

SS 414N Sociology of Knowledge Winter Semester, 2023

M.A Fourth Semester (Optional course)

Center for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Credits: 4

Course Teacher: Prof. V. Sujatha

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the initial as well as emerging perspectives in the sociology of knowledge and highlights its significance for the study of form and content of knowledge.
- To offer a glimpse of the many approaches in sociology of science and technology.
- To introduce students to different axes of knowledge, power and hegemony and to steer towards pluralistic basis for sociological conceptualisation.
- To explore the future of alternative and embedded knowledges.
- To encourage critical awareness among social science students about their own discipline.

Assessment

1. 50% Semester end examination (2 credits)
2. 50% Intra semester assessment (2 credits):

Text based presentation with write up of 2000 words. (Submit 7 days after presentation)

Field based Term paper of about 4000 words

Soft copies of the readings will be made available in the Google Classroom. Lectures, presentations, discussion and guest lectures will be part of classroom teaching.

Students can choose one article or chapter from the list of optional readings for the **text-based tutorial presentation** and submit an independent write up on the same. You may also choose material of your choice pertaining to the syllabus after discussion with course teacher. A handout containing the key points of your presentation *must* be given to the class by the presenters at the time of presentation. The write up would be evaluated for: analytical and conceptual rigour, references and your own critical insights on the material.

Term paper would be on a topic decided by you in consultation with the teacher and should be field based. The criterion of evaluation of term paper would be: Originality in the choice of topic and methods of data collection, perspective and argument, observation and creative insight into information collected and the references. The Term paper also needs to be presented in the class

The end semester examination will be essay based.

I. Sociology of knowledge – Debates on the social conditioning of knowledge

- Karl Mannheim's sociology of knowledge and other developments
- A.K.Saran's critique and reformulation of sociology of knowledge
- Philosophical theories of knowledge in India: Navya-Nyāya school of thought
- Ambedkar's enquiry into the inner and outer dimensions of knowledge

Core Readings:

1. Mannheim, Karl. 1982. 'The sociology of knowledge' in James E.Curtis and John W. Petras (Ed.) *The Sociology of knowledge. A reader*. Gerald Duckworth and co; London (pp 109-130)
2. Saran, A.K. 1998. *Sociology of knowledge and traditional thought*. Central Institute of Higher Tibetan studies; Varanasi (pp 57- 90)

3. Matilal, Bimal Krishna. 1986. *Perception: An Essay on Classical Indian Theories of Knowledge*. Clarendon Press; Oxford (1- 45)
4. Ambedkar, B.R. 2008. 'Buddha or Karl Marx' and Revolution and counter revolution in ancient India in *Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and speeches*. (441—464) Government of Maharashtra: Mumbai
5. Nagaraj, D.R. 2006. 'Self-purification versus Self-respect: On the roots of the Dalit movement' in A.Raghuramaraju (ed.) *Debating Gandhi. A reader* (359-387), Oxford University Press: New Delhi

II. Science, Technology and Society

- Science and reality
- Non-dualist analysis of science and technology – J.P.S Uberoi
- Evidence and efficacy in medicine
- Technology studies – machine and social life

Core Readings:

6. Latour, Bruno. 1999. *Pandora's hope. Essays on the reality of science studies*, Harvard University Press; London.
7. Uberoi, J.P.S. 2002. *The European modernity. Science, truth and method*. Oxford University Press; New Delhi. (pp 26- 44 and 76-106).
8. Sunder Rajan, Kaushik. 2006. *Biocapital: The Constitution of Postgenomic life*. Durham: Duke University Press
9. Johnson, Deborah G and Jameson, M Wetmore. 2009. *Technology and society. Building our sociotechnical future*. ed. Cambridge Massachusetts: MIT Press.

III. Knowledge and power

- Colonisation, capitalism and the history of science
- Feminist perspectives on Knowledge
- Human and non-human networks in knowledge
- Art, performance and hegemony
- Body and symbolism
- Ecology, culture and politics

Core Readings:

10. Alvares, Claude. 1991. *Decolonising history. Technology and culture in India, China and the west 1492 to the present day* (pp 18 - 45). The Other India Press; Goa
11. Haraway, Donna. 2003. *The Haraway reader*. New York: Routledge.
12. Baindur, Meera. 2016. Nature, Body and Woman: An Indian Perspective on Value Dualisms. Essay In *Science and Narratives of Nature: East and West*. Routledge.
13. Soneji, Davesh. 2012. *Unfinished gestures. Devadasis, memory and modernity in South India* (70-111). Chicago University Press; Chicago.
14. Needham, Rodney. 1973. *Right & Left; Essays on Dual Symbolic Classification*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
15. Cohen, Einat. 2006. Kime and the Moving Body: Somatic Codes in Japanese Martial Arts. *Body & Society - BODY SOC.* 12. 73-93.
16. Mosse, David and M Sivan. 2005. *The Rule of Water : Statecraft Ecology and Collective Action in South India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

IV. Sociology of Social science Knowledge

- Modern myths and the social sciences
- Literary imagination and social science thinking
- Subject and object; researcher and the researched in social sciences

Core Readings:

17. Obeyesekere, Gananath. 1992. *The Apotheosis of Captain Cook: European mythmaking in the Pacific*. Princeton University Press: Princeton
18. Devy G. N. 1998. *"Of Many Heroes" : An Indian Essay in Literary Historiography*. Mumbai: Orient Longman.
19. Srinivasan, Amrit. 1998. 'The subject in field work. Malinowski and Gandhi' in Meenakshi Thapan (Ed) *Anthropological Journeys. Reflections on fieldwork* (pp 54-82). Orient Longman; New Delhi

Optional readings:

I. Sociology of knowledge – Debates on the social conditioning of knowledge

1. Foucault, Michel. 1972. *The archeology of knowledge*. Routledge; London. (pp 1- 63)
2. Zammito, John. 2007. *What's 'New' in the Sociology of Knowledge*, in Tuner, P, Stephen & Risjord, W. Mark, *Philosophy of Anthropology and Sociology*, Oxford University Press: Elsevier.
3. Jarvie, I.C. 1972. *Concepts and Society* (RLE Social Theory) (1st ed.). Routledge.
4. Luckmann, Thomas. 1978. 'Philosophy, social sciences and everyday life' in Thomas Luckmann (Ed.) *Phenomenology and sociology*. Penguin Books; London.217-253
5. Good, Byron J. 2005. *Medicine, rationality and experience: An anthropological perspective*. Cambridge University Press; Cambridge.
6. Dayakrishna. 2003. *India's Intellectual Traditions : Attempts at Conceptual Reconstructions*. ed. New Delhi: Indian Council of Philosophical Research.
7. Mohanty, J.N. 1993. 'Subject and Person: Eastern and Western modes of thinking about man,' in Bilimoria Purushottama (ed) J.N.Mohanty Essays on Indian philosophy Traditional and modern.

II. Science, Technology and Society

8. Bijker, Wiebe E.; Thomas P. Hughes and Trevor J. Pinch. 1987. *The social construction of technological systems: New directions in the sociology and history of technology*. The MIT Press; Massachusetts.
9. Marglin, Frederique Apffel and Stephen Marglin. 1990. *Dominating knowledge. Development, culture and resistance*. Clarendon Press; Oxford
10. Biagioli, Mario. 1999. *The science studies reader*. Routledge; New Delhi.
11. Kanjirakkat, Jobin M.; Gordon McOuat and Sundar Sarukkai. 2016. *Science and narratives of nature: East and West*. Routledge; New Delhi.
12. Papagaroufali, Elena. 1996. 'Xenotransplantation and transgenesis. Immoral stories about human-animal relations in the west,' in Philippe Descola and Gisli Palsson (Ed.) *Nature and society. Anthropological perspectives*. Routledge: London

13. Visvanathan, Shiv. 1997. *Atomic Physics. The Career of an imagination* in *Carnival of Science*, OUP; New Delhi.
14. Chamayou, Grégoire. 2013. *A Theory of the Drone*. New York, The New Press.

III. Knowledge and power

15. Breckenridge, Carol A.; Sheldon Pollock; Homi K. Bhabha and Dipesh Chakrabarty. 2002. *Cosmopolitanism*. Duke University Press; Durham.
16. Mignolo, Walter. 2000. *Local histories/Global designs*. Princeton University Press: Princeton.
17. Headrick, Daniel R. 1981. *The Tools of Empire : Technology and European Imperialism in the Nineteenth Century*. New York: Oxford University Press.
18. Rose, Hilary 2004. 'Hand Brain and Heart, A feminist epistemology for the natural sciences,' in Sandra Harding (Ed.) *The Feminist standpoint theory reader. Intellectual and political controversies* (67-80). New York: Routledge
19. Siva, Vandana. 1995. *Monocultures of the mind: Perspectives on biodiversity and biotechnology*. Zed Press: New Delhi
20. Guha, Ramachandra. 2006. 'Three environmental utopias,' in *How much should a person consume? Thinking through the environment* (71-89). Permanent Black; Delhi.
21. G. N Devy, Geoffrey V Davis, Kalyan Kumar Chakravarty and Bhāshā Saṁśodhana Prakāśana Kendra. 2009. *Indigeneity : Culture and Representation : Proceedings of the 2008 Chotro Conference on Indigenous Languages Culture and Society*. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan.
22. Baral, K.C. 2005. 'Ethnography and fiction: Verrier Elwin's world,' in *Between Ethnography and fiction* ed Subba,T.B and Sujit Som
23. Kashwan, Prakash. 2017. *Democracy in the Woods : Environmental Conservation and Social Justice in India Tanzania and Mexico*. New York NY: Oxford University Press.
24. Harding, Sandra. 1998. *Is Science Multicultural? Postcolonialisms, feminisms and epistemologies*. Indiana University Press: Bloomington
25. Sujatha, V. (Ed.). 2020. *Global Capital and Social Difference* (1st ed.). Routledge India: London.

IV. Sociology of Social science Knowledge

26. Eisenstadt, S.N. 2002. 'Mirror -image modernities: Contrasting religious premises of Japanese and US modernities' in Richard Madsen, William M.Sullivan, Ann Swidler et al Ed. *Meaning and modernity. Religion, polity and self*. University of California Press; California (pp 56-77).
27. Fuller, Steve. 2010. *The sociology of intellectual life: The career of the mind in and around the academy*. SAGE Publications Ltd; New Delhi.
28. Bourdieu Pierre. 1988. *Homo Academicus*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
29. Chakrabarty, Dipesh. 2011. 'History and the politics of recognition' in Anjan Ghosh, Tapati Guha-Thakurtha and Janaki Nair (ed.) *Theorising the present* (21-34), Oxford University Press: New Delhi
30. Huizer, Gerrit and Bruce Mannheim (Ed.) 1979. *The politics of anthropology* (pp 309 -318, 343-351). Mouton Publishers; The Hague.
31. Moose David. 2001. 'Peoples knowledge', participation and patronage: operations and Representations in rural development' in Bill Cooke and Uma Kothari (ed.) *Participation: The new tyranny?* (pp 16-35) Zed Books; London.