

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

WINTER 2009

ETHNIC STUDIES 289: BORDERS, WALLS AND BOUNDARIES

Prof. Mark Harris

Lecture: To be advised

Office Hours: To be advised

Ext.: **E-mail:** maharris@ucsd.edu

Office. Location: SSB Room 247

COURSE DESCRIPTION

While this title of the course is suggestive of an examination of physical places and the creation of specific geographic locales, the intention is to move beyond a descriptive or historical analysis to examine the meanings that are generated from and by the intersection of space, place, race and the law. Commencing with an examination of how the “New World” was first framed in international juridical thought we will reflect upon how the forces of colonization, imperialism and globalization have simultaneously given birth to geographic locations that offer, in the same moment, both specific and precise meanings whilst simultaneously possessing hybrid meanings that can be both intangible and indeterminate. The action of Partition, for example, which gives tangible form and content to the sovereign nation also, simultaneously, opens up a multiplicity of contested narratives of space, place and identity. The border-spaces that are both a spatial and ontological configuration provide us, on the one hand, with the opportunity to examine how spaces can be utilized as sites of oppression and violence – what Tuan would term “landscapes of fear.” Alternatively we can consider how these same sites can generate narratives of belonging and community – articulated in a range of media and forms of expression.

REQUIRED READINGS

Jassal, Smita Tewari Ben-Ari, Eyal, *The Partition Motif in Contemporary Conflicts*, Sage Publications, 2007

Rushdie, S., *Midnight's Children*

COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance & Course Participation	30 %
Final Paper - due end of week ten	70 %

Your final paper is a chance to work generally within the framework of concepts and theory we have covered during the course. The paper should be approximately 12-15 pages in length and will be due in the final week of the quarter. In addition you will be expected to prepare and present a short report on one or more of the assigned readings. These readings will be assigned in the first week of class.

SCHEDULE

Week One

Coming into Being: The Land and Appropriation of the New World

The course commences with the reading from Schmitt that frames the manner in which the law is integral to the earth and how, it might be argued, when it loses its connection with space it subsequently loses its purpose and effectiveness. Of particular significance for our purposes is the treatment by Schmitt of international law rules regarding the conquest and acquisition of territory in the “New World.”

Reading

Schmitt, C., *The Nomos of the Earth*, Telos Press, 2003, pp.86-139

Week Two

Cartographic imaginings: the role of the map in making borders, walls and boundaries

A consistent theme in the colonial appropriation of the lands of the “New World” was the manner in which geographical discourses and cartographic renderings were utilised to validate the ‘legality’ of territorial acquisition. The production of knowledge within maps was recognised by Said as being “imaginative geography” in the furtherance of the goals of Empire. While it is perhaps not possible to produce what Derek Walcott termed “geography without myth” it is important to reflect on how the original cartographic fictions confirmed the right of the colonisers to “claim” and to offer up instead the national discourses that take account of “hyphenated geographies”

Readings

Ramaswamy, S, “Maps and Mother Goddesses in Modern India”, *Imago Mundi*, Vol. 53 (2001), pp. 97-114

Huggan, G., "Decolonising the Map" *Ariel* 20(4) 1989
Mignolo, W., *Local histories/global designs*, Princeton, pp.3-48
Mignolo, W., "The Movable Centre, Geographical Discourses and Territoriality during the expansion of the Spanish Empire" in del Sarto, A., Rios, A., Trigo, A (eds), *The Latin American Cultural Studies Reader*, Duke University Press, pp.262-290
Neocleous, M., "Off the Map: On Violence and Cartography", *European Journal of Social Theory*, 2003, 6(4): 409-425
Craib, R., *Cartographic Mexico*, Duke University Press, pp.219-254

Week Three

The Colonia/Imperialist Moment & containing the racial "Other"

This week's class reflects on the manner in which how, to borrow from the Razack reading, the deployment of the law leads, almost inevitably, to the site where race means place. This phrase, borrowed from a Canadian judge, confirms how the law is productive of racialised readings of space and place. In the colonial context this was most evident in the treaties that created Indian reserves or were used to appropriate the lands of the Mexican population in the aftermath of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In the application of laws that either circumscribed and defined the place that the racial "Other" could (or must) occupy or in the exclusion of certain racial groups from territory we can see racialised writings of the borders, boundaries and wall that come to constitute the nation.

Readings

Gonzalez-Stephen, B., "On Citizenship: the Grammatology of the Body Politic" in del Sarto, A., Rios, A., Trigo, A (eds), *The Latin American Cultural Studies Reader*, Duke University Press, pp.384-405
Cole Harris, *Making Native Space*, 265-292
Razack, S., "When Place becomes race" in Razack, S (ed) *Race Space and the Law. Between the Lines*, 2002, pp.1-20
Klein, C., "Treaties of Conquest: Property Rights, Indian treaties and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo." *New Mexico Law Review*, 1996, vol.26, 201
Luna, G.T., "On the Complexities of Race: the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the case of Dred Scott v Sanford" *53 Univ. of Miami L.R.*, (1998) 53: 691

Week Four

Partition and the National Space

Partition of the national space – the redrawing of the lines of territorial sovereignty (albeit sometimes of a diluted nature) has been motivated by a range of motivations. In the period following the conflict of World War 2, for example, partition often represented a post-conflict attempt to resolve political conflict (such as occurred in Germany, Vietnam and Korea). Alternatively there have been other instances where partition has been there have been engendered by deep-seated religious, ethnic, racial or political divisions. The splintering of the former Yugoslavia, for example, was the almost inevitable manifestation of centuries of deep seated ethnic enmities. In the cases of Palestine, India and Ireland the process of partition was fuelled by religious conflict. At a

number of levels the action of partition can be seen to encompass a range of violent moments. The relatively benign action of cartographic creation, the fiction of naming place and space, inevitably begets displacement, conflict and violence.

Partition and India

Commencing with an examination of Metha's film and Rushdie's novel "Midnight's Children" we will consider the violence of the partition of India. Apart from the cartographic violence wrought by the Border Commission under the leadership of Sir Cyril Radcliffe the partition of India to create the new nation of Pakistan gave rise to religious violence on a massive scale that divided communities that had previously peacefully co-existed.

Readings and Film

Deepa Metha's film *The Earth*

Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*

Fazila-Yacoobali, Vazira(1999)'A rite of passage',*Interventions*,1:2,183 — 200

Menon, Ritu(1999)'Cartographies of nations and identities',*Interventions*,1:2,157 - 166

Week Five

Partition and Palestine

Following the recommendations of the British Royal Commission Palestine was divided according to the UN Partition plan of 29 November 1947 into a Jewish state (Israel) and an Arab state.

Readings

Ben Ze'ev, E., "The Cartographic Imagination: British mandate Palestine", in Tewari Jassal, S., & Ben-Ari, E (eds) *The Partition Motif in Contemporary Conflicts*, Sage, 2007, pp.

Ghanim, H., "Living in the Shadow of the Emergency in Palestine", in Tewari Jassal, S., & Ben-Ari, E (eds) *The Partition Motif in Contemporary Conflicts*, Sage, 2007, pp.

Gren, N., "A Homeland Torn Apart: Partition in a Palestinian Refugee Camp" in Tewari Jassal, S., & Ben-Ari, E (eds) *The Partition Motif in Contemporary Conflicts*, Sage, 2007, pp.

Zureik, E., "Constructing Palestine through Surveillance Practices", in Tewari Jassal, S., & Ben-Ari, E (eds) *The Partition Motif in Contemporary Conflicts*, Sage, 2007, pp.

Week Six

Partition and Germany (the Wall)

The creation of the Berlin Wall in 1961 to separate the communist held enclave from the Allied occupied portions of the city came to exemplify the Cold War tensions.

Consequently the dismantling of the Wall in 1989 is similarly imbued with significance as the moment where the forced detention of a whole population was ended. In our

consideration of the Wall we will reflect upon the demarcation of the city, with the creation of the “No-Man’s land” where 125 East German citizens who were trying to escape were killed. We will also examine the Berlin Wall from a contemporary perspective, considering how the memory of place still haunts the city and how the citizens of the former East Germany remain troubled by the extent to which the surveillance by the Stasi secret police permeated every level of life through a network of spies and informants.

Readings

Dietzsch, I., “Partition as a challenge to the homogenous German nation”, in Tewari Jassal, S., & Ben-Ari, E (eds) *The Partition Motif in Contemporary Conflicts*, Sage, 2007, pp.

Borneman, J., “Grenzregime (border regime) the Wall and its aftermath”, in Wilson, T & Donnan, H (eds), *Border Identities*, Cambridge University Press, pp.162-190.

Huysen, A., *Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory*, Stanford University Press, chapter 3, pp.49-71

Thelen, T., “Partition and Partings: the Paradox of German Kinship”, in Tewari Jassal, S., & Ben-Ari, E (eds) *The Partition Motif in Contemporary Conflicts*, Sage, 2007, pp.

Film

Goodbye Lenin

Additional readings

Funder, A., *Stasiland*, Granta books,

Week Seven

Borders as Places

In examining borders we move beyond the juridico-geographical designation of the intersection of national or state borders to a reflection of the myriad meanings that circulate in such sites. To borrow from Gloria Anzaldú, a border “is a dividing line, a narrow strip along a steep edge. A borderland is a vague and undetermined place created by the emotional residue of an unnatural boundary. It is in a constant state of transition. The prohibited and forbidden are its inhabitants.” In this week’s readings we consider the manner in which borders serve as both points of entry and exit, of acceptance and recognition and ultimately, belonging and impermanence.

Readings

Cunningham, Hilary and Heyman, Josiah(2004)'Introduction: Mobilities and Enclosures at Borders',*Identities*,11:3,289 — 302

Hyndman,A and A Mountz, Refuge or Refusal, *The Geography of Exclusion*, in D Gregory & A Pred, *Violent Geographies*, 77-92

Ramachandran, Sujata(1999)'Of boundaries and border crossings',*Interventions*,1:2,235 — 253

Torpey, J. *The invention of the passport*, CUP, pp.4-20

Week Eight

Borders: Sites of Criminality and (in) Security

In this week's class we will focus upon the US-Mexico border and the manner in which it has been characterized in many narratives as a law and order or security issue. The discourse of border policing is consistently framed in terms of "illegality" and the protection of the borders against criminals, drug smugglers. In recent years the debate has shifted to the creation of the US-Mexico fence as a physical embodiment of the need for protection. Closely linked to the analysis of the US Mexico fence (and the parallels that might be drawn with the construction of the Israeli fence on the Gaza strip) is the issue of the militarization of private citizens in organizations such as the "Minute Men project." We will consider how movements such as the Minute Men, along with the operation of local and State government ordinances which attempt to regulate or exclude so-called "unauthorized immigrants", can be seen as another form of border policing from within the private population. Another dimension of the Border Wall for consideration is how its passage of the *Secure Fence Act* has been criticized by the Tohono O'odham Indigenous peoples as an attack on their human rights and "psychological oppression and terrorism."

Readings

Nevins, J., *Operation Gatekeeper*, Routledge, pp.61-94

Cull, N., *Alambrista and the US Mexico Border*, Uni of New Mexico Press, 2004, pp.13-36.

Legislation

Secure Fence Act 2006

Film

Alambrista (dir. Robert Young, 1977)

Weeks Nine Borderlands

Borderlands and Landscapes of Fear

In recent times there has been much discussion of Agamben's concept of the "state of exception" particularly in relation to the creation of Guantanamo Bay, where the law is suspended and the individual has no protection. It is in such a space that we can also see various manifestations of what Tuan has called "landscapes of fear" and Razack has termed "death spaces." Drawing from Mbembe's work, along with Agamben's theory of the "state of exception" we will reflect on those sites where violence is done (often in the name of the government/state). From the disappeared in Argentina to the Mexican women who have been murdered in Ciudad Juarez, we will reflect on what are the conditions that give rise to such "landscapes of fear."

Readings

Camacho, A.S., *Gender Violence and the Denationalization of Women's Rights in*

- Ciudad Juárez, Mexico *Ciudadana X* pp.255-292
- Crenzel, E., Argentina's National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons, *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, Vol.2 (2008): 173-191
- D Gregory, Vanishing Points, Law Violence and Exception in the Global War Prison, in D Gregory & A Pred, (eds.) *Violent Geographies*, 205-236
- Hunt, S., Languages of Stateness: A Study of Space and El Pueblo in the Colombian State, *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 41, No. 3, October 2006
- Mbembe, A., Necropolitics, *Public Culture* 15(1): 11–40
- Williams, N., "The shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes: new border politics" *Alternatives* 32 (2007), 177–195

Film

Senorita Extraviada (Missing Young Woman)

Week Ten

Of Diaspora, Memory, and Topophilia

Inevitably the practices of exclusion, alienation and criminalisation that are generated through the legal ordering of space and place and the creation of borders/boundaries simultaneously generate narratives of belonging or nostalgic remembering. The borderlands and the sites occupied by those who are refugees or immigrants should not be thought of as empty barren terrains. Within such sites there are generated stories of connection to place and community, articulations and celebrations of culture and connection. Distinct from this sense of belonging in the impermanent place of non-citizenship is also the lingering dimension of what Yi Fu-Tuan has termed "topophilia" that is not merely a response to place but also serves to produce places (and narratives of places) for people.

Readings

- Bardenstein, C., "Figures of diasporic cultural production", in Baronian, M., Besser, S., & Jansen, Y (eds). *Diaspora and Memory*
- Bhalla, A., "Memories of a lost home: Partition in the Fiction of the subcontinent", in Tewari Jassal, S., & Ben-Ari, E (eds) *The Partition Motif in Contemporary Conflicts*, Sage, 2007, pp.
- Rushdie, S., "Imaginary homelands", in Ashcroft, B & Tiffin, H (eds), *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*, pp.428-434