



Social Change: A Graduate Seminar

Tuesdays, 9:50-12:30
Davison Hall 128
Rutgers University, Spring 2013
(16.920.572.01)

Convened by **Böröcz József**

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office hours: Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 at József's office
OR TBA



This is a graduate reading seminar probing the intellectual foundations of the comparative-historical sociology of social change and, more specifically, of modernity, by mapping on each other two narratives: /1/ the—for lack of a better term—“scholarly” language of the social sciences and /2/ intellectual production treated, since the west European Enlightenment, as something different from the above, labeled “fiction.”

The course addresses some fundamental conceptual issues of comparative historical research and surveys some of the best studies on various aspects of social change available in English, paying special attention to notions of teleology, coloniality, and their particularly noxious product, Euro-centrism. It works through discussions of the issues emerging from the readings, and József’s occasional summaries of contextual and/or background information. Class discussion—a scholarly, intellectual give-and-take—is thus the most important component of this course. You are required to come completely prepared, including a thorough, “quality-time” reading of the texts, and a mature, constructive, active and intellectually exciting agenda. There will be occasional, short “homework”-style assignments, some of which may not show up in this syllabus.

You are required to prepare a one-page summary of the key points of each week’s readings and upload them to sakai.rutgers.edu, **by 6 pm on the Monday preceding each class meeting**. These outlines will serve both as tools to start the discussion and as items in a collectively produced archive of the ideas from this class for later reference.

Grading—an uncanny manifestation of the urge, so characteristic of modernity, to quantify the un-quantifiable—will be based on a judicial combination of /1/ your contribution to constructing the class as an creative intellectual space, /2/ your short assignments, and /3/ your paper.

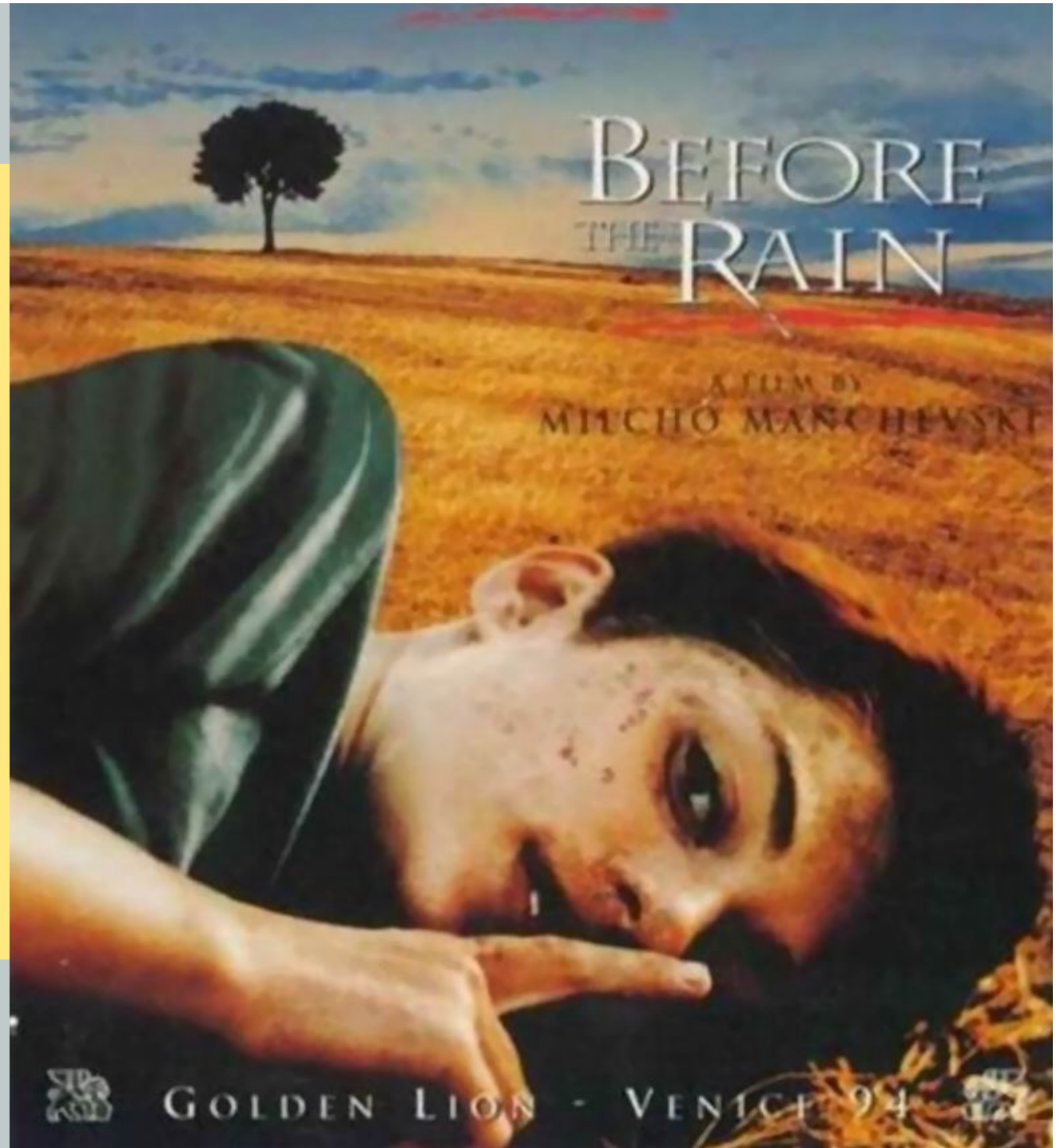
For your *paper*, develop a maximum 5000-word study on a topic that falls within the broadly conceived subject matter of the course. Book reviews are unacceptable. I will be happy to consider alternative genres as long as their choice is well justified (documentary video, photo-essay, etc.). The ideal project will relate some unique empirical material to theoretical issues relevant to social change in a creative way. Submit a title-plus-150-word topic statement to me as soon as possible, but no later than the class on **March 5**. Do use my office hours to discuss possible topics and approaches. You may submit your outline via email (see my address above). We shall use the last two classes for a mini-conference of the projects, to receive comments/suggestions/criticisms. The final version of the paper is due *one week after the last day of classes (5 pm, May 6, 2013)*. Submit it by email to me.

January 22:

Intro: Class Organisation +
Basic Issues in Social Change

Film-in-class:

Before the Rain
(113 min, USA, 1994,
dir.: Milcho Manchevski)



January 29: **The European Man Knows Be(a)st**

Kipling, Rudyard. 1890. "Mark of the Beast." Get it from here: <http://www.readbookonline.net/readOnLine/2420/> or here: http://www.litgothic.com/PDFOther/kipling_mark_of_beast.pdf

Kipling, Rudyard. 1988. "White Man's Burden." [here](http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/world_civ/worldcivreader/world_civ_reader_2/kipling.html): http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/world_civ/worldcivreader/world_civ_reader_2/kipling.html or [here](http://www.online-literature.com/kipling/922/): <http://www.online-literature.com/kipling/922/>

Weber, Max. 1920 (1998). "Prefatory Remarks' to Collected Essays in the Sociology of Religion." Pp. 149-64 in *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Los Angeles, 2nd Roxbury Edition.

Gerschenkron, Alexander. 1952 (1992). "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective." Pp. 131-58 in Mark Granovetter and Richard Swedberg (eds.) *The Sociology of Economic Life*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. **See in SAKAI: resources!**



THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.— *The Journal, Detroit.*



February 5:
Get Modern, Man!

Eisenstadt, Shmuel N. 1964. "Social Change, Differentiation and Evolution." *American Sociological Review*, 29,3 (June):375-86.

Lerner, Daniel. 1968. "Modernization. Social Aspects." Pp. 386-95. in David L. Sills (ed.) *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences. Volume 10*. New York: The Macmillan Company & the Free Press.

Portes, Alejandro. 1973. "Modernity and Development: A Critique." *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 1973, 8, 3(Fall): 247-279.

Buck-Morss, Susan. 2009. *Hegel, Haiti, and Universal History*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Böröcz József. 1997. "Social Change with Sticky Features and the Failures of Modernizationism." *Innovation*. 10,2: 161-70. http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~jborocz/sticky_features.pdf

Feburary 12: The Re-Morphation

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1848 (2000). *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. Get it from here:
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/index.htm>

Kafka, Franz. 1916 (2003). "The Metamorphosis." Find it here:
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/5200/5200-h/5200-h.htm> or here:
<http://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/stories/kafka-e.htm>



February 19:

Empire, Coloniality and Histories for Valid Persons

Böröcz, József and Mahua Sarkar. 2012. "Empires." in Anheier, Helmut and Mark Juergensmeyer (eds.) *The Encyclopedia of Global Studies*.

<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/access/content/user/jborocz/Encyclopedia%20of%20Global%20Studies-1.pdf>

Böröcz, József and Mahua Sarkar. 2012. "Colonialism." in Anheier, Helmut and Mark Juergensmeyer (eds.) *The Encyclopedia of Global Studies*.

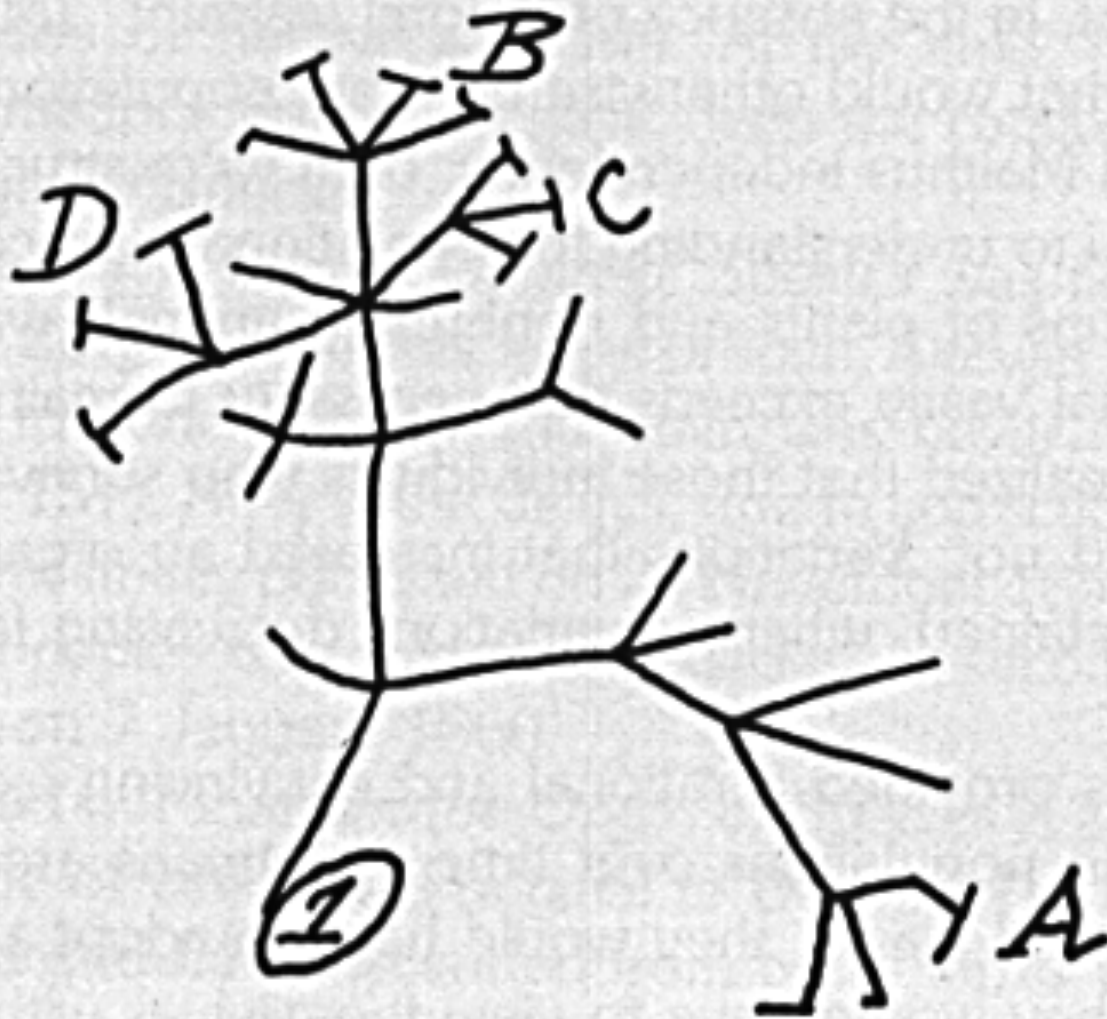
<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/access/content/user/jborocz/Encyclopedia%20of%20Global%20Studies.pdf>

Rodney, Walter. 1968 (2001). "African History In the Service of the Black Liberation." *Small Axe*, 10 (September):66-80.

Carter, Martin. 1974 (1993). "A Free Community of Valid Persons. Address to the University of Guyana's Eighth Convocation Ceremony." *KYK-over*, 44:30-2.

Robinson, Cedric J. 1983. *The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. **Part 3: Black Radicalism and Marxist Theory** (pp. 175-318).





Charles Darwin (1837)

February 26:

Denial of Co-Evalness

Fabian, Johannes. 1983. *Time and the Other. How Anthropology Makes Its Object*. New York: Columbia University Press

Recommended:

Durkheim, Emile. 1915 (1965). *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*. New York: The Free Press.

March 5: Modern? World? System?



Ghosh, Amitav. 2008. *Sea of Poppies*. New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux.

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1974. "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 16, 4 (Sep): 387-415. See in Sakai or here: <http://classes.uleth.ca/200501/anth2010a/Wallersteing.pdf>

Böröcz, József. 2009 / 2010. *The European Union and Global Social Change: A Critical Geopolitical-Economic Analysis*. London: Routledg. ONLY CHAPTERS 1 and 2!



March 12:

Identities: Invention, Tradition, Nationalism

Hobsbawm, Eric and Terence Ranger (eds.) 1983. *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Only the following chapters:

- Introduction: Inventing Traditions by Eric Hobsbawm (1-14)
- Mass-Producing Traditions: Europe, 1870-1914 by Eric Hobsbawm (263-308)

Anderson, Benedict. 1983 (1991). *Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Revised edition. London: Verso.

Balibar, Etienne. 1988. "Racism and Nationalism." Pp. 37-68 in Etienne Balibar and Immanuel Wallerstein: *Race, Nation, Class. Ambiguous Identities*. London: Verso.

March 26: Microhistory



Ginzburg, Carlo. 1980. *The Cheese and the Worms. The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller*. (Transl. by John and Ann Tedeschi.) Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

April 2: Reconstruction of A Life-World



Davis, Natalie Zemon. 1983. *The Return of Martin Guerre*. Cambridge: Harvard UP.

April 9:
Subjecthood / History



Sarkar, Mahua. 2008. *Visible Histories, Disappearing Women: Producing Muslim Womanhood in Late Colonial Bengal*. Durham, NC and London: Duke University Press.

Scott, Joan Wallach. 1991. "The Evidence of Experience." *Critical Inquiry*, 17, 4 (Summer): 773-97. **Also in Sakai.**

Scott, Joan Wallach. 1996 (1988). "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis." pp. 152-80. in Joan Wallach Scott (ed.) *Feminism and History*. Oxford: OUP.



April 16 :

Standpoints / Histories

Pavić , Milorad. 1989.
Dictionary of the Khazars. A lexicon novel. New York:
Vintage.

Harding, Sandra. 2003. "How
Standpoint Methodology
Informs Philosophy of Social
Science." Chapter 3 in
Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Bieber
and Patricia Leavy (eds.)
*Approaches to Qualitative
Research. A Reader on
Theory and Practice.* New
York: Oxford University Press.

Last two meetings (April 23 and 30):
Miniconference of paper projects

