Anthro 256B   **Secrecy, Security, and Surveillance**   Thursdays 2-5pm
Spring '21   online
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Questions about secrecy, surveillance and security have gained global attention in the past decade through WikiLeaks, the prosecution of Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden and the on-going revelations about massive programs of government and corporate surveillance of ordinary citizens' routine activities. The contemporary moment has distinctive characteristics that we must analyze, the role of digital technologies clearly being one. However, questions about secrecy and processes of securitization also are rooted in enduring and fundamental issues about the construction of public and private domains, relations of citizenship and sovereignty, the consequences of militarization for everyday life, and the ways that the fabrics of societies are woven of both trust and deceit.

The course readings are drawn from recent books by leading theorists and ethnographers who document, analyze, and historically contextualize contemporary conditions. These readings, some by anthropologists and some by scholars in other fields, will allow us to reflect on the many methodological challenges as well as theoretical issues raised by research on or in security states and to consider the social effects of various forms of secrecy and surveillance.

We will generally read a different monograph each week, each one revealing something new about surveillance, security, and secrecy. The studies are diverse in their settings, methods, theoretical perspectives, and writing styles. Some of the questions we will consider include: what does anthropology in particular have to contribute to the understanding of various forms of surveillance, its social consequences, and people's responses to it? What are the politics of ethnography that arise in the context of research on security, secrecy, and surveillance? What are the challenges faced by anthropologists in addressing controversial issues in their research? What issues arise in the anthropologist's relation to her/his subjects in conducting researching on secrecy? What new methodological and ethical issues arise from digital technologies and social media? The course is conducted as a seminar organized around the analysis and discussion of class readings and student research projects.

REQUIRED TEXTS: (ordered at UCI Bookstore and on reserve at Langson)

Browne *Dark Matters: On the Surveillance of Blackness*

Ghertner, McFann and Goldstein, eds. *Futureproof: Security Aesthetics and the Management of Life*

Zuboff *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*

Verdery *My Life as a Spy*

Ryan-Flood and Gill, eds. *Secrecy and Silence in the Research Process: Feminist Reflections*

ASSIGNMENTS:
1) Regular and informed contributions to class discussion.
2) For each week you will prepare a written set of 5 or more possible questions for general discussion relating to issues of theory, methods, writing style, and/or the politics of ethnography raised by the assigned text.
3) Each student will choose one of the assigned books to present to the class and facilitate discussion. You are welcome to coordinate with others who choose the same book and focus on different facets. Presenting and facilitating may include posing questions for class discussion, advancing your own critique of the book, contextualizing the work in relation to the author's other research, among other things.
4) Paper proposal: you will write a 3 page abstract/proposal outlining the paper you plan to write for this course.
5) A Research Paper: (15 pages)
Option 1: [conference paper or article model] The paper can be a research paper tightly focussed on a relevant topic of the student's choice.
Option 2: [literature review or orals documents model] The paper can be a review essay presenting an overview and critical analysis of the scholarship on a particular topic.
Option 3: [grant proposal model] The paper can take the form of a proposal outlining a research agenda for exploring a question related to the themes of the course.

GRADING: 40% on oral work (contributions to class, oral presentations) and 60% on written work.

SEMINAR TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE

Week 1: April 1   Introductions and planning

Week 2: April 8   Racializing Bodies and Policing Boundaries
        TEXT: Browne *Dark Matters: On the Surveillance of Blackness*

Week 3: April 15   Securitization in Global Perspective
        TEXT: Ghertner et al *Futureproof: Security Aesthetics and the Management of Life* Intro, Afterword and Chapters (1-5) by Bernal, Zeiderman, Jusionyte, Carter, and Jaffe

Week 4: April 22 Everyday Lives and Security Cultures
        TEXT: Ghertner et al *Futureproof: Security Aesthetics and the Management of Life* Chapters (6-10) by Diney-Flores and Denshock, Hall, Sammimian-Durash, Simone, and Martinez

Week 5: April 29   Oral presentations and **Paper proposals due in class.**

Week 6: May 6   Digital Surveillance, Datafication, and Resistance
        TEXT: Zuboff *Surveillance Capitalism*

Week 7:   May 13 Research as and on Secrecy and Surveillance
        TEXT: Ryan-Flood and Gill, eds. *Secrecy and Silence in the Research Process: Feminist Reflections* Intro and Parts I and II

Week 8:   May 20 Feminist Interventions and Knowledge Production
        TEXT: Ryan-Flood and Gill, eds. *Secrecy and Silence in the Research Process: Feminist Reflections* Part III

Week 9 May   27 (In)security and Ethnography
        TEXT: Vedery *My Life as a Spy*

Week 10 June 3   Student Research Presentations and final discussion

Final Papers Due on June 11th.