

## Cosmopolitanisms (Universals and Utopias besides)

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Incipient macro-political project; critique of politics, its institutions, and parochialisms; democratization of world affairs; template for an ethical and social embedding of individuals; cultural attitude, disposition, aspiration and practice; humanistic principle; network of concepts for extra-national solidarity; bourgeois personalistic conviction; unearned Western European universalism; imperial apologetics; utopian non-sense; modes of world-making: Cosmopolitanisms trace a long and winding spatio-temporal trajectory embodying these things, among many others. In a fundamental sense, cosmopolitanisms constitute a network of questions. And yet today across East and West, North and South, they constitute an open and contested conceptualization and putting into practice of an ancient notion of being “at home in the world,” properly belonging “everywhere” and/or “nowhere in particular,” or, more recently, being *of, in, and for* a world. Contemporary appeals to cosmopolitanisms are marked by their emphasis on the specificity of their location, *pace* advocates of celebratory transnationalism or interculturalism. Indeed, in a simultaneously fragmented and macro-dependent world, cosmopolitanisms, themselves constitutive of and constituted by a certain conflictive mutuality among peoples, offer actually existing prospects both to carry out and understand the relation between micro- and macro-politics, their locations, and their spheres of influence, interference, and interest.

The seminar will study cosmopolitanisms and cosmopolitanization in their historical and geo-political trajectory; their economic, political, and social dimensions today; their theoretical representations and cultural self-representations; and the function of music, as a symptomatic and general aesthetic category, in their operations. We will focus on:

- a) Cosmopolitanization as a modality of contemporary re-articulations of the political and of politics
- b) The dialectics of localization in engagement with the worldly, the global, and the planetary
- c) The effects of this dialectics on the consecution, maintenance, and struggle against, for, and despite knowledge-systems

Genealogical analysis of early formations will give way to study of multiple modalities they adopt today, ethically, socially, and politically, as debated by late C. 20 and early C. 21 social science scholars (political philosophy and science, sociology, anthropology). We conclude with a series of in-depth analyses of the musical: regional cosmopolitanisms; an ethnography of cosmopolitan nationalism; cosmopolitanization of sonic production and performance. In what ways is music considered to be

cosmopolitan? How, under what conditions, and in whose interest does music participate in cosmopolitanization or is constituted as being cosmopolitan? Throughout, the seminar will attend to the limitations of cosmopolitanisms to understand contemporary sonic economies and of music's (its producers' and makers', distributors', and consumers') much-vaunted agencies across various cosmopolitical scales. Much of this will mean, too, applying critical pressure on 'the cultural' as the dominant analytics of 'the musical'.

## **Schedule**

### PART 1: Early and Vernacular Formations

#### Week 1

Lecture: Cosmopolitanism, Cosmopolitans, and Cosmopolitanization

#### Week 2

Late Stoics, Early Christianity, and Two Contemporary Reconstructions:

Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations* (excerpts)

Seneca, *Letters* (excerpts)

St. Paul, *Ephesians*, *Romans*, *Colossians*, *Ephesians* (attr.) (excerpts)

Patterson, "Ecumenical America and American Cosmos"

Appiah, "The Case for Contamination"

#### Week 3

Cosmopolitanisms Otherwise and Vernacular:

Pollock, "Cosmopolitan and Vernacular in History"

Mignolo, "The Many Faces of Cosmo-Polis: Border Thinking and Critical Cosmopolitanism"

### PART 2: Modern Political Aspirations

#### Week 4

Western European Middle Modernity:

Kant, Immanuel, "Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose"; "Toward Perpetual Peace"

Bohman and Lutz-Bachman, introduction

Nussbaum, "Kant and Cosmopolitanism"

Harvey, "The Banality of Geographical Evil"

## Week 5

Neo- and Post-Patriotisms:

Nussbaum, "Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism"

Responses to Nussbaum:

Appiah, "Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism"

Butler, "Universality in Culture"

Scarry, "The Difficulty of Imagining Other People"

Walzer, "Spheres of Affection"

## INTERLUDE 1

## Week 6

Theoretical Reflection – Scale, Space, Time, and Flow:

Smith, "Contours of a Spatialized Politics: Homeless Vehicles and the Production of Geographical Scale"

Hannerz, "Flows, Boundaries and Hybrids: Keywords in Transnational Anthropology"

Featherstone and Lash, "Globalization, Modernity, and the Spatialization of Social Theory"

Sassen, "Spatialities and Temporalities of the Global: Elements for a Theorization"

## PART 3: Cosmopolitics

## Week 7

Debating Cosmopolitics:

Archibugi, "Cosmopolitical Democracy"

Breenan, "Cosmopolitanism and Internationalism"

Archibugi, "Demos and Cosmopolis"

## Week 8

Doing Things with Modernities (Second and Reflexive):

Beck, "The Cosmopolitan Perspective: Sociology of the Second Age of Modernity"

Beck, "Democracy beyond the Nation-State: A Cosmopolitical Manifesto"

Beck, "The Cosmopolitan Society and its Enemies"

## PART 4: Localities

## Week 9

Cities, Locality, and/in Their Spaces:

Abbas, "Cosmopolitan De-descriptions: Shanghai and Hong Kong"

Robertson, "Glocalization: Time-Space and Homogeneity-Heterogeneity"

Calhoun, "The Class-Consciousness of Frequent Travelers: Towards a Critique of Actually Existing Cosmopolitanisms"

Week 10

The Cosmopolitical, the Cultural, so-called, and the Imperial:

Cheah, "The Cosmopolitical – Today"

Robbins, "Actually Existing Cosmopolitanism"

Brennan, "Claims to Global Culture: America Abroad"

INTERLUDE 2

Week 11

Theoretical Reflection – Knowledge Production and (Cultural?) Translation:

Breenan, "Cosmo-Theory"

Clifford, "Traveling Cultures"

Said, "Traveling Theory"

PART 5: Musical and Sonic Cosmopolitanisms, Cosmopolitans, and  
Cosmopolitanization

Week 12

Regional Narratives:

Breenan, "The World Cuban: Alejo Carpentier and Cuban Popular Music"

Regev, "Ethno-National Pop-Rock Music: Aesthetic Cosmopolitanism Made from  
Within"

Turino, "Nationalism and Latin American Music: Selected Case Studies and Theoretical  
Considerations"

Week 13

Nationalism, an Ethnography:

Turino, *Nationalists, Cosmopolitans, and Popular Music in Zimbabwe*

Week 14

Musical Globalization or Musicking's Cosmopolitanism?

Stokes, "On Musical Cosmopolitanism"