

**Department of Sociology
Faculty of Social Sciences
South Asian University – New Delhi**

The Anthropology of Money and Work: Between Ethnography and World History

(Optional Course for MPhil)

Total Credits: 4

Objectives of the Course

This course is designed to introduce students to the concepts and tools necessary for critical engagement with a wide range of theories and practices involved in the study of money and work. Within the broader realm of economic anthropology, this course will focus on the overlaps between money, work and social organization. The course will build on the rich ethnographic literature that is already out there on reciprocal and redistributive aspects money in addition to the hegemonic discourse on money as a tool for exchange. The subdomain of money will be discussed in the broader domain of work and identity. What are the essences of being a worker or doing work? How are they situated within the broader realms of economies and societies? How do ideas of work negotiate their spaces within the complex hierarchies during the times of normalcy as well as crises? These are some of the questions students will be encouraged to ponder on.

This course takes the view that an interdisciplinary approach is necessary to understand economic overlap with society; not only the way people negotiate work for life but also the way industries grow and the way nation-states negotiate their economic trajectories. Similarly, money mediates identities as well as the reciprocal and redistributive elements of social structures. A puritanical economic approach to industrial and monetary analysis might be useful but not adequate. This course will combine anthropology and sociology with economics and finance to critically engage with the loaded topics such as socio-economic embeddedness, social capital, trust, etc. Classical and contemporary literature will be drawn liberally to examine how human beings insert themselves into the organisations of finance, industry and trade even though these are often expressed in anonymised idioms of demand and supply.

The course will pay close attention to case studies from South Asia although cases will be drawn from outside the region when appropriate. Despite taking on new directions, anthropology in South Asia still finds it difficult to appropriately situate the field narratives within the broader contexts of global processes and world history. Students will be encouraged to think critically about situating regional issues within global human history, while stressing the importance of money and work occupations in the way the politics of class, caste and gender play out.

It is not required that students have formal training in economics or finance prior to taking this course, nor are expertise of quantitative techniques mandatory. It is expected however that students have familiar with the basic concepts and categories on money and work.

Unit-1: Money and work – Classical anchors within Sociology

This unit will revisit the classics to bring back the focus on how anthropology/sociology has dealt with concept of money as well as exchange, reciprocity, redistribution and their overlaps with social organization. It will draw on Marx, Weber and Durkheim on how narratives of global capitalism, work and division of labour has been approached within anthropology; on Malinowski for ethnography of (non)-monetary valuables; on Marcel Mauss for reciprocity and prestation; on Karl Polanyi on the politics of redistribution; on Simmel for grand narrative of money and capitalism.

Durkheim E. 1960 [1893]. *The Division of Labour in Society*. Glencoi IL: Free Press.

Malinowski B. 1921. "The Primitive economics of the Troibrand Islanders". *Economic Journal* 3:11-16.

*Malinowski B. 1922. *Argonauts of the Western Pacific: An Account of Native Enterprise and Advenure in the archipelagos of Melanesian New Guinea*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Marx K. 1973 [1858]. *Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy*. NY: Vintage Books.

*Marx K. 1977 [1869] *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy*. Vol 1. Tr. B Fowkes. NY: Vintage Books.

Mauss. M. 1985 [1988]. "A Category of the Human Mind: The Notion of Person; The Notion of Self". Tr. by W. D. Halls. In *The Category of the Person: Anthropology, Philosophy, History*, eds. Carrithers, M. S. Collins and S. Lukes, pp 1-25. Cambridge: CUP.

*Mauss. M. 1990 [1925] *The Gift: The Form and Region for Exchange in Archaic Societies*. London: Routledge.

*Polanyi K. 1957. "The economy as instituted process". In *Trade and Market in the Early Empires: Economies in History and Theory*, eds. K Polanyi, C Arensberg, H Pearson, pp. 243-69. Glencoe IL: Free Press

Polanyi K. 1977 [1964]. "Money objects and money uses". In Polanyi K. 1977. *The Livelihood of Man: Studies in Social Discontinuity*, pp. 97–121. New York: Academic Press

*Polanyi K. 2001 [1944]. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Times*. Boston MA: Beacon.

*Simmel, G. 1978 [1900]. *The Philosophy of Money*. London: Routledge

Weber M. 1978 [1920]. *Economy and Society. An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*. Tr. G. Roth and C. Wittich. Berkeley: University of California Press.

*Weber M. 2003 [1922]. *General Economic History*. Tr. F. Knight. Martino Fine Books.

Unit-2: Money and work –Theorisations and Discourses

Building on the reading of the classics in the previous units, this unit will review and engage with the ongoing, contemporary discourse(s) on money and work as well as the broader question of society-economy embeddedness.

2.1: Money, debt and credit

*Hart, K. 1986. "Heads or tails? Two sides of the coin". *Man* (21)3: 637-56

Hart K. 2005a. "Money: one anthropologist's view". In *Handbook of Economic Anthropology*, ed. J Carrier, pp. 160-75. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

*Graeber D. 2001. *Toward an Anthropological Theory of Value. The False Coin of Our Own Dreams*. New York: Palgrave

Graeber D. 2009. "Debt, violence, and impersonal markets: Polanyian meditations". In *Market and Society: The Great Transformation Today*, ed C Hann, K Hart, pp. 106-32. Cambridge: Polity

*Graeber D. 2011. *Debt: The First 5,000 Years*. New York: Melville House

Guyer J I. 2010. "The Eruption of Tradition? On Ordinality and Calculation". *Anthropological Theory* 10: 123-31

*Ortiz H. 2013. "Financial value: economic, moral, political, global". *Hau. Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 3 (1): 64-79

Polanyi K. 1977 [1964]. "Money objects and money uses". In Polanyi K. *The Livelihood of Man. Studies in Social Discontinuity*, pp. 97–121. New York: Academic Press

Maurer B. 2005. "Finance". In *Handbook of Economic Anthropology*, ed. J Carrier, pp. 176-93. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

*Maurer B. 2006. "Anthropology of Money". *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 35: 15-36

Maurer B. 2012. "Finance 2.0". In *Handbook of Economic Anthropology: Second Edition* ed. J Carrier, pp. 183-201. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

*Parry J, Bloch, M, eds. 1989. *Money and the Morality of Exchange*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

*Zelizer V. 1979. *Morals and Markets: The development of life insurance in the United States*. New York: Columbia University Press

Zelizer V. 1994. *The Social Meaning of Money*. New York: Basic Books

2.2: Work, identity, livelihood

Breman, Jan. 1996. *Footloose Labour: Working in India's Informal Economy*. Cambridge University Press: New York.

*Burawoy, Michael. 1979. *Manufacturing Consent: Changes in the Labor Process under Monopoly Capitalism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Chandavarkar, R. 1994. *The Origins of Industrial Capitalism in India; Business Strategies and the Working Class in Bombay, 1900-1940*. Cambridge: CUP.

*James, CLR. 1989. *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*. Vintage Books

Mayhew. H. 1861. *London Labour and the London Poor*. Vol. I. London: London, Griffin, Bohn and Company.

*Mintz. 1953. "The folk-urban continuum and the rural proletarian community". *American Journal of Sociology*. 59: 136-0143.

Mintz. S. 2010. *Three Ancient Colonies: Caribbean Themes and Variations (Vol. 8)*. Cambridge: HUP.

Rudner, D.W. 1989. *Caste and Capitalism in Colonial India: The Nattukottai Chettiars*. University of California Press: Berkeley.

Singer, M. 1972. *When a Great Tradition Modernises: An Anthropological Approach to Indian Civilisation*. New York, Praeger Publishers.

Thompson, E.P. 1966. *The Making of the English Working Class*. Vintage: London.

*Thompson, E.P. 1967. "Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism". *Past and Present*. 38(1):56-97.

*Willis, Paul. 1977. *Learning to Labour: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs*. Ashgate: London.

*Wolpe, H. 1976. "The 'White Working Class' in South Africa". In *Economy and Society*. 5(2): 197-240.

Worby, E. 1992. *Remaking labour, reshaping identity: Cotton, commoditization and the culture of modernity in northwestern Zimbabwe*. PhD Thesis: McGill University.

2.3 Institutions and structures of political economy

*Beckert, J. 2009. 'The Great Transformation of Embeddedness: Karl Polanyi and the New Economic Sociology', in C. Hann and K. Hart (eds), *Market and Society: The Great Transformation Today*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Clegg, S.R. et al. eds. 1990. **Capitalism in Contrasting Cultures**. Walter de Gruyter: Berlin.

*Granovetter, M. 1985. 'Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness.' In *American Journal of Sociology*. 91. 481-510.

*Harriss, J. 2002. *Depoliticising Development: The World Bank and Social Capital*. Anthem Press: London.

Harriss, J. 2002. *Institutions, Politics and Culture: A Case for 'Old' Institutionalism in the Study of Historical Change*. DESTIN Working Paper Series ISSN 1470-2320. London.

Harriss, J. et al. eds. 1995. *The New Institutional Economics and Third World Development*. Routledge: London.

*McNeil, D. 2010. "Social Capital", in K. Hart, J. Laville and A.D. Cattani, *The Human Economy*. Malden: Polity.

North, D. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

*Piore, M. and C. Sabel. 1984. *The Second Industrial Divide: Possibilities for Prosperity*. Basic Books: New York.

Putnam, R. 2000. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. Simon and Schuster: New York.

Whitley, R. 1999. *Divergent Capitalisms: The Social Structuring and Change of Business Systems*. Oxford University Press: London.

Unit-3: Empirical Work

This unit will focus on the empirical work on these topics. The list is not meant to be exhaustive and it is understood that more/updated literature be added based on literature review being updated every year.

3.1 Money, debt and credit

Gregory C. 1997. *Savage Money: The anthropology and politics of commodity exchange*. Amsterdam: Harwood

Guyer J I. 2004. **Marginal Gains. Monetary Transactions in Atlantic Africa**. Chicago, IL: Chicago University Press.

Guyer J I. 2012. *Soft Currencies, Cash Economies, New Monies: Past and Present*. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 109(7): 2214-21

Ho K. 2009. *Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street*. Durham: Duke University Press

*Maurer B. 2005. *Mutual Life, Limited: Islamic Banking, Alternative Currencies, Lateral Reason*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press

*Ortiz H. 2012. "Anthropology – of the financial crisis". In *Handbook of Economic Anthropology*: Second Edition, ed. J Carrier, pp. 585-96. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

Zelizer V. 1998. "The proliferation of social currencies". In *The Laws of the Markets*, ed. M Callon, pp. 58-68. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers

*Zelizer V. 2005. *The Purchase of Intimacy*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press

3.2 Work, identity, livelihood

*Chari, S. 2004. *Fraternal Capital: Peasant-Workers, Self-Made Men, and Globalisation in Provincial India*. California: Stanford University Press.

*Harriss-White, B. 2003. *India Working: Essays on Economy and Society*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

*Harriss, J. 2003. 'The Great Tradition Globalises: Reflections on Two Studies of "The Industrial Leaders" of Madras.' In *Modern Asian Studies*. 37. 327-362.

Hart, K. 1988. 'Kinship, Contract, and trust: The Economic Organisation of Migrants in an African City Slum.' In D. Gambetta eds. *Trust: Making and Breaking Cooperative Relations*. 176-93. Blackwell Publishers: Oxford.

- Hensman, Rohini. 2011. *Workers, Unions and Global Capitalism: Lessons from India*. NY: Columbia University Press.
- *Ong, A. 1997. *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline: Factory Women in Malaysia*. State University of New York Press: New York.
- *Ortner, S.B. 1999. *Life and Death on Mt. Everest: Sherpas and Himalayan Mountaineering*. Oxford University Press: New Delhi.
- *Parry, J., Breman, J. and K. Kapadia eds. (1999). 'The Worlds of Indian Industrial Labour.' In *Contributions to Indian Sociology*. Sage Publications: New Delhi
- Rudner, D.W. 1989. *Caste and Capitalism in Colonial India: The Nattukottai Chettiars*. University of California Press: Berkeley.
- *Shakya, M. 2018. *Death of an Industry: The Cultural Politics of Garment Manufacturing during the Maoist Revolution in Nepal*. Cambridge: CUP
- Singer, M. 1972. *When a Great Tradition Modernises: An Anthropological Approach to Indian Civilisation*. New York, Praeger Publishers.

Unit-4: Student fieldwork within Delhi

Students will be required to conduct an ethnographic fieldwork within or outside Delhi on any theme they choose which should be related to money and work. This fieldwork may either continue during the semester if this is within Delhi or students may go to field during one or more long weekends during the semester.

Each student will have to come up with an individual fieldwork proposal before the midsemester exam which will acquire 5 marks. A complete fieldwork report (not a dissertation) will have to be written before the endsemester exams and will entail 15 marks. Both the proposal and fieldwork report will be presented and discussed in class.

NOTE: *denotes required reading; the rest are recommend reading.