HTS 6124

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BEYOND BORDERS

Prof J. Kringe

FALL TERM, 2015

WEDNESDAYS 4.05pm – 6.55pm, The Mel Old CE

Office hours: Wednesdays, 1.00pm-3.00pm

Catalog description: Discusses the roles of science and technology as instruments of social control and of social change in development and modernization.

This course will deal with the transnational and global circulation of knowledge. It will combine theoretical reflections with case studies. As some of the most important work has been done on knowledge circulation in the British Empire, it will first introduce students to some key texts dealing with the flow of knowledge in that regime. It will then focus on the post-WWII period of modernization, studying how the US implemented science and technology as political weapons to combat communism and shape research agendas among its allies.

When reading texts students need to ask: who are the key actors? What exactly is the knowledge that is circulating 'across borders' and what power relationships are at play in that process i.e. who is passing it on, who are they passing it on to? Is that other an 'empty vessel' or is there some sort of negotiation/reshaping of the knowledge happening? Is it sought by or imposed on the other? What interests do the two poles of the dyad have in knowledge circulation? The most important general learning outcome is that students never again take the circulation and dissemination of knowledge for granted: it is a negotiated process, often embedded in asymmetric power relations that determine what is shared and what denied between nodes in a network.

Evaluation: Class attendance is obligatory. All students are expected to write a term paper of some 12-15 pages (4500-5000 words) submitted by a date to be announced.

To participate in class each student must submit 3-5 bullet points each week at least two hours before class starts. These bullet points are essentially quotes of 3-5 lines from the readings that the student brings to class for further discussion.

August 19

Sebastian Conrad, “Enlightenment in Global History: A Historiographical Critique,” American Historical Review, October 2012, 999-1027. Come with a list of keywords and bullet points to this first class that identify the main methodological issues discussed here.
August 26  Circulation


David Livingstone, Putting Science in its Place. Geographies of Scientific Knowledge (University of Chicago Press, 2003), chapter 4 (provided by JK)

September 2  The Global ‘Diffusion’ of Science and Technology


September 9  British India. Science

September 16  High Modernism


September 23  Colonial medicine


David Arnold, *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India* (University of California Press, 1993), Introduction and Ch. 1 "Occidental Therapeutics and Oriental Bodies," 1-60. (provided by JK)

September 30  Africa


October 7  Guest Teacher: Prof Jenny Smith


October 14  America’s Civilizing Mission

October 21  Modernization theory


SELECTED CHAPTERS

October 28  Famine Control


November 4  Population Control


November 11  Nuclear Power


Kenneth Osgood, *Total Cold War. Eisenhower’s Secret Propaganda Battle at Home and Abroad* (University Press of Kansas, 2006) chapter 5 (provided by JK)

**November 18**  Presentations

**November 25** NO CLASS

**December 2**  Presentations