THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: law and disorder  [ANTHRO 53701]

The seminar will take between one and three readings each week and use them to focus on a broad topic pertaining to theorizing the vexed question of law and dis/order in the twenty-first century. From the second week on, a group of three or so participants will prepare a twenty to twenty-five minute opening statement to each session which will (a) offer a critical reading of the text/s and (b) use it as a window onto the broader topic. Everyone is expected to read the set text and to bring to the seminar other readings that s/he sees as relevant to the discussion. Please try to read the texts for 9/27 before the first class; it will serve as a general introduction to the discussion.

Special note: In week 10 we shall discuss Jonny Steinberg’s The Number, which is a long and detailed study. It also provides grounded exemplification of much to be discussed in the course. Please start reading it as soon as you can. In addition, we hope to organize two film showings during the quarter.


Kafka, Franz. In the Penal Colony. [You will find a copy online at http://www.mala.bc.ca/~johnstoi/kafka/inthepenalcolony.htm. It is in the public domain.]


Comaroff, Jean and John Comaroff, 2004. Criminal Obsessions,

22 November


29 November
