

RACE, NATURE & POWER

GEOG 472 | SPRING 2018

TTH 11:30AM - 1:20PM | SIG 228

Professor Megan Ybarra

Email mybarra@uw.edu

Office 424 Smith

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:30 – 3:30pm and by appointment

Sign up using Google Calendar: bit.ly/ybarra-cal

This upper-division seminar explores the role that racial formation and power relations play in the cultural, political and spatial production of nature. Students will bring together the insights of political ecology (usually associated with the rural Third World) and environmental justice (usually associated with the urban US) in three modules:

- Racial formations in place-making;
- (Un)natural disasters and the distribution of risk; and
- Body politics (the right to your body, your DNA, and your reproduction).

Course Grade <i>(Specific instructions will be given for each assignment)</i>	%
Take-Home Exams: Using course materials, you will write brief answers to two short midterm exams (each exam is 4-6 questions, 100-400 words each and comprises 15% of course grade)	30%
Final Paper: You will examine the articulation of race and nature in a case study that interrogates and builds on a major course theme, approximately 2,500 words + references. Drafts and constructive peer review work are also part of this grade.	35%
Discussion Facilitation: In a group of 2-4, you will lead class discussion for one 40-minute class period. Lesson plans and peer evaluations comprise most of this grade.	20%
Class Participation: Completing readings before class and actively participating in class discussions – whether through asking questions, offering real-life examples, or making connections between readings – is the minimum requirement for a passing participation grade. Students who earn excellent participations grades will also earn high grades on in-class worksheets and facilitate their peers’ learning through sharing dialogue in small group discussions.	15%

Class Schedule & Readings

There are **no required books for purchase** for this quarter.

For each class meeting, I will list a reading/podcast/viewing – you will complete the assignment before class. The readings may change in response to classroom discussions, student interests, and current events – make sure to check the syllabus and announcements on Canvas to stay up to date.

ARTICULATIONS OF RACE AND NATURE	
<p>“Queering what counts as nature is my categorical imperative” -- Donna Haraway (1994) A Game of Cat's Cradle: science studies, feminist theory, cultural studies. <i>Configurations</i> 1: 59-71</p>	
Tues March 27	<p>Course Introduction</p> <p><i>Additional Sources</i> Robbins, P (2012) <i>Political Ecology: A critical introduction</i>. Wiley (Ch 1)</p>
Thurs Mar 29	<p>There is no Apolitical Ecology</p> <p>McKittrick, K and Peake, L (2005) What difference does difference make to geography? In Castree, N, Rogers, A and Sherman, D (eds) <i>Questioning Geography: Fundamental Debates</i>. (pp 39-54). Blackwell Publishing</p> <p>Middleton, ER (2015) Jahát Jatitotodom*: Toward an indigenous political ecology. In Bryant, RL (ed) <i>The International Handbook of Political Ecology</i>. (pp 561-576). Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing</p> <p><i>Additional Sources</i> Watts, M and Peet, R (2004) Liberating political ecology. In Watts, M and Peet, R (eds) <i>Liberation Ecologies: Environment, development, social movements</i>. (pp 3-47). London and New York: Routledge</p>
Wk 2	
Tues Apr 3	<p><i>In-class movie screening & worksheet: “Even the Rain”</i></p> <p>“Take Back Property,” in Gibson-Graham, JK, Cameron, J and Healy, S (2013) <i>Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming Our Communities</i>. University of Minnesota Press</p>
Thurs Apr 5	<p>“Smokey Bear is a White Racist Pig”</p> <p>Kosek, J (2006) <i>Understories: the political life of forests in northern New Mexico</i>. Durham: Duke University Press. Ch 1 & 5</p> <p>Remember the Malheur Refuge takeover? <u>Skim</u> the Executive Summary in Rural Organizing Project and Political Research Associations (2016) “Up in Arms: A guide to Oregon’s patriot movement,” http://www.politicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/UIA_ExecutiveSummary.pdf (accessed October 5, 2016) and think about what is similar/different between the Hispano and the Patriot occupations.</p> <p><i>Additional Resources</i> Robbins, P, McSweeney, K, Waite, T and Rice, J (2006) Even Conservation Rules Are Made to Be Broken: Implications for Biodiversity. <i>Environmental Management</i> 37: 162-169</p>
Wk 3	

<p>Tues Apr 10</p>	<p>We will not meet as a class on Tuesday. Instead, read two narratives about the same place and write a 1 page single-spaced response paper due as a Canvas upload by 11:00pm on April 10th. Your response should consider the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Who are the authors: how do they know about Papua New Guinea (PNG) and why do they write about it? 2) What might Americans (authors and/or others they write about) do differently in their relationships with people in PNG? 3) Draw on McKittrick & Peake (2005) to explain the power relations in these writings – choose one of the following key terms: G/geography, difference, “travel” or domination. <p>Do resource struggles make us violent? Who should get to determine the legitimacy of resource claims?</p> <p>West, P (2006) <i>Conservation is our Government Now: the politics of ecology in Papua New Guinea</i>. Durham, NC: Duke University Press (pgs. Read about “The Fight” on 15-26, and then all of Chapter 4)</p> <p>Diamond, J (2008) "Vengeance is ours: What can tribal societies tell us about our need to get even?" <i>The New Yorker</i>. http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2008/04/21/vengeance-is-ours (Accessed October 4, 2015)</p> <p><i>Additional Resources</i></p> <p>If you want a quick refresher on “Othering,” you can use this textbook section: Hall, S (1992) The West and the rest: Discourse and power. In Hall, S and Gieben, B (eds) <i>Formations of Modernity</i>. (pp 275-332). Cambridge: Polity Press</p> <p>Lunstrum, E and Ybarra, M (2018) Deploying Difference: Security threat narratives and state displacement from protected areas. <i>Conservation and Society</i>. Available at: http://www.conservationandsociety.org/aheadofprint.asp</p>
<p>Thurs Apr 12</p>	<p>UW Library resources & literature review overview (Geography librarian Kian Flynn) <i>Meet in Odegaard 102</i></p>
<p>Wk 4</p>	
<p>Tues Apr 17</p>	<p>Decolonization is not a Metaphor</p> <p>READ Pages 1-7; 23-36 (from “<i>Moves to Innocence VI to the end</i>”): Tuck, E and Yang, KW (2012) Decolonization is not a metaphor. <i>Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society</i> 1: 1-40.</p> <p>Ybarra, M (2017) <i>Green Wars: Conservation and decolonization in the Maya Forest</i>. Oakland, CA: University of California Press. Ch 4 & Conclusion.</p> <p>→ Hard-copy paper proposal due in class</p> <p><i>Additional Resources</i></p> <p>Coulthard, G (2010) Place against empire: Understanding Indigenous anti-colonialism. <i>Affinities: A Journal of Radical Theory, Culture, and Action</i> 4: 79-83</p> <p>Hoover, E (2017) <i>The River is in Us: Fighting Toxics in a Mohawk Community</i>. University of Minnesota Press</p> <p>Tuck, E and Yang, KW (2014) R-words: Refusing research. In Paris, D and Winn, M (eds) <i>Humanizing research: Decolonizing qualitative inquiry with youth and communities</i>. (pp 223-248). SAGE Publications</p>

<p>Thurs Apr 19</p>	<p>~ no class meeting ~ Exam I uploaded via Canvas assignments Thursday by 9am; due as Canvas upload by 11:59pm on Saturday, April 21</p>
<p>Wk 5</p>	<p>(UN)NATURAL DISASTERS & THE DISTRIBUTION OF RISK</p>
<p>This is your country, this is your world, this is your body, and you must find some way to live within all of it.</p> <p>– Ta-Nehisi Coates (2015) <i>Between the world and me</i>: Spiegel & Grau</p>	
<p>Tues Apr 24</p>	<p>How do we “know” nature? <i>Skim</i>: Cronon, W (1995) The trouble with wilderness; or, getting back to the wrong nature. In Cronon, W (ed) <i>Uncommon Ground: Toward reinventing nature</i>. (pp 69-90). New York and London: W. W. Norton & Co. <i>Who innovates with the food we eat? How can we rethink our histories? Read the full Introduction & “rice in her hair” on pages 76-77 in</i>: Carney, J and Rosomoff, RN (2009) <i>In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa’s Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press <i>Read as a model for how to acknowledge partial perspectives to do better research</i>: Nightingale, A (2003) <i>A Feminist in the Forest: Situated knowledges and mixing methods in natural resource management. ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies 2: 77-90</i></p> <p><i>Additional resources</i>: Haraway, D (1988) Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective. <i>Feminist Studies 14</i>: 575-599 <i>Read for the importance of positionality</i>: Haraway, D (1991) “The Contest for Primate Nature: Daughters of Man-the-Hunter in the field, 1960 – 1980,” in <i>Simians, Cyborgs and Women: the re-invention of nature</i>. New York: Routledge, Chapman and Hall, Inc. (pp 81 – 108) Rocheleau, DE (1995) Maps, Numbers, Text, and Context: Mixing Methods in Feminist Political Ecology. <i>The Professional Geographer 47</i>: 458-466</p>
<p>Thurs Apr 26</p>	<p>What disasters are unstoppable? What disasters must be stopped? <i>Skim</i>: Davis, M (1995) The Case for Letting Malibu Burn. <i>Environmental History Review 19</i>: 1-36 Massey, D. 2004. Geographies of responsibility. <i>Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography 86</i> (1): 5-18. Pulido, L (2015) Geographies of race and ethnicity 1: White supremacy vs white privilege in environmental racism research. <i>Progress in Human Geography 39</i>: 809-817</p> <p><i>Additional Sources</i> Downs, K (2015) "The time nature and racism teamed up to wipe out a whole town." National Public Radio: Code Switch, http://www.npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/2015/03/02/389482158/the-time-nature-and-racism-teamed-up-to-wipe-out-a-whole-town (Accessed March 2, 2015) Pastor, M., R. Bullard, et al. 2006. <i>In the wake of the storm: Environment, disaster, and race after Katrina</i>. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.</p>
<p>Wk 6</p>	

<p>Tues May 1</p>	<p>Climate Justice Cameron, E., R. Mearns, and J. T. McGrath (2014) Translating Climate Change: Adaptation, Resilience, and Climate Politics in Nunavut, Canada. <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i>: 1-10. Monastersky, R and Sousanis, N (2015) The fragile framework: Can nations unite to save Earth's climate? <i>Nature</i> 527: 427-435 Peet, R, Robbins, P and Watts, M (2011) Global nature. In Peet, R, Robbins, P and Watts, M (eds) <i>Global Political Ecology</i>. (pp 1-47). New York: Routledge</p> <p><i>Additional Sources</i> Nightingale, AJ (2016) Adaptive scholarship and situated knowledges? Hybrid methodologies and plural epistemologies in climate change adaptation research. <i>Area</i> 48: 41-47 Parenti, C (2013) A Radical Approach to the Climate Crisis. <i>Dissent</i> 60: 51-57</p>
<p>Thurs May 3</p>	<p>→ In-class peer review: Draft abstract</p> <p>Food Justice Guthman, J (2008) Bringing good food to others: investigating the subjects of alternative food practice. <i>Cultural Geographies</i> 15: 431-447 Heynen, N (2009) Bending the bars of empire from every ghetto for survival: The Black Panther Party's radical antihunger politics of social reproduction and scale. <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i> 99: 406-422.</p> <p><i>Additional Sources:</i> Patel, R (2012) <i>Stuffed and Starved: The hidden battle for the world food system</i>. Brooklyn, New York: Melville House</p>
<p>Friday, May 4</p>	<p>Abstract & annotated bibliography due via Canvas by 11:59pm on Friday, May 4</p>
<p>Wk 7</p>	
<p>BODY POLITICS</p>	
<p>Although science is a knowledge system that socially produces what it means to be biologically human, it is also the epistemological grounds through which racial and sexual essentialism is registered and lived.</p> <p>-- McKittrick, K (2016) Diachronic loops/deadweight tonnage/bad made measure. <i>Cultural Geographies</i> (23): 3-18</p>	
<p>Tues May 8</p>	<p>Hanford Cram, S (2015) Becoming Jane: The making and unmaking of Hanford's nuclear body. <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i> Murphy, M (2006) <i>Sick building syndrome and the problem of uncertainty: Environmental politics, technoscience, and women workers</i>. Duke University Press</p>

<p>Thurs May 10</p>	<p>Health of the Body Politic Guthman, J and DuPuis, M (2006) Embodiment neoliberalism: economy, culture, and the politics of fat. <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i> 24: 427-448 Spade, D and Willse, C (2015) Norms and Normalization. In Disch, L and Hawkesworth, M (eds) <i>The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory</i>. (pp 1-15). Oxford University Press</p> <p><i>Additional Sources</i> Cresswell, T (1997) Weeds, plagues, and bodily secretions: a geographical interpretation of metaphors of displacement. <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i> 87: 330-345 Guthman, J. 2011. <i>Weighing In: obesity, food justice, and the limits of capitalism</i>: University of California Press.</p>
<p>Tues May 15</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>Thurs May 17</p>	<p>Reproductive Justice (1) <i>In-class film screening</i>: Tajima-Peña, R (2016) No Más Bebés. PBS Independent Lens. http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/no-mas-bebes/ <i>In-class film screening</i>: Retro Report (2015) "The unrealized horrors of population explosion." The New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/01/us/the-unrealized-horrors-of-population-explosion.html Accessed May 31, 2015</p>
<p>Wk 9</p>	
<p>Tues May 22</p>	<p>Reproductive Justice (2) Gilmore, R. W. (2002) Fatal couplings of power and difference: Notes on racism and geography. <i>Professional Geographer</i> 54(1): 15-24 Roberts, D (2015) "Reproductive Justice, Not Just Rights." <i>Dissent Magazine</i>, https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/reproductive-justice-not-just-rights Accessed October 15, 2015 Stern, AM (2005) <i>Eugenic Nation: Faults and Frontiers of Better Breeding in Modern America</i>. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. < Introduction & Ch 2 ></p> <p><i>Additional Sources</i> Roberts, D. (2011) <i>Fatal Intervention: How science, politics, and big business re-create race in the twenty-first century</i>. New York and London: New Press. Ch. 6 Sasser, J (2014) From Darkness into Light: Race, Population, and Environmental Advocacy. <i>Antipode</i> 46: 1240–1257</p>
<p>Thurs May 24</p>	<p>~ no class meeting ~ Exam II uploaded via Canvas assignments Wednesday by 9am; due Thursday, May 24 by 11:59pm</p>
<p>Wk 10</p>	

<p>May 29</p>	<p>Can you read race from DNA? Mansfield, B and Guthman, J (2015) Epigenetic life: biological plasticity, abnormality, and new configurations of race and reproduction. <i>Cultural Geographies</i> 22: 3-20 Reardon, J and TallBear, K (2012) 'Your DNA Is Our History': Genomics, Anthropology, and the Construction of Whiteness as Property. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 53: S233-S245 TallBear, K. 2015. Who Owns the Ancient Ones? BuzzFeed [Accessed July 24, 2015]. Available from http://www.buzzfeed.com/kimtallbear/how-the-man-stole-ancient-man-from-his-native-descendents.</p> <p><i>Additional Sources</i> Goodman, A (2005) Reflections: Impure biology. In Hartmann, B, Subramanian, B and Zerner, C (eds) <i>Making threats: biofears and environmental anxieties</i>. (pp 149-156). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers</p>
<p>May 31</p>	<p>In-class Peer Review: Bring two hardcopies of a full, complete, typed draft of your research paper. The draft must be at least five pages long (if double-spaced), have an introduction, conclusion & references list.</p>
<p>FINAL PAPER DUE ON CANVAS JUNE 5TH AT 11:59PM; TURN IN A HARDCOPY TO PROF YBARRA'S BOX IN SMITH 408 BEFORE 5 PM ON JUNE 6TH</p>	