

Rationalities and their habitats: An Introduction to Science and Technology Studies

Friday 2-5
Herzstein Hall 122
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Introduction: This class will focus on work done in the social and historical sciences that either takes science and technology as its primary object of study, or must deal in some fashion with its existence on the margins or in the center of a study. The class teaches methods for the comparison of scientific and technological rationalities, as they exist in and structure the contemporary world.

Prerequisites: This is an upper-level undergraduate and graduate seminar. 1st and 2nd year undergrads should seek instructor's permission to participate. Research experience in the social or historical sciences will be helpful.

Requirements:

1. Discussion.
2. Research Paper

Required Texts, available at the bookstore (hopefully):

- Carl Schmidt, *The Concept of the Political*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996 [1932].
- Bruno Latour, *Science in Action*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987.
- Ian Hacking, *Taming of Chance*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
- Geoff Bowker and Susan Leigh Star, *Sorting Things Out*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1999.

1 Part One: Science and Technology studies

- Aug 31: Introduction.
- Sep 07: The Concept of the Political
Required:
 - *The Concept of the Political**Optional:*
 - Blumenberg, *The Legitimacy of the Modern Age*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1983. esp. (Part I, Section 8)
- Sep 14: Science Studies I: Science in Action
Required:
 - Bruno Latour, *Science in Action*
- Sep 21: Latour cont'd
Readings:
 - Bruno Latour, *Science in Action*
 - Latour, “Drawing Things together”, in *Representation and Scientific Practice*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1988.
- Sep 28: Science Studies II: Probability, Statistics, Risk
Required
 - Ian Hacking, *The Taming of Chance*
 - Francois Ewald, Selections from *L’Etat Providence*
 - Christopher Kelty, “Life is a series of tests...some just count more”
- Oct 05: Science Studies III: Standards, Technologies, Laws
Required:
 - Ken Alder, “Making Things the Same” *Social Studies of Science*
 - Bowker and Star, *Sorting Things Out*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1999.

Optional:

- Philip Mirowski, “Looking for those natural numbers”
- Oct 12: No Class
- Oct 19: Technology and Design
 - Required:*
 - Siegfried Gideon, *Mechanization Takes Command*
 - Branden Hookway, *Pandemonium*
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- Oct 26: Media Theory, sociology of media
 - Required:*
 - Friedrich Kittler, *Film, Gramophone, Typewriter*
 - Friedrich Kittler, “Protected Mode”, “There is no software”,
 - other selected articles.

2 Part II: Comparative Rationalities

2.1 Advocacy, Citizenship and Equity

- Nov 02: Paul Farmer, Selections *Infections and Inequalities*
- Nov 09: Kim Fortun Advocating Bhopal
- Nov 16: Selections from Cori Hayden, *When Nature Goes Public* Adriana Petryna *Chrnobyl Effects*
- Nov 23: Thanksgiving.
- Nov 30: AAA No Class (Nov 26?)

2.2 Benchmarks

- Dec 07: Marilyn Strathern, *Audit Cultures*, additional readings TBA
- Dec 14: Charles Sabel “Learning by Monitoring”, Sklair Transnational Capitalist class, esp. chapter 4.

Final Papers Due