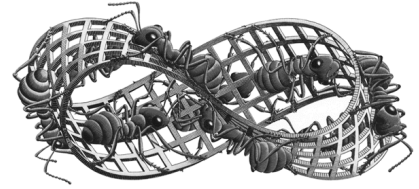# Fieldwork in Actor-Network Theory (After Method)

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 in Science and Technology Studies (STS) as well as a diverse range of disciplines (i.e., Art, 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
WWW: http://blogs.ubc.ca/msts/ + http://www.bruno-latour.fr + http://sts.arts.ubc.ca

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):**
> 1. John Law, *After Method: Mess in Social Science Research* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2004).

Assessment (for details, see below):   **Deadline:**

1.	Participation in Seminar & Research Activities (20%)	Ongoing
2.	Seminar Leadership (groups of 2-3) (20%)	Ongoing
3.	Research Report or Proposal (60%)	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 submit a *one page 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

> b. APA or Chicago Style (format, references)

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.

Date	SLG	Assignments	Readings
Week 1 4 Sept		**Course Intro**	**Course introduction / History of STS / ANT / Terminology**
History of Actor-Network Theory			
Week 2 11 Sept		**Readings**	Latour, B. (2014). Agency at the Time of the Anthropocene; Evarts, S. (2011). *Translating the translators* (pp. 14-60)*;* Law, J. (2009). Actor network theory and material semiotics; Latour, B. (1999). On actor-network theory; Mol, A. (2010). Sensitive terms and enduring tensions
Recalling Actor-Network Theory			
Week 3 18 Sept	#1	**Readings & SLG**	Latour, B. (1999). On recalling ANT; Law, J. (1999). After ANT
Reaffirming Actor-Network Theory			
Week 4 25 Sept	#2	**Readings & SLG**	Latour, B. (2003). Interview with Bruno Latour; Latour, B. (2005). Introduction; Latour, B. (2013). Another turn after ANT
After Method: Performing or Doing Actor-Network Theory			
Week 5 2 Oct	#3	**Readings & SLG**	Law, J. (1997). Traduction/trahison; Law, J. (2004). *After method* (Introduction, pp. 1-17)
After Method			
Week 6 9 Oct	#4	**Readings & SLG**	Law, J. (2004). *After method* (Chapters 2-3, pp. 18-69)
After Method			
Week 7 16 Oct	-	**Fieldwork (no class)**	Student Research Projects
After Method			
Week 8 23 Oct	#5	**Readings & SLG**	Law, J. (2004). *After method* (Chapters 4-5, pp. 70-103)
After Method			
Week 9 30 Oct	#6	**Readings & SLG**	Law, J. (2004). *After method* (Chapters 6-8, pp. 104-156)
Fieldwork in Actor-Network Theory			
Week 10 6 Nov		**Fieldwork (no class)**	Student Research Projects
Fieldwork in Actor-Network Theory			
Week 11 13 Nov		**Fieldwork**	Student Research Projects & Reports
Fieldwork in Actor-Network Theory			
Week 12 20 Nov		**Fieldwork**	Student Research Projects & Reports
Fieldwork in Actor-Network Theory			
Week 13 27 Nov		**Essay Due 6 Dec.**	Student Research Projects & Reports

Required Readings
History of ANT
       Primary: ANT

Callon, M. (1986a). The sociology of an actor-network: The case of the electric vehicle. In M. Callon, J. Law & A. Rip (Eds.), *Mapping the dynamics of science and technology* (pp. 19-34). London, England: Macmillan.

Callon, M. (1986b). Some elements of a sociology of translation: Domestication of the scallops and the fishermen of St Brieuc Bay. In J. Law (Ed.), *Power, action and belief: A new sociology of knowledge*? (pp.196-223). London, England: Routledge.

Callon, M. & Latour, B. (1981). Unscrewing the big leviathan: How actors macrostructure reality and how sociologists help them to do so. In K. Knorr-Cetina & A. V. Cicourel (Eds.), *Advances in social theory and methodology: Toward an integration of micro- and macro-sociologies* (pp. 277-303). Boston, MA: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Latour, B. (1990). Technology is society made durable. *Sociological Review, 38*(S1), 103-131.

Latour, B. (1993). An interview with Bruno Latour. *Configurations, 1*(2), 247-268.

Latour, B. (1996). On actor-network theory: A few clarifications. *Soziale Welt, 47*(4), 369-381.

       Primary: Recalling ANT

Latour, B. (1999). On recalling ANT. *Sociological Review, 47*(S1), 15-25.

Law, J. (1999). After ANT: Complexity, naming and topology. *Sociological Review, 47*(S1), 1-14.

       Primary: Reaffirming ANT

Latour, B. (2003). Interview with Bruno Latour. In D. Ihde & E. Selinger (Eds.), *Chasing technoscience: Matrix for materiality* (pp. 15-26). Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Latour, B. (2005). Introduction: How to resume the task of tracing associations. In *Reassembling the social: An introduction to actor-network theory* (pp. 1-20). Oxford, England: Oxford University Press.

Latour, B. (2013). Another turn after ANT: An interview with Bruno Latour. *Social Studies of Science, 43*(2), 302-313.

Latour, B. (2014). Agency at the Time of the Anthropocene. *New Literary History, 45*(1), 1-18.

       Primary: After Method / Post-ANT

Gad, C. & Jensen, C. B. (2010). On the consequences of post-ANT. *Science, Technology & Human Values, 35*(1), 55-80.

Law, J. (2004). *After method: Mess in social science research*. New York, NY: Routledge.

       Secondary

Evarts, S. (2011). *Translating the translators: Following the development of actor-network theory* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). Brown University, Providence, RI.

Law, J. (2009). Actor network theory and material semiotics. In B. Turner (Ed.), *The new Blackwell companion to social theory* (pp. 141-158). New York, NY: Wiley-Blackwell.

Ritzer, G. (2005). Actor network theory. In *Encyclopedia of social theory* (Volume II) (pp. 1-3). Thousand Oaks, CA: sage.

Terminology

Akrich, M. & B. Latour (1992). A summary of a convenient vocabulary for the semiotics of human and nonhuman assemblies. In W. Bijker and J. Law (Eds.) *Shaping technology, building society: Studies in sociotechnical change* (pp. 259-264). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Callon, M., Law, J. & Rip, A. (Eds.). (1986). Glossary. In *Mapping the dynamics of science and technology* (pp. xvi-xvii). London, England: Macmillan.

Latour, B. (1999). Glossary. In *Pandora's hope: Essays on the reality of science studies* (303-311). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Law, J. (2004). Glossary. *After method: Mess in social science research* (pp. 157-164). New York, NY: Routledge.

Mol, A. (2010). Sensitive terms and enduring tensions. *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie, 50*(1), 253-269.

Methodology

Latour, B. (1984/1988). Irreductions. In *The Pasteurization of France* (trans. A Sheridan & J. Law) (pp. 153-236)*.* [*Les Microbes: Guerre et Paix suivi de Irreductions*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Latour, B. (1987). Rules of method + Principles. In *Science in action: How to follow scientists and engineers through society* (trans. C. Porter) (pp. 258-259). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Law, J. (1997/2003). Traduction/trahison- Notes on ANT. Unpublished manuscript. Retrieved July 2003 from http://cseweb.ucsd.edu/~goguen/courses/175/stslaw.html.

Page, J. L. R. (2010). *Power, science and nature in the Great Bear Rainforest: An actor-network analysis of an integrated natural resource management project*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation. University of British Columbia. Vancouver, BC.

Controversies

Latour, B. (2008). The space of controversies: An interview with Bruno Latour. *New Geographies*, 0, 123-135.

Latour, B. (2011). "We would like to do a bit of science studies on you…": An interview with Bruno Latour. In A. Blok & T. E. Jensen (Eds.), *Bruno Latour: Hybrid thoughts in a hybrid world* (pp. 151-166). New York, NY: Routledge.

Yaneva, A., Rabesandratana, T. M. & Greiner, B. (2008). Staging scientific controversies: A gallery test on science museums' interactivity. *Public Understanding of Science, 18*(1), 79-90.