Anthropology 72400: Markets: A Critical Historical Approach

Fall, 2015

Thursdays, 4:15-6:15

Professor Michael Blim

Office Hours, Fridays 11-4

**Course Description and Objectives**

This course examines the operations of markets and their impact on well-being and social standing in a variety of historical and contemporary settings. Its frank objective is to reduce the amount of hypostatization or reification of markets that occurs when they are analyzed today. By exploring the historical specificities of markets via case studies and some claims concerning their operation, more robust and relevant structural descriptions of their role in generating well-being and social structures can emerge.

**Modus Operandi**

This is a seminar in which your active participation is crucial. As I note above, there are no magic formulae for understanding markets; there are a few elements instead that enable us to approach them in reality. Thus, your assimilation and analysis of the cases before us and their implications for social structures such as class and political-economic power are key to the success of the seminar.

Via Blackboard, I ask you to provide a weekly paragraph or two of your concerns and questions about the readings to be addressed in the seminar session. Please submit them by 10AM the day of the seminar.

In addition, a written work product is required, amounting to no less than 20 pages plus notes. We can negotiate its contents. Some students in the past have written project proposals and article drafts, others term papers, and others two theoretical papers of 10 pages each. I want to help you meet your current developmental agenda, so think about it, and let’s talk by the first meeting in October during office hours or after class.

**Course Schedule**

**8/27: Introduction**

**9/3: Approaching the Study of Markets**

Richard Swedburg, “Markets in Society,” *Handbook of Economic Sociology*, edited by N. Smelser and R. Swedburg, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005, 2nd edition), 233-253.

Kalman Applbaum, “Markets: Places, Principles and Integrations,” *A Handbook of Economic Anthropology*, edited by James Carrier, (Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, second edition, 2012), 257-274.

Max Weber, “The Market: Its Impersonality and Ethic,” (fragment), *Economy and Society*, edited by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich, (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1978), 635-640.

**9/10: No Class**

**9/17: A Braudelian Roundelay on Markets**

Fernand Braudel, *The Wheels of Commerce*, *Civilization and Capitalism, 15th-18th Century, Volume II*, (New York: Harper and Row, 1982), 25-230.

**9/24: No Class**

**10/1-10/8:** **Markets and Macro-Social Analysis: The China Case**

Giovanni Arrighi, *Adam Smith in Beijing: Lineages of the 21st Century*, (London: Verso, 2007), 277-389.

G. William Skinner, “Marketing and Social Structure in Rural China: Part I,” *Journal of Asian Studies*, 24:1 (November, 1964), 3-43.

G. William Skinner, “Marketing and Social Structure in Rural China: Part III,” *Journal of Asian Studies*, 24:3 (May, 1965), 363-399.

Xueguang Zhou, “The Autumn Harvest: Peasants and Markets in Post-Collective Rural China,” *The China Quarterly*, 208, (December, 2011), 913 – 931.

Ivan Szelenyi, “The Nature of the Chinese Formation and the Making of Its Welfare Regime: A Comment on Philip Huang’s “Profit-Making State Firms and China’s Development Experience: ‘State Capitalism’ or ‘Socialist Market Economy’?” *Modern China*, 38:6, (2012), 646–664.

**10/15: Markets and Micro-Social Analysis: Marriage Markets**

Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, “Women on the Market:Marriage, Consumption, and the Internet in Urban Cameroon,” *American Ethnologist*, 34:4, (2007), 642-658.

Gary Becker, “A Theory of Marriage,” *Economics of the Family: Marriage, Children, and Human Capital,* edited by T. Schultz, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974), 299-351. On line at [www.nber.org/chapters/c2970.pdf](http://www.nber.org/chapters/c2970.pdf).

Kimberly Hart, “Love by Arrangement: The Ambiguity of 'Spousal Choice' in a Turkish Village,” *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 13:2, (June, 2007), 345-362.

Kalman Applbaum, “Marriage with the Proper Stranger: Arranged Marriage in Metropolitan Japan,”  *Ethnology*, 34:1 (Winter, 1995), 37-51.

Pierre Bourdieu, “The Unification of the Matrimonial Market,” *The Bachelors’ Ball*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008), 180-189.

**10/22: Polanyi**

Karl Polanyi, “The Economy as Instituted Process,” *Trade and Market in Early Empires*, edited by K. Polanyi, C. Arensberg, and H. Pearson, (Glencoe, IL: Free Press, 1957). 122-143.

Karl Polanyi, “Evolution of the Market Pattern” and “The Self-Regulating Market and the Fictitious Commodities: Land, Labor, and Money,” *The Great Transformation*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 1944), 56-76.

Mark Granovetter, “Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness,” *American Journal of Sociology*, 91:3, (November, 1985), 481-510.

Chris Hann and Keith Hart, *Market and Society: The Great Transformation Today*, (Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press 2009), selections to be announced.

**10/29: Politics and Markets**

Kevin Fox Gotham, “Creating Liquidity out of Spatial Fixity: The Secondary Circuit of Capital and the Subprime Mortgage Crisis,” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 33:2, (June, 2009), 355-371.

Nadir Kinossian and Kevin Morgan, “Development by Decree: The Limits of ‘Authoritarian Modernization’ in the Russian Federation,” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38:5, (September, 2014), 1678-96.

Katharine Rankin, “A Critical Geography of Poverty Finance,” *Third World Quarterly*, 34:4, (2013), 547-568.

Brett Christophers, “Competition, Law, and the Power of (Imagined) Geography: Market Definition and the Emergence of Too-Big-to-Fail Banking in the United States,” *Economic Geography*, 90:4, (2014), 429-450.

**11/5: Cooperatives, Non-Profits, and Post-socialist Experiments**

John Vail, “Decommodification and Egalitarian Political Economy,” *Politics and Society*, 38:3, (2010), 310-346.

Camila Piñeiro Harnecker, “Nonstate Enterprises in Cuba: Building Socialism?” *Latin American Perspectives*, 41:4, July 2014, 113–128.

Daniel Ozarow and Richard Croucher, “Workers’ Self-Management, Recovered Companies and the Sociology of Work,” *Sociology*, 48:5, (2014), 989-1006.

B. Lynne Milgram, “From Trash to Totes: Recycled Production and Cooperative Economy Practice in the Philippines,”  *Human Organization;* Spring 2010; 69, 1, 75-85.

Mimi Abramovitz and Jennifer Zelnick, Privatization in the Human Services: Implications for Direct Practice ,” *Clinical Social Work*, 43, (2015), 283–293.

**11/12: Marketization**

Monir Moniruzzaman, “Living Cadavers” in Bangladesh: Bioviolence in the Human Organ Bazaar,” *Medical Anthropology*, 26:1, (2012), 69–91.

Jason Antrosio and Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld, “Risk-Seeking Peasants, Excessive Artisans: Speculation in the Northern Andes,” *Economic Anthropology*, 1, (2014), 124-138.

Wim Huisman and Edward Kleemans, “The challenges of fighting sex trafficking in the legalized prostitution market of the Netherlands,” *Crime, Law, and Social Change*, 61, (2014), 215–228.

Kristen Lyons and Peter Westoby, “Carbon colonialism and the new land grab: Plantation forestry in Uganda and its livelihood impacts,” *Journal of Rural Studies*, 36, (2014), 13-21.

Toby Carroll, “Working On, Through and Around the State: The Deep Marketisation of Development in the Asia-Pacific,” *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 42:3, (August 2012), 378–404.

**11/19: Marketing with a Focus on Big Pharma**

Kalman Applbaum, *The Marketing Era: From Professional Practice to Global Provisioning*, (New York: Routledge, 2004), 1-115.

Elizabeth Siegel Watkins, “How the Pill Became a Lifestyle Drug: The Pharmaceutical Industry and Birth Control in the United States Since 1960,” *American Journal of Public Health*, (102:8, (August 2012), 1462-1472.

Kalman Applbaum, “Is Marketing the Enemy of Pharmaceutical Innovation?” *Hastings Center Report,* 39:4, (2009), 13-17.

Michael Oldani, “Thick Prescriptions: Toward an Interpretation of Pharmaceutical Sales Practices,” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 18:3, (2004), 325-356.

**12/3-12/10: Finance: Sorting Out What Financial Markets Are and Are Not**

Justin Fox, *The Myth of the Rational Market* (New York: Harper Business, 2009).

Horacio Ortiz, “The Limits of Financial Imagination: Free Investors, Efficient Markets, and Crisis,” *American Anthropologist*, 116:1, (2014), 38–50.

Daromir Rudnyckyj, “Economy in practice: Islamic finance and the problem of market reason.” *American Ethnologist*, 41:1, (2014), 110–127.