

*Police/State : Genealogies of the Post-Social*

This course hopes to establish, and explore the implications of, three premises. First, that the dimension of collective life we call the “the social” was not discovered—it was invented. Rather than a quasi-natural or universal dimension of human experience only belatedly stumbled upon in the 19th century, “Society” is and has been the product of a very long political project which is the product of historical practices combining truth and power. Second, that a large part of the world can now be said to be ‘post-social’. Although the precise geography covered by this claim is open to question, many authors have shown how the formation we call “social” is witnessing a particularly drastic moment of re-figuration; both the object and its function are being put into question even as powerful alternatives are being offered. This course’s third premise develops an under-remarked aspect of the first and, consequently, an underdeveloped aspect of the second: if the social was indeed created, what is less often remarked upon is that one of the primary mechanisms—perhaps the primary mechanism—through which it was created was through police work. This observation leads us to an important question about our contemporary moment, namely: what would it mean to do policing “after the social”? What would the assemblage of institutions, actors, practices and functions understood as “the police” look like once its central object—the object in relation to which it was created, organized, defined and legitimized—becomes de-centered; becomes only one of an array of governed and governing objects? The final portion of this course will ask students to explore these questions in a final project which will incorporate class discussion as well as original research.

*Reading List*

- [selections from Rousseau, Hobbes, Locke, Marx & Durkheim]  
Donzelot, J. 1979. *The policing of families*. New York: Pantheon Books.  
Elias, N. 1982. *The civilizing process*. New York: Pantheon Books.  
Ferguson, J. and Gupta, A. 2002. 'Spatializing States: Toward an Ethnography of Neoliberal Governmentality', *American Ethnologist*, Volume(4): 981-1002.  
Foucault, M., M. Senellart, F. Ewald, and A. Fontana. 2007. *Security, territory, population : lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-78*. Basingstoke ; New York: Palgrave Macmillan : République Française.  
Hazareesingh, S. 1998. *From subject to citizen : the Second Empire and the emergence of modern French democracy*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. [selections]  
Kapferer, B. 2005. *The retreat of the social : the rise and rise of reductionism*. New York: Berghahn Books. [selections]  
Latour, B. 2005. *Reassembling the social : an introduction to actor-network-theory. Clarendon lectures in management studies*. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press.  
Lévy, B. H. 2008. *Left in dark times : a stand against the new barbarism*, 1st edition. New York: Random House.  
Merriman, J. M. 2006. *Police stories : building the French state, 1815-1851*. New York: Oxford University Press. [selections]  
Mitchell, T. 1991. The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and Their Critics. *The American Political Science Review* 85:77-96.  
O'Malley, P. 1996. 'Post-Social Criminologies-Some Implications of Current Political Trends for Criminology Theory and Practice', *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, Voume: 26.

- Pasquino, P. 1991. 'Criminology: the birth of a special knowledge', in G. Burchell, C. Gordon and P. Miller (eds.), *The Foucault effect : studies in governmentality : with two lectures by and an interview with Michel Foucault*, 235-50. London: Harvester Wheatsheaf.
- Rabinow, P. 1989. *French modern : norms and forms of the social environment*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
- Rose, N. 1996. 'The death of the social? Re-figuring the territory of government', *Economy and Society*, Voume(3): 327-56.
- Simon, J. 1999. 'Law after Society', *Law & Social Inquiry*, Voume(1): 143-94.
- Steinmetz, G. 1993. *Regulating the social : the welfare state and local politics in imperial Germany*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.