UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Antropologia Economica e Sviluppo

2324-2-F0101R006

Course title

"The times they're changing": cultural imaginatio within climate crisis

Topics and course structure

The course introduces to the theoretical instruments of economic anthropology and anthropology of development, as study of intensive and planned change: space of cultural encounter of multiple ideas of space, of time, of belonging and of environment between development actors and "client communities".
The economic dimensions in other cultural contexts will be analyzed in their embeddedness with local moral economy and cultural practices of local populations in these processes of globalization and incorporation in the carbon economy in crisis and persistence.
Dynamics of change and of resource management (water, land, seeds, food) are at the core of contemporary reality and will be the focus of the program, with special attention through ethnographic perspective to some main issues: patterns of continuity and disjuncture with the colonial period, contradictions between cultural and environmental dimensions, the cultural reproduction, local patterns of decencies and strategies of autonomy.

A special focus will be devoted to climate changes and Anthropocene and the new and old roles of anthropology within accelerated environmental changes, in order to shed light on the following thematic landscapes: the challenge to the Western dichotomy between culture/nature and uncanny character of naturalism, cultural imagination of "natures" and atmosphere, petrocultures and their symbolic apparatus, the social patterns of denial, the symbolic investment of atmospheric relationships, and the new set of meanings of human and cultures within the Athropocene.

Objectives

Main focus is to engender the ability in making connection among different models of socialization of envioronment. The students will acquire the tools and the set of knowledge of the qualitative analysis in facing context of modernizations, generally realm of quantitative perspectives. The problematization of development ideologies, the critic to epistemological models rooted on a nature/culture dichotomy will be the fundament in understanding the dynamics of socio-cultural change.
The study of applied contexts and of resource management, the dynamics of manipulation, co-optation, selection of local populations in projects, the anthropological analysis of institutions are meant to assimilate tools in the work of the anthropologist in institutional contexts.
The students' capacity in studying will be activated through personal analysis of the texts of the program, written analysis, seminar settings and through a practical exercise of ethnographic analysis of urban ecological context. The virtual platform of the faculty will be used for literature exchange and interaction around the material of the course.

Methodologies

Lectures will make use of interactive group work on the study of ethnographic case studies, analysis of audi-visual presentations, use of Power Points.
This year we will depart in seminarial setting from the analysis within popular music of the cultural imagination of environment and petrocultures.
Besides, on three occasions, through laboratory setting outdoor in Parco Nord we will analyze together the "Natures in the city" in a learning by doing process, to build up a first social alphabet of carbon economy e reading environment in metropolitan context.

Online and offline teaching materials

Didactic material will comprehend the lecture experience indoor, outdoor and digital material

Programme and references

-Olivier De Sardan, JP, 2008, Antropologia e sviluppo, Raffaello Cortina, Milano.
-Van Aken, M., 2012, La diversità delle acque. Antropologia di un bene molto comune, Altravista, Lungavilla.
-Van Aken, M., 2020, Campati per aria, eleuthera, Milano
-Dispensa "Antropologia e crisi climatica": raccolta di saggi etnografici, anche in lingua originale (disponibile sulla pagina del corso nella piattaforma informatica del corso a fine Marzo 2024)

only for participants students:
-Dispensa "Decarbonizzare l'immaginario attraverso la canzone popolare" (disponibile sulla pagina del corso nella piattaforma informatica del corso a fine Marzo 2024, connessa alle esrcitazioni in aula)

Assessment methods

The exams consist by an oral discussion and dialogue on the trajectory of the texts of the course, on the didactic experience (for attending students), focusing on the critical analysis of the literature proposed, the ability to use the

theoretical notions and tools proposed, and to develop transversal connections
The exam will be a final discussion after the space of communication of lectures, The oral exam will therefore evaluate the participation of the students to the course through final questions that will allow understanding the acquisition of methodological tools in reading socio-cultural change in modernization contexts.
Attending students are considered those who participate to 75% of the lectures.

Programs of course will be valid for two academic years

Office hours

on mail appointment

Programme validity

Course programm hold two academic years

Course tutors and assistants

Amina Cervellera

Sustainable Development Goals

REDUCED INEQUALITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | CLIMATE ACTION | LIFE ON LAND