UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Cultures and Societies of Asia

2122-2-F0101R024

Course title

Cultures and societies of Asia

Topics and course structure

The course will deal with two fundamental aspects in the identity-process of modern, local and/or national societies in Southeast Asia: practices of welfare and work relationships. THanks to Erica Bornstein's theorisation on gift and philanthropy in India, poverty, work-related migration and notions of work will be analysed for the whole of Southeast Asia and, more specifically, in the case of Indonesia.

Objectives

The course aims to develop basic knowledge and understanding of welfare relationships in Asia, with a special focus on Southeast Asia.

The students will be required to connect the different parts of the course and develop a personal standpoint.

This will enable them to use the Asian experience as a general tool in the analysis of similar phenomena in other parts of the world.

Methodologies

Front lessons. Discussion of video or otherwise produced fieldwork materials. Shared readings

Online and offline teaching materials

The course will result from an active collaboration between the teacher and the students both in reading and discussing the texts and in the individual proposals. According to different proposals, some materials will be made available online. The only reference will be anyhow the course website.

Programme and references for attending students

1) Bornstein, E. (2012). *Disquieting gifts: humanitarianism in New Delhi*. Stanford University Press. OBBLIGATORIO PER TUTTI

2) Bolotta, Giuseppe, 2021. *Belittled Citizens*: *The Cultural Politics of Childhood on Bangkok's Margins,* NIAS Press*.*

3) Vignato, Silvia. 2020. *Le figlie delle catastrofi. Un'etnografia della crescita nella ricostruzione di Aceh.* Milano, Ledizioni.

E UNO DEI TESTI A SCELTA:

Lindquist, J.A. 2009. The anxieties of mobility. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

O IN ALTERNATIVA

Smith, Catherine, (2018), *Resilience and the Localisation of Trauma in Aceh*, Indonesia, NUS Press.

O IN ALTERNATIVA

Nooteboom, G. (2016). *Forgotten People: Poverty, Risk and Social Security in Indonesia* (p. 324). Brill.

O IN ALTERNATIVA

Kloos, D. (2017). *Becoming better Muslims: Religious authority and ethical improvement in Aceh, Indonesia*. Princeton University Press.

Vignato, S., ed. (2017*). Dreams of Prosperity: Inequality and Integration in Southeast Asia*, Chiang Mai, Silkworm/EFEO

Programme and references for non-attending students

see section "attending students"

Assessment methods

Oral exam. Assessment of the students’ participation to ethnographies, to discussions about films and texts and to oral presentations.

Office hours

tuesday at 12. to be confirmed

Programme validity

two years

Course tutors and assistants