

INTD 350

CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT



Instructor

Kazue Takamura

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Class Times

Wednesdays and Fridays 13:00-14:30

Location

McConnell Engineering Building Room 11

Office hours (academic support)

Tuesdays & Fridays 14:30-16:00

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1. Registration: Please register for an appointment via an online sign-up sheet (the registration link will be available via MyCourses)
 2. Goals: The instructor's weekly office hours are to discuss students' substantive questions about the course reading materials, conference participation, and other course assignments. Office hours are also for those who wish to discuss their academic/career passion for the field of international development and human rights.
 3. Regarding the basic logistics, course materials, and course requirements, please refer to the syllabus and the announcements on MyCourses.
 4. If you would like to set up a meeting outside the office hours, please directly communicate with the instructor.

Teaching Assistant

Bilal Shakir bilal.shakir@mail.mcgill.ca

*TA office hours will be offered before the short analytical essay, as well as before the final essay. We will announce the schedule of TA office hours via MyCourses.

***The content and evaluation of this course are subject to change in the case of unforeseeable events.**

Course Description:

This course aims to apply a critical and interdisciplinary lens to the study of culture and development. Development policymakers and agencies have long assumed that successful development interventions are direct results of positive economic behavior, while perceiving culture as an inappropriate variable. In the past three decades, development agencies and practitioners have shifted to view culture as an influential determinant for achieving positive development outcomes.

Such celebration of culture in development, unfortunately, overlooks the intricate linkage between culture and power. This linkage is especially evident in colonialism because it deployed culture as a technology of power for normalizing violence, surveillance, dispossession, and inequality. We will thus investigate culture as contested sites of asymmetrical power relations, boundary-making, exclusion, violence, precarity chains, and resistance.

The course is divided into two sections. In the first part of the course (Weeks 2-7), we will examine the overarching analytical concept of “a technology of power” in development. Topics include cultural determinism, the construction of identity, cultural representation, colonialism and biopower, and gender and labor discipline.

In the second part of the course (Weeks 7-13), we will delve into diverse sites of power, violence, exclusion, and precarity chains in development. Topics include the construction of “aliens” in immigration law, the exclusion of sexual violence and cultural genocide in international law, historical roots of indigenous rights movements, decolonizing self-determination, illiberal effects of human rights norms, immigration detention, commercial surrogacy, precarity chains, the criminalization of homosexuality, LGBTQ refugees, research ethics, and community-centered health advocacy. We will end the course to discuss the questions surrounding research ethics and academic citizenship on campus.

By the end of the course, students should be familiar with the key analytical concepts, theoretical approaches, and debates that are integral to the critical analysis of culture and power in development.

Required course materials

All the required readings are available via MyCourses.

MyCourses will be used for:

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- Weekly reading materials
 - Assignment submissions
 - Logistical information
 - Events
 - Discussion forum
 - Optional academic and skills resource

1. Lecture arrangements

The lectures will be delivered in person, except some of the guest lectures that will be delivered remotely. Please note that we will integrate various in-class activities and small group discussions to encourage students' proactive learning during the lectures. Students are expected to be ready to discuss the weekly readings.

2. Quizzes (5%) *ten required

Students will be given thirteen (13) quizzes during the semester. Quizzes are always related to the overarching questions of the weekly topics. We will begin this exercise in Week #2 (Friday, September 8). The main goal of this exercise is to encourage students' proactive and serious engagement with the course materials and the lectures. Your answer must reflect the central points of the given lecture. To maximize points, students are required to participate in **ten (10) quizzes** out of thirteen (13). Your answers should be submitted via MyCourses [Assignments – Quizzes].

Due date: The Tuesday (11:59pm) following the week of the quiz. For example, if you are going to participate in the quiz based on the lecture on Friday, September 8, please submit your answer by Tuesday, September 12 (11:59pm) via MyCourses.

3. Conferences (10%)

3-a. Logistics

The course will offer five (5) in-person conferences (small-group discussion sessions) during the semester. The primary goal of conferences is to facilitate an engaged and thoughtful discussion of development issues based on the lectures and weekly readings. The first conferences begin in the week of September 18.

Conference registration: Students are required to sign up for one of the conference groups on Minerva and attend it throughout the term. The online conference registration will be available via Minerva from Wednesday, September 13.

Format: Each conference meeting will be held for 50 minutes. Your teaching assistant will take attendance for every conference meeting. Please note that a conference is designed to be **a student-driven discussion session**. Your teaching assistant will provide guiding questions and in-class activities to stimulate the conference discussions. Participating students should not be passive observants during the meeting. You are expected to be **an active and committed contributor** to the class discussions. For your successful participation, you are highly encouraged to prepare one or two questions on the discussion topics (lectures/readings) prior to the meeting.

Themes: Please note that the discussion for the conference will always be based on the topic of the previous week.

Number	Topic	Schedule
Conference registration begins on Wednesday, September 13 (via Minerva)		
Conference #1	Cultural Representation and Power	In the week of September 18
Conference #2	Colonialism and Biopower	In the week of September 25

Conference #3	Modernization, Gender, and Labor Discipline	In the week of October 2
Conference #4	Decolonizing Self-Determination	In the week of October 29
Conference #5	Illiberal Effects of Human Rights Norms	In the week of November 6

After the meeting: After participating in the conference meeting, students are required to submit a discussion reflection (see the following section #3-b. "Discussion Reflections"). If you are going to miss a conference meeting, you can *alternatively submit a précis* (see the section #3-c. "Alternative Assignments").

3-b. Conference Reflections (10%) *five required

Students are required to submit a total of **five** discussion reflections based on their conference participation. Each reflection should be written **in at least 350 words**. Your reflection should include: (1) the main points/ideas that you learned from the conference discussion as well as (2) further thoughts on the discussion topic(s). The main goal of this exercise is to encourage students' serious engagement with the discussion topics and the course materials. Please note that you are not allowed to submit a conference discussion reflection without participating in a conference. The assessment of your conference grade is based on: (1) your proactive/committed contribution to the conference discussion and (2) the quality of the conference discussion reflection.

Due date: The Tuesday (11:59pm) following the week of the conference meeting. For example, if you are going to participate in the first conference meeting in the week of September 18, please submit your answer by 11:59pm (EST) on Tuesday, September 26.

3-c. Alternative Assignments - précis

If you are going to miss a conference meeting, you can alternatively write a précis. *One précis is equivalent to one conference discussion reflection.* Students are allowed to submit five précis without attending any conference meetings. A précis is a reading analysis written **in at least 400 words** discussing one of the assigned weekly readings. In your précis, discuss (1) the key arguments of the article and (2) your critical thoughts on the reading. Your précis must follow the same weekly themes as the conference meetings. The submission date is the same as the discussion reflection (the following Tuesday).

Conferences	
Required number of conferences	Five
Online conference registration opens	Tuesday, September 13
First conference meetings	In the week of September 18
Method of evaluation	(1) Actual participation in a conference meeting + (2) a conference reflection (350 words)
An alternative assignment – for those who miss a conference meeting	Précis (400 words) - one précis for one conference reflection
Submission due for the conference reflection/précis	The following Tuesday

Some tips for your successful conference participation

1. Before the meeting: Prepare one or two questions based on the lectures/weekly readings. Are there any specific concepts/analytical ideas that you find most compelling in the readings? Are there any unaddressed questions or moral dilemmas/challenges that you would like to further discuss?

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2. During the meeting: You have only 50 minutes in the meeting. Be a respectful and committed intellectual citizen. Try to listen to your peers' viewpoints and proactively contribute your thoughts. Your thoughtful and proactive participation is the key ingredient for successful participation. This is a valuable opportunity for you to share your views on complex development issues with your peers and learn your peers' original ideas and critical thoughts.
 3. After the meeting: Talk to your conference TA who is also our academic mentor. Ask questions that you did not fully understand during the meeting. Learn your TA's specific research interests and background in development. Share your insights on the discussion topics with your TA and ask their thoughts.

4.Short Analytical Essay (30%)

Students must write a short essay that engages with the question surrounding a “technology of power” which are the overarching themes of the first half of the semester (Weeks #1-6). The analysis should be written in a minimum of 1,600 words and a maximum of 1,800 words excluding footnotes and the bibliography. The detailed instructions will be provided on Wednesday, October 4 (13:05-13:55pm).

Due date - Monday October 23 (11:59pm) via MyCourses. The document format should be a PDF file.

5. Two précis on “Exclusion and Violence” (5%)

Students must write two précis related to any assigned readings between Week 7 and Week 12. A précis is a reading analysis written in at least 500 words discussing one of the assigned weekly readings. In your précis, you should discuss: (1) the key arguments of the article and (2) your critical thoughts on the reading.

Due date: Monday, November 27 (11:59pm) via MyCourses. The document format should be a PDF file.

6. Film Screening Reflections (optional)

Two refugee and migrant rights film screening events are scheduled in the Fall semester.

(a) Refugee Rights and Immigration Detention	Date: Monday, September 25, 17:00-19:00 Film: <i>Ushiku</i> (2021) directed by Thomas Ash Guest Speaker: Jenny Jeanes (Detention Coordinator, Action Refugiés Montréal)
(b) Female Labor Migration and Transnational Family Ties	Date: TBA (November) Film: <i>A Piece of Paradise</i> (2017) directed by Patrick Alcedo Guest Speaker: Patrick Alcedo (Associate Professor, Department of Dance, York University)

Both events are organized for refugee/migrant rights advocacy and community outreach purposes. Further details will be confirmed and announced via MyCourses.

Participation: Those who participate in one of the two film screening events, as well as submit a 1-paragraph reflection on the guest speaker's talk, will receive 3 points, that will count toward their conference grade. Attendance for the full event is necessary to receive the extra credit (3 points). Please note that the participation grade is never to exceed the percentage established for the course.

7. Final Research Essay (45%)

Students must write a final research essay based on the overarching themes of the course. The paper should be written **in a minimum of 2,200 words and a maximum of 2,500 words** excluding the bibliography. The detailed instructions (including the essay question) and the review session will be provided on Friday, December 1.

Due date: Monday, December 18 (11:59pm) via MyCourses. The document format should be a PDF file.

Grade distribution:

Assignments	Requirements	Due	Percentage
Quizzes	Ten (10) required (See section #2)	The following Tuesday	5%
Conference Reflections/précis	Five (5) required (See section #3)	The following Tuesday	10%
Short Analytical Essay	See section #4	Monday, October 23	35%
Two Précis on "Exclusion and Violence"	See section #5	Monday, November 27	5%
Film Screening Reflections (optional)	See section #6		3 points toward the conference grade
Final Research Essay	See section #7	Monday, December 18	45%

Plagiarism:

"McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the [Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#)." (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003) (See McGill's [guide to academic honesty](#) for more information.)

« L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon [le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires](#). » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 29 janvier 2003) (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le [guide pour l'honnêteté académique de McGill](#).)

Copyright of lectures:

All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for your own learning (and research, with proper referencing/citation) ends. You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so may violate the instructor's intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

Policy statement: Language of submission

"In accord with McGill University's [Charter of Student Rights](#), students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives." (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)

« Conformément à [la Charte des droits de l'étudiant](#) de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté, sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue. » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009)

Course Evaluations:

End-of-course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available on Mercury, the online course evaluation system. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Theme
Week 1: Introduction	
August 30 (Wed)	Introduction
September 1 (Fri)	Cultural Determinism and Its Discontents
PART I. TECHNOLOGY OF POWER	
Week 2: Politics of Identity	
September 6 (Wed)	Colonialism: Construction of Identity
September 8 (Fri)	Fictions of Ethnicity
Week 3: Cultural Representation and Power	
*Conference registration begins on September 13 (Wed) via Minerva	
September 13 (Wed)	Museums and Colonial Power
September 15 (Fri)	Reimagination of Chinatown - Community-based Activism in Montreal Speaker: Estelle Mi, Chair of Montreal Chinatown Youth Committee

Week 4: Colonialism and Biopower	
Conf #1 Cultural Representation and Power	
September 20 (Wed)	Colonialism and Biopower #1: Reproductive Control
September 22 (Fri)	Colonialism and Biopower #2: Welfare Colonialism
Week 5: Modernization, Gender, and Labor Discipline	
Conf #2 Colonialism and Biopower	
September 27 (Wednesday)	Socially Engaged Research: Female Migrant Worker Activism Speaker: Ethel Tungohan, Canada Research Chair in Canadian Migration Policy, Impacts, and Activism, Department of Politics, York University
September 29 (Friday)	Early Modernization and Female Labor Discipline in Japan
Week 6. Review Session	
Conf #3 Modernization, Gender, and Labor Discipline	
October 4 (Wednesday)	Review Session
October 6 (Friday)	No class (*Fall Reading Break)
PART II. EXCLUSION AND VIOLENCE	
Week 7: Imagination of "Aliens"	
No conferences	
October 11 (Wednesday)	No class (*Fall Reading Break)
October 13 (Friday)	Impossible Subjects: Territoriality and the Imagination of "Aliens"

Week 8: International Law and Biases	
No conferences	
October 18 (Wednesday)	Exclusion of Sexual Violence in International Tribunals
October 20 (Friday)	Exclusion of Cultural Genocide in International Human Rights Law
Week 9: Decolonizing Self-Determination	
No conferences	
October 25 (Wednesday)	Historical Roots of Indigenous Rights Movements: Legacy of Chief Deskaheh and His Visit to the League of Nations in 1923 Guest speaker: Kenneth Deer, Secretary of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake
October 27 (Friday)	Decolonizing Self-Determination: Haudenosaunee Passports
Week 10: Illiberal Effects of International Human Rights Norms	
Conference #4 Decolonizing Self-Determination	
November 1 (Wednesday)	Illiberal Effects of Alternatives to Detention
November 3 (Friday)	Perpetual Violence of "Alternatives to Detention" in Japan (Film Screening of <i>Tokyo Kurds</i>)
Week 11: Commodification of Care Labor	
Conference #5 Illiberal Effects of International Human Rights Norms	
November 8 (Wednesday)	Commercial Surrogacy: A Perfect Mother-Worker

November 10 (Friday)	Precarity Chains: Domestic Care Labor
Week 12: Imagination of “Others”	
November 15 (Wednesday)	Undesirable Subjects: Sexual Morality in Postcolonial Nationalism
November 17 (Friday)	Construction of “Authentic LGBTQ Refugees”
Week 13: Research Ethics	
November 22 (Wednesday)	Research Ethics
November 24 (Friday)	Indigenous Community-Centered Health Advocacy Speaker: Rachel Kiddell-Monroe, Professor of Practice, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University
Week 14: Conclusion	
November 29 (Wednesday)	Conclusion: Academic Citizenship
December 1 (Friday)	Review Session

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 Introduction

August 30 – Introduction

We will have an overview of the course, including the overarching learning goals, course schedule, reading materials, course requirements, conferences, and in-class activities.

September 1 – Cultural Determinism and Its Discontents

Readings:

Harrison, Lawrence. 2000. "Culture Matters." *The National Interest* 60 (Summer): 55-65.

Sen, Amartya. 2004. "How Does Culture Matter?" in *Culture and Public Action* (edited by Vijayendra Rao and Michael Walton). Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp.37-58.

Week 2 Construction of Identity

September 6 – Colonialism: Construction of Identity

Readings:

Chatterjee, Partha. 1989. "Colonialism, Nationalism, and Colonized Women: The Contest in India." *American Ethnologist* 16(14): 622-633.

Mamdani, Mahmood. 1996. "Indirect Rule, Civil Society, and Ethnicity: The African Dilemma." *Social Justice* 23(1/2): 145-150.

September 8 – Fictions of Ethnicity

Readings:

Jefremovas, Villas. 1997. "Contested Identities: Power and the Fictions of Ethnicity, Ethnography, and History in Rwanda." *Anthropologica* 39(1/2): 91-104.

Week 3 Cultural Representation

September 13 - Museums and Colonial Power

Readings:

Anderson, Benedict. 1991. "Census, Map, Museum." *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso. Pp.161-85.

Scott, James and Ross Laurie. 2007. "Colonialism on Display: Indigenous People and Artefacts as Australian Agriculture Show." *Aboriginal History* (31):45-62.

September 15 - Reimagination of Chinatown - Community-Based Activism in Montreal

Speaker: Estelle Mi, Chair of Montreal Chinatown Youth Committee

Week 4 Colonialism and Biopower

September 20 – Colonialism and Biopower #1: Reproductive Control

Readings:

Thomas, Lynn. 2003. *Politics of the Womb: Women, Reproduction, and the State in Kenya*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp.1-20.

Bourbonnais, Nicole. 2016. *Birth Control in the Decolonizing Caribbean: Reproductive Politics and Practice on Four Islands, 1930-1970*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp.1-29.

September 22 – Colonialism and Biopower #2: Welfare Colonialism

Readings:

Stevenson, Lisa. 2012. "The Psychic Life of Biopolitics: Survival, Cooperation, and the Inuit Community." *American Ethnologist* 39(3): 592-613.

Week 5 Gender and Labor Discipline

September 27 – Socially Engaged Research: Female Migrant Worker Activism

Guest Speaker: Ethel Tungohan, Canada Research Chair in Canadian Migration Policy, Impacts, and Activism, Department of Politics, York University

Readings:

Tunghan, Ethel. 2021. "The 'Ideal' Female Migrant as a Grateful and Uncomplaining." *Alon: Journal for Filipinx American and Diasporic Studies*, 1(1): 35-50.

September 29 - Early Modernization and Female Labor Discipline

Readings:

Faison, Elyssa. 2007. *Managing Women: Disciplining Labor in Modern Japan*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp.8-26.

Optional: Lynch, Caitrin. 2007. *Juki Girls, Good Girls: Gender and Cultural Politics in Sri Lanka's Global Garment Industry*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp.1-18.

Week 6 Review Session

October 4 - Review Session

October 6 - No class (*Fall Reading Break begins)

Week 7 Territoriality and the Imagination of "Aliens"

October 11 - No class (*Fall Reading Break)

October 13 - Impossible Subjects: Territoriality and the Imagination of "Aliens"

Readings:

Ngai, Mae. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and The Making of Modern America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press (Introduction, pp1-15, and Chapter 2, pp.56-90).

Week 8 International Law and Biases

October 18 – Exclusion of Sexual Violence in International Tribunals

Readings:

Henry, Nicola. 2013. "Memory and Injustice: The 'Comfort Women' and the Legacy of the Tokyo Trial." *Asian Studies Review* 37 (3): 362-380.

October 20 – Exclusion of Cultural Genocide in International Human Rights Law

Readings:

Bachman, Jeffrey. 2019. "A Historical Perspective: The Exclusion of Cultural Genocide from the Genocide Convention." In *Cultural Genocide: Law, Politics, and Global Manifestation* (edited by Jeffrey Bachman). London: Routledge, pp. 45-61

Week 9 Decolonizing Self-Determination

October 25 - Historical Roots of Indigenous Rights Movements: Legacy of Chief Deskaheh and His Visit to the League of Nations in 1923

Guest speaker: Kenneth Deer, Secretary of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake

Readings:

Simpson, Audra. 2014. *Mohawk Interruptus: Political Life Across the Borders of Settler States*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp.1-35.

October 27 - Decolonizing Self-Determination: Haudenosaunee Passports

Readings:

Lightfoot, Sheryl. 2021. "Decolonizing Self-Determination: Haudenosaunee Passports and Negotiated Sovereignty." *European Journal of International Relations* 27(4): 971-994.

Week 10 Illiberal Effects of International Human Rights Norms

November 1 - Illiberal Effects of Alternatives to Detention

Readings:

Gidaris, Constantine. 2020. "Rethinking Confinement through Canada's Alternatives to Detention Program." *Incarceration* 1(1): 1-14.

Bloomfield, Alice. 2016. "Alternatives to Detention at Crossroad" *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 35(1): 29-46.

November 3 - Perpetual Violence of "Alternatives to Detention" in Japan

Film Screening : *Tokyo Kurds* (2018) by Fuminari Huga

Week 11 Commodification of Care Labor

November 8 - Commercial Surrogacy

Readings:

Pande, Amrita. 2010. "Commercial Surrogacy in India: Manufacturing a Perfect Mother-Worker." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 35(4): 969-992.

November 10 - Precarity Chains: Domestic Care Labor

Readings:

Silvey, Rachel and Rhacel Parrenas. 2019. "Precarity Chains: Cycles of Domestic Worker Migration from Southeast Asia to the Middle East." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

Week 12 Imagination of "Others"

November 15 - Undesirable Subjects: Sexual Morality in Postcolonial Nationalism

Readings:

Ndjio, Basile. 2016. "The Nation and Its Undesirable Subjects: Homosexuality, Citizenship and the Gay 'Other' in Cameroon." In *The Culturalization of Citizenship: Belonging and Polarization in a Globalizing World* (edited by Jan Willem Duvendak et al.) Palgrave Macmillan, pp.115-136.

November 17 - Construction of "Authentic LGBTQ Refugees"

Readings:

Murray, David (2014) "Real Queer: 'Authentic' LGBT Refugee Claimants and Homonationalism in the Canadian Refugee System." *Anthropologica* 56(1): 21-32.

Week 13 Research Ethics

November 22 - Research Ethics

Readings:

Peter, Elizabeth and Judith Friedland. 2017. "Recognizing Risk and Vulnerability in Research Ethics: Imagining the 'What Ifs?'" *Journal of Empirical Studies in Research Ethics* 12(2): 107-116.

Hugman, Richard et al. 2011. "When 'Do No Harm' Is Not Enough: The Ethics of Research with Refugees and Other Vulnerable Groups." *British Journal of Social Work* 41: 1271-1287.

November 25 - Community-Centered Health Advocacy

Speaker: Rachel Kiddell-Monroe, Professor of Practice, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

Readings:

Valeggia, Claudia and Josh Snodgrass. 2015. "Health of Indigenous Peoples." *Annual Review of Anthropology* (44): 117-135.

Week 14 Conclusion

November 29 Conclusion: Academic Citizenship

No readings

December 1 Review Session