

A Seminar on the Anthropology of Practice:
Body, Technology, and Meaning
Fall 2008 Semester
Th. 3-5:30 pm

What is it that anthropologists set out to know when they conduct ethnographies? What are the implicit assumptions of ethnographic knowledge-making techniques? What do these assumptions allow us to know, or not know, about the relationships between meaning and materiality embedded in these things anthropologists call culture and culture change? And, what are the representational challenges of conveying these relationships and transformations in ethnographic writing? Through the lens of Karl Marx, Pierre Bourdieu, and Michael Foucault, this seminar explores these questions as they have been considered throughout the history of anthropology and how they are being engaged in contemporary studies of globalization, cultural rights, emerging technologies, sustainability, and ethics.

With readings by:

Karl Marx, Pierre Bourdieu, Michael Foucault, Judith Farquhar, Margaret Lock, Anna Tsing, Chaia Heller, Timothy Mitchell, Paul Rabinow, Michael Paolisso, Michel Callon, Bruno Latour, Peter Brosius, David Hess, Deborah Heath, Anne Meneley, and many more!