

Culture & Mental Health: Decolonizing the Psyche

Hampshire College NS 217, Fall 2021* Tuesdays and Thursday, 9:00 – 10:20 am, CSC 333

Professor: Felicity Aulino

Office Hours: After class Thursdays in CSC, or by Zoom appointment

Course Description

Are psychiatric disease categories and treatment protocols universally applicable? How can we come to understand the lived experience of mental illness and abnormality? And how can we trace the roots of such experience – whether through brain circuitry, cultural practices, forms of power, or otherwise? In this course, we will draw on psychological anthropology, cultural psychiatry, science studies, and decolonizing methodologies to examine mental health and illness in terms of subjective experience, social processes, and knowledge production. Our goal will be to recognize the centrality of the social world as a force that defines and drives the incidence, occurrence, and course of mental illness, as well as to appreciate the complex relationship between professional and personal accounts of disorder.

Objectives

In this course, I aim for your to:

- 1. Think.
- 2. Work collaboratively.
- 3. Begin to see the contours of the field of psychological anthropology and related disciplines.
- 4. Investigate lived experience what it is like for other people to be alive; how they make meaning; what matters to them; and what shapes the contours of their daily lives, including local and global influences, past and present.
- 5. Consider your own experience who you are, what you desire, what you consider normal in new ways in relation to social forces.
- 6. Experiment with social theory what it can help you see and what it may obfuscate.
- 7. Develop a toybox of theories and practices to help identify and displace colonial, imperialist, antiblack, and white supremacist logics latent in psychological scholarship and public life.
- 8. Read and write more effectively as a tool for thinking.
- 9. Find ways to read, watch, and listen to a large quantity of materials in a short amount of time.
- 10. Confront ethical challenges.
- 11. Express new ideas in a variety of stages from the not yet formed to the fully cooked.
- 12. Explore an independent research topic and think through how to approach ethnographic work.
- 13. Have some fun with class and appreciate the luxury of thinking and discussing it affords.

_

Draft syllabus, will change as we progress.

Course Requirements

- 1. Attendance and participation (25 30%)
 - * Attendance at and active participation in discussions
 - * Completion of assigned readings prior to class discussions
- 2. Weekly response papers (25 30%)
 - * 1 page, 500-word max. Include word count at top with your names and lead author.
 - * Written jointly in teams of three, rotating "lead author" weekly
 - * Due Thursdays before class*; detailed guidelines on Moodle
- 3. Class presentation (10%)
- * Work as part of a team to briefly present readings and kick off discussion
- 4. Final Project (in the form of a research proposal) (20%)
 - * Proposal for research on a topic not covered in-depth in class.
- 5. Proposal for Final Project (proposal proposal) (10%)
 - * Written proposal (can be in outline form) that answers the who, what, where, when, and why of your imagined research plan. This should include at least one key term from the course and a preliminary reference list.
- 6. Portfolio (10%)
 - * Compilation of all your work, along with a reflection on your efforts and a final summary statement. Please include the title of your favorite reading and what you could have perhaps done without.

A couple additional notes

- Technology: Please refrain from texting and other non-course related use of computers/phones
 while in class. If we ever go to online sessions, please keep your camera on if at all possible. This
 will be but one part of our work to build and sustain a healthy and happy environment for
 learning and growing, in the midst of these trying times.
- Accommodations: Please request accommodation often and early. It is never too late to request
 accommodations our bodies and circumstances are continuously changing. I may ask you to
 make use of formal accessibility services on campus and/or be in contact with your Dean of
 Students, but will never demand you disclose personal information, medical or otherwise. If
 there are ways in which the overall structure of the course and general classroom interactions
 could be adapted to facilitate full participation, please raise your ideas with the professor:
 comments and suggestions about the format of readings, lectures, and class discussions are
 always welcome.

Due Dates

- ∞ Thursdays before class (or latest, by noon) team reflections
- ∞ Wednesday, October 13 project proposal proposal
- ∞ Wednesday, December 15 final project and portfolio

Class Sessions

Week 1: Openings
Week 2: Diagnostics I
Week 3: Crazy Like Us?
Week 4: Century of the Self

Week 5: Violence and Carceral Logics

Week 6: Diagnostics II Week 7: Pharma

Week 8*: Language... or Psycho-Racio-Linguistics? Fanon, Lacan, and Rosa

Week 9*: Sylvia Wynter & Decolonizing Psychiatry

Week 10: Generational Shifts

Week 11: Schizophrenia and Psychosis

Week 12: Naikan

Week 13: Thanksgiving

Week 14: PTSD

Week 15: Pyschopolitics ... and moving onward!

The Details

You are responsible for reading prior to class. **Please consider the syllabus as one of your readings each week**. (I will keep the Moodle totally up to date, with links to the syllabus as it develops over the course of the semester. The following is a starting offering!) You'll note that I will almost always list more than we will discuss! Some are listed simply to help you see the contours of the field, some are recommended for future use, some may help you develop your project proposals, etc... In any case, please read through all the materials listed for each class!!

Week 1: Openings

Thurs., Sept. 2

- Mukoma Wa Ngugi: What *Decolonizing the Mind* Means Today. 2018. *Literary Hub*. Available online: https://lithub.com/mukoma-wa-ngugi-what-decolonizing-the-mind-means-today/
 - Don't get hung up on the literary criticism details, get the gist
- "Introduction Invisible Pioneers: 'Culture and Personality' Reconsidered." In *Psychological Anthropology: A Reader on Self in Culture*, edited by Robert Levine.
 - --skim this for broad contours of the culture and personality school
- "Postcolonial Disorders: Reflections on Subjectivity in the Contemporary World," by Byron Good, Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good, Sandra Teresa Hyde, and Sarah Pinto. In *Postcolonial Disorders*, UC Press, 2008.
 - --read pages 2 11 on subjectivity, postcolonial, and disorders

- Wu HY. "World citizenship and the emergence of the social psychiatry project of the World Health Organization, 1948-c.1965." *Hist Psychiatry*. 2015 Jun;26(2):166-81. doi: 10.1177/0957154X14554375. PMID: 26022467.
 - --skim this for context.

Week 2: Diagnostics I

Tues., Sept. 7

Readings

- Akosua Adomako Ampofo, 2019. Me san aba: The Africa We Want and an African-centered Approach to Knowledge Production. In Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World. Edited by Schulz. Sage.
- Arthur Kleinman. "What is a Psychiatric Diagnosis?" In *Rethinking Psychiatry*, New York Free Press, 1988.

Syllabus teaching moment: There are many important works that can help you understand the hierarchies of value latent in academia and other currents of knowledge production and circulation. Here are a couple scholarly sources that shed light on the imperialism, antiblackness, and colonialism inherent in the theories and research paradigms by which so many of us learn and act, and that also bring alternative possibilities into view:

- Linda Tuhiwai Smith 1999 (2nd edition 2012). *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*. Zed Books.
- Raewyn Connell, 2008. Southern Theory: The Global Dynamics of Knowledge in Social Science.
 Allen & Unwin.
- Stefano Harney and Fred Moten, 2013. The Undercommons. See pages 25 43?

Another syllabus teaching moment: There are so many ways to read the history of psychological anthropology. The following are recommended, at least to know they exist, or to have other places to go as you deepen you quest.

- Janis Jenkins. *Extraordinary Conditions: Culture and Experience in Mental Health*. UC Press 2015. *See Introduction...* available as an ebook.
- Tanya Luhrmann. *Of Two Minds: The Growing Disorder in American Psychiatry*. Knopf, 2000. *Again, see intro for a take on the field.*
- Arthur Kleinman and Byron Good, 1985. "Introduction to Culture and Depression." From *Culture* and *Depression: Studies in the Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Psychiatry of Affect and Disorder*, edited by Kleinman and Good, UC Press.

Thurs., Sept. 9

- Fernando Vidal and Francisco Ortega. *Being Brains: Making the Cerebral Subject*. Fordham University Press, 2017.
 - o --Read Intro pages 1-6 and 9-11
 - o --Read or at least skim Chapter 3, "Cerebralizing Distress"
 - --Available as an e-book, check out as much as you want!

- Aurora Levins Morales, 2019. Medicine Stories: Essays for Radicals. Duke.
 - --Read "Ecology is Everything"

IF we had another week, we might read:

Beth Semel. "The Body Audible: From Vocal Biomarkers to a Phrenology of the Throat." *Somatosphere* 2020: http://somatosphere.net/2020/the-body-audible.html/

Joseph Calabrese, 2008. "Clinical Paradigm Clashes: Ethnocentric and Political Barriers to Native American Efforts at Self-Healing." *Ethos* 36(3): 334-353.

Week 3: Crazy Like US?

Tues., Sept. 14

Readings

- Podcast. "Crazy Like Us: Are Americans Exporting Their Dysfunctions to the Rest of the World?" https://hdavidbaer.com/2021/05/20/crazy-like-us-are-americans-exporting-their-dysfunctions-to-the-rest-of-the-world/
 - (is listening intriguing? infuriating? in a productive way?)
 - o Recommended, or for background: Ethan Watters. Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche. Free Press 2010.
 - I had been thinking of assigning ch. 4 "The Mega-Marketing of Depression in Japan" and then went with the podcast. (That chapter a good link to pharma conversation too)
 Discuss?
 - As you listen, please recall your reading from the first class, parts of the Intro to "Postcolonial Disorders: Reflections on Subjectivity in the Contemporary World."

Thurs., Sept. 16 NO CLASS, Yom Kippur

Week 4: Century of the Self

Tues., Sept. 21

"Readings"

- Adam Curtis documentary. Century of the Self. Focus on parts 1 3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ3RzGoQC4s
- adrienne maree brown. "spells and practices for emergent strategy." From *Emergent Strategy:* Shaping Change, Changing Worlds. AK Press 2017.

Syllabus teaching moment: There is work that takes on the domineering figures at the roots of psychiatry and psychology – historical accounts that seek to place those figures' ideas in social context, including exploring the antiblackness and antisemitism that finds its way into foundational work. You might, for instance, consult:

- Byron Good, 2010. "Emil Kraeplin on Pathologies of the Will." In *Toward and Anthropology of the Will*, edited by Murphy and Throop.
- J. Lorand Matory, 2018. "The Fetish Revisited: Marx, Freud, and the Gods Black People Make."

 Duke U Press.

There are no heroes in our account, not in a "pure" sense. (See even Aurora Levins Morales' self-disclosure in her stories.) Do you yearn for such?

Thurs., Sept. 23 NO CLASS (advising day)

Week 5: Violence and Carceral Logics

Tues., Sept. 28

Readings

- Lorna Rhodes. 2004. *Total Confinement: Madness and Reason in the Maximum Security Prison*. UC Press.
 - --read preface and introduction
 - o --this is an ebook. Take a look through it and read another chapter too.
- Paul Brodwin and Livia Velpry. 2014. "The Practice of Constraint in Psychiatry: Emergent Forms of Care and Control." *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* 38 (4): 524–26. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11013-014-9402-y.

Thurs., Sept. 30

Readings

- Paul Linde. 2010. Danger to Self: On the Front Line with an ER Psychiatrist. UC Press.
 - --Read Preface (Nowhere to Hid) and Chapter 1 (The ER Doc: Who's Calling the Shots?)

Recommended

 Katie Kilroy-Marac, "The Legacy of French Colonial Psychiatry": https://africasacountry.com/2021/06/the-legacy-of-french-colonial-psychiatry?fbclid=lwAR2uChVtQLe BYyM94NVCrDzgLTzkbQPZap-m7OHTmp1R8WlySOqFPgVxGI

Week 6: Diagnostics II

Tues., Oct. 5

- Prentis Hemphill
 Street Somatics: Tips for Regulating Nervous Systems in Uprisings:
 https://www.instagram.com/p/CA3RW0uA8CW/?fbclid=IwAR1RLTI550APEDcqeSfDscrgF5o5qt4
 UTkXuOG_EMktTGjl-ZEtZVfE4av8
- Joseph Dumit. 2002. "Is It Me or My Brain? Depression and Neuroscientific Facts." *Journal of Medical Humanities*, 13.
- Or MAYBE this instead?: Erica James, "Haunting Ghosts: Madness, Gender, and Ensekirite in Haiti in the Democratic Era." In *Postcolonial Disorders*.

Thurs., Oct. 7

Readings

 Julia Cassaniti. 2019. "Keeping It Together: Idioms of Resilience and Distress in Thai Buddhist Mindlessness." *Transcultural Psychiatry* 56 (4): 697–719. https://doi.org/10.1177/1363461519847303.

Week 7: Pharma

Tues., Oct. 12 NO CLASS, Oct. break

Trying to come up with a topic you want to explore in a final project? Maybe these will help pique your interest.

- Csordas, Thomas and Janis Jenkins. 2018. "Living with a Thousand Cuts: Self-Cutting, Agency, and Mental Illness among Adolescents." *Ethos* 46(2): 206-229.
- Kitanaka, Junko. 2012. "The Gendering of Depression and the Selective Recognition of Pain." In Depression in Japan: Psychiatric Cures for a Society in Distress. 129-150. Princeton: Princeton University Press
- Nirmala Erevelles, Disability and Difference in Global Contexts
- Jina Kim, "Disability in an Age of Fascism", *American Auarterly* https://muse-jhuedu.ezproxy.amherst.edu/article/752339
- Nicholas Long, 2018. "Suggestions of Power: Searching for Efficacy in Indonesia's Hypnosis Boom." *Ethos* 46.
- Andrew Wooyoung Kim, "How Should We Study Intergenerational Trauma?":
- http://somatosphere.net/2020/intergenerational-trauma-birth-cohort-study-south-africa.html/
- Psychiatry Beyond Fanon: https://africasacountry.com/series/psychiatry-beyond-fanon

Thurs., Oct. 14

Readings

- Martin, Emily. 2007. "Pharmaceutical Personality." In *Bipolar Expedition: Mania and Depression in American Culture*. Pp. 150-173. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- "Graphic Medicine: how autobiographical comic artists are changing our understanding of illness." August 10, 2021, the conversation:
 - https://theconversation.com/graphic-medicine-how-autobiographical-comics-artistsare-changing-our-understanding-of-illness-164789?fbclid=lwAR0c-QhDCNBdRHWdhvp VUFSD JZFvuZ4DP2jsOnYbUJZLcYs-cCrGOr6PQ
- "Interoception: the hidden sense that shapes wellbeing." August 15, 2021, The Guardian:
 - https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/aug/15/the-hidden-sense-shaping-your-wellbeing-interoception?fbclid=IwAR2t1gkTlS5MqXNRPGltjo_2Sm-4FQM4L0KT92U7kTe4grKFs3GSMT4Tttg

Recommended

• Janis Jenkins. "Cultural Chemistry in the Clozapine Clinic." Chapter 1 from Extraordinary Conditions: Culture and Experience in Mental Illness. UC Pres 2015. (ebook)

- This is really good, but not as fun a read as Martin. Important perspective though, of interest?
- New Yorker piece on being on drugs and weaning off?
 - https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/04/08/the-challenge-of-going-offpsychiatric-drugs

PS Do you know this?

• Eve Tuck and K. Wayne Yang, 2012. "Decolonization is Not a Metaphor." *Decolonization:* Indigeneity, Education and Society 1(1): 1-40.

Week 8: Language... or Psycho-Racio-Linguistics? Fanon, Lacan, and Rosa

Tues., Oct. 19

Readings

- Darian Leader and Judy Groves, 2000. *Introducing Lacan*. Graphic introduction.
 - --Pay particular attention to 18-29, 33, 41, 43, 51, 143, 165 (read what you need to to help these elements land). I'm assigning this because I feel we need some background on what Lacanian theory is in order to get the most out of Fanon this week, as well as other work we will continue to read inspired therefrom... But this is not a class on Lacan... So don't go crazy)
- Frantz Fanon, 2008 (1952). Black Skin, White Masks. Grove Press
 - –Foreword by Kwame Anthony Appiah
 - –Introduction
 - –Chapter One: The Black Man and Language

Recommended:

- For background on Fanon, why we read him, why others read him:
 - https://mronline.org/2017/08/23/a-revolutionary-lifeline-teaching-fanon-in-a-postcolonial-world/
 - 0 8
 - https://www.abc.net.au/religion/why-reading-frantz-fanon-matters/12416602
- You might want to take a look, just for fun, at Gilles Deleuze's "Preface to the Italian Edition of A Thousand Plateaus", because it has a nice way of saying how they wanted to get rid of the Oedipus complex and how they failed...

Thurs., Oct. 21

Readings

- Jonathan Rosa's Master Class, "Unsettling Race and Language: Toward a Raciolinguistic Perspective: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fm1CKzdSvhs
- Phia S. Salter and Glenn Adams. "Provisional Strategies for Decolonizing Consciousness." From Anti-Racism Inc: Why the Way WE Talk about Racial Justice Matters, edited by Felice Blkae, Paula Ionide, and Alison Reed. punctum books. Pp 299 – 323.

Recommended

• Film: One Flew Over Cuckoo's Nest, directed by Milos Forman, 1975

Week 9: Sylvia Wynter & Decolonizing Psychiatry

Tues., Oct. 26

Readings

- Sylvia Wynter 1999. ""Towards the Sociogenic Principle: Fanon, The Puzzle of Conscious Experience, of 'Identity' and What it's like to be 'Black'
 - Part Two focus

Thurs., Oct. 28

Readings

- Sylvia Wynter 1999. ""Towards the Sociogenic Principle: Fanon, The Puzzle of Conscious Experience, of 'Identity' and What it's like to be 'Black'
 - Part Three

Recommended for more:

- Sylvia Wynter. 2003. "Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom: Towards the Human, After Man, Its Overrepresentation--An Argument." CR: The New Centennial Review 3 (3): 257–337. https://doi.org/10.1353/ncr.2004.0015.
- Camille Robcis. "Frantz Fanon, Institutional Psychotherapy, and the Decolonization of Psychiatry." *Journal of the History of Ideas*, Volume 81, Number 2, April 2020, pp. 303-325
- Darryl Li, 2021. "Genres of Universalism: Reading Race into International Law, With Help from Sylvia Wynter." U.C.L.A. Law Review 1686.
 - This is a lot. Really, the Wynter will be the main point of discussion this entire week. The pieces for today will hopefully be useful for thinking with this work!

Syllabus overload. I know this week is already too much. But...

And if we had more time, another week on this tip, we'd read from Frank B. Wildernson III, 2020, *Afropessimism*.

Including: Ch. 1 "For Halloween I Washed My Face" & "Epilogue – the new century"

- Maybe also ch. 5 "the trouble with humans, part 1"
- Pages 240-241 on fanon's two different books... hmmm
- Chapter 2, hard core...

Syllabus teaching moment?: Curious about Afropessimism? Check these starter hits out:

- "The Future is Black: Afropessimism, Fugitivity, and Radical Hope in Education," edited by Carl A. Grant, Ashley N. Woodson, Michael J. Dumas.
- "Doing Time in the (Psychic) Commons," Frank B. Wilderson III
- Could perhaps watch this interview?: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvvSgvHa0AE
- Intro to Afropessimism: https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780190280024/obo-9780190280024-0056.xml

- "Constellations: Capitalism, Antiblackness, Afro-Pessimism, and Black Optimism," William David Hart, 2018, *American Journal of Theology & Philosophy* 39(1): 5-33.

Week 10: Generational Shifts

Tues., Nov. 2

Readings

- Emily Ng, 2020. A Time of Lost Gods: Mediumship, Madness, and the Ghost after Mao. UC Press.
 - o Read Chapter 4: A Soul Adrift.
 - o Read the Coda

For my synopsis of the book:

http://somatosphere.net/forumpost/beyond-care-and-corruption/

Thurs., Nov. 4

No class in person this day... read and discuss the following:

 Roseann Liu and Savannah Shange, 2018. "Thick Solidarity: Theorizing Empathy in Social Justice Movements." Radical History Review 131.

Week 11: Schizophrenia and Psychosis

Tues., Nov. 9

Readings

- Esmé Wang article, "When Watching a Movie Can Induce Psychosis," from Vice:
 https://www.vice.com/en/article/evezva/esme-weijun-wang-the-collected-schizophrenias
 - If you like (though not required), you can also listen to Esmé Wang reading from The Collected Schizophrenias: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vw6GFEm1BOg
- A Tale of Mental Illness From the Inside:
 - o https://www.ted.com/talks/elyn saks a tale of mental illness from the inside
- The Voices in My Head:
 - o https://www.ted.com/talks/eleanor longden the voices in my head

Recommended, for those so inclined

- Aurora Levins Morales, 2019. Medicine Stories: Essays for Radicals. Duke.
 - --read False Memories: Trauma and Liberation, 55 68 (Will this prompt a critical conversation about memories? Perhaps)
 - --ebook! Whole thing is available, check this out!

Thurs., Nov. 11

- Our Most Troubling Madness: Case Studies in Schizophrenia Across Cultures, edited by T.M. Luhrmann and Jocelyn Marrow, 2016.
 - Case 6: T.M. Luhrmann and R. Radmavati. "Voices that are More Benign: The Experience of Auditory Hallucinations in Chennai."

- Page 104 (middle of the page) 111.
- Louis Sass and Josef Parnas, 2003. "Schizophrenia, Consciousness, and the Self." *Schizophrenia Bulletin* 29(3):427-444.
 - Read the first two pages to get the main argument. (And of course feel free to read further if your interest is piqued.)

Recommended

• Jenkins, Janis. 2004. "Schizophrenia as a Paradigm Case for Understanding Fundamental Human Processes." In *Schizophrenia, Culture, and Subjectivity: The Edge of Experience*. Edited by Janis Jenkins and Robert Barrett. Pp. 41-47 ("The Feel of Schizophrenia"). Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press.

Week 12: Naikan

Tues., Nov. 16

Readings

- Chikako Ozawa-de Silva. 2006. Psychotherapy and Religion in Japan: The Japanese Introspection Practice of Naikan
 - First half

Thurs., Nov. 18

Readings

- Chikako Ozawa-de Silva. 2006. *Psychotherapy and Religion in Japan: The Japanese Introspection Practice of Naikan*
 - Rest of the book

Week 13: Thanksgiving

No class!

Week 14: PTSD

Tues., Nov. 30

Readings

• adrienne maree brown. "RESILIENCE: how we recover and transform." From *Emergent Strategy:* Shaping Change, Changing Worlds. AK Press 2017.

Thurs., Dec. 2

- Byron Good, MaryJo Good, Jesse Grayman, 2015. "Is PTSD a 'Good Enough' Concept for Postconflict Mental Health? Reflections on Work in Aceh, Indonesia." From Culture and PTSD: Trauma in Global and Historical Perspective, edited by Devon Hinton and Byron Good.
 - We may want to read the Introduction as well, important background.
 - In fact, the entire book is available as an ebook check it out!

Week 15: Pyschopolitics ... and moving onward!

Tues., Dec. 7

Readings

- Byung-Chul Han, 2017. Psychopolitics: Neoliberalism and New Technologies of Power. Verso.
 - o Read chapters 1 (The Crisis of Freedom) and 6 (Healing as Killing)
 - Or read the whole book if you are so inspired!
- Puett, Michael. 2017. "Why It's Better to Stop Searching for Your True Self":

Watch here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOJgMK21-tk

Thurs., Dec. 9 Last class

• Bring it!