ANTH726

The Politics of Knowledge, Organised and Everyday Forms of Contestation

S2 Evening 2019

Dept of Anthropology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Lecturer
Kalpana Ram
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Contact via 98508016
Level 2 North Wing AHH (Hearing Hub)
Tuesday 3-5

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit examines some key debates in the politics of knowledge over the last twenty years, debates which have emerged from social movements, and made a substantial impact on academic disciplines, including on anthropology. Some of the questions we consider are: Can non-elite ('subaltern') groups 'speak for themselves'? What role do intellectuals play in these movements? What are the different kinds of intellectuals and transnational flows of ideas and organisational networks that have been generative of social movements? And how necessary are intellectuals to social movements that emerge from subordinate and marginalised groups? And finally, how do we understand contestation and more broadly, human agency, outside the context of discourses and organised projects of social movements and intellectuals?

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

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Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Class preparation and discussi	30%	Yes	Continuous
Knowledge Power and Midwives	25%	No	Week 5
Book Review	20%	No	Week 9
Analyse a social movement	25%	No	Weel 12

Class preparation and discussi

Due: **Continuous**
Weighting: **30%**
This is a hurdle assessment task (see assessment policy for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

This is the heart of the course: getting together each week and talking about our readings and experiences. Discussion should show a capacity to blend reading, and reflection on key readings for the week with life experiences.

Use your Discussion Preparation Guides to prepare (see ILearn) **and submit them in Week 7** so I can see how you are faring

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Knowledge Power and Midwives

Due: **Week 5**
Weighting: **25%**

Weighting: 25%

How do categories such as superstition, beliefs, tradition, dirt and ignorance play a part in the politics around midwifery?

How have midwives variously responded to this challenge? See ILearn and Reserve for all readings.

You can address this question at one or two of the following levels: - adaptations at the level daily practices - at the level of organisation - at the level of organised discourse, eg. feminist arguments as critique of biomedical birth - else as just plain old ‘talking back’ to authority

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Book Review

Due: **Week 9**
Weighting: **20%**

Review of one ethnography; using concepts learned in course either Foucault, de Certeau or Gramsci. 1500 words

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Analyse a social movement

Due: **Weel 12**
Weighting: **25%**

You can choose any one of the types of social movements discussed in this course. In doing so:

1. Trace the different ways in which the movement contests dominant representations and forms of knowledge (use Gramsci's concept of 'hegemony' to think about this), and attempts to produce new styles of discourse, new forms of knowledge.

2. In thinking about organisation and social movements, consider the transnational flows of theories, concerns and their re-localisation in particular places.

3. How do different kinds of understand 'rub up' in 'friction' (cf. Anna Tsing) against one another in the course of a coalition and mobilisation over specific issues?

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Delivery and Resources

Lecture short presentation

Seminar style discussion

ILearn

E Reserve

Films/Images

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy *(**Note:** The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)*

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of

Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

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Assessment tasks

- Class preparation and discussi
- Knowledge Power and Midwives
- Analyse a social movement

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

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PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

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PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

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PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

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PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

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