

CHAPTER 55

SOCIOLOGY

Doctoral Theses

01. BHOJVAID (Vasundhara)
A Sociological Study of the Emergence of Climate Change Agent: The Case of Black Carbon.
Supervisor : Dr. Yasmeen Arif
Th 23569

Abstract
(Not Verified)

Within anthropology there has been recent interest in understanding what sorts of 'modern air politics' imbue our contemporary social worlds (Choy 2012; Choy and Zee 2015; Howe 2016; Bhojvaid 2016; Gunel 2016). These investigations pay particular attention to, 'how bodily and technical capacities for sensing and negotiating the atmosphere are coming to be cultivated across a number of situations by a diverse array of actors' (Choy 2012: 1). How do these theorizations aid in thinking about a climate change agent that is an air borne particle – black carbon (BC). BC is a carbonaceous aerosol. An aerosol is a suspension of fine solid particles or liquid droplets within a gas, e.g. smoke, air pollution, smog, oceanic haze, and tear gas; and is produced both naturally and by human activities. BC particles strongly absorb sunlight and give soot its black colour (C2ES 2010). In the early 2000s as a result of an internationally collaborative and multimillion dollar experiment called the Indian Oceans Experiment (INDOEX), it emerged that BC has climate change effects. Since, this discovery, which put into motion science and research to understand BCs nature, it has emerged as a major contributor to global warming, possibly second to CO₂ as the main driver of climate change (ibid). This dissertation is an attempt to sociologically study the way our contemporary social worlds are being reconstituted as a result of entities such as BC by conducting ethnography on a clean cookstove project in India that tried to mitigate BC emissions.

Contents

1. Following Black Carbon 2. Hazy clouds: making black carbon visible 3. Sieving the improved cookstove 4. Gravity and landscape: Understanding human and geological time 5. Fielding sample: Seeing like an incorporeal machine 6. Intimacy. Bibliography.

02. CHATURVEDI (Amit)
A Comparative Study of Two Socio – Cultural Organisations in Uttar Pradesh.
Supervisor : Prof. Roma Chatterji
Th 23567

Abstract
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This thesis presents a comparative, ethnographic account of two socio-cultural organisations in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. The study marks as its entry in the social science literature, the vantage point from where global, national and local socio-political movements have been studied in the modern world. Considering the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (Jamaat) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to be representatives of very significant and influential political currents of pan-Islamism and Hindu nationalism, the thesis uses the method of comparison for studying them more as socio-cultural organisations than as political groups. By making that seemingly untenable and crude distinction between the 'political' and the 'sociocultural' to start with, the study emphasises the need for a yet closer look at organisational culture while focusing on the specificities of local contexts in which they function as not so tightly knit collectivities as from the outset they might appear to be. Consequently, these organisations become available for analysis in the form of agents shaping everyday life of their members in markedly context specific ways.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Locating organisation: The RSS and Jamaat in India and in Uttar Pradesh 3. Meeting organisations- the dainikshakha of the RSS and the haftawarriijtima of the Jamaat 4. Writing and reading organisations: Literacy in the RSS and Jamaat 5. Living organisations: The arkaan and swayamsevaks 5. Conclusion. Bibliography.

03. GILANI (Ajaz Ahmad)

Delay in Justice: A Sociological Study of Under-trial Prisoners in and Kashmir with Special reference to Central Jail, Srinagar.

Supervisor : Dr. Kamei Aphun and Prof. Deepak Mehta

Th 23572

Abstract
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This study is ethnographic in nature and addresses the problem of delay in justice to under-trial prisoners which is more reflected in the amount of time they spend in jails during their trials. Alongside, the thesis also chronicles the life of under-trial prisoners inside the four walls of jails as they unfolded before the researcher. The centre of attention of this study is primarily on inmates whose legal status is that of an under-trial and also on the delay in the disposal of their cases. The study also explores the effects of imprisonment upon the families of under-trial prisoners. The study is based on the field work conducted for around a year from March 2012 to February, 2013. Prior to conducting fieldwork, literature pertaining to the issue of delay in justice and to the prisons, police and the families of under-trial prisoners was thoroughly reviewed. Fieldwork was conducted in two phases. Phase one of the fieldwork was conducted in Central Jail, Srinagar. Data was collected through interview schedules and observation. The data thus collected was utilised which partially helped to carry out phase two of the fieldwork. Phase two of the fieldwork was done by conducting informal interviews with the families of under-trial prisoners. To accomplish this, researcher travelled to different places in the state of Jammu and Kashmir to reach to the families of under-trial prisoners and to examine the impact of imprisonment upon the families and their coping patterns. Methodologically, the study is ethnographic in nature and involves individual interviews using interview schedule, participant observation and recording as the main tools of data collection. The thesis is believed to be of great significance not only for

the academicians but also for the criminal justice system to have an in-depth understanding of the sticky situations.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Historical profile of the state – the land, the people, the crime and the jails 3. Everyday life of prisoners inside the four walls 4. Wail of the prisoners – a journey through criminal justice system 5. Best in jail, rest in distress – the pains of prisoners families 6. Obstructing justice and perpetuating injustice 7. Conclusion. Bibliography. Appendices.

04. JALAN (Anurita)
Rethinking family – A study of Lone Parent Families in an Urban Setting.
 Supervisor : Prof. Meenakshi Thapan
 Th 23565

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Conceptual and theoretical framework 3. Breaking the marital bond: Interplay of norms 4. Lone mothers creating a family 5. Lone fathers creating a family 6. The strength of the collective single women together pave the way. Conclusion. Bibliography. Appendix.

05. JYOTI
Social advertising and health: A Sociological Study of Public Service Campaigns/Programmes for Rural India.
 Supervisor : Prof. Roma Chatterji
 Th 23566

Abstract
 (Not Verified)

This dissertation, titled- 'Social advertising and health: A sociological study of public service campaigns/programmes for rural India', explores the production process of 'social advertisements' while understanding the dialogues, collaborations and contradictions between various standpoints and 'actors'. It is not restricted to one kind of medium in social advertising but examines different media developed for two government run health programmes namely- National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme and National Tobacco Control Programme. The study has explored how different ideologies and practices impinge upon the culture of the targeted population in India through reflecting on the interaction between 'foreign', 'national' and 'local' components. While competing with mainstream advertising organisations and catering to government departments, one of my field organisations went through a process of transformation caught between the ideas of 'profit' and 'welfare'. Through continuous self-reflection, regular discussion around the nature of work and a targeted learning focus, this organisation exemplifies social advertising in a particular way; it demonstrates how 'social' becomes the brand and contributes to the idea of 'creativity'. The study argues that the concept of creative space and creativity are socially constructed; creativity becomes a tool for identity formation. Moreover, translation and adaptation are seen as an extension of creativity. The study also questions the idea of an 'Indian' audience upon which the complete process of adaptation is based. The ability, known as visual literacy, to comprehend an image is dependent on one's familiarity with the subject and system of representation. Hence, this research also questions the acclaimed universal understanding of 'literal' graphic images.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Work, Identity and Self – reflexivity: The case of a social advertising organisation 3. How the state communicates health: learning through

nvbdc 4. Adaptation, modification and creation: trends in anti-tobacco advertising
5. Conclusion.References. Appendix

06. MOHAMMAD SAYEED
Citizenship, Community and Urban Spaces: A Case Study.
Supervisor : Dr. Yasmeen Arif
Th 23573

Abstract
(Verified)

This study is an ethnography of a densely packed congested urban neighborhood of Delhi called JamiaNagar. My particular focus is the contours of community and citizenship and how they inform theeveryday of contemporary urban spaces. I look for the practices, processes, techniques and negotiationsthat open a way to understand the formations of the social, especially in relation to the concepts ofcitizenship and community.One of the most significant characteristics of the neighborhood, and it is central to my assessment of theempirical material that I collected in my fieldwork, is congestion. I use congestion not only as anempirical factor, but also as an analytical tool to organize the discussion in the subsequent chapters. Forthis purpose, I extend the meaning of congestion from physical sphere to those of politics and thought.Even physical congestion, which has become a permanent feature of the neighborhoods like JamiaNagar, is situated within many social and political processes which themselves can be said to be'congested'. Moreover, the physical congestion enters into public discourses through a plethora ofmetaphors like nuisance, diseases and immorality. Lastly and most importantly, the congested situationsdemand not only a possible passage in the immediate but it is also located in an imagination of the worldwith a perspective on the forces leading to the impasses and the forces that are aiding the passages.The thought of the forces of impasses and passages results in various ways of organizing socialities andenvisioning politics; this study shapes its argument by documenting these ways of engaging with thecongested situation.The dissertation is divided into six chapters, bookended by an introduction and a conclusion. In thesechapters, I explore the conceptual questions discussed above through the themes of housing,demolitions, rituals, mosque-spaces, kinship and law, among others.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Congestion and community: Some preliminary conceptual inquiries 3. Congestion and interiority 4.Religion, ritual, navigation 5.Masjid, Mahaul and ritual territory 6.Building houses and routes of acces 7. Fear, law and politics after batla house encounter. Conclusion. Glossary. Bibliography. Appendix.

07. NIDHITHA SREEKUMAR
How Social is Corporate Social Rspnsibility? – A Sociological Analysis of CSR.
Supervisor : Dr. Yasmeen Arif
Th 23563

Abstract
(Not Verified)

This dissertation is an exploration of the notion of the social in Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR). Research relating to sociological or anthropological questions on CSR in India is not yetan established area. The research agenda here addresses that lacuna. The dissertation beginsby acknowledging method, literature and concepts from multi-disciplinary perspectives on CSR.I also trace the advent of the legal statute on CSR in India and the provisions of the CompaniesAct 2013, which is unique to the Indian scenario. In an attempt to decipher "How social isCorporate Social Responsibility?", I conduct a

sociological analysis of CSR by making a case for the embeddedness of the corporate in the social structure. The conceptual and theoretical understanding of CSR is brought to life through multi-sited ethnography. The multiple sites are tied together with the sociological argument of the counter-gift in the light of Mauss's gift theory. In the process of data collection I have engaged with the corporate (public and private), NGO and local community beneficiaries to provide a balanced representation of perspectives. In the process, we get a glimpse of the manner in which CSR affects the everyday life of the recipients of the initiative and captures their social imaginary. By approaching CSR from the standpoint of reciprocity, I have not only tried to showcase the sociality underlying CSR as a process of social exchange that elicits social capital, but also have tried to highlight CSR as a medium that gives rise to a new community, that finds its existence through the participation in the triad formed by the corporate, NGO and society. It is the durability of this triadic network that may contribute to the sustainability of a CSR initiative and make the idea of the emergent community, an interesting facet of CSR, hitherto unexplored.

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1. Introduction 2. Tracing the origin of csr to its status in 2016 3. A sociological analysis of csr 4. Corporate sector: Primary stakeholder- secondary contractor 5. Society: Primary contractor – tertiary stakeholder 6. Conclusion. References. Appendix.

08. PRASENJEET TRIBHUVAN
Social Life of Charas (Cannabis) in Western Himalayas
 Supervisor : Dr. SudhaVasan
Th 23568

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1. Introduction 2. Global cannabis, local charas: Multiple histories of cannabis 3. The Public secret in parvati valley: Negotiating the illegality of charas 4. Tourism, youth cannabis culture 5. Charas and identity formation in young men of parvati valley. Conclusion. Bibliography.

09. RESHMA RADHADRISHNAN
The Formation (s) of a Political Subject: an Ethnography of Feminist Movements (s) in Kerala
 Supervisor : Prof. RajniPalriwala
Th 23564

*Abstract
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The study tries to understand feminist subject formations in Kerala, through an ethnography of the lives of women who identify themselves as feminists and are/have been part of what has been named as the autonomous women's movement or the feminist movement of the state. It uses the lived experiences of women as perceived, remembered and articulated by them. It looks at the role of the 'personal' in the making of these subjectivities and, in order to do this, examines the engagements of the feminists with family and public realms and their changing definitions of family and intimacies. Placing the feminist movement within the broader, left-oriented political context in Kerala along with the specifics and activities of the feminist groups that were formed, I construct an ideal feminist subjectivity that emerged in the 1980s and a later

subjectivity that emerged in the 1990s. The ideal feminist subjectivity is an altruistic one that worked using a victim framework, while in the later subjectivity that is more open to experiments, the language of political activism shifts from victimhood to that of intimacies and affect. I pose this latter subjectivity as a critique to the earlier ideal subjectivity, but hold that these are not in contention with each other. While the approaches and the tools with which the subjectivities operate make them different from each other, the commonalities in the social locations and politics, I argue, allow their harmonious co-existence. The feminist subjects are not compartmentalised and fixed into one of the two subjectivities; rather they find themselves at various points within the continuum of the two subjectivities discussed. The later subjectivity, through dialogues, connects the feminist movement to the world outside, helping the movement sustain its vibrancy while the former subjectivity, with its hard-earned social recognition and legitimacy, is more stable and stronger.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Kerala as the site: The background story 3. The ideal feminist subjectivity: Examining the dominant public and the counterpublics 4. Personal and the new feminist subjectivity: The language of intimacies 5. The feminist movement and the left: Emergence, relationships, 6. Conclusion: Subjectivities and subject formations. References

10. SAMUEL L. CHUAUNGO
Religion – Cultural Hybridities: Revisiting the Christian Trajectory Among the Mizos.
 Supervisor : Prof. Rita Brara
Th 23571

Contents

1. Mizos and Christianity: A genealogy 2. The mizo hybrid sounds 3. Christianity and the perception of liquor: The interplay in mizo hybridity 4. Mizo identity in a hybridised milieu. Conclusion. References.

11. SERAM ROJESH (KUMAR)
The Political Economy of Armed Conflict in Manipur: A Sociological Study.
 Supervisor : Prof. Nandini Sundar
Th 23570

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1. Introduction 2. Armed conflict in Manipur: A Background 3. The Contractor economy 4. The police economy 5. The salary economy 6. Conclusion. Bibliography.