

## **FAMST 262EI and HIST 201C: Energy Justice in Global Perspective**

**Winter 2019**

**Screening Period: Thursdays 7pm-9:30pm, SSMS 2311**

**Seminar Period: Fridays, 9am-11:50am, HSSB 4041**

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### **Description**

The Energy Justice in Global Perspective Mellon Sawyer Seminar is a collaborative effort to develop critical and creative research practices in energy justice that build on emergent scholarship and activist perspectives. At the heart of this project is a conviction that movements, practices, and debates among indigenous communities worldwide and societies of the Global South are central and not auxiliary to understanding humanity's deep embroilment with energy. Our interdisciplinary programs engage around these guiding questions:

- How are frontline and indigenous communities disproportionately affected by entrenched energy regimes and ignored in energy justice debates?
- Why have such injustices been normalized and perpetuated in energy transitions?
- How can scholars work with communities to address social and ecological inequities?

Energy Justice in Global Perspective is a 2018-2019 Mellon Sawyer Seminar funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. <http://www.global.ucsb.edu/energyjustice/>

We are fortunate to have been able to appoint Dr. Emily Roehl (PhD, University of Texas, Austin) as the Mellon Sawyer postdoctoral scholar on this project. [e.a.roehl@gmail.com](mailto:e.a.roehl@gmail.com)

This Winter Quarter, our Sawyer Seminar will focus on the sociocultural and environmental costs of energy infrastructures. The seminar will be anchored by three symposia on oil, hydro, and solar that examine how such projects are mediated, resisted, and reimagined. Coming from the perspectives of Film and Media Studies and History (the disciplinary formations of the two faculty), we will explore the frictions between different disciplinary approaches in order to think in a transdisciplinary fashion; delve critically into multiple research methodologies, such as archival, interviews (past and present), field work/participant observation, and textual/visual analysis; all the while striving to privilege perspectives from the Global South, which we regard not only as a geographical place but also as a figurative construct that includes marginalized, Indigenous, and impacted regions and communities.

In addition to the weekly seminar and screening periods, numerous other events will be held throughout the quarter. These include two Saturday excursions (February 16 and March 2). Attendance at the following Sawyer Seminar events is expected:

***Beyond the Spill: The History and Politics of Oil in California***

Thursday, January 24, 5:00-8:00 pm, Opening reception,  
Digital Arts and Humanities Commons and Wireframe Studio (Music 1410)

Friday, January 25, 9:00 – 7:00 pm

“Beyond the Spill” Symposium

Multipurpose Room (Student Resource Building)

Keynote and closing reception: Betty Elings Wells Pavilion (Faculty Club)

***Hydro Symposium***

Thursday, February 14, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, film screening

Friday, February 15, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, symposium

Saturday, February 16, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, excursion

***Solar Symposium***

Thursday, February 28, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, film screening

Friday, March 1, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, symposium

Check the Mellon Sawyer Seminar’s events page for information on additional events of interest: <http://www.global.ucsb.edu/energyjustice/events>.

**Class Requirements and Assessment**

*40% Attendance and Participation*

This seminar is designed to be strongly interactive and supportive of the intellectual community of our class. For the seminar meetings, the expectation is that we all arrive having read and thought about the material in advance and prepared to exchange ideas in a collaborative and collegial manner.

During discussion weeks, each student will offer a two-page reading response **every Thursday morning by 10am via GauchoSpace** that summarizes and reflects on the assigned readings/media. Reading responses are NOT required when you are the presenter (see below).

These short papers are an important means for developing analytical arguments; response papers should probe, compare, contrast, and engage with works assigned for the week. A document expanding on this charge is posted to our GauchoSpace. **Please no late papers.**

Students will visit the exhibit on the Santa Barbara Oil Spill of 1969 at the Davidson Library and write a brief response on their impressions (¾ of a page)

### *20% Discussion Facilitation*

Beginning first day of class, students will sign up to co-lead discussion in one week during the quarter.

Discussion leaders will be responsible for facilitating a meaningful discussion by preparing:

- (1) A brief (**5 minute**) in-class presentation of the key arguments, methods, and evidence advanced by the author to bring everyone onto the same page, (2) several open-ended questions to guide our discussion as a class, (3) identification of key passages (with page numbers) to look at together, (4) a handout with the questions for everyone to refer to.

Process: Discussion leaders read the response papers submitted by their classmates in advance of the class, which should help to inform the focus of their discussion questions. Discussion leaders print hard copies of the handout for each class member and also upload the handout to the GauchoSpace forum.

### *40% Research Project*

Students will write a research paper (double spaced, 12-point type, about 15 pages, c. 5,000 words) on a topic of their choice that emerges from the seminar. Students are welcome to use this as an opportunity to work on an existing paper. Paper topics are due in Week 5, oral presentations of student research will follow in Weeks 10 and 11. The finished paper is due on **Thursday, March 21**.

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### **Week 1: Introduction: Archives**

Thursday, January 10, 2019: no screening

Friday, January 11, 2019: Course Introduction and Discussion

Discussion of the two groups of readings (see below)

Presentations of Special Collections archival materials on the SB oil spill of 1969

Readings: (clustered into two groups):

\*Antoinette Burton, "Introduction: Archive Fever, Archive Stories," in *Archive Stories: Facts, Fiction, and the Writing of History*, ed. A. Burton (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005)

\*Achille Mbembe, "The Power of the Archive and its Limits," in *Refiguring the Archive*, ed. C. Hamilton et al. (Cape Town: David Philip, 2002)

\*Linda Tuhiwai Smith, *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples* (Dunedin: Otago University Press, 2012), Introduction, Chapter 8 "Twenty-Five Indigenous Projects"

\*Teresa Sabol Spezio, *Slick Policy: Environmental and Science Policy in the Aftermath of the Santa Barbara Oil Spill* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2018), Introduction, Chapters 1, 5

\*Stephanie LeMenager, *Living Oil: Petroleum Culture in the American Century* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), Introduction, Chapter 1

Recommended:

\*Adele Perry, "The Colonial Archive on Trial: Possession, Dispossession, and History in *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia*, in *Archive Stories*, ed. A. Burton (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005)

## **Week 2: Infrastructures**

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Screening:

*Broke: The Santa Barbara Oil Pipeline Spill of 2015* (US, Gail Osherenko, 2018)

\*\*\*with guest filmmaker **Gail Osherenko**\*\*\*\*

Friday, January 18, 2019

Discussion (of reading clusters)

Readings:

\*Brian Larkin, "The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 42 (2013):327-343.

\*Akhil Gupta, "An Anthropology of Electricity from the Global South," *Cultural Anthropology* 30 (2015): 55-68.

\*Nicole Starosielski, "Pipeline Ecologies," in *Sustainable Media: Critical Approaches to Media and Environment*, eds. Nicole Starosielski and Janet Walker (New York and London: Routledge, 2016).

\*Rahul Mukherjee, "Mediating Infrastructures: (Im)Mobile Toxicity and Cell Antenna Publics," in *Sustainable Media* (2016), op. cit.

\*John Mohawk, "A Seneca Greeting--Relationship Requires Us to Be Thankful;" Melissa K. Nelson, "Introduction: Lighting the Sun of Our Future--How These Teachings Can Provide Illumination;" Clayton Thomas-Muller, Chapter 26, "Front Line of Resistance: Indigenous Peoples and Energy Development," in *Original Instructions: Indigenous Teachings for a Sustainable Future*, ed, Melissa K. Nelson (Rochester, VT: Bear & Company, 2008)

Recommended:

Graeme MacDonald, "Containing Oil: The Pipeline," in *Petrocultures: Oil, Politics, Culture*, eds. Sheena Wilson, Adam Carlson, and Imre Szeman (Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2017).

Karen Barad, "Posthumanist Performativity: Toward an Understanding of How Matter Comes To Matter," in *Material Feminisms*, eds. Stacy Alaimo and Susan Heckman (Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 2008)

**Week 3: Beyond the Spill: Oil Symposium**

Thursday, January 24, 2019

**Beyond the Spill: Opening Reception and Exhibition**

5:00pm - 8:00pm

Digital Arts and Humanities Commons and Wireframe Studio (Music 1410)

Join us as we celebrate the opening of BEYOND THE SPILL with an exhibition and artist talk by [Brenda Longfellow](#).

The exhibition will feature digital material from "A Field Guide to Oil in Santa Barbara," an interactive archive and map created by graduate students in the fall quarter Sawyer Seminar course. The exhibition is curated by Sawyer Seminar Postdoctoral Fellow Emily Roehl and will also feature the interactive documentary work of Brenda Longfellow.

Artist in Residence: [Brenda Longfellow](#) (Associate Professor in the Department of Cinema & Media Arts, York University)

Friday, January 25, 2019

**Beyond the Spill: Symposium**

9:00am - 3:30pm

Multipurpose Room (Student Resource Building)

Featured speakers:

**Alicia Cordero** (Wishtoyo Foundation First Nations Program Officer, Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation)

**Mia Lopez** (member, cultural representative, and cultural educator, Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation)

**Julie Maldonado** (Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, UCSB)

**Bhavna Shamasunder** (Associate Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy, Occidental College)

**Teresa Sabol Spezio** (Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Analysis, Pitzer College)

Keynote and Closing Reception

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Betty Elings Wells Pavillion (Faculty Club)

Keynote speaker: **Imre Szeman** (University Research Chair and Professor of Communication Arts, University of Waterloo)

Readings:

\*Imre Szeman and Dominic Boyer, "Introduction: On the Energy Humanities," in *Energy Humanities: An Anthology*, ed. I. Szeman and D. Boyer (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017)

\*Imre Szeman, "System Failure: Oil, Futurity, and the Anticipation of Disaster," in *Energy Humanities*, op. cit.

\*Bhavna Shamasunder, "Neighborhood Oil Drilling and Environmental Justice in Los Angeles," in *Inevitably Toxic: Historical Perspectives on Contamination, Exposure, and Expertise*, eds. Brinda Sarathy, Vivien Hamilton, and Janet Farrell Brodie (Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2018)

#### **Week 4: Hydro Dams and Social Justice**

Monday, January 28, 2019

##### **\*\*\*Library exhibition\*\*\***

New Library Exhibition: [\*Anguish, Anger, and Activism: Legacies of the 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill\*](#). The 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill is frequently cited as a catalyst for the birth of the modern environmental movement. This exhibition, curated by librarians Kristen LaBonte and Annie Platoff, examines the connections between this historic disaster and environmental activism in the local area. Weekdays 9:00 AM-5:00PM. On exhibit in UCSB Library, Special Research Collections. [\*Oil Slick\*](#), a companion exhibition by Rose Bricetti will be on exhibit in UCSB Library's Ocean Gallery (1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Ocean Side).

Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 7pm

##### **\*\*\*special event (recommended)\*\*\***

##### ***Point of No Return* (Quinn Kanaly and Noel Dockstader, 95 min.)**

Post-screening discussion with the filmmakers moderated by Chris Jenkins

free and open to the public; reservations recommended

<https://www.carseywolf.ucsb.edu/pollock-events/point-of-no-return/>

Thursday, January 31, 2019

##### Screening:

*Drowned Out* (UK, Franny Armstrong, 2002, 75 min.)

*A Narmada Diary* (India, Anant Patwardhan, 1995, 57 min.)

Friday, February 1, 2019

##### Discussion:

##### **\*\*\*seminar guest: Professor Bishnupriya Ghosh (English and Global Studies)\*\*\***

Discussion of *Beyond the Spill*

Discussion of readings

##### Readings:

\*Bishnupriya Ghosh, "'We Shall Drown, But We Shall Not Move': The Ecologies of Testimony in NBA Documentaries," in *Documentary Testimonies: Global Archives of Suffering*, ed. B. Sarkar and J. Walker (New York: Routledge, 2010), 59-82

\*Arundhati Roy, *The Cost of Living* (New York: The Modern Library, 1999), "The Greater Common Good," 7-81

\*Sanjeev Khagram, *Dams and Development: Transnational Struggles for Water and Power* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004), Chapters 1, 3-4

\*Macarena Gómez-Barris, *The Extractive Zone: Social Ecologies and Decolonial Perspectives* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2017), Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1

### **Week 5: Power Dynamics: Air, Land, and Water**

Thursday, February 7, 2019

#### Screening:

*Water and Power* (Pat O'Neill, original 1989, 87 min; recut, 1991, 57 min.)

*Water & Power: A California Heist* (Marina Zenovich, 2017, 87 min.)

*Cadillac Desert: Water and the Transformation of Nature* (US, Jon Else, Linda Harrar, four parts, showing excerpts from "Mulholland's Dream")

#### Readings:

\*Lisa Parks, "Water, Energy, Access: Materializing the Internet in Rural Zambia," in *Signal Traffic: Critical Studies of Media Infrastructures*, eds. Lisa Parks and Nicole Starosielski (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2015), 115-136

\*Rafico Ruiz, "Drought Conditions: Desalination and Deep Climate Change in Southern California," in *Saturation*, eds. Melody Jue and Rafico Ruiz (Durham: Duke University Press, forthcoming)

\*Ramachandra Guha, "Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique," *Environmental Ethics*, Vol. 11, No.1 (Spring 1989), 71-83

\*Christopher Jones, "Petromyopia: Oil and the Energy Humanities," *Humanities* 2016, 5, 36; doi:10.3390/h5020036

\*Marc Reisner, *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water* (New York: Penguin, 1986;1993), Chapter 2

\*Lisa Parks (recommended), "Stuff You Can Kick: Conceptualizing Media Infrastructures," in *Between Humanities and the Digital*, eds. David Theo Goldberg and Patrik Svensson (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2015)

### **Week 6: Hydro Symposium**

Thursday, February 14, 2019

#### Screening:

*Sifinja - The Iron Bride* (Sudan, Germany, Valerie Hänsch, 2009, 71 min.)

**\*\*\*presented by filmmaker Valeria Hänsch\*\*\*\***

Friday, February 15, 2019

Hydro Symposium

10:00 – 4:15 pm

Annenberg Room (SSMS 4315)

Featured Speakers:

[R. Lane Clark](#) (Independent Filmmaker) and [Stephan Miescher](#) (Associate Professor of History, UCSB), who will discuss and screen an excerpt from their documentary GHANA'S

ELECTRIC DREAMS (2017) on the social and environmental impacts of the Akosombo Dam, which Dr. Miescher will place within the context of the social history of nineteenth and twentieth-century Ghana.

[Todd Darling](#) (Independent Filmmaker, Media Dispatch Brigade), director and producer of acclaimed feature documentary OCCUPY THE FARM (2014), will discuss and show excerpts from TWO RIVERS, a film about the Klamath and Missouri Rivers and Indigenous tribes' defense of their water against outside industries.

[Nick Estes](#) (Assistant Professor of American Studies, University of New Mexico), author of the forthcoming book *Our History is the Future: #NoDAPL, Standing Rock, and the Long Traditions of Indigenous Resistance* (Verso, 2019), which places into historical context the Indigenous-led movement to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline and considers the impact of earlier infrastructure projects like the Lake Oahe dam on Indigenous sovereignty.

[Valerie Hänsch](#) (Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich), who does research at the intersection of visual and media anthropology, infrastructures/technology, and environmental politics/movements and is involved in a research project on dam-caused displacement in Sudan.

Saturday, February 16, 2019

8:00-4:00 pm: Excursion to St. Francis Dam

Readings:

\*Valerie Hänsch, "Chronology of Displacement: The Drowning of the Manâsîr People," in *"Nihna nâs al-bahar – We are the people of the river": Ethnographic Research in the Fourth Nile Cataract Region, Sudan*, eds. Cornelia Kleinitz and Claudi Näser (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2012), 179-228

\*Stephan F. Miescher, *A Dam for Africa: The Volta River Project and Modernization in Ghana* (Bloomington, Indiana University Press, forthcoming), excerpt

\*Nick Estes, *Our History is the Future: Standing Rock Versus the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Long Tradition of Indigenous Resistance* (New York, Verso, forthcoming 2019), excerpt

\*Winona LaDuke, "Klamath Land and Life," *All Our Relations: Native Struggles for Land and Life*, *Recovering the Sacred: The Power of Naming and Claiming* (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2005)

\*Javiera Barandiarán, "Seeing Like an Umpire State: the HidroAysén Dam Project," *Science and Environment in Chile: The Politics of Expert Advice in a Neoliberal Democracy* (Cambridge, The MIT Press, 2018).

\*Rogers, David J (2007), "The 1928 St. Francis Dam Failure and the 1995/2005 La Conchita Landslides: The Emergence of Engineering Geology and Its Continuing Role in Protecting Society," FIELDTRIP- Abridged Edition for Printing

**Week 7: Theories and Practices of Fieldwork**

Friday, February 22, 2019



Discussion

9-10:15am

**Special Event**

The Seminar will attend the Carsey-Wolf Center conference, "**Uncanny Histories**"  
**Panel including presentations by Professors Mona Damluji and Janet Walker**

10:30am-noon

Readings:

Lisa Parks, "Earth Observation and Signal Territories: Studying U.S. Broadcast Infrastructure through Historical Network Maps, Google Earth, and Fieldwork," *Canadian Journal of Communication* 38 (2013): 285-307

Janet Walker, "Standing with Standing Rock: Media, Mapping, and Survivance," *Media Fields Journal* 13 (2018): 1-21

**Week 8: Solar Array**

Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 3pm

\*\*\*special event\*\*\*

**Professor Stephanie LeMenager (Distinguished Professor in English and American Literature, University of Oregon)**

Organized by the Department of English

Friday, March 1, 2019

Solar Array: A Mellon Sawyer Seminar Symposium

9:30 am Campus Solar Tour. Tour guide: Jordan Sager (UCSB Campus Energy Manager).

Meet at the Multipurpose Room (Student Resource Building)

11:00 am -3:30 pm

Multipurpose Room (Student Resource Building)

Featured Speakers:

[Jennifer Carlson](#) (Cornell University)

Carlson is a cultural anthropologist specializing in the energy humanities. Her research focuses on the relationship between energy infrastructure, public feeling, and environmental action, particularly in the U.S. and Germany. Her book project, *UNRULY ENERGIES* (Duke University Press), shows how sentiment shapes public engagement with and surprising forms of exclusion from sustainable development in the Energiewende, a national transition to renewable energy.

[Joshua Kirshner](#) (University of York, UK - presenting remotely)

Kirshner is a Lecturer in the Department of Environment and Geography. Kirshner has carried out extensive field research in southern Africa and Latin America, on large-scale infrastructure, extractive industries, commodity frontiers, off-grid energy, low carbon transitions, transnational cooperation in energy systems, urbanization, migration and social exclusion. He is Co-investigator on a British Academy-funded project (2016-2018) that examines electricity and fuel access in urban Mozambique.

[Dustin Mulvaney](#) (San Jose State University)

Mulvaney is an Associate Professor of Environmental Studies. His research focuses on the social and environmental dimensions of food and energy systems. Since 2008, his primary focus has been on energy commodity chains with an emphasis on the solar industry, which is synthesized in his forthcoming book [SOLAR POWER: INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE](#) (UC Press 2019).

[Lisa Parks](#) (MIT)

Lisa Parks is Professor of Comparative Media Studies and Director of the Global Media Technologies and Cultures Lab at MIT, and a recent recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship. She will be sharing findings related to a project called Energizing Media based on fieldwork in rural, low-income communities in Tanzania and Zambia. Her most recent publication is [RETHINKING MEDIA COVERAGE: VERTICAL MEDIATION AND THE WAR ON TERROR](#) (Routledge 2018).

### **Week 9: Oil + Water + Solar**

Thursday, March 7, 2019

\*\*\*special event\*\*\*

**Arturo Escobar (Kenan Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, University of North Carolina)**

3:30-5:00pm, McCune Conference Room, 6020 HSSB

Friday, March 8, 2019

Discussion

Discussion of Solar Seminar

\*\*\*special guest Arturo Escobar\*\*\*

Readings:

Arturo Escobar, "Habitability and Design: Radical Interdependence and the Remaking of Cities." *Geoforum* (in press) (recommended)

Arturo Escobar, *Pluriversal Politics: The Real and the Possible in Contemporary Latin American Thought and Struggles* (Forthcoming, Duke University Press), Preface, Ch. 8.

### **Week 10: Student Presentations**

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Screening:

*Dawson City Frozen Time* (US, Bill Morrison, 2016, 120 min.)

Friday, March 15, 2019

Student Presentations, Part 1

### **Week 11: Student Presentations**

Tuesday, March 19, 2019  
Student Presentations, Part 2