Fieldwork in Actor-Network Theory  
(After Method)

EDCP 585b.031  
University of British Columbia  
Winter 1 2014 (Thursdays, 13.00-16.00) (Scarfe 1209)

Course Description:
This advanced research methods course focuses on field experiences in Actor-Network Theory (ANT) and more specifically on data collection and analysis in the Humanities and Social Sciences. ANT has proven to be remarkably creative and immensely productive (e.g., Science and Technology Studies (STS) as well as a diverse range of disciplines including Anthropology, Education, Environmental Studies, Geography, History, Law, Literary Theory, Media Studies, Medicine, Ontology, Sociology, and Urban Planning). The course is a combination of fieldwork and seminar for masters students in early stages of research and doctoral students in advanced stages. We focus on After Method: Mess in Social Science Research to explore current trends in ANT fieldwork and philosophy.

Professor: Dr. Stephen Petrina  
Office: Scarfe 2331  
Phone: 822-5325  

Office Hours: By appointment  
Email: Stephen.petrina@ubc.ca

Valued Ends of the Course:
My intention is to help you develop a background and a depth of expertise for using actor-network theory in research.

Texts (Required):

Assessment (for details, see below):
1. Participation in Seminar & Research Activities (20%)  
2. Seminar Leadership (groups of 2-3) (20%)  
3. Research Report or Proposal (60%)

Deadline:  
Ongoing  
Ongoing  
6 Dec

• Academic Honesty and Standards, and Academic Freedom: Please refer to UBC Calendar  
• Policies and Regulations (Selected): http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar  
• Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students with a disability who wish to have an academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Centre without delay (see UBC Policy #73 www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy73.pdf).

Participation:
We refer to the scholarly level of participation as academic conversation, which entails a variety of things including academic conversation, articulation and presentation. Participation is interdependent with preparation for each week, which involves reading (highlighting, pagination post-its, margin notes, comments & questions, etc.), writing (posting to discussions, note-taking, outlining, questioning, defining, mapping, framing, summarizing, journaling, blogging, podcasting, exposition, etc.), organizing (documenting, labelling, ordering, archiving, filing, sequencing events, chronicling, etc.), reflecting
(rethinking, reincorporating, remapping, analyzing, synthesizing, etc.), and *speaking* (discussing, podcasting, corresponding with peers, chat, etc.). One goal of preparation is to sustain increasingly sophisticated academic conversations or engagement with the readings, course and peers. A second goal is to develop systematic approaches for engaging with the readings and your peers (i.e., developing reading, speaking, writing, organizing, and reflection form(at)s and styles that are effective). Read for **Meaning along with Purpose**…

1. **Seminar Leadership (20%)**— (Groups of 2-3) Choose one week on the schedule and coordinate the discussion. It will be your responsibility to clearly re/present the readings, and to move the discussions through the text. For the discussion that you lead, please prepare to:

   1. Outline the readings.
   2. Distribute key texts that inform or contextualize the readings.
   3. Define key terms or methodological and theoretical concepts that are challenging.
   4. Provide handouts, focus or discussion questions and presentation media for clarifying the readings.
   5. Moderate and bring closure to the readings.

2. **Research Report or Proposal (60%)**— Draft a research report (article, chapter, section, etc.) or a proposal (Masters, PhD, etc) using actor-network theory (or a proposal to use ANT). The topic can be a work in progress, such as a section or chapter of a dissertation or thesis. Or if undertaking a new research topic, choose a controversy, discovery or innovation in action, or breakdown of a policy or technology. The report or proposal should provide a case study of the topic via ANT. **At the mid-point of the course, please also bring a *one page hard copy outline* of your paper or proposal as a work in progress. Outline = outline form. This includes the:**

   1. **Topic / Working Title**
      a. What?
      b. Why?
   2. **Field Site**
      a. Where?
      b. How?
   3. **Primary and Secondary sources for insight into the topic**
      a. Description of data
      b. Literature to be consulted
   4. **Provisional map of the controversy, etc.**
   5. **Structure / sections of the paper or proposal**

**Assessment:** (Limit to 12-15, tight well-written double-spaced pages including title page (limit to 3500-4500 words + references).

   1. **Clarity of communication / writing**
      a. Is the writing clear and concise?
      b. Are the ideas focused and organized?
   2. **Development of argument / thesis**
      a. Is the thesis coherent?
   3. **Exploration of ANT**
      a. Is there evidence of empirically and theoretically exploring the issues?
      b. Is the description rich?
   4. **Empirical Examples**
      a. Are examples sufficient?
      b. Do narratives build from examples?
   5. **Grammar & Style**
      a. Organization, sentence structure, paragraphs, spelling
EDCP 585B Course Schedule & Readings
Each session will generally consist of discussion based on readings and research methodologies or techniques. Texts may also be supplemented with image and sound resources and some primary sources.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>SLG</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Week 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Course Intro</td>
<td>Course introduction / History of STS / ANT / Terminology</td>
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<td>4 Sept</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>#4</td>
<td>Readings &amp; SLG</td>
<td>Law, J. (2004). <em>After method</em> (Chapters 2-3, pp. 18-69)</td>
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<td>9 Oct</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
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<td>Essay Due 6 Dec.</td>
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Required Readings

History of ANT

Primary: ANT


Primary: Recalling ANT


Primary: Reaffirming ANT


Primary: After Method / Post-ANT


Secondary


Terminology


Methodology

Controversies