

Block One: Introduction and Michel Foucault (1926-1984)

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1. What is Theory? What is Theory in Geography?

The first lecture will raise questions about what it means to *be theoretical* in geography, about how geographers have used theoretical/philosophical ideas, and about the general interdisciplinary nature of this course.

It will discuss

- The question of ‘text’, and how to read texts
- The question of ‘context’, both as condition and limit
- *Being theoretical* – political-intellectual engagements

Background Reading – maybe worth considering for purchase

Ben Anderson and Paul Harrison (eds.) *Taking-Place: Non-Representational Theories and Geography*, Aldershot: Ashgate, 2010. 910 TAK

Paul Cloke and Ron Johnston (eds.) *Spaces of Geographical Thought*, London: Sage, 2005. 910.01 SPA

Doreen Massey, *For Space*, London: Sage, 2005. 910.01 MAS

Phil Hubbard et. al. *Thinking Geographically: Space, Theory, and Contemporary Human Geography*, London: Continuum, 2002. 910.01 THI

Richard Peet, *Modern Geographical Thought*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1998. 910.01 PEE

Joanne P. Sharp et. al. (eds) *Entanglements of Power: Geographies of Domination/Resistance*, London: Routledge, 2000. 301.155 ENT

Edward W. Soja, *Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory*, London: Verso, 1989. 910.01 SOJ

2. Foucault and Concepts

- Genealogy as Critique: from Archaeology of Knowledge to a History of the Present
- Discourse and the subject of Truth
- Power/knowledge

3. Foucault and Politics

- Discipline and bio-power
- Governmentality
- Political practice and ethics

4. Foucault and Space

- Foucault's geographies
- Foucault's cartography: power and resistance
- Using Foucault

Websites

www.foucault.info/ – includes some short texts by Foucault and lots of links
www.foucault-studies.com – open-access journal with 11 issues to date, devoted to Foucault and work using his ideas. Has a detailed review section.
www.michel-foucault.com/ – useful links, bibliography, key concepts, etc.
www.theory.org.uk/ctr-fouc.htm – some useful bits, but very out-of-date
<http://michel-foucault-archives.org/> – mainly in French

Reading List (*denotes a key text)

*Crampton, J. and Elden, S. (eds.) (2007) *Space, Knowledge and Power: Foucault and Geography*, Aldershot: Ashgate. Contains some texts by Foucault including “Questions on Geography” and several commentary pieces. 910.01 SPA The introduction is freely available online -
http://www.ashgate.com/pdf/SamplePages/Space_Knowledge_and_Power_Intro.pdf

Key texts by Foucault

Foucault wrote several books. The most accessible, and the key ones discussed in these lectures, are:

- *Foucault, M (1977) *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Penguin Books, London. [1975] 365 FOU
- *Foucault, M (1990) *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: the Will to Knowledge*. Penguin Books, London. [1976] 306.7 FOU

There are also several collections of essays and interviews

- Foucault, M (1980) *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-77*. Pantheon, New York (many are now contained in the essential works). 194 FOU (short)
- Foucault, M (1997) *The Essential Works, Volume 1: Ethics, Subjectivity and Truth*. Allen Lane, London. 194 FOU (short) 170 FOU
- Foucault, M (1998) *The Essential Works, Volume 2: Aesthetics, Method and Epistemology*. Allen Lane, London. 194 FOU
- Foucault, M (2000) *The Essential Works, Volume 3: Power*. Allen Lane, London. 194 FOU

NB within the three volume essential works there are several key pieces. These include: "What is Enlightenment?" (vol 1); "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History" (vol 2); "Different Spaces" (vol 2); "Governmentality" (vol 3). There are several useful interviews such as "Truth and Power" (vol 3) and "Space, Power and Knowledge" (vol 3).

Foucault's lecture courses have been being published over the last fifteen years. The most geographically relevant is:

Foucault, M. (2007) *Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-78*, Palgrave Macmillan, London. 320.1 FOU

Commentaries and Critical Assessment

There is an enormous secondary literature on Foucault. Some good works include:

- Barker, P (1998) *Michel Foucault: An Introduction*. Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh. 194 FOU/BAR
- Barret, M (1991) *The Politics of Truth: From Marx to Foucault*. Polity Press, Cambridge. 335.411 BAR
- Barry, A, Osborne, T, and Rose, N (eds.) (1996) *Foucault and Political Reason: Neo-liberalism and Rationalities of Government*. UCL Press, London. 320.51 FOU/FOU
- *Burchell, G; Gordon, C and Miller, P (eds) (1991) *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality*. Harvester Wheatsheaf, London. 194.9 FOU/FOU and 320.51 FOU/FOU (includes essays by Foucault and several using his ideas)
- *Dean, M (1999; second edition 2010) *Governmentality: Power and Rule in Modern Societies*. Sage, London. 303.3 DEA
- Dillon, M. and Neal, A. (eds.) (2008) *Foucault on Politics, Security and War*, Palgrave Macmillan, London. 320.092 FOU
- Dreyfus, H and Rabinow, P (1982) *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*. Harvester Press, Brighton. 194 FOU/DRE
- Fraser, N (2003) "From Discipline to Flexibilization? Rereading Foucault in the Shadow of Globalization", *Constellations* 10(2): 160-171.
- Kelly, M. (2009) *The Political Philosophy of Michel Foucault*, Routledge, New York. 320.092 FOU/KEL
- McNay, L (1993) *Foucault and Feminism: Power, Gender and the Self*. Polity, Cambridge. 305.4201 FOU/MCN
- *McNay, L (1994) *Foucault: A Critical Introduction*. Polity Press, Cambridge. 194.9 FOU/MCN
- Macey, D (1993) *The Lives of Michel Foucault*. Hutchinson, London. 194 FOU/MAC (the best biography)
- *O'Farrell, C. *Michel Foucault*, Sage, London. 194 FOU/OFA (probably the best short introduction to his work)
- Simons, J (1995) *Foucault and the Political*. Routledge, London. 194 FOU/SIM
- *Smart, Barry (1994-) *Michel Foucault: Critical Assessments, volumes 1-4*. Routledge, London. On order (a massive collection of commentaries)

Geographical Readings of Foucault

See the essays in Crampton and Elden (eds.) *Space, Knowledge and Power: Foucault and Geography*; but also look in key geography journals.

- Allen, J (2003) *Lost Geographies of Power*. Blackwell, Oxford. 301.155ALL
- Driver, F (1997) "Bodies in Space: Foucault's Account of Disciplinary Power" in Barnes, T and Gregory, D (eds) *Reading Human Geography*. Arnold, London. 910 REA
- *Elden, S (2001) *Mapping the Present: Heidegger, Foucault and the project of a spatial history*. Continuum, London. Esp. chapters 4 and 5. 193.9HEI/ELD
- Elden, S. (ed.) 2007 "Rethinking Governmentality". *Political Geography*, 26 (1): 29-56.
- Elden, S. (2007) "Governmentality, Calculation, Territory". *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*. 25: 562-580
- Gregory, D (1994) *Geographical Imaginations*. Blackwell, Oxford. 910.01 GRE
- Hannah, M (1993) "Foucault on Theorizing Specificity" *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 11: 349-363.
- Harley, J. B. (2001) *The New Nature of Maps: Essays in the History of Cartography*, edited by Paul Laxton, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore. 528.9HAR
- Legg, S (2005) "Foucault's Population Geographies: Classifications, Biopolitics and Governmental Spaces". *Population, Space and Place*, 11(3), 137-156.
- *Philo, C (1992) "Foucault's Geography", *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 10: 137-161. Reprinted in Crang, M and Thrift, N (eds) (2000) *Thinking Space*. Routledge, London. 300 THI

Putting Foucault to work in Geography (a few examples of the range of studies)

- Dean, M (1991) *The Constitution of Poverty: towards a genealogy of liberal governance*. Routledge, London. 362.50942 DEA
- Driver, F (1993) *Power and Pauperism: The Workhouse System, 1834-1884*. CUP, Cambridge. 362.50942081 DRI
- de Goede, M (2005) *Virtue, Fortune, and Faith: a Genealogy of Finance*. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis. 332.09 GOE
- Gregory, D (2004a) "The Angel of Iraq" *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 22: 317-324.
- Gregory, D (2004b) *The Colonial Present: Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq*. Blackwell, Oxford. 327.73056 GRE
- Hannah, M. (2000) *Governmentality and the Mastery of Territory in Nineteenth Century America*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. 973.8 HAN
- Legg, S (2007) *Spaces of Colonialism: Delhi's Urban Governmentalities*. Oxford: Blackwell. 320.9545609041 LEG
- Mitchell, T (1988) *Colonising Egypt*. University of California Press, Berkeley. 303.4826204 MIT and 303.48262 MIT
- Philo, C. (2004) *A Geographical History of Institutional Provision for the Insane from Medieval Times to the 1860s in England and Wales: The Space Reserved for Insanity*. Edwin Mellen Press, Lewiston. 362.2942 PHI
- Said, E (1978) *Orientalism*. Penguin, London. 303.482182105 SAI