The Culture of the Periphery

Yael Shankar

The south in Israel, like in many other places in world, is not only the name of a geographic region. The image of the south is often associated with the powerless, less educated poor, with violence and the unsophisticated.

In the south of Israel coexist a variety of populations and cultures. Immigrants from different countries, Bedouins, worker immigrants, and refugees living in cities, tribes, farms, and kibbutzim. All of these are part of the periphery.

This course examines the south in Israel as an example of the complicated relations between ethnicity, economic, space, power, and culture. We look at films, literature, and music and consider the culture as a site of resistance and counter hegemonic to the culture of the center.

Students can write their final papers on other areas of the world, and can bring to discussion examples of other cities, sites, and cultures relevant to the issues under consideration.

Course requirements

- Attendance and participation (10%)

- Written commentary on the weekly readings (20%)

- Two five-page papers (35% each)

Students should bring to class their own area and theoretical interests and are strongly encouraged to write the final paper on cases other than that of Modern Hebrew culture.
Course program

**Periphery, south, margins, theoretical perspectives**

Roberto Cardoso de Oliveira, Peripheral Anthropologies "versus" Central Anthropologies

Journal of Latin American Anthropology, 01/1999, Volume 4-5, Issue 2-1

Doris Wastl-Walter, Mo´nika M. Va´radi & Friedrich Veider To cite this article: Doris Wastl-Walter, Mo´nika M. Va´radi & Friedrich Veider (2003) Coping with marginality: to stay or to go, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 29:5, 797-817

Nikos Papastergiadis, Hybridity and Ambivalence Places and Flows in Contemporary Art and Culture


**The south as image**


Presentations (student's)

**Ethnicity, Gender and periphery:**

Hurston, Zora Neale, Their eyes were watching God, Fawcett premier book, 1969

**Music from the periphery: objection, alternative or "other voice"**


Saada-Ophir, Galit, Mizrahi Subaltern Counterpoints: Sderot's Alternative Bands

*Anthropological Quarterly; Summer 2007; 80, 3; ProQuest Central*

pg. 711

Gavro, David, *Green, yellow, red*, Israel 2007 (film)

Aviv Nurith, From language to language, France and Israel, 2004 (Film)

**Immigrants:**

Somanov Roman, The dreamers from Babilon, Israel 2015 (film)

Shayo Keren, *Sound of Torture*, Israel, 2013. Film.

Kemp, Adriana; Kfir, Nelly, Mobilizing Migrant Workers’ Rights in “Non-immigration” Countries: The Politics of Resonance and Migrants’ Rights Activism in Israel and Singapore,

*Law & Society Review, Volume 50, Number 1, 1 March 2016, pp. 82-116(35)*

"Developments town":

Shemesh Tali, White gold, Black work, Israel 2012 (Film)

Shlez Juli and Tzabari Doron, Daroma (T.V series) Israel 2002

"Conflict Zone"

Agamben, Giorgio, Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life, Stanford (1995)

Gaza Sderot - Life in spite of everything, (video website) Israel 2008

https://www.upian.com/en/project/gazaserot

Levi Avi,18 KM, Israel 2004 (Film)

Afterwards: Between Literature, Film, and Activism


Maimon, Vered, Grinbaum, Shiraz (eds.) Activestills, Photography as Protest in Palestine/Israel, Pluto 2017