

FOLK 321/URBST 327/ANTH 321/ASAM 411

Exploring Memory and Tradition in Philadelphia Communities

Spring 2007

Professors Mary Hufford and Yoonhee Kang Friday 2-5
Logan Hall Room 204



From grocery stores and restaurants located in South Philadelphia, Indonesian immigrants sell a variety of Indonesian foods and goods to local patrons. Photo by Yoonhee Kang, October 18, 2006.

Course Description

In this place-based community service learning course, we explore the use of traditional verbal arts and material practices among immigrant communities seeking to make Philadelphia home. We begin with theories of culture, community, identity, and the production of locality from the social sciences, and move from there into historic, literary, and ethnographic portrayals of relevance to the community we will be working with. Students are introduced to the principles of ethnographic fieldwork, including techniques of participant observation, interviewing, community-based research design, interpretation, and presentation, and the ethical dimensions of fieldwork. Applying these methods, students develop a project that serves the needs of a collaborating Philadelphia community. Students gain critical thinking and

observational skills from the readings, discussion, writing assignments, and field trips.

The fieldwork component for the Spring of 2007 focuses on the verbal arts and material cultural traditions of South Philadelphia's Indonesian community. In partnership with the Folk Arts and Cultural Treasures School (FACTS), students and faculty will develop an overview of Philadelphia's Indonesian community and its goals for cultural and linguistic maintenance. Students will also work with community members to identify resources on which FACTS can draw in order to support these goals for the many Indonesian children who have recently enrolled in the school. This one and a half credit ABCS course fulfills the General Distribution requirement in Society.

Professors Hufford and Kang will hold office hours on Tuesday afternoons from 2-4, and by appointment.. Our e-mail addresses are:

yoonheek@sas.upenn.edu

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Work for the Course: Each student must do the weekly readings, participate actively in class discussion, and complete fieldwork and related writing assignments. Midway through the course we will hold a planning meeting to identify a project related to each student's interests and skills, which will contribute to a final report and related products, which we will present to the principal, faculty, students and parents of FACTS on April 27.

Required texts (available at Penn Book Center, 34th and Sansom)

Richard Bauman, ed, 1992. *Folklore, cultural performances, and Popular entertainments: A communications-Centered Handbook*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Saunders, Graham. 2007 [2001]. *Customs and Etiquette of Indonesia*. London: Global Books Ltd.

Vickers, Adrian. 2006 [2005]. *A History of Modern Indonesia*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

All other readings will be posted to the blackboard or distributed as handouts.

Draft Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Field Trips

Jan. 12: Introduction to the course

- 1) Folklore and Community-Based Academic Service
- 2) Overview of Indonesian history, geography, demographics, and culture
(Film clips: Children of the Thousand Islands)

Jan. 19: Indonesia and South Philadelphia in World Historical Context

Readings:

Vickers, 2005. "Age of Globalization, Age of Crisis."

Purdey, 2006. "Chinese Indonesians: A Minority in the Middle."

Bertrand, "Introduction" and "Exclusion, Marginality, and the Nation."

Welcoming Center for New Philadelphians, 2004. *From Cobblestone Streets to Korean Soap Operas*

Video: Miyah: The Life of a Javanese Woman

Assignment: Between January 12 and January 19, visit an Indonesian store in South Philadelphia. Find something under \$5 that you know nothing about. Find out about it, purchase it, write about your experience (2-3 pages double-spaced), and bring the item and your writing to class. A prompt for the writing will be posted to the course blackboard site.

Jan 26: South Philadelphia as Locality for Immigrants

Guest Presentation on Folk Arts and Cultural Treasures Charter School in Chinatown, by Tony Shapiro-Phim, Philadelphia Folklore Project

Readings:

Appadurai, "The Production of Locality." *Modernity at Large*

"Strut!" (video)

Noyes, Dorothy. "Group." *Eight Words for the Study of Expressive Culture*

Special *Works in Progress* issue on Asian Americans in Philadelphia

Precious Places videos.

Assignments:

- 1) With a partner, visit an assigned Philadelphia repository and identify the scope and content for holdings that relate to Indonesian immigrants in Philadelphia, and historical information about south Philadelphia. Please bring your findings to this class.
- 2) Bring in an artifact or a photo of an artifact that tells something about your family history. You will conduct interviews with each other this week and write about this for class the following week, using a prompt that we will post to the blackboard.

Feb. 2: Participating Ethnographically: An Introduction

Readings:

- Hufford, 2005. "Ethnography." *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of World Folklore and Folklife*, ed. William Clements.
- Hall, 2004. "The Ethnography of Imagined Communities."
- Jansen, 1959. "The Esoteric/Exoteric Factor in Folklore."
- Sanjek, 1990. "A Vocabulary for Fieldnotes," in *Fieldnotes: The Makings of Anthropology*, ed. Roger Sanjek. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Spradley and McCurdy, *The Cultural Experience*, pp. 1-56.
- Parsons, Gerald E. "What is an Ethnographic Field Collection?"

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/ethno.html>

Wysocki, Barbara, and Frances Jacobsen. "Learning about immigration through Oral History." <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/97/oh1/ammem.html>

American Folklife Center, *Folklife and Fieldwork* (permissions forms, archival methods)

To familiarize yourself with the ethical issues of doing ethnography, please review the following:

A Statement of Ethics for the American Folklore Society

<http://www.afsnet.org/aboutAFS/ethics.cfm>

Handbook on Ethical Issues in Anthropology

<http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/>

American Sociological Association statement of ethics:

<http://www.asanet.org/page.wv?section=Ethics&name=Ethics>

Feb. 9: Introduction to Philadelphia's Indonesian Community

Guest Speakers: Aldo Shiahahan, Associate Pastor, Philadelphia Praise Center, and Indah Nuritasari, journalist and consultant on Indonesian children's toys and plays for Philadelphia's Please Touch Museum.

Reading:

Bauman, 1992. Essays on "Folklore," "Performance," and "Genre."

Food researchers: read essays on "Food," and "Festival."

Verbal Arts researchers: read essays on "Humor," "Ethnography of Speaking," "Speech Play," and "Insult."

Music researchers: read essays on "Ethnomusicology," "Music: Folk and Traditional," and "Music Performance."

Thinking:

Bring these theoretical essays into dialogue with what you know about food, language, and musical performance, and develop questions that you might explore with our guest speakers. Folders on Indonesian music, food, and language resources in the course documents section contain some information to get you started.

Feb. 16: Preparing to research Food, Music, and Verbal Arts

Reading: Review notes from Aldo on February 9 and essays assigned for February 9 in Bauman, *Folklore, Cultural Performances, and Popular Entertainments*. Begin writing about your topic, and develop a set of questions to explore with Indonesian teens who will be our mentors for the remainder of the semester. We will work on these in class and identify dates and venues for meeting with teens and sites for field trips over the next week.

Some basic cultural dos and don'ts:

<http://www.into-asia.com/indonesia/faq/culture.php>

<http://www.cyborlink.com/besite/indonesia.htm>

http://www.ediplomat.com/np/cultural_etiquette/ce_id.htm

Feb. 23: Multiculturalism and the Politics of Cultural Recognition

Guest consultant: Dahlia Setiyawan

Reading:

Setiyawan, 2005. "Unity in Diversity": Identity Development and Community Building Among Indonesian immigrants in Philadelphia"

Bring to class fieldnotes, photographs, and collected ephemera from your field trips and be prepared to share your findings and questions with Dahlia Setiyawan and the class. We will identify further

March 2: Planning meeting for student projects. We will identify resources, tasks, and final products for each student, and establish a timeline for accomplishing the work of: 1) surveying the relevant holdings of cultural institutions in Philadelphia and elsewhere, 2) documenting cultural resources and needs in the Indonesian community, and 3) producing a document and related products for the FACTS school.

Readings on the Folk Arts in Education Movement: Philosophy, Politics, and Practice

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, 1983. "An Accessible Aesthetic,"

Dewey, "Experience as Aesthetic," from *Art as Experience*, pp. 3-19.

McDermott, "Deprivation and Celebration: Suggestions for an Aesthetic Ecology." From *The Culture of Experience: Philosophical Essays in the American Grain*.

Taylor, "Multiculturalism and the Politics of Recognition."

Wei and Kodish, 2001. "Sites of Struggle: Bringing Folklore and Social Change into the Classroom." *Works in Progress*. 14: 4-9.

Mar. 9: No class this week – Spring Break

Mar. 18-April 20: Ongoing project assessment and mentoring. We will meet each Friday to report on research findings, to share information and resources and to set goals for the following week. As the need arises, we will schedule consultations with community leaders.

Apr. 27: Presentation at FACTS School

May 4: Deadline for completion of student projects.

Folk/Anthr 321: Course Readings and Resources, Spring 2007

Abrahams, Roger. 2003. "Identity." In *Keywords: Eight Words for the Study of Expressive Culture*, ed. Burt Feintuch. Urbana, Ill: University of Illinois Press, pp. 198-222.

American Folklife Center. "A Teacher's Guide to Folklife Resources."
<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/teachers/allpf.php>

-----, 2007. *Folklife and Fieldwork: A Layman's Introduction*.
<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/index.html>

Appadurai, Arjun. 1996. *Modernity at Large: The Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Bauman, Richard. Ed. 1992. *Folklore, Cultural Performances, and Popular Entertainments: A Communications-Centered Handbook*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Bertrand, Jacque. 2004. *Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict in Indonesia*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Bort, Michael and Liswati Seram. 1995. *Bahasa Indonesian in Seven Days*. Ottawa, Canada. Web publication.

Bradunas, Elena and Brett Topping. 1988. *Ethnic Heritage and Language Schools in America*. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress.

Davis, Susan. 1988. *Parades and Power: Street Theater in 19th Century Philadelphia*.
Dewey, John. 1934. *Art as Experience*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Fishman, Joshua. 1980. "Language Maintenance and the Ethnic Mother Tongue School." *Modern Language Journal*. 64: 167-172.

Hall, Kathleen. 2004. "The Ethnography of Imagined Communities: The Cultural Production of Sikh Identity in Britain." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*. 595:108-121.

Hufford, Mary. 2006. "Ethnography." In *World Encyclopedia of Folklore*, ed. William Clements. Westview Press.

-----, 2002. "A Commonwealth of Cultures." In Simon Bronner, ed. *Folk Nation: Folklore in the Creation of American Tradition*. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources.

- Hymes, Dell. 1974. "Folklore's Nature and the Sun's Myth." *Journal of American Folklore*.
- Ives, Edward D. 1995. *The Tape-Recorded Interview: A Manual for Fieldworkers in Folklore and Oral History*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press.
- Jansen, William Hugh. 1959. "The Esoteric-Exoteric Factor in Folklore." *Fabula*. 2:205-211.
- Kang, Yoonhee. 2006. "'Staged' Rituals and 'Veiled' spells: Multiple Language Ideologies and Transformations in Petalangan Verbal Magic." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 16:1-22.
- Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara. 1989. "Objects of Memory." In *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres*, ed. Elliott Oring. Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press.
- . 1983. "An Accessible Aesthetic: The Role of Folk Arts and the Folk Artist in the Curriculum." *New York Folklore* 9:9-18.
- Kodish, Debora and William Westerman. "Pitfalls and Possibilities: Presenting Folk Artists in the Schools." www.folkloreproject.org/programs/education/pitfalls.htm
- McDermott, John. 1976 [1969]. "Deprivation and Celebration: Suggestions for an Aesthetic Ecology." *The Culture of Experience: Philosophical Essays in the American Grain*. Prospect Heights, Ill: Waveland Press.
- Noyes, Dorothy. 2003. "Group." In *Keywords: Eight Words for the Study of Expressive Culture*, ed. Burt Feintuch. Urbana, Ill: University of Illinois Press, pp. 7-41.
- Philadelphia Folklore Project.. *Works In Progress Magazine*.
<http://www.folkloreproject.org>
- Purdey, Jemma. 2006. *Anti-Chinese Violence in Indonesia 1996-1999*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- Reyes, Angela Rosario. 2003. "'The Other Asian': Linguistic, Ethnic and cultural Stereotypes at an After-School Asian American Teen Videomaking Project.." PhD Dissertation, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania.
- Scribe Video Center. *Precious Places Video Series*. <http://www.scribe.org/>
- Setiyawan, Dahlia. 2005. "'Unity in Diversity': Identity Development and community-Building among Indonesian Immigrants in Philadelphia." M.A. Thesis. Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania.

Spradley, James P. and David W. McCurdy. 1972. *The Cultural Experience: Ethnography in Complex Society*. Prospect Heights, Ill.: Waveland Press.

Taylor, Charles, and Amy Gutmann. 1992. *Multiculturalism and the Politics of Cultural Recognition*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt. 2005. *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Vickers, Adrian. 2005. *A History of Modern Indonesia*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Wei, Deborah and Debora Kodish. 2001. "Sites of Struggle: Bringing Folklore and Social Change into the Classroom." *Works in Progress*. 14: 4-9.

Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians. 2004. *Immigrant Philadelphia: From Cobblestone Streets to Korean Soap Operas*. Philadelphia: Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Westerman, William. 1994. "Cultural Barriers to Justice in Greater Philadelphia: Background, Bias, and the Law." Philadelphia Folklore Project Working Papers # 9.

Williams, Raymond. 1985 [1976]. *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Zeitlin, Steven J. 1994. "Conserving Our cities' Endangered Spaces." In *Conserving Culture: A New Discourse on Heritage*, ed. Mary Hufford. Champagne-Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Copies of and excerpts from these materials, as well as from additional articles, film clips, sound recordings, and links to related websites will be placed on reserve in Rosengarten, distributed as handouts, or posted to the Courseweb Blackboard. Additional resources and readings, many of them discovered by you, will be posted to the blackboard site or distributed in class as we go.

Online Resources

American Folklife Center, Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/>

American Folklore Society <http://www.afsnet.org/>

Asian Arts Initiative <http://www.asianartsinitiative.org/>

Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies <http://www.balchinstitute.org/>

City Lore <http://www.citylore.org>

Historical Society of Pennsylvania <http://www.hsp.org/>

Institute for Cultural Partnerships <http://www.culturalpartnerships.org/>

Philadelphia Folklore Project <http://www.folkloreproject.org/>

Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Association Coalition (SEAMAC)

http://www.seamaac.org/who_agencies.html

Scribe Video <http://www.scribe.org>

Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians <http://www.welcomingcenter.org/>

University of Pennsylvania Museum <http://www.museum.upenn.edu/>

For Indonesian newspapers and other communications: <http://www.kabarkilat.com>

Film Resources

Anak Seribu Pulau (Children of the thousand Islands)

- <http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Indonesian/Video/>

: A series of documentary films about children activities (i.e. playing, studying, working, etc) in various culture and location settings in Indonesia.

A collaborative production of RCTI, SCTV, TPI, ANTEVE, dan INDOSIAR (1995)

Producers and Directors: Garin Nugroho and Mira Lesmana

Miyah : the life of a Javanese woman / = Life of a Javanese woman (1999)

Miyah, a domestic servant in Jakarta, Indonesia, returns to visit her parents in rural Java.

Publisher: Watertown, MA : Documentary Educational Resources, c1999.

Format: VHS - NTSC: 1 videocassette (30 min.) : sd., col. ; 1/2 in.

Notes: Margaret Mead Film Festival, 1999.

Languages: English, Javanese Subtitles: English University Museum Library Desk

Call No. VHS HQ1236.5.I5 M59 1999. VHS 1999

Mariman (First Run / Icarus Films 2000)

In the aftermath of the May, 1998 riots in Indonesia, which both helped toppled Suharto and victimized the ethnic Chinese, a portrait of one Chinese businessman and his family.

http://www.frif.com/new2000/woc_ma.html

Field Work Assignments

Assignment 1: Indonesian Grocery Stores. Go to an Indonesian grocery store in South Philadelphia. What are the main types of foods sold there? How are they labeled and organized? What are the local terms for them? Are these foods and ingredients brought from Indonesia or from elsewhere? If there is an equivalent food sold in standard US stores, why don't they just buy that one? What else the grocery stores sell or provide to the local patrons (e.g., video rentals, calling cards, magazines, news paper, or other services?) Try to conduct interviews with the shop keepers or their customers, and write up a 3 page (double-spaced) description of your experience and what you learned.: Locate the store on the map.

- (1) narrative descriptions of your visit (e.g., when, how, who, etc)
- (2) descriptive analysis of the store: Store layout, types of foods (esp. staple food), other items
- (3) analysis of the foods: What types are there? How are they different from one another?
- (4) analysis of the interviews: Why people go there?
- (5) appendix: scan and attach any brochures, business cards, or free local magazines that you acquire from the stores.

Some establishments to visit:

Café Pendawa	1529 Morris St. Philadelphia PA. 19145	215-755-6229
Ramayana Store	1547 S. 7 th St. Philadelphia PA 19148	215-339-5182; 215-479-0640, 215-339-0432
Indonesia Store	1701 Bancroft St. Philadelphia PA 19145	215-462-0340, 215-755-3100
Srikandi Market	608 snyder Ave. Philadelphia, PA. 19148	215-462-3121

Assignment 2: Indonesian Religious Activities. Go to an Indonesian church or a Indonesian Muslim monthly meetings. How do they worship? What kinds of songs/music they use? How do they pray? Who are they? (e.g, their ethnic background: e.g., Malay, Chinese) What kinds of media/technology they use during the worship? What languages (English/Indonesian) do they speak before/during/after the worship, and with whom? What kinds of activity groups do they have? (e.g. weekly meetings for youth groups) How are these activity groups organized? (e.g., by age, sex, etc.) Try to interview with their leaders, or video-record the worship and provide a report (1-3 pages):

- (1) narrative descriptions of your visit
- (2) descriptive analysis of the church/meeting
- (3) analysis of the worship; structure, songs, prayers, etc.
- (4) analysis of the interviews
- (5) appendix: any photos or video-clips of your visit

Assignment 3: Indonesian Festival. Collect information on Indonesian festivals (religious or cultural, including wedding), especially in Spring. When and how do they celebrate? Are there any community centers where people gather to celebrate any specific occasions? What kinds of food they prepare for each event? What kinds of customs? (e.g., clothing, gift-giving, etc) What kinds of entertainment? (e.g. karaoke, dancing?) For weddings: visit a local studio where people take wedding pictures. Interview with the photographers, and provide a report on your visit/participation on the festival or weddings.