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?


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

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](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):
* 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:


**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:


Recommended:


**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)

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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)

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**Readings:**


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

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


**Week 6: Hydro Symposium**
Thursday, February 14, 2019

**Screening:**
*Siffinja - 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 nās 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

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:

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).

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**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:

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**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

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**Week 11: Student Presentations**
Tuesday, March 19, 2019
Student Presentations, Part 2