COMMUNICATING BIOPOLITICS

Science, technology, networks and society are subjects of critical communication inquiry. Biopolitics focuses on power relationships in communicative assemblages and operations in the areas of health, medicine, environment, and security. This class identifies studies of communication controversies over research, development, dissemination and circulation of main and co-ordinate risks and uncertainties to entities, populations, and publics. The structure of the class: (1) present methods of inquiry for science network controversies (for agents, agencies, and operations), (2) identify constitutive strategies of public health politics, and (3) pursue critical theories of the biosocial private and state powers. Critique moves from conceptualization of biopower, through governmental interventions into life and death, to national and international conditions that police life and security. Global dimensions will be taken up through examining strategies of surveillance, quarantine, sovereignty and security. The course will end by exploring alternative futures of communication.


Requirements: The course offers an interdisciplinary space for students interested in pursuing research projects related to health, medicine, environment, security, research and life measures through the study of public communication. Classes will feature lecture and discussion.

Wiki strategy: Two core readings per session will be identified from those listed on syllabus sessions; class members will take one additional reading each to report on and post one-page precise on our class WIKI. The pace of reading will be adjusted to meet the opportunities and constraints of summer session schedule.
WEB inquiries: Class will also feature exploration Science & the Internet as the class networks science blogs, organizations, portals designed to address varied biopublics. See for example: Bruno Latour’s sight, Controversies.

RESEARCH design: A process of developing a convention length paper project will be identified toward the beginning of the course. Topics of health and medical practices of publicity, access, rights, restrictions, mobility and control are useful. A specific controversy, discussion, or debate and its assemblage, apparatus, and stakeholders is to be sketched.

Particulars: The course meets on Tuesday at 12:30. Course open to all graduate students interested in the topic. Goodnight’s office is 206A ASC. His phone is 213-821-5384. gtg@usc.edu. The course will examine how to examine communication projects, vehicles, and apparatus that generate local, national and international controversies. Critical communication inquiry examines stakeholders, outliers, supporters and opponents of power structures. Such cultures sort, govern, supply, and leverage bio-material sovereign & social institutions. Course readings will be paced to semester schedule. Supplements are marked. Goodnight subscribes to Graduate School and university standards on class assignments. Goodnight directs dissertations in the area of rhetoric, communication and biopolitics—including works at USC on genetics, organ donation, post-traumatic stress, and autism.

TENTATIVE READING & RESOURCE OUTLINE. TOPICS AND READINGS TO RESEARCH INTERESTS AND PROJECTS.

1. Jan 12 Science Communication and Biopolitics – Introduction

Readings:

Supplements:


### 2. Jan 19 Public Engagement and the Democratizing of Science

**Readings:**


Lisa Pytlik Zillig & Alan Tomkins 2011 Public engagement for informing science and technology policy -- What do we know, what do we need to know, and how will we get there. *Digital Commons@University of Nebraska-Lincoln*. Public Policy Center.


**Supplement:**


### 3. Jan 26 Lay Expertise, Citizen Science, and Network Controversy

**Readings:**


Alan Irwin 2001 “Constructing the scientific citizen: Science and democracy in the biosciences” *Public Understanding of Science*. 10: 1-17 -16 pages


Supplement:


Stodden 2010 Open Science: Policy implications for the evolving phenomenon of user-led scientific innovation.


4. Feb 2 What is Biopower?


Supplement:


5. Feb 9 Governmentality

Michel Foucault, “Governmentality” *Power*, 200-222.


Supplement

6. Feb 16 Biomedicalization and Globalized Reflexive Modernity
Readings:

Supplement:

*Administration and Society* 38: 689-708.

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7. **Feb 23 Police Powers & the State**


A theory and definition of public health law. Gostin, 3-42.


Constitutional limits on the exercise of public health powers: Safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. Gostin, 112-146.


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8. **Mrc 1 Populations, Gender, Race & Genomic Politics**

Kelley Happe, *The Material Gene: Gender, Race & Heredity*


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**Supplement**


9. Mrc 8 Post-Modern Spectacles of Risk and Trust

Reading:

Supplement:
H. Parr & J. Davidson 2008 'Virtual trust' – Online emotional intimacies in mental health support. In *Trust and Health* [missing].

10. Mrc 15 Communication Control Societies

Reading:


**Supplement:**


**11. Mrc 22 Biopolitical Incarceration & Surveillance**


-GOSTIN – Surveillance and public health research: Personal privacy and the ‘Right to Know’ 287-332.


**Supplement**


Deborah Lupton, 2011, M-Health and Health Promotion: The Digital Cyborg and Surveillance Society. [Unpublished Manuscript under review at *Social Theory & Health*].


12. Mrc 29 Biopower without Borders: Biothreats and Biosecurity
Ed Cohen. 2011. The paradoxical politics of viral containment; or, how scale undoes us one and al. Social Text 29: 15-35.
GOSTIN – Medical Countermeasures for Epidemic Disease: Bodily Integrity, 371-410
Supplement

APRIL 7. Affect and the Biopolitical Paradox of Sovereignty & Mobility
Readings:
Georgio Agamben – paradox of sovereignty, the camp as the biopolitical paradigm of the modern, Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life.
Supplement

APRIL 14. The State of Exception and Beyond


Supplement

Solomon 2009 “The Proactive Echo: Cassirer’s Myth of the State and the biopolitics of global English” Translation Studies 2: 52-70


APRIL 21. Refugee: From Biopolitics to Necropolitics


Supplement


APRIL 25 Cyborgs, Post-Human, and Companion Species


Richard Hayes. 2007. Our biopolitical future: Four scenarios. *Worldwatch* 20 (Center for Genetics and
Technology), pp. 1-14.

**Supplement**
203-230.