

Chika Watanabe
Humanitarianism Across Asia

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Instructor: Chika Watanabe
Course number: ANTH 349/EAST 359
Classroom: William L. Harkness Hall, 002
Email: chika.watanabe@yale.edu
Meeting time: Wednesdays 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Office hours: By appointment

Course description (short):

Introduction to international humanitarianism with a focus on aid across Asia and by Asian actors. Theories of humanitarian moralities, charity, paradoxes, and politics. Explorations of how we can develop analyses of inter-Asian connections through the study of humanitarian problems, ideologies, and actions.

Course description (expanded):

In the last few decades, the industry of humanitarian aid has grown as wars, famines, and disasters continue to persist. The majority of studies on humanitarianism focus on Western aid actors, but non-Western agencies and “emerging donors” are increasingly taking an important role in humanitarian efforts. In this course we will examine different conceptual approaches to understand humanitarianism across Asia, focusing on inter-Asian aid and aid activities by Asian actors. The readings will range from studies in East Asia to South Asia and beyond. Some of the questions that we will address are: How is humanitarianism related to various governmental, historical, and social politics? How can studies of humanitarian aid advance inter-Asian perspectives, and vice versa? How are inter-Asian relations reconfigured through new humanitarian practices? How is “Asia” an object and actor in international humanitarianism? What are the different cultural and social ideologies that inform understandings of humanitarianism across Asia? What are the intended and unintended consequences of aid? How might aid workers themselves deal with the multiple effects of their work? Is inter-Asian humanitarian aid different from Western interventions in Asia?

The goal of this seminar is to assess and develop analytical tools to understand inter-Asian humanitarian aid, with a focus on anthropological approaches. Not much has been written on this topic, and so one of our tasks will be to create new ways to understand the transnational nature of contemporary Asia through the lens of humanitarianism. The readings will include, for example, Fiona Terry’s insider account of the dilemmas of humanitarian aid in *Condemned to Repeat?*, Didier Fassin’s analysis of the sociocultural politics of humanitarianism in *Humanitarian Reason*, and Yukiko Nishikawa’s study of Japanese humanitarian action in *Japan’s Changing Role in Humanitarian Crises*. By the end of this course, students will be able to articulate the different theoretical paradigms that shape analyses of humanitarianism and discuss the possibilities of an inter-Asian perspective. Through a semester-long research project, students will also have an opportunity to create their own analyses of a particular case of inter-Asian humanitarian aid. The sequencing of the assignments from an annotated bibliography to revisions of a draft will help students develop a thorough final paper, nevertheless keeping in mind that research is always an open-ended process. We will conclude the course with a conference, in which students will form panels to present and discuss their research projects before submitting the final paper.

Course Requirements and Grading

Class Participation: 15%

Attendance and participation in class discussions will be very important. I will assess participation in terms of attentiveness and quality of engagement, not simply based on the number of times you speak up. You will also each lead discussion on particular weeks. You will also come to class prepared with one question from the readings. We'll begin every class by collecting your questions.

Preliminary work for the paper: 15%

Writing a research paper is a process. First, on Week 5, you will select a topic for your final paper and submit a short preliminary bibliography (3-5 sources) (5%). Second, on Week 7, you will submit a research question and a 1500-word (about 5 pages double-spaced) "abstract" of the topic: an explanation of the topic in reference to one or more concepts that we have discussed in class, a literature review of the preliminary bibliography, a rough outline of the issues that you will examine, and additional resources that you plan to use (primary and secondary sources, film, photographs, websites, etcetera) (10%).

Draft of the final paper (10 pages): 25%

The third step in writing a paper is the importance practice of revision. In order to encourage this habit of revising your papers, a draft of the paper will be due on Week 10, and you will peer review your papers with your classmates. I will also give you feedback. You will spend the remaining time of the course revising and expanding the paper based on these comments and the comments that you receive at the conference.

Conference: 15%

By Week 6, I will put you into groups to form panels for the final class conference to be held on Week 13. To prepare, you will read each other's papers, draft an introductory statement, and prepare questions to discuss with the audience.

Final Paper (20 pages (10 pages of new material expanding on the draft)): 30%

In the final paper you will demonstrate that you have understood the main conceptual issues of the course, reflected on the conference presentations and feedback from your peers, and produce your own analysis of your topic. The final paper will be an extension and revision of your draft, and so I expect to see at least 10 more pages of new and revised material.

Grading scale (percentage = grade)

95-100 = A
90-94 = A-

87-89 = B+
83-86 = B

80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+

73-78 = C

Course Rules

- A part of the learning objectives is professionalization. I expect you to address me properly in person and in e-mails, fulfill your responsibilities, and treat each other with respect.
- Please come to class on time. If you are more than 10 minutes late, I will deduct points from your participation grade. If you need to miss a class, please talk to me in advance.
- Deadlines of assignments are strict. Unless it is a justified emergency that you can prove, late submissions are not allowed. I will deduct a grade every day that the assignment is late.
- Please do not use your phones in class. Please do not use other social media during class.
- Please do not chew gum or eat in class, except during break.
- All writing is to be double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt or similarly sized font, and pages numbered.

Required Books

Bornstein, Erica. 2012. *Disquieting Gifts: Humanitarianism in New Delhi*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Redfield, Peter. 2013. *Life in Crisis: The Ethical Journey of Doctors Without Borders*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Course Schedule

Weekly readings approximately 100-120 pages

Week 1: Introduction (January 15)

Introduction to topics in humanitarianism and inter-Asian perspectives.

Week 2: Being an Aid Worker (January 22)

Terry, Fiona. 2002. *Condemned to Repeat?: The Paradox of Humanitarian Action*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. [Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp.1-54)]

Famer, Paul. 2011. *Haiti After the Earthquake*. New York: PublicAffairs. [Introduction-Chapter 1 (pp.1-21), Chapter 6-7 (pp.149-216)]

Readings: Total 142 pages (the readings this week should be easy)

Week 3: Defining Humanitarianism (January 29)

* Begin thinking about your paper topics

Barnett, Michael, and Thomas G. Weiss. 2008. "Humanitarianism: A Brief History of the Present." In *Humanitarianism in Question: Politics, Power, Ethics*. Michael Barnett and Thomas G. Weiss, eds. Pp.1-48. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Fassin, Didier. 2012. *Humanitarian Reason: A Moral History of the Present*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Introduction (pp.1-20), Ch.9 (pp.223-242)]

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Binder, Andrea, and Claudia Meier. 2011. Opportunity Knocks: Why Non-Western Donors Enter Humanitarianism and How to Make the Best of It. *International Review of the Red Cross* 93(884): 1135-1149.

Hirono, Miwa. 2013. Three Legacies of Humanitarianism in China. *Disasters* 37(2): 202-220.

Readings: Total 119 pages

Week 4: The Ethical Life of Medical Humanitarians (February 5)

Redfield, Peter. 2013. *Life in Crisis: The Ethical Journey of Doctors Without Borders*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Introduction (pp.1-10), Chapter 4 (pp.98-123), Chapter 5 (pp.124-154), Chapter 6 (pp.155-178), Chapter 8 (pp.205-228), Chapter 9 (pp.229-244)].

Readings: Total 126 pages

Week 5: Asian Humanitarian Actors (February 12)

* Due: Paper topics with preliminary bibliography (please come see me during Week 3-4 about your paper topics)

Tan-Mullins, May, Giles Mohan, and Marcus Power. 2010. Redefining “Aid” in the China-Africa Context. *Development and Change* 41(5): 857-881.

Hirono, Miwa. 2011. China’s Charm Offensive and Peacekeeping: The Lessons of Cambodia—What Now for Sudan? *International Peacekeeping* 18(3): 328-343.

Kim, Soyeun. 2011. Bridging Troubled Worlds? An Analysis of the Ethical Case for South Korean Aid. *Journal of International Development* 23: 802-822.

Nishikawa, Yukiko. 2005. *Japan’s Changing Role in Humanitarian Crises*. New York: Routledge. [Ch. 3 (pp.61-101)]

Readings: Total 99 pages

Week 6: Legacies of Humanitarian Imperialism in Asia (February 19)

* I will assign you to panels for the final conference.

Rao, Anupama, and Steven Pierce. 2006. “Discipline and the Other Body: Humanitarianism, Violence and the Colonial Exception.” In *Discipline and the Other Body: Correction, Corporeality, Colonialism*. Anupama Rao and Steven Pierce, eds. Pp. 1-35. Durham: Duke University Press.

Hatsuse, Ryuhei. 2007 “Pan-Asianism In International Relations: Prewar, Postwar, And Present.” In *Pan-Asianism In Modern Japanese History: Colonialism, Regionalism And Borders*. Sven Saaler and J. Victor Koschmann, eds. Pp.226-245. London and New York: Routledge.

Stoler, Ann. 2002. *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Ch.5 (pp.112-139)]

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Readings: Total 81 pages [Shorter readings so that you can read from your preliminary bibliography]

Week 7: The Politics of Compassion (February 26)

* Due: Research question and explanation

Ticktin, Miriam. 2011. *Casualties of Care: Immigration and the Politics of Humanitarianism in France*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Introduction (pp.1-28), Ch.3 (pp.89-127)]

Hyde, Sandra Teresa. 2011. "Screams, Cries, and Whispers: Traveling Heroin Therapeutics and Humanitarian Aid in Post-socialist China." In *Forces of Compassion: Humanitarianism Between Ethics and Politics*. Erica Bornstein and Peter Redfield, eds. Pp.153-174. Santa Fe: School for Advanced Research.

Tubilewicz, Czeslaw. 2012. The Politics of Compassion: Examining a Divided China's Humanitarian Assistance to Haiti. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 12(3): 449-481.

Readings: Total 119 pages

Week 8: Forced Migrations Across Asia (March 5)

Malkki, Liisa. 1996. "Speechless Emissaries: Refugees, Humanitarianism, and Dehistoricization." *Cultural Anthropology* 11(3): 377-404.

Feldman, Ilana. 2007. Difficult Distinctions: Refugee Law, Humanitarian Practices, and Political Identification in Gaza. *Cultural Anthropology* 22(1): 129-169.

Ong, Aihwa. 2003. A Hilton in the Border Zone. In *Buddha is Hiding: Refugees, Citizenship, the New America*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Ch.2 (pp.48-68)]

Fink, Christina. 2001. *Living Silence: Burma Under Military Rule*. London: Zed. [Ch.3, 12 (pp.50-76, 232-249)]

Readings: Total 130 [Fink reading should be easy]

Spring Break (March 7-23)

Week 9: Spiritual Humanitarianism (March 26)

Bornstein, Erica. 2012. *Disquieting Gifts: Humanitarianism in New Delhi*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [Introduction (pp.11-22), Chapter 1 (pp.23-58), Chapter 5 (pp.145-170)]

Huang, C. Julia. 2005. "The Compassion Relief Diaspora." In *Buddhist Missionaries in the Era of Globalization*. Linda Learman, ed. Pp.185-209. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Benthall, Jonathan and Jerome Bellion-Jourdan. 2003. "Financial Worship." In *The Charitable Crescent: Politics of Aid in the Muslim World*. Pp.7-28. London: I.B. Tauris.

Readings: Total 116 pages

Week 10: Paper drafts due/Peer review (April 2)

Please email me your paper draft before class. Please bring 1 hard copy of your papers to class. You will workshop the draft with a classmate.

Week 11: Disaster Aid (April 9)

* I will return your drafts with comments.

Oliver-Smith, Anthony, and Susanna M. Hoffman. 2002. *Catastrophe and Culture: The Anthropology of Disasters*. Santa Fe: School for Advanced Research Press. [Ch.2 (pp.23-48)]

Hyndman, Jennifer. 2011. *Dual Disasters: Humanitarian Aid After the 2004 Tsunami*. Sterling, VA: Kumarian Press. [Chapter 1 (pp.1-20), Chapter 3 (pp.41-58)]

Gill, Tom, Brigitte Steger, and David H. Slater, eds. 2013. *Japan Copes with Calamity: Ethnographies of the Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Disasters of March 2011*. Oxford: Peter Lang. [Selections TBA]

Williams, Brad. 2006. Why Give? Japan's Response to the Asian Tsunami Crisis. *Japan Forum* 18(3): 399-416.

Watch the feature film version of the documentary *Inside Disaster Haiti* (2010) (87 minutes)
[Screening time TBA]

Look at the interactive website of *Inside Disaster*: <http://insidedisaster.com/haiti/>.

Readings: Total 79 pages

Week 12: Humanitarian Interventions, Militarism, and Security (April 16)

Duffield, Mark. 2001. *Global Governance and the New Wars: The Merging of Development and Security*. London: Zed Books. [Ch.2 (pp.22-43)]

Pandolfi, Mariella. 2008. "Laboratory of Intervention: The Humanitarian Governance of the Postcommunist Balkan Territories." In *Postcolonial Disorders*. Mary-Jo Delvecchio Good, Sandra Hyde, Sarah Pinto and Byron Good (eds). Pp.157-186. Berkeley: University of California Press.

International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS). 2001. *The Responsibility to Protect*. Report. Ottawa: International Development Research Centre. Electronic document, <http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/ICISS%20Report.pdf>. [Synopsis (pp.xi-xiii)]

Lee, Pak K, Gerald Chan, and Lai-Ha Chan. 2012. China in Darfur: Humanitarian Rule-Maker or Rule-Taker? *Review of International Studies* 38(2): 423-444.

Caballero-Anthony, Mely. 2012. The Responsibility to Protect in Southeast Asia: Opening Up Spaces for Advancing Human Security. *The Pacific Review* 25(1): 113-134.

Ahn, Deogsang, John Bradford, James Newberry, and Harold Wescott. 2012. The Case for Establishing a Civil-Military Disaster-Relief Hub in Northeast Asia. *Asia Policy* 14: 51-78.

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Readings: Total 121 pages

Week 13: Conference (April 23)

In preparation for the conference, you will read the papers of the other members in your panel, draft an introductory statement for the panel, and prepare discussion questions.

Movie: *In a Better World* (2010) (119 minutes)

Week 14: Final Papers Due (May 2)

In your final paper, please show that you have reflected upon my comments and the comments of your peers from the peer review and the conference. Please explain in 300 words how you responded to these comments in revising the draft, and attach this to the front of your paper.