Week 1 Introduction to the course

Week 2: Studying crime anthropologically

‘...It is a crime to kill a neighbor, an act of heroism to kill an enemy, but who is an enemy and who is a neighbor is purely a matter of social definition’.

—E. R. Leach (1968:27)

These are the key questions we will discuss in the introductory section. We will frame this discussion through an analysis of what has been called the "the Goffman Controversy". Please do your own research and write 300 words about "the controversy" and take your notes to the class.

Required Reading


And Any One of the Following:


Further Readings


**Week 3: Gangster or Social Bandit?**

This week we consider the so called ‘social bandit debate’ which sparked between Hosbawm and Blok in the 1970s. We shall discuss if the ‘social bandit/’Robin Hood’ template has universal qualities? Can a gangster be also a ’social bandit’? Are ‘social bandits’ and ‘gangsters’ mutually exclusive categories? How are powerful criminal-hero mythologies constructed?

Research on the web (press, books, movies, you tube...) and collect information about one of the following figures of ‘banditry' in contemporary India:

**Group 1: Pholan Devi aka ‘the Bandit Queen’**

**Group 2: Veerappan aka ‘the Jungle Cat’**

**Required Reading (any 2)**


Ethnographic examples of social banditry (any 1):


Further Reading


Week 4: the Hustler
The purpose this week is to think cross-culturally about the figure of the hustler. We shall look at ‘the art of making do’ in different contexts and explore the border/ frictions between informal/formal economies, legality, semi-illegality and organized crime. How do ethnographies of ‘contact zones’ help anthropologists to study crime and/or economic informality? Where does ‘informality’ stops and ‘organized crime’ start?
Required Reading


And (any of the two)


Italy


Ethiopia, South Africa, Cote D’Ivoire, Chad


Further readings


Week 5: Extortion/Protection

We shall explore extortion and racketeering in different settings. Protection money is the bread and butter of mafia-like groups across the world. We will analyse ethnographies of extortion of three criminal organization: the Sicilian Cosa Nostra, the Russian Mafia and the Japanese Yakuza. Our key research question is: is extortion a cross-cultural phenomenon? What does an anthropology of intimidation and blackmail look like?

Read at least 2 of these articles (some are very short):


Michelutti, L. (nd). Circuits of protection and extortion. Ethnographic notes on sovereignty in a provincial North Indian town.

Then read at least 1 article from the following "Mafia/Extortion" ethnographic packages

Sicilian Cosa Nostra


*The Russian Mafia*


*The Yakuza*

DE Kaplan, A Dubro (2012). *Yakuza: Japan’s criminal underworld* - Introduction


**Further Readings**


Reports


Videos/Documentaries/Movies


The Mafia Secrets Bunkers by John Dickey (Professor of Italian UCL) http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01s94zv

Movies:

- Gomorrah (on Camorra, Naples)
- Il divo: La spettacolare vita di Giulio Andreotti
- Gangs of Wasseypur 1 and 2 (on India mafias and politics)

Week 6: Reading Week

Week 7: Smuggling and trafficking
This week we shall explore ‘smuggling’ and ‘trafficking – in particularly we shall analyse ethnographies of drug trafficking

**Required Readings:**


**Any 1 of the following**

**On drug trade:**


Sneed, P. and M. Edberg (2001). "Drug Traffickers as Social Bandits:
Culture and Drug Trafficking in Northern Mexico and the Border Regions."  
*Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* 17(3).

**Further Readings**


**Documentary:** *Cocaine Cowboys* (2006)

**Week 8: Rape**

We shall watch the movie/documentary **In-Class Documentary: India’s Daughter** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQZQFlip9gM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQZQFlip9gM)

**Required Reading:**

Clarinda Still (forthcoming) *Dalit Women, Rape and the Revitalisation of Patriarchy?*

**And one of the Following:**


Gethin Chamberlain: A shocking series of brutal attacks has led to a national debate on sexual violence. The Observer asked a group of young men in Goa for their views.


**Week 9: Piracy and Counterfeiting**

**Required Reading (any ONE)**


**And any TWO of the following:**


**Week 10: Ethnographies of Prisons**

**Required Reading**


HM Prison Service – A SURVIVAL GUIDE by Carl Cattermole (attached)

And one of the following


Further readings


Timerman, J. (2002) *Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number* (University of Wisconsin Press).