orientalism*, selections (e)
- Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" (e)
- José Rabasa, "Allegories of *Atlas*" (e)
- Paul Carter, *The Road to Botany Bay*, selections (e)
- Ramachandra Guha, "Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation" (e)

3/12 **Geography and Identity**

- George Chauncey, *Gay New York*

SPRING BREAK!!!

3/26 NO CLASS—CONTINUE RESEARCH

4/2 MEET TO DISCUSS RESEARCH PROGRESS

4/9 NO CLASS—PASSOVER

4/16 MEET TO DISCUSS RESEARCH AND WRITING

4/23 NO CLASS—CONTINUE RESEARCH

4/30 MEET TO DISCUSS WRITING & HAND IN ROUGH DRAFTS

5/7 FINAL DISCUSSION AND PEER FEEDBACK ON ROUGH DRAFTS

final draft of research paper due 5/15 by 5pm in my office

RECOMMENDED READING

HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHY: SURVEYS

- David N. Livingstone, *The Geographical Tradition* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1992). Written by a geographer; the most recent scholarly survey. Note: begins only with Renaissance.
- Arild Holt-Jensen, *Geography: History & Concepts*, 3rd ed. (London: Sage, 1999). Though written for students of academic geography, aimed at fairly high-level ones—rigorous and useful discussion of geography's attempts to become a "discipline".
- Preston E. James, *All Possible Worlds: A History of Geographical Ideas* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1972).
- Clarence Glacken, *Traces on the Rhodian Shore: Nature and Culture in Western Thought From Ancient Times to the End of the Eighteenth Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967). A comprehensive and influential analysis of geographic/environmental ideas by an American geographer.
- Richard Peet, *Modern Geographical Thought* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1998). Discusses developments over the past thirty years.
- Edward S. Casey, *The Fate of Place: A Philosophical History* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997). A history of ideas of "place" and "space" in Euro-American traditions of thought, from a philosopher right here at Stony Brook...
- Eric Fischer, Robert D. Campbell, and Eldon S. Miller, eds., *A Question of Place: The Development of Geographical Thought* (Arlington, VA: Beatty, 1967). An anthology of primary sources from the geographical canon.

HISTORY OF CARTOGRAPHY: SURVEYS

- David Woodward, ed. *History of Cartography*, vols. 1- (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987-) Excellent multivolume series currently underway, groundbreaking in detail and illustrations (alas, resulting in list price of \$150+ per volume!). Already issued: v.1 on cartography in prehistoric, ancient, and medieval Europe and the Mediterranean (1987); v.2 pt.1 on traditional East and Southeast Asian societies (1992); v.2 pt. 2 on traditional African, American, Arctic, Australian, and Pacific societies (1994); and v.2 pt. 3 on traditional Islamic and south Asian societies (1998).
- Leo Bagrow, *History of Cartography*, rev. ed. (London: Watts, 1964). The classic history of cartography (primarily European and American).
- John Noble Wilford, *The Mapmakers: The Story of the Great Pioneers in Cartography from Antiquity to the Space Age* (New York: Vintage, 1981). A popular survey.
- David Buisseret, ed., *From Sea Charts to Satellite Images: Interpreting North American History Through Maps* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990). An interesting attempt to teach historians how to read a variety of maps from the last five centuries; brief articles on each type of map, followed by examples.
- Joel Makower, *The Map Catalog*, 3rd ed. (New York: Vintage, 1992). In some ways similar to the volume above, with more of an emphasis on *locating* maps of interest (through commercial companies, government agencies, and/or libraries/archives).
- Many more histories of cartography are available, most, however, catering more to the coffee-table and/or antiquarian market.

INFLUENCE OF GEOGRAPHY ON HISTORY

- W. Gordon East, *The Geography Behind History* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1965). A short but rich book subtitled "How physical environment affects historical events"; with individual chapters on the role of position of towns, routes, boundaries, etc.
- Lucien Febvre, *A Geographical Introduction to History*, trans. E.G. Montford and J.H. Paxton (New York: Knopf, 1950, c1924). By the noted *Annales* School historian.
- Winnifred Gallagher, *The Power of Place: How Our Surroundings Shape Our Thoughts, Emotions, and Actions* (New York: HarperCollins, 1993). An interesting popular addition to this theme, stressing recent research in experimental psychology on the effects of a wide range of "environments".

GEOGRAPHY AND IDENTITY

- Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds., *The Invention of Tradition* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983). This influential collection of essays challenged previously-little-questioned assumptions about the seemingly "natural" links between geography, ethnicity, and identity; in the process of reading these highly entertaining essays on the shaping of identity in places from Scotland to India, many historians became more open to cultural history, and in particular to poststructuralist/"social constructionist" cultural history.
- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, rev. ed. (London: Verso, 1991). Of the flood of books on nationalism that have been published in the past decade or so, this provides one of the more intelligent and less Eurocentric interpretations. For other major interpretations of nationalism, see the books on the topic by Hobsbawm and Gellner.
- John Hutchinson and Anthony D. Smith, eds., *Ethnicity: An Oxford Reader* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996). An excellent reader of 60+ extracts from articles about the shaping of national/cultural/regional/racial identities.
- Celia Applegate, *A Nation of Provincials: The German Idea of Heimat* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990). An excellent case study of how, in the 19th and 20th centuries, individuals in one area constructed their identities in relation to their perceptions of geography.
- The literature on the changing relations between geography and identity (i.e. through nationalism, regionalism, and ethnicity, in their more obvious groupings) is *huge*; the titles above represent a mere sampling.

ANNALES SCHOOL: MEMBERS

- Lucien Febvre, *A Geographical Introduction to History*, trans. E.G. Montford and J.H. Paxton (New York: Knopf, 1950, c1924).
- Marc Bloch, *French Rural History: An Essay on its Basic Characteristics*, trans. Janet Sondheimer (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1966, c1931).
- Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, rev. ed., trans. Sian Reynolds (New York: Harper, 1972, c1949).
- Emmanuel La Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou: The Promised Land of Error*, trans. Barbara Bray (New York: Vintage, 1978, c1975).
- Fernand Braudel, *On History*, trans. Sarah Matthews (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980).

Fernand Braudel, *Afterthoughts on Material Civilization and Capitalism*, trans. Patricia M. Ranum (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1977).

Fernand Braudel, *The Identity of France*, trans. Sian Reynolds (London: Collins, 1988).

ANNALES SCHOOL: HISTORIOGRAPHY

Peter Burke, *The French Historical Revolution: The Annales School, 1929-1989*

(Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1990). The best brief introduction, I think.

Traian Stoianovich, *French Historical Method: The Annales Paradigm* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1976).

Francois Dosse, *New History in France: The Triumph of the Annales*, trans. Peter V. Conroy, Jr. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1994).

Stuart Clark, ed., *Annales School (Critical Assessments)* (New York: Routledge, 1999).

Apparently a four-volume anthology of articles by and about members of the Annales School, touching on key debates. At 1600+ pages, retails on Amazon.com for an impressive \$700!

Jean-Pierre V.M. Herubel, ed., *Annales Historiography and Theory: A Selective and Annotated Bibliography* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1994).

CLIMATE AND HISTORY

Emmanuel La Roy Ladurie, *Times of Feast, Times of Famine: A History of Climate Since the Year 1000*, trans. Barbara Bray (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1988, c1967).

Robert Rotberg and Theodore Rabb, eds. *Climate and History* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991).

Brian M. Fagan, *The Little Ice Age: How Climate Made History 1300-1850* (New York: Basic Books, 2000). A popular account by the prolific archeologist, who's also written on "El Nino and the Fate of Civilization"...

James R. Fleming, *Historical Perspectives on Climate Change* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998). Discusses growing awareness of possibilities of global warming etc. from the 18th century to the present.

In the past decade, there's been a flood of books and conference proceedings on the topic...

BORDERS, BOUNDARIES, FRONTIERS

Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History", in *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1893*, pp. 197-227. Many reprints, i.e. in books titled *The Frontier in American History* and *Frontier and Section*.

Walter Prescott Webb, *The Great Frontier* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1952).

Richard Slotkin, *Regeneration Through Violence: The Mythology of the American Frontier, 1600-1860* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1975).

Annette Kolodny, *The Land Before Her: Fantasy and Experience of the American Frontier, 1630-1860* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984).

Peter Sahlins, *Boundaries: The Making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989).

The literature on "borderlands" and frontier-making has been growing pretty rapidly...

GEOGRAPHY AND MODERNITY

(in addition to Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey: The Industrialization of Time and Space in the 19th Century*, already on syllabus)

extracts from Marx and Engels

Stephen Kern, *The Culture of Time and Space* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1986).

Marshall Berman, *All That is Solid Melts Into Air: The Experience of Modernity* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1982)

Peter Fritzsche, *A Nation of Fliers: German Aviation and the Popular Imagination* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994).

Pamela Mack, *Viewing the Earth: The Social Construction of the Landsat Satellite System* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1990).

Stephen S. Hall, *Mapping the New Millennium* (New York: Vintage, 1992). Re the contemporary use of computer imaging in fields ranging from astronomy to medicine.

GEOGRAPHY AND URBAN STUDIES/ARCHITECTURE

Note: this literature is exceptionally huge and has grown significantly over the past several decades; what appears below is just a quasi-random sampling...

Lewis Mumford, *The City in History* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, and World, 1961).

Edward W. Soja, *Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory* (London: Verso, 1989). Though initially a theoretical monograph, returns gradually to the author's own research on LA (Mike Davis does it better!).

Colin Chant, ed. *Cities and Technology*: a series of survey textbooks and accompanying readers originally designed for the Open University in the UK. Available are texts and readers for 1) preindustrial European cities, 2) industrial and postindustrial European cities, and 3) "American cities and technology: wilderness to wired city"

Note also that many environmental historians have also taken an "urban" turn, i.e.

William Cronon, Martin Melosi, and our very own Chris Sellers.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND THE VERNACULAR LANDSCAPE

D.W. Meinig, ed., *The Interpretation of Everyday Landscapes: Geographical Essays* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1979). Essays in human geography by such major figures in the field as David Lowenthal, J.B. Jackson, Yi-Fu Tuan, and Meinig himself, many inspired by contemporary American landscape transformations.

J.B. Jackson, *Discovering the Vernacular Landscape* (New Haven: Yale, 1986) and *A Sense of Place, A Sense of Time* (also New Haven: Yale, 1986). Key essays by an important figure in the field.

John R. Stilgoe, *Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845* (New Haven: Yale, 1986). A great guide to "reading" common landscape features, by an otherwise somewhat idiosyncratic writer, whose works are, however, well worth checking out.

"LANDSCAPE" AND ART

Kenneth Clark, *Landscape Into Art* (London: John Murray, 1949). A well-illustrated history of landscape painting and drawing that also reveals interesting changes in environmental attitudes.

Denis Cosgrove and Stephen Daniels, eds., *The Iconography of Landscape: Essays on the Symbolic Representation, Design, and Use of Past Environments* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990). Looks at a number of different kinds of visual representations of landscapes, from art to mapping.

Simon Schama, *Landscape and Memory* (New York: Knopf, 1995). A wild tour through Euro-American culture by the prominent Columbia (art) historian and BBC documentarist, with chapters focusing on individual themes, i.e. trees, water, etc.

GEOGRAPHY AND CRITICAL THEORY

(see also section on phenomenology below)

Michel Foucault, , and "Questions on Geography" in C. Gordon, ed., *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977* (New York: Pantheon, 1980), pp. 63-77; see also his "Of Other Spaces", *Diacritics*, 16 (1986), pp. 22-27.

Pierre Bourdieu, *Outlines of a Theory of Practice* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977)

Jean-Francois Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1985).

Edward W. Soja, *Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory* (London: Verso, 1989).

David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1990). Harvey was trained as a geographer, and much of his writing explicitly concerns geography; see also his *Justice, Nature, and the Geography of Difference* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1996).

Frederic Jameson, *Postmodernism, or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1992).

Mike Craig and N.J. Thrift, eds., *Thinking Space* (New York: Routledge, 2000). Have not yet seen—but apparently discusses the role of space in the thought of Simmel, Bakhtin, Deleuze, Cixous, Lefebvre (see below), Lacan, Bourdieu, Foucault, and Fanon.

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

(in addition to David Arnold, *The Problem of Nature*, already on syllabus)

There's just so much I can't pick what to put. Come to my office sometime.

IMPERIAL GEOGRAPHIES

Thongchai Winichakul, *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-Body of a Nation* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1994).

Lesley Cormack, *Charting an Empire: Geography at the English Universities, 1580-1620* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997).

Matthew Edney, *Mapping an Empire: The Geographic Construction of British India, 1765-1843* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997).

Anne Godlewska and Neil Smith, eds., *Geography and Empire* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1994).

POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Pantheon, 1978).

Ranajit Guha, ed., *A Subaltern Studies Reader, 1986-1995* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1994).

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman, eds., *Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994).

Bill Ashcroft et al., eds., *The Post-colonial Studies Reader* (London: Routledge, 1995).

A good reader, with fairly short extracts, by the editors of *The Empire Writes Back*.

Leela Gandhi, *Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998).

INDIGENOUS CARTOGRAPHY

David Woodward, ed., *The History of Cartography: Cartography in the Traditional African, American, Arctic, Australian, and Pacific Societies* (see above for cite, and see also the other volumes in this series).

Mark Warhus, *Another America: Native American Maps and the History of Our Land* (New York: St. Martin's, 1997).

G. Malcolm Lewis, ed., *Cartographic Encounters: Perspectives on Native American Mapmaking and Map Use* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998).

Barbara E. Mundy, *The Mapping of New Spain: Indigenous Cartography and the Maps of the Relaciones Geograficas* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

PHENOMENOLOGICAL VENTURES

Gaston Bachelard, *The Poetics of Space*, trans. Maria Jolas (Boston: Beacon Press, 1964). Subtitled "the classic look at how we experience intimate places". As the title and subtitle suggest, a French philosopher's lyrical analysis of those kinds of spaces that aren't usually mapped. By the author of the equally fascinating (and, to many readers, more baffling) quartet of volumes on the elements: *The Psychoanalysis of Fire; Water and Dreams; Air and Reverie; and The Earth and the Reverie of Repose*.

Henri Lefebvre, *The Production of Space*, trans. Donald Nicholson-Smith (Oxford: Blackwell, 1991, c1974). Difficult analysis but worthwhile.

Yi-Fu Tuan, *Topophilia* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1974), and *Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1981). Fascinating explorations of the emotional resonances of different kinds of spaces, by a pioneering human geographer.

FEMINISM AND GEOGRAPHY

Women and Geography Study Group of the Royal Geographical Society, *Feminist Geographies: Exploration in Diversity and Difference* (Boston: Addison-Wesley, 1997, c1984).

Gillian Rose, *Feminism and Geography: The Limits of Geographical Knowledge* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993).

Linda McDowell, *Gender, Identity, and Place: Understanding Feminist Geographies* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999).

METAGEOGRAPHY AND WORLD HISTORY

Martin W. Lewis and Karen E. Wigen, *The Myth of Continents: A Critique of Metageography* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997)

Marshall G.S. Hodgson, *Rethinking World History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993). A collection of his essays, some of which deal with geographical issues.

Philip Pomper, Richard H. Elphick, and Richard T. Vann, eds., *World History: Ideologies, Structures, and Identities* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1998). Some useful essays.

Ross E. Dunn, ed., *The New World History: A Teacher's Companion* (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000).

Geoffrey Parker, *Geopolitics: Past, Present and Future* (London: Pinter, 1998).