

Bialecki, Jon (Reed College) - Ethnography of Global Christianities

ANTHROPOLOGY 393

ETHNOGRAPHY OF GLOBAL CHRISTIANITIES

SPRING 2008 12:40:4:00 TU:TH PSYCH 102

Professor Jon Bialecki

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Office Hours TBA (& by appointment)

Course Requirements

- **Attendance and Participation:** Conference members are expected to attend regularly and participate in conference discussions.
- **Final Paper:** A fifteen to twenty page research paper is due on May 12th. Papers must be given in both paper and electronic formats. The paper, on a topic of the student's choice, should incorporate course themes and readings, but it may also incorporate outside research. A one-paragraph paper proposal (no longer than 250 words) will be submitted by students on March 25th. No late final papers will be accepted. During the final three weeks of class, students will give a brief (ten minute) presentation on their research work to the class.
- **Moodle:** Students are required to post one question per class to the class Moodle; these should be posted in a timely manner to give other students an opportunity to read them in advance.

Tentative Schedule of Readings

January 29th

Jenkins, P. (2002) "The Next Christianity" *The Atlantic Monthly*, 290(3): 53-68. [available on Electronic Reserve]

January 31st

Harding, S. (1991). "Representing Fundamentalism: The Problem of the Repugnant Cultural Other." *Social Research* 58(2): 373B393. [available on Electronic Reserve]

Robbins, Joel. (2003). "What is a Christian? Notes toward an anthropology of Christianity." *Religion* 33(3): 191B199. [available on Electronic Reserve]

February 5th

Engelke, M. (2002). "The Problem of Belief - Evans Pritchard and Victor Turner on 'the inner life'." *'Anthropology' Today* 18(6): 2-8. [available on Electronic Reserve]

Asad, T. (1993) *Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, (Chapters 1-2). [Available on Hard Reserve]

February 7th

Sahlins, M. (1996) "The Sadness of Sweetness: The Native Anthropology of Western Cosmology" *Current'Anthropology* 37(3): 395B428. [available on Electronic Reserve]

Cannell, F. (2005). "The Christianity of Anthropology." *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological'Institute* 11(2): 335B356. [available on Electronic Reserve]

February 12th

Rafael V. (1992) *Contracting Colonialism: Translation and Christian Conversion in Tagalog Society Under Early Spanish Rule*. Durham: Duke University Press. [Introduction, Chapters 1 & 3; available in Bookstore, Hard Reserves]

February 14th

Contracting Colonialism, cont. [Chapters 4B6, Afterwards].

February 19th

Robbins, J. (2004) *Becoming Sinners: Christianity and Moral Torment in a Papua New Guinea Society*. Berkeley, University of California Press. [Prologue, Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2; available in Bookstore, Hard Reserve]

February 21st

Becoming Sinners, cont. [Chapters 3-5]

February 26th

Becoming Sinners, cont. [Chapters 6-8, Conclusion].

February 28th

Meyer, B. (1999). *Translating the Devil: Religion and Modernity among the Ewe in Ghana*. Trenton: Africa World Press [Intro, Chapters 1, 2, 3; availability to be determined].

March 4th

Translating the Devil, cont. [sections TBA]

March 6th

Keane, W. (1998). *Calvin in the Tropics: Objects and Subjects at the Religious Frontier*. In *Border Fetishism*. P. Spyer, ed. London: Routledge. [available on Electronic Reserve]

Keane, W. (2002). Sincerity, "Modernity," and the Protestants. *Cultural Anthropology* 17(1):65B92. [available on Electronic Reserve]

March 11th

Engelke, Matthew. (2007). *A Problem of Presence: beyond Scripture in an African church*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Sections TBA; available in Bookstore, Hard Reserve]

March 13th

A Problem of Presence, cont. [Sections TBA]

March 25th

A Problem of Presence, cont. [Sections TBA]

March 27th

Keller, E. (2005). *The Road to Clarity*. New York: Palgrave. [Introduction, Chapters 1B7; available in Bookstore, Hard Reserve]

April 1st

The Road to Clarity, cont. [Chapters 8B12]

April 3rd

Austin-Broos, D. (1997) *Jamaica Genesis: Religion and the Politics of Moral Orders*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [Forward, Introduction, Chapters 1B3; available in Bookstore, Hard Reserve]

April 8th

Jamaica Genesis, cont. [Chapters 4 - 6]

April 10th

Jamaica Genesis, cont. [Chapters 7 - 9, conclusion].

April 15th

Weigele, K. (2005). *Investing in Miracles: El Shaddai and the Transformation of Popular Catholicism in the Philippines*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. [Chapters 1B5; available in Bookstore, Hard Reserve]

April 17th

Investing in Miracles, cont. [Chapters 6B7, Epilogue]

Coleman, Simon (2006). *Materializing the Self: Words and Gifts in the Construction of Charismatic Protestant Identity*. In *The Anthropology of Christianity*. F. Cannell, ed. Pp. 163-184. Durham: Duke University Press. [Available in Electronic Reserve]

April 22nd

Lester, R. (2005). *Jesus in Our Wombs: Embodying Modernity in a Mexican Convent*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Sections TBA; available in Bookstore, Hard Reserve]

April 24th

Jesus in Our Wombs, cont. [Sections TBA]

April 29th

Harding, S. (2000) Book of Jerry Falwell. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
[Preface- Acknowledgements, Introduction, Chapters 1 - 6].

May 1st

Book of Jerry Falwell, cont. [7-10, Postscript].