

# **Anthropology and Sociology of Development**

**University of Sussex**

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2001–2003  
United Kingdom**

## **Course Description:**

### **Introduction**

Sociological and anthropological approaches provide distinct ways to view development issues. Development interventions do not occur in a vacuum but instead act upon and are influenced by the prevailing social and cultural systems. It does not take much to say that some place needs to increase the productivity of agriculture, or that in another place primary education has to be provided. But beyond that first diagnosis, the specification of the problem, its magnitude, possible amelioration strategies, and the likely outcome of particular approaches to its solution, are all topics on which you will find considerable disagreement. In this disagreement you will witness conflicting world views and perspectives. How people articulate and justify their politics will reveal further the cultural values that shape their perceptions and the social and power relations underlying them. Politics, culture, power and social organisation are very important if we are to define development problems, identify just and viable solutions, and propose ways and means to carry out those solutions in a fair and humane manner. Which means we need to develop some specialised skills of social analysis. To help you develop some of the requisite skills this course will:

- Introduce key approaches and debates in social theory in historical perspective and examine how they have influenced development thought
- Understand how questions concerning knowledge, power and difference are key themes in social analyses
- Illustrate the application of these questions to selected areas in development studies such as the household, knowledge, gender, identity, health, technology, economy, power and participation.
- Examine in detail selected cases so that the approaches and topics can be understood in terms of concepts and ideas specific to social-anthropological analyses (in contrast to purely neo-classical economic and rational choice analyses).

Constraints of time, and the compulsions of covering many topics, will not make it possible to provide a thorough treatment of all anthropological and sociological theories and approaches. But it will give you ample opportunity to grasp what is meant by sociological and anthropological approaches to development. The introduction provides the overview to the course and outlines a brief history of sociology and anthropology and discusses similarities and differences. This will be followed by 15 two-hour sessions where we explore different themes such as power, participation, knowledge and institu-

tions which will outline theoretical insights in historical perspective and draw on case study material. There will be no separate tutorials; rather the classes will consist of a mixture of short lectures, small group discussions, student presentations, and the use of audio-visual materials. Building on the course work from terms one and two this course will also maintain a critical focus on the development process itself turning the analytic lens on developers as well as the targets of development.

The course will be assessed by means of a 5,000 word term paper. There is no text book for the course but the books listed for session one may be useful as basic reference for providing overviews.

## Syllabus:

### *Term III, April–June 2002*

#### Sociology and Anthropology of Development

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Tutor</b>
1	29 April	Introduction	LM/ AC/ ML
2	2 May	Culture	ML
3	7 May	Society	LM
4	9 May	Post-Modernity	LM
5	13 May	Issues of Difference in Development	AC
6	16 May	Place and Displacement	LM
7	20 May	Power and Participation	JG
8	23 May	Empowerment	JG
9	27 May	Resistance	LM
10	30 May	Discourses	LM
11	5 June	Knowledge	ML
12	6 June	Households	ML
13	10 June	Markets	ML
14	13 June	Institutions	LM
15	17 June	Fertility	AC
16	20 June	Rights	CN

**Year: I**

**Term: 3**

**Week: I**

**Session Title: Introduction and Panel Discussion**

**Lecturer: Andrea Cornwall, Melissa Leach and Lyla Mehta**

**Date: 29 April**

In this session, we will discuss the course overview and structure. We will also review the emergence of the disciplines of sociology and anthropology in historical context and tease out the similarities and differences between them. Sociology and anthropology had very distinct origins and traditionally

appeared to focus on different key issues and underpinnings despite some obvious commonalities. Today, however the boundaries are blurring not least because both sociology and anthropology draw on the same body of theory. However there still remain some distinct approaches. Through a panel discussion, two anthropologists and a sociologist will help stimulate discussion on the nature of the two disciplines, their boundaries and overlaps.

### **Essential Reading**

'Social Anthropology: comparison and context.' In Thomas Hylland Eriksen. 1995. *Small Places, Large Issues. An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology*. London: Pluto. Chapter 1.

**12 copies SUL**

Giddens, A. 1986. *Sociology. A brief but critical introduction*. London: Macmillan. 2nd Edition. Chapter 1. 'Sociology—Issues and Problems.'

Beteille, Andre. 1987. *Essays in Comparative Sociology*. Oxford. Chap. 1 'Sociology and Anthropology'

### **Additional Reading**

#### **Sociology**

Barnett, Tony. 1988. *Sociology and Development*. London: Routledge.

**5 copies SUL**

Long, Norman. 2001. *Development Sociology. Actor Perspectives*. Routledge.

Bilton, et al. 1996. *Introducing Sociology*. Third Edition. MacMillan.

**8 copies SUL**

Lee and Newby. 1983. *The Problem of Sociology. An Introduction to the Discipline*. Hutchinson.

Beteille, Andre. 2002. *Sociology. Essays on Approach and Method*. See Chapter 3 *Sociology and Anthropology: Their Relationship in One Person's Career*

M. Haralambos and M. Holborn. *Sociology. Themes and Perspectives*. Collins Educational. London.

Roberts, Bryan, Robert Cushing and Charles Wood. 1995. *The Sociology of Development*. International Library of Critical Writings in Sociology. Volumes I and II. Brookfield Vermont and Aldershot: Edward Elgar Publishing House (Historical Overview).

Giddens, A. *Sociology. A Brief but critical Introduction*.

Giddens, A. *Sociology*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

#### **Social Anthropology**

Thomas Hylland Eriksen. 1995. *Small Places, Large Issues. An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology*. London: Pluto.

**12 copies SUL**

Katy Gardner and David Lewis. 1996. *Anthropology, Development and the Postmodern Challenge*. London: Pluto

**IDS 1 copy Course Provision. 9 copies SUL**

Layton, Robert. 1997. *An Introduction to Theory in Anthropology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kuper, Adam. 1993. *Anthropology and Anthropologists. The Modern British School*. Routledge.

### Social Theory

Mouzelis, N. 1995, *Sociological Theory. What went wrong?* London: Routledge.

Frisby, D. and D. Sayer. 1986. *Society*. London: Tavistock.

Layton, Robert. 1997. *An Introduction to Theory in Anthropology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Baert, Patrick. 1998. *Social Theory in the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Polity Press. Chapter 3

Schurmann, Frans. 1993. (ed). *Beyond the Impasse: New Directions in Development Theory*. London: Zed.

Booth, David. (ed). 1994. *Rethinking Social Development: Theory, Research and Practice*. Longman Scientific and Technical.

### Session Title: Place And Displacement

**Lecturer:** Lyla Mehta

**Date:** 16 May 2002

Recent trends in post-modern literature have convincingly argued that place and culture are fluid and identity is performative and increasingly deterritorialised in a globalised world. As mobility is one of the definitive characteristics of the contemporary world, identity, it is argued by Appadurai, Gupta and Ferguson and others, can no longer be seen as tied to place but instead must be viewed as increasingly fluid and adaptive. Displacement is thus seen to be a natural condition in an increasingly globalised world.

However, displacement often means involuntary uprootment from ancestral homes and dramatic changes in social and cultural relations. It has also entailed a gross violation of a variety of rights: the right to livelihood and a decent standard of living, the right to information and the right to first and informed prior consent. Indeed, the struggles around spatial practices and the identity associated with a particular place are the key assertions of protest movements against forced migration. Thus rights such as access to sources of livelihoods, land and occupation are linked to what Kibreab calls 'territorially anchored identities', the lack of which can lead to impoverishment and deprivation. The range of this displacement has been documented by numerous studies on development-induced-displacement by authors such as Cernea, Scudder, Colson and others.

Thus arguments that notions of place are largely 'imagined' and idealised would be to deny the strong links between displaced peoples' rights to resources and livelihoods and spatial rootedness and well-being. Currently 10 Million worldwide are affected by 'development' projects such as mines, dams and roads. Resettlement theory has tended to be largely applied and blind to questions concerning identity, difference and contestation. This lecture draws on IDS research on forced displacement, place and gender to examine the legacy of post-modern thinking on identity and place for resettlement and displacement theory and map out what this means in concrete terms for displaced people's rights and sense of well-being.

### **Essential Readings**

Gupta, Akhil, and James Ferguson, (1992), "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference", *Cultural Anthropology* 7(1): 6–23

McDowell, C., (ed), 1996, *Understanding Impoverishment. The consequences of Development-Induced-Displacement*, Oxford: Berghahn, 13–33

### **Forced displacement**

Cernea, M., (1997), "The Risks and Reconstruction Model for Resettling Displaced Populations", *World Development*, 25:10, 1569–1587

Cernea, M., and S. Guggenheim, (eds), (1993), "Anthropological Approaches to Resettlement", *Policy, Practice and Theory*, Boulder: Westview

Colson, E., (1999), "Engendering those uprooted by 'Development'", in Indra, D., (ed), *Engendering Forced Migration: Theory and Practice*, Oxford: Refugee Studies Programme, 23–39

Guggenheim, S., (1994), "Involuntary Resettlement: An Annotated Reference Bibliography for Development Research", *Environment Working Paper no. 64*. Washington DC: The World Bank

Indra, D., (ed), 1999, *Engendering Forced Migration: Theory and Practice*, Oxford: Bergahn.

Scudder, T., (1995), "Resettlement", in Biswas, A., (ed), *Handbook of Water Resources and Environment*, McGraw Hill

McDowell, C., (ed), 1996, *Understanding Impoverishment. The consequences of Development-Induced-Displacement*, Oxford: Berghahn, 13–33

Mehta, L. (2000). 'Women Facing Submergence: Displacement and Resistance in the Narmada Valley', in Damadoran Vinita and Maya Unnithan (eds), *Identities, Nation, Global Culture*. Sage: New Delhi

### **Place, Development and Social Change**

Gupta, Akhil, and James Ferguson, (1992), "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference", *Cultural Anthropology* 7(1):6–23

Kibreab, Gaim, (1999), "Revisiting the Debate on People, Place Identity and Displacement, in *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 4

Li, Tania Murray, (1999), "Compromising Power: Development, Culture, and Rule in Indonesia", *Cultural Anthropology*, 14(3):1–28

Appadurai, A., (1990), "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy", *Public Culture*, 2(2): 1–24

Olwig, KF & Hastrup, K— eds. 1997. *Siting culture: the shifting anthropological object*. Routledge London

Mehta, L., and A. Punja, forthcoming. Changing water worlds. Resettlers' and official perceptions of the water/wellbeing nexus. In Baviskar, A. *Cultural Politics of Water*. OUP.

Baviskar, A. *In the belly of the river*. OUP.

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