

# Space and the Politics of Difference

Graduate Seminar, Fall Quarter 2016  
Department of Sociology  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
Thursdays, 2-5pm, College 8, room 301

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Office hours: Fridays 11-1pm (or by appt)

## Course Description

*“Instead, then, of thinking of places as areas with boundaries around, they can be imagined as articulated moments in networks of social relations and understandings, but where a large proportion of those relations, experiences, and understandings are constructed on a far larger scale than what we happen to define for that moment as the place itself, whether it be a street, or a region or even a continent.”*

-Doreen Massey, “A Global Sense of Place”

*“What fell out of discussion was the ways in which the development of place created the grounds on which the crisis arose.”*

-Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis and Opposition in Globalizing California

*“If this paper seems preoccupied with the diaspora experience and its narratives of displacement, it is worth remembering that all discourse is ‘placed’ and the heart has its reasons.”*

-Stuart Hall, “Cultural Identity and Diaspora”

How are ideas and practices of space and place entangled in producing, reworking, and challenging forms of social difference? What explains the uneven geographies of cities and regions, and how do these geopolitics lead to differential social outcomes, including health inequalities and premature death? Do ideas of place matter for our own sense of self, including the ways we do or don't identify with distant others? This graduate seminar in sociology explores the relations among spatiality, power, and social difference, beginning from the analytical position that space and society are co-constitutive processes, rather than distinct categories. Throughout the course, we bring the field of sociology in conversation with geography and geographically-minded theorists, focusing on the entanglements of race/racisms and space. We explore thematic conversations such as: racialized urban geographies, the political geography of prisons and incarceration, gender and space, diasporic space, embodiment, and spatialities of hope and alterity. Through discussion and writing, the class encourages students to experiment with the ways geographical concepts may inform their own research interests, methods, and analyses.

*Prerequisites: It is advised, but not required, that students have already taken courses in contemporary social theory, particularly in critical race studies or race and ethnicity.*

### **Class Meeting**

The course meets on Thursdays between 2-5pm.

### **Course Texts**

Selected articles and chapters are available as pdfs on eCommons. Most books are available on 2-hour reserve at McHenry library (and can be read online through the UCSC library website). Books will be available to you at The Literary Guillotine (204 Locust Street, phone: 831-457-1195)

### **Course Requirements**

- Eight weekly responses, roughly 1 page in length. Please bring 4-5 hard copies of your response to class. We will begin seminar by reading each other's responses, and build our discussion from there.
- 18-20 pages (double-spaced) in which you work with one or several texts or key concepts from the course, in order to think through your own fieldwork and/or research interests (if you haven't begun your fieldwork yet). These pages can be handed in all at once (as a final research paper), or may be broken into several "thought pieces" handed in throughout the quarter. *Note: you may build on a weekly reading response if you'd like, but one page of that paper will count for the reading response – the rest can count towards your page requirements. For example, you might hand in a 6 page response, and 5 of those pages would count toward your page requirement for the semester.*
- Attendance and Participation. Class attendance is required, with one allowable absence. On the day of your absented class, please turn in a 3-4 page reading response, in lieu of class discussion. Beyond one absence, the specifics for completing the course should be made in conversation with the professor.

## Reading Schedule

### **September 22<sup>nd</sup> Welcome!**

Harvey, David. "Globalization and the Spatial Fix." *Geographische revue* 2, no. 3 (2001): 23-31.

Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. "Fatal Couplings of Power and Difference: Notes on Racism and Geography." *The Professional Geographer* 54, no. 1 (2002): 15-24.

### **September 29<sup>th</sup> Orientations**

Massey, Doreen "General Introduction" and "A Global Sense of Place" in *Space, Place and Gender*, pp. 1-13, 146-156.

Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. "Fatal Couplings of Power and Difference: Notes on Racism and Geography." *The Professional Geographer* 54, no. 1 (2002): 15-24.

Anzaldúa, Gloria, "The Homeland, Aztlan/El Otro Mexico" In *Borderlands: la frontera*. (1999), pp. 23-25.

Gordon, Avery, "Her Shape and His Hand", in *Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination*. University of Minnesota Press, 2008, pp. 3-28.

Muñoz, José Esteban. "Stages: Queers, Punks, and the Utopian Performative," in *Cruising utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity*. NYU Press, 2009.

### **October 6<sup>th</sup> Uneven Development**

Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California*. University of California Press, 2007.

Harvey, David. "Globalization and the Spatial Fix." *Geographische revue* 2, no. 3 (2001): 23-31.

### **October 13<sup>th</sup> Race and the City**

Gregory, Steven. *Black Corona: Race and the Politics of Place in an Urban Community*. Princeton University Press, 1999 (Chapters 1-5 and 7), pp. 1-138, 181-217.

Kelley, Robin D. G. "Looking for the 'Real' Nigga: Social Scientists Construct the Ghetto", In *Yo'mama's disfunkcional!: Fighting the culture wars in urban America*. Beacon Press, 1997, pp. 15-42.

### **October 20<sup>th</sup> Gender, Identity, Diaspora**

Nassy Brown, Jacqueline, "Setting Sail," "The Gendering of Diasporic Space," "Local Women and Global Men: The Liverpool That Was," in *Dropping Anchor, Setting Sail: Geographies of Race in Black Liverpool*, pp. 1-58, 215-242.

Hall, Stuart. "Cultural Identity and Diaspora", in *Identity: Community, Culture, Difference*. Ed. Jonathan Rutherford. London: Lawrence & Wishart, 1990; pp. 222-237.

Massey, Doreen, "A Place Called Home" In *Space, Place, and Gender*, pp. 157-172.

### **October 27<sup>th</sup> Carceral Geographies**

Shabazz, Rashad. *Spatializing Blackness: Architectures of Confinement and Black Masculinity in Chicago*. University of Illinois Press, 2015.

### **November 3<sup>rd</sup> Spaces of Occupation**

Fanon, Frantz, "On Violence," in *The Wretched of the Earth* (1963), pp. 1-62.

Mbembe, Achille. "Necropolitics." *Public Culture* 15, no. 1 (2003): 11-40.

Weizman, Eyal. "Frontier Architecture", In *Hollow land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation*. Verso Books, 2012.

Gregory, Derek. "Architectures of Enmity", In *The Colonial Present*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2004.

Recommended:

Michel Foucault, "March 17, 1976" lecture in *Society Must Be Defended*.

### **November 10<sup>th</sup> Embodiment**

Fanon, Frantz "The Fact of Blackness/The Lived Experience of the Black" In *Black Skin, White Masks*. Grove Press, 2008.

Wynter, Sylvia. "Towards the Sociogenic principle: Fanon, Identity, the Puzzle of Conscious Experience, and What it is Like to be "Black"." *National identities and sociopolitical changes in Latin America* (2001): 30-66.

Agard-Jones, Vanessa. "What the Sands Remember." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 18, no. 2-3 (2012): 325-346.

--- "Spray" <http://somatosphere.net/2014/05/spray.html>

Mansfield, Becky, and Julie Guthman. "Epigenetic life: biological plasticity, abnormality, and new configurations of race and reproduction." In *Cultural Geographies* (2014): 1-18.

### **November 19<sup>th</sup> Black Geographies**

McKittrick, Katherine. *Demonic grounds: Black women and the cartographies of struggle*. University of Minnesota Press, 2006.

### **December 1<sup>st</sup> Settler Colonialism**

Day, Iyko. *Alien Capital: Asian Racialization and the Logic of Settler Colonial Capitalism*. Duke University Press, 2016.