

**COMM 100c**  
**Communication, Institutions and Power**  
**Worlds of Flows and Immobile Worlds**  
**Spring, 2020 Tuesday / Thursday 3:30 – 4:50**

**Gary Fields** [gfields@ucsd.edu](mailto:gfields@ucsd.edu)

Office Hours: Office hours are by email.

*Communication encompasses the multiple circuits emerging from the movement and circulation of goods, messages and people.*  
(Armand Mattelhart, 1996: xiv)

**TAs**

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**Course Description**

This course occurs in an unprecedented pedagogical environment at UCSD. In principle, it is an introductory lecture course focusing broadly on “communication, institutions and power” but this term, owing to the COVID pandemic we now confront, the course will occur online. Substantively, this course examines the role of communication in shaping the development of modern society with a focus on institutions and relations of power. Broadly speaking, communication refers to the systems of connection by which goods, information, and people circulate from one point to another. In this course, we will explore the institutions (markets, firms, and states) that mediate these connections; the infrastructures (Internet, broadcasting airwaves, container ships, etc.) that carry them; and the conflicts between different groups seeking access to, and profit from the conveyance of goods, messages, and people. Ultimately, “Communication, Institutions and Power” explores the interplay of changes in the systems of connection for material things, meanings, and people, and the institutions, technologies, and power relations underlying those systems. The course is intended to be an historically grounded, theoretically rigorous -- and best of all -- topically interesting engagement with communication as a force shaping the modern world.

**Course Format and Requirements**

Our course this term will consist of one weekly lecture on the course topic and readings assigned for the week in question as per the course schedule (pp. 2-5 below). Certain weeks have 2 related themes while others are grouped into a single theme. In principle, the lectures will be uploaded to Canvas on Tuesday mornings along with PowerPoint slides from lectures. At this time, readings will be accessible on the UCSD library electronic reserves along with links on this syllabus or accessible as indicated. The primary assignment for the course will be three short (2-3 page) response papers roughly after weeks 3, 5, and 9 that will focus on material from those particular weeks. TAs may also elect to assign additional work. Evaluations for the course will be determined from the response papers (3 papers x 20% each or 60%), and from work assigned by TAs in your individual sections (40%). Note: In principle all courses taken for credit toward the Communication major or minor must be taken for a letter grade but due to circumstances this quarter, **courses taken during Spring 2020 can be taken Pass/No Pass and still count toward the major.**

## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to honor the University's policy of academic integrity. All written work must be your own. Authors of sources whose text or ideas are used in papers must be cited clearly and correctly. If you are uncertain how to cite written sources, see the TA. Plagiarism of any kind on written work will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about plagiarism or academic integrity in general please review the UCSD *Policy on Integrity of Scholarship* at: <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>

## Weekly Schedule

### Week 1 Overview: Communication, Institutions and Power

#### 1a Introduction and Course Overview

#### 1b Communication, Institutions and Power

**Matelart, Armand** (1996). Flow, Bond, Space, and Measure. *The Invention of Communication*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press [pp. ix-xi, xiii-xiv].

**Cresswell Tim** (2006). *On the Move: Mobility in the Modern Western World*. New York: Routledge [read pp. 1-9].

## Part 1 'Mobility and the World of Flows'

### Week 2 Communication as 'Revolution': Goods, Information, and People on the Move

#### 2a Situating the Present: Communication in a Historical Mirror

**John, Richard R.** (1994). American Historians and the Concept of the Communications Revolution. *Information Acumen*. Lisa Bud-Frierman, ed. Routledge: London [pp. 98-110].

**Headrick, Daniel** (2000). *When Information Came of Age: Technologies and Knowledge in the Age of Reason and Revolution, 1700-1850*. New York: Oxford University Press [pp. 7-14].

#### 2b Conquering Space: Communication Revolution and Forging a Nation of Meat-Eaters

**Fields, Gary** (2003). "Communication, Innovation, and Territory: The Production Network of Swift Meat Packing and the Creation of a National Market in the U.S." *Journal of Historical Geography*. Vol. 24 (4): 599-617 [Read only pp. 604-612]. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305748802904159>

**Cronon, William** (1991). Annihilating Space! Meat. *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*. New York: W.W. Norton [pp. 207-213, 218-247].

### Week 3 Worlds of Flows: China, the State and the Movement of People and Goods

#### 3a From Farms to Factories: The Great Migration and Forging the Workshop of the World

**Fan, Lixin** (2011). *Last Train Home (Gui tu lie che)*. Watch the Entire Film in Kanopy with VPN <https://ucsd.kanopy.com/video/last-train-home> or watch the film from the "Course Reserves" website

**Chan, Kam Wing** (2014). "China's Urbanization 2020." *Eurasian Geography and Economics*. Vol. 55 (1): 1-9. [Read only pp. 1-5] <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15387216.2014.925410>

**Chan, Jenny et al.** (2020). *Dying for an iPhone: Apple, Foxconn and the Lives of China's Workers*. Chicago: Haymarket Books [pp. 176-181.] **Read on Canvas.**

**Chang, Leslie T.** (2012). The Voices of China's Workers. TED Talk. [https://www.ted.com/talks/leslie\\_t\\_chang\\_the\\_voices\\_of\\_china\\_s\\_workers#t-129933](https://www.ted.com/talks/leslie_t_chang_the_voices_of_china_s_workers#t-129933)

### **3b Made in China: Tracking the Spatial Circuits of Goods from China to the U.S.**

**Campbell-Dollaghan, Kelsey** (2014). "Tracking a Gadget's Journey from the Mine to Beneath the Christmas Tree." Gizmodo. <http://gizmodo.com/a-gadget-s-journey-from-inside-the-mine-to-under-the-c-1668715782>

**Barboza, David** (2016). "An iPhone's Journey, From the Factory Floor to the Retail Store." *New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/29/technology/iphone-china-apple-stores.html>

## **Week 4 Media: Democracy, the Public Sphere, and the Institutional Landscape for Conveying Information**

### **Guest Speaker: Dan Hallin, UCSD Department of Communication**

**Hallin, Daniel C.** (1994). The American News Media: A Critical Theory Perspective. *We Keep America On Top of the World: Television Journalism and the Public Sphere*. London: Routledge [18-39]

**Streeter, Thomas** (1994). "Selling the Air: Property and the Politics of U.S. Commercial Broadcasting." *Media, Culture, and Society*. Vol. 16 (1): 91-116. <http://mcs.sagepub.com/content/16/1/91.full.pdf+html>

**Starr, Paul** (2004). *The Creation of the Media: Political Origins of Modern Communications*. New York: Basic Books [pp. 1-19]

## **Week 5 Surveillance: New Media Tracking our Every Move**

### **Guest Speaker: Kelly Gates, UCSD Department of Communication**

**Gates, Kelly** (2011). *Our Biometric Future: Facial Recognition Technology and the Culture of Surveillance*. New York: New York University Press [pp. 25-28, 32-44, 125-129, 136-149]. **Read from e-book on Library website.**

**New York Times** (2019). "One Nation Tracked." [Read the Introduction and Scroll Down and Read Part 1] <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/12/21/opinion/location-data-democracy-protests.html>

**Zuboff, Shosona** (2020). "You are Now Remotely Controlled." *New York Times* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/24/opinion/sunday/surveillance-capitalism.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage>

## Part 2

### Mobility Meets Immobility: The World of Friction

#### Week 6 Disease: The Mobile Pathways of Pathogens and the Immobile Politics of Lockdown

**Gottfried, Robert S.** (1983). *The Black Death: Natural and Human Disaster in Medieval Europe*. New York: Free Press [pp. 1-15]. [Read on Canvas](#)

**Foucault, Michel** (1975). *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York Vintage Books [Read only pp. 195-199]. [Read on Canvas](#)

**Peryer, Marisa** (2020). "Coronavirus Spurs Prejudice: History Suggests That's No Surprise." *Undark*. <https://undark.org/2020/02/13/coronavirus-racism-history/>

**Molina, Natalia** (2020). "Why Pandemics Activate Xenophobia: Interview with Natalia Molina." *Vox*. <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2020/3/4/21157825/coronavirus-pandemic-xenophobia-racism>

#### Week 7 (Im) Mobility: The Institution of Confinement and the Prison Industrial Complex

##### 7a Lockup: The Racial Dimensions of Criminal Justice and Incarceration

**Alexander, Michelle** (2014). *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness*. New York: New Press [Pages to be determined].

**Lancaster, Roger** (2017). "How to End Mass Incarceration." *Jacobin*. <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2017/08/mass-incarceration-prison-abolition-policing>

##### 7b Wrongful Conviction: The Death Penalty and the New Politics of Innocence

**Sherrill, Robert** (January 8/15, 2001). "Death Trip: The American Way of Execution." *The Nation*. Vol 272 (2): 13-34. [Read from UCSD Library Website] <http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=4&sid=bb3ffa9c-fc2e-4545-b9fd-9fc850cb0f69%40sessionmgr4008>

**Baumgartner, Frank R. et al.**, (2010). "The Death of the Death Penalty: How Media Framing Changed Capital Punishment in America." *Winning with Words: The Origins and Impact of Framing*. Brian F. Schaffner and Patrick J. Sellers, eds. New York: Routledge. pp. 159-84. [Read only pp. 159-172] [https://www.unc.edu/~fbaum/Innocence/Winning\\_with\\_words\\_ch9.pdf](https://www.unc.edu/~fbaum/Innocence/Winning_with_words_ch9.pdf)

#### Week 8 Limits of Globalism: The Ideological Underpinnings of a Partitioned World

##### 8a / b Clashing Civilizations? The Ideology of Fracture

**Huntington, Samuel P** (1993). "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*. Vol. 72 (3): 22-49. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/20045621.pdf>

**National Public Radio** (2013). A Look Back at a Predicted 'Clash Of Civilizations' [Listen to 6 Minute Talk] <https://www.npr.org/2013/09/03/218627286/a-look-back-at-a-predicted-clash-of-civilizations>

**Ayoob, Mohammed** (2012). "The Clash of Civilizations Revisited." *Counterpunch*. <http://www.counterpunch.org/2012/08/09/the-clash-of-civilizations-revisited/>

**Assumpcao, Clara** (2020). "Is Huntington's 'Clash of Civilizations' a Self-fulfilled Prophecy?" <https://www.e-ir.info/pdf/81197>

## **Week 9 'Build That Wall': Immobility, Immigrants and the 'Paranoid Style' of Politics**

### **9a Entry Prohibited: Historical Roots of Friction at State Borders**

**Torpey, John** (2000). *The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship and the State*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [pp. 4-20]. **Read electronic version from Library website**

### **9b 'Illegals': The Mexican Border**

**Nevins, Joseph** (2010). *Operation Gatekeeper: The Rise of the Illegal Alien and the Remaking of the U.S. Mexico Boundary*. New York: Routledge [1-14, 118-154]. **Read e-book from Roger on Library website**

## **Week 10 Flows and Barriers: Communication in the Age of Fracture**

**Boateng, Boatema** (2011). This Work Cannot Be Rushed: Global Flows, Global Regulation. *The Copyright Things Doesn't Work Here: Adinkra and Kente Cloth and Intellectual Property in Ghana*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press [pp. 145-63]. **Read from Library website**

**Boyle, James** (2008). *The Public Domain: Enclosing the Commons of the Mind*. New Haven: Yale University Press. <http://thepublicdomain.org/thepublicdomain1.pdf> [Pages to be determined]

## Other Readings

**Williams, Raymond** (1988). *Communication. Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. London: Fontana [72-73]. **Read on Canvas**

**Rapoza, Kenneth** (2016). "How China and Amazon are Changing the Future of Retail." *Forbes*.  
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2016/07/08/how-china-and-amazon-are-changing-the-future-of-retail/>

In the 1870s African Americans began moving North and West in great numbers. In the 1890s, the number of African Americans moving to the Northeast and the Midwest was double that of the previous decade. In 1910, it doubled again.  
<https://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/african7.html>

<https://www.geni.com/projects/Exodusters-Black-Migration-to-Kansas-after-Reconstruction/9276>

**Van Dijck, Jose** (2013). *The Culture of Connectivity: A Critical History of Social Media*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [pp. 154-176]. [https://www.academia.edu/12378297/The\\_culture\\_of\\_connectivity](https://www.academia.edu/12378297/The_culture_of_connectivity)

**Hallin, Daniel C.** (1994). The Media, the War in Vietnam, and Political Support: A Critique of the Thesis of an Oppositional Media. *We Keep America On Top of the World: Television Journalism and the Public Sphere*. London: Routledge [pp. 40-57].

**Rivoli, Pietra** (2009). *The Travels of a T-shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade*. Hoboken: John Wiley [pp 105-111, ]. Read e-book from Library website.

**Vaidhyanathan, Siva** (2011). *The Googlization of Everything*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [1-12, 82-114]. **Read e-book from UCSD Library website**

**Wheeler, Tom** (2017). "How the Republicans Sold Your Privacy to Internet Providers." *New York Times*.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/29/opinion/how-the-republicans-sold-your-privacy-to-internet-providers.html?smprod=nytcore-ipad&smid=nytcore-ipad-share&r=0>

**Kern, Stephen** (2003). *The Culture of Time and Space*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press [pp. 211-40].

**Chang, Leslie T.** (2008). *Factory Girls: From Village to City in China*. New York: Spiegel & Grau. [pp. 98-119]

**Amnesty International** (2016). Death Penalty 2015: Facts and Figures.  
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/04/death-penalty-2015-facts-and-figures/>

**Jones, Reece** (2016). *Violent Borders: Refugees and the Right to Move*. London: Verso [pages to be determined].

**Horwitz, Robert** (2005). "On Media Concentration and the Diversity Question." *The Information Society*. Vol. 21 (3): 181-204. <http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?sid=5b2b9b88-5883-47ba-b547-189975977094%40sessionmgr103&vid=1&hid=101>

**Lichtenstein, Nelson** (2007). "Supply Chains, Workers' Chains: The New World of Retail Supremacy." *Labor Studies in the Working Class History of the Americas*. Vol. 4 (1): 17-31. **[Read only pp. 17-23, 27-31]**  
<http://labor.dukejournals.org/cgi/reprint/4/1/17.pdf>

**Hodgson, Geoffrey** (2006). "What are Institutions?" *Journal of Economic Issues*. Vol. 40 (1): 1-25. **[Read only pp. 1-4]**. <http://www.geoffrey-hodgson.info/user/image/whatareinstitutions.pdf>

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/jun/18/foxconn-life-death-forbidden-city-longhua-suicide-apple-iphone-brian-merchant-one-device-extract>



**Arendt, Hannah** (1951). *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Jovanovich. [Pages to be determined]

**Turow, Joseph** (2017). *The Aisles Have Eyes: How Retailers Track Your Shopping, Strip Your Privacy, and Define Your Power*. New Haven: Yale University Press. [Pages to be determined]

**Jan, Tracy** (2017). "Trump's Border Wall will Require Fight to Take Private Land." *Chicago Tribune*. <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/>

**Berkowitz, Roger** (2017). "The Patriots vs. the Cosmopolitans." Hannah Arendt Center at Bard College. <http://hac.bard.edu/news/?item=18623>

**Issac, Jeffrey C.** (2016). "How Hannah Arendt's Classic Work Illuminates Today's America." *Washington Post*. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/12/17/how-hannah-arendts-classic-work/?utm\\_term=.c32aa5250a7d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/12/17/how-hannah-arendts-classic-work/?utm_term=.c32aa5250a7d)

**Hayes, Danny** (2013). "How Media Framing is Killing the Death Penalty." *Washington Post*. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/03/17/how-the-media-is-killing-the-death-penalty/?utm\\_term=.2e86719eaf40](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/03/17/how-the-media-is-killing-the-death-penalty/?utm_term=.2e86719eaf40)

**Ip, Greg** (2017). "We are Not the World: The Old Division between Left and Right is Giving Way to a Battle between Patriots and Globalists." *Wall Street Journal*

**Selden, Mark et al.** (2013). "The Politics of Global Production: Apple, Foxconn and China's New Working Class." *Asia Pacific Journal*. Vol. 11 (2): 1-21. <http://apjif.org/-Jenny-Chan--Pun-Ngai--Mark-Selden/3981/article.pdf>

**Pai, Hsiao-Hung** (2012). *Scattered Sand: The Story of China's Rural Migrants*. London: Verso [pp. 165-71].

**Alterman, Eric** (2008). "Out of Print: The Death and Life of the American Newspaper." *The New Yorker*. <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2008/03/31/out-of-print>

**McNeil, William** (1998). *Plagues and Peoples*. New York: Anchor Books [Pages to be determined].

**Pun, Ngai** (2005). *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace*. Durham: Duke University Press [pp. 38-48]. **Read from e-book on UCSD Library website.**

**Wald, Priscilla** (2008). *Contagious: Cultures, Carriers and the Outbreak Narrative*. Durham: Duke University Press. [Pages to be determined.]

**Hirsh, Michael** (2016). "Why the New Nationalists are Taking Over." *Politico*. <http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/06/nationalism-donald-trump-boris-johnson-brexit-foreign-policy-xenophobia-isolationism-213995>

These power struggles, in turn, influence how institutions govern, how access to communication infrastructure is allocated, and the configuration of routes by which commodities, messages, and people reach their destinations.

**Chavez, Leo R.** (2013). *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation*. Stanford: Stanford University Press [1-47].

**Davis, Mike** (2020). "In a Plague Year." *Jacobin*. <https://jacobinmag.com/2020/03/mike-davis-coronavirus-outbreak-capitalism-left-international-solidarity>

**Halbfinger, David M. et al.** (March 16, 2020). "To Track Coronavirus, Israel Moves to Tap Secret Trove of Cellphone Data." *New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/16/world/middleeast/israel-coronavirus-cellphone-tracking.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage>

**Kraut, Alan M.** (1994). *Pathological Lives*: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2862341/>