

## Economic Anthropology

May 3 - 10, 2010

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Through this intensive course, we will go through some of the concepts and perspectives of economic anthropology. The aim is to place the study of economic anthropology in larger cultural contexts and explore phenomena of exchange, property and social transformation. The course will focus on the use of economic anthropology in the students' own work, and how it comes in as a "handy" analytical tool in various forms of anthropological studies. The course will be taught jointly by Pernille Hohnen and Ida Harboe Knudsen.

Pernille will teach 3 sessions and Ida 6 sessions of 2 x 45 minutes. Furthermore Ida will be in charge of two sessions of there will be two sessions of discussions. Students will also be expected to prepare short group presentations for the class. The last session will contain an open answer exam, and after end course the students will be required to turn in a paper, minimum 5 pages, maximum 10 pages. The final grade will be based on a) *participation in classes and discussions* b) *the open answer exam* and c) *the final paper*

Ida starts with an overview of the trends in economic anthropology, such as formalism, substantivism and culturalism. Next we exam general money and exchange theories in anthropology. This is followed up by economy and property in transition in the post-socialist context. Finally we discuss approaches to use of economic anthropology in research related to market, transition and consumption.

Pernille's lectures are all examples of how anthropological understandings of money and economy can be applied in concrete research. The first lecture is about qualitative money and presents findings from a research project about the qualitative 'marking' of money among poor families in the Scandinavia. The second lecture is about Gariunai market and shows how the development of the market place and market trading can be interpreted symbolically and culturally in various ways all contributing to an understanding of 'transition' back in the 1990s. The final lecture will be about consumption with special emphasis on ethnic groups as consumers.

***1. Introduction; what is economic anthropology?***

03-05-2010 (Ida Harboe Knudsen)

9.30 – 11.00

*Readings for the first lecture:*

Wilk, Richard R. and Cligget, Lisa, *Economies and Cultures. Foundations of Economic Anthropology* Pp1-48

Hart, Keith and Hann, Chris, *A Short history of Economic Anthropology*, Pp 1-27

***Session of discussion***

03-05-2010 Ida Harboe Knudsen)

16.00 – 17.30

*Prepare to answer the questions below:*

- What are the problems with the formalist/substantivist approaches according to Wilk?
- What are the aspects and problems feminists have been pointing to with regard to economic anthropology and the substantivist/formalist debate?
- Are these (feminist) points still valid today?
- Which are the three positions in anthropology Wilk points to?
- How do we define economy in our work?
- How does the substantivist/ formalist debate shape our own writings on economic anthropology?

## **2. Money, exchange, work and the misrecognition of favors**

Part one: Money and Exchange theories

04-05-2010 (Ida Harboe Knudsen)

10 00 – 11 45

*Readings for the second lecture:*

Parry, J. Bloch, M., *Money and the Morality of Exchange* Pp. 1-33

Gell, Alfred, *Inter-tribal commodity barter and reproductive gift-exchange in old Melanesia*, pp. 142-169, In: Humphrey, Caroline and Hugh-Jones, Steven, *Barter, exchange and value. An anthropological approach.*

### **Session of discussion.**

05-05-2010 (Ida Harboe Knudsen)

16.00 – 17.30

Prepare the questions below:

-Where are Bloch and Parry placed in the substantivist/formalist debate?

-Where is Gell placed in the debate?

(and argue for your answer!)

-What kind of exchange do Bloch and Parry point to?

-How do we understand Gell's modes of gift-exchange?

-How would Hart and Hann view contributions like Bloch and Parrys and Gells in their analysis of the history of anthropology: where would they place it in the time-line and what - you imagine - would their opinion about it be?

## **3. Money, exchange, work and the misrecognition of favors**

Part two: Labor, exchange and misrecognition

05-05-2010, (Ida Harboe Knudsen)

9.30 – 11.00

*Readings for the third lecture:*

Bourdieu, Pierre, *Outline of a Theory of Practice*, pp. 159-198

#### **4. The social Meaning of Money. Examples from Scandinavia**

05-05-2010 (Pernille Hohnen)

16.00 – 17.30

##### *Readings:*

Hohnen, Pernille, 'Having the wrong kind of money. A qualitative analysis of new forms of financial, social and moral exclusion in consumerist Scandinavia', *The Sociological Review*, vol. 55 no 4.

Zelizer, Viviana (1997), Chapter 1, 'The Marking of Money, in: *The Social Meaning of Money. Pin Money, Paychecks, Poor Relief, and other Currencies*', Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, pp. 1-35.

Kochuyt, T. (2004), "Giving away one's poverty: On the consumption of scarce resources within the family". *The Sociological Review*, 52 (2): 139–61.

#### **5. Economy in a post-socialist context**

Part one: Property rights, property relations and blat

06-05-2010 (Ida Harboe Knudsen)

9.30 – 11.00

##### *Readings for the lecture:*

Ledeneva, Alena; *Russia's Economy of Favours*, pp. 1-39

Hann, Chris, "Not the Horse We Wanted!" *The Demise of Cooperative Property in Tázlár*. Working Paper no. 26, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

##### *Optional reading:*

Hann, Chris, *The Tragedy of the Privates? Postsocialist Property Relations in Anthropological Perspective*. Working Paper no. 02, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

#### **6. Gariunai - A Market out of place? Ethnography in/of the market place.**

06-05-2010, (Pernille Hohnen)

18.00 -19.30

##### *Readings:*

Hohnen, Pernille (2003), *A Market out of Place? Remaking Economic, Social and Symbolic Boundaries in post-Communist Lithuania*, Oxford: Oxford University Press. (pp 1-17, 50-66, 113-147)

### **7. Anthropological perspectives on Organizations and Business Culture**

07-05-2010 (Pernille Hohnen)

9.30 – 11.15

#### *Readings:*

Wright, Susan, (1994), 'Culture' in anthropology and organizational studies. *Anthropology of Organizations*, Wright, Susan (ed.), London and New York: Routledge, pp. 1-31.

Hirsch, Eric and Gellner, David, N. (2001) 'Introduction: Ethnography of Organizations and Organizations of Ethnography', Eric Hirsch and David N. Gellner, in Gellner, David N. and Hirsch, Eric (eds.) *Inside Organizations: Anthropologists at Work*, Oxford and New York: Berg, pp. 1-19.

Emirbayer, Mustafa and Johnson, Victoria (2008), 'Bourdieu and organizational analysis', *Theory and Society*, vol 37, no. 1, pp. 1-44.

### **8. Economy in a post-socialist context**

Part two: Markets, Morality and Consumption

07-05-2010 (Ida Harboe Knudsen)

12.00 – 13.30

#### *Reading for the lecture:*

Humphrey, Caroline, Mandel, Ruth, *Markets and Moralities*, pp 1-17

Knudsen, Ida, *EUropeanization of the market place* (chapter from dissertation)

### **9. Where do we go next?**

10-05-2010 (Ida Harboe Knudsen)

10.00 – 11.30

Repetition of the main texts and points.

A comparative look on writings in Economic Anthropology

Old debates and recent trends.

### **10. Open answer exam**

10-05-2010

12.30 – 14.00

