

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of History  
Fall 1993

ORIENTALISM: Other People in Our Knowledge  
History 573 Undergraduate Seminar

Thursday 3:30-5:30 Rm. 2637 Humanities

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Since Edward Said's influential book, Orientalism, came out in 1978, together with a trend in self-conscious investigation of scholarship in human sciences, the critical studies of how Western scholarship knows and represents other cultures has become a noted issue. Said's work, exploring a field known as Oriental Studies, popular in Europe since the nineteenth century, shows that the Oriental, Muslim in the Middle East in particular, are represented or invented as the opposite or the counterpart of Western civilization. They are "the Other" of the West. This Orientalist (mis)representation, moreover, is not simply the result of ignorance or inadequacy of knowledge, but it is a cultural product power relations between the West and the rest.

The responses to Said have been strongly positive and negative, and everything in between. Orientalism -the book- opens up a new area of inquiry. First, is Orientalism also true to other "Oriental" societies? If so, is the Oriental monolithic? Second, Said's Orientalism is almost synonymous with the 19th-20th century colonialism. Are there other forms of Orientalism in the East-West relations and in other time? Is Orientalism a unified field unaffected by gender or class? Finally, does the representation of "Other" belong exclusively to Western culture. How other cultures have represented and known their "Other"? The crucial issue is not much if the knowledge is correct or not, but HOW such a knowledge has been created and reproduced, by what linguistic or semiotic mechanism and by what contextual conditions and power relations, and WHAT are the effects of the knowledge on both Western civilization and the Orient.

The questions above are our line of inquiry into many forms of cultural encounter. Our aim is, however, not theoretical anthropology, nor fundamental historical methods, but to explore many ways of doing a non-conventional history. Southeast Asia is our primary, though not exclusive, case.

Class Meeting: Thursday 3:30-5:30 (substitute hours will be discussed).  
Rm. 2637 Humanities.

Office Hour: Room 5211 Humanities ph: (608) 263-8931  
Tuesday 3:00-4:30 and Wednesday 3:00-4:30 or by appointment

Requirement:

1. Every student has to make presentation(s) (10-15 min.) at the beginning of the chosen meeting(s) (to be decided in the first meeting). The presentation discusses the weekly issue as s/he studies from that week's materials. The student must also lead the discussion of that week (raising questions or topics, and guide the discussion). One week later s/he must write an essay, preferably the script of the presentation, but can be a reflection on the readings or anything relevant to the presented topic. (20%)
2. A research essay (15-20 pages on A4 paper, double spacing, with references and bibliography) on the topic related to the course (with

permission from the instructor). The due date of the paper is .....  
Regular contact with the instructor to discuss about the paper is taken into account for the grading. 50%.

3. Participation is crucial. Every student must prepare for discussion each week. S/he should be active participant. This does not mean an overly talkative; it simply means attention and involvement in the discussion. Too many absence and uncooperative sit-ins will be noted. (30%)

4. The students' presentations of their researches have no mark and no penalty than normal participation. But it is for students to demonstrate their work and exchange ideas.

#### Reading:

All the readings below can be found in UW libraries. Also, the instructor will provide some required reading materials (not all), plus some supplementary, for each week in a red file to be left in the mailbox #5043 (5th fl. Humanities near the room 5211). Students should check the red file each week, take the entire file to xerox the materials you need, then return it to the mailbox within an hour for other students.

The student responsible for each week should prepare about two weeks in advance. See the instructor if the material cannot be found. For the rest of the class in each week, students should find the required reading first; if not possible, you are recommended to read anything on the list for that week.

The "Issue" given under the weekly topic below is a guidance, a line of inquiry, some starting points for the reading. It also helps defining the common scope for discussion. Students may follow the guidance in reading and in discussion, but do not "have to" do so.

#### COURSE SCHEDULE

(\* required materials. The rest are supplementary for your interest)  
(% materials available by instructor in the red file)

Week 1 (Sept 2) Introduction to the course. Discuss the assignment and meeting.

Week 2 (Sept 9) Said's Orientalism

Issue: Said's ideas, methods, implication, limitations and problems

\* Said, Edward. Orientalism. chap.1(I,II) and chap.3

Cohen, Warren ed. Reflections on Orientalism.

% "Review Symposium: Edward Said's Orientalism" Journal of Asian Studies  
39 (1980). 481-516.

Kabbani, Rana Europe's Myth of Orient.

Week 3 (Sept 16) Travel to the Other's world

Issue: Why travel? Purposes, meanings and functions of travel. What is exoticism? Why? How to make the Other exotic. Travel literature, an ethnography? How can we use travel literature and brochures?

- \*% Loth, Heinrich. "The Knowledge of Asia and Africa in the Age of Enlightenment: Travel Books as Historical Sources," in The French Revolution of 1789: Its Impact on Latin America, Asia and Africa. ed. Joachim Heidrich. 39-44.
- \*% Bailey-Goldschmidt, Janice and Kalfatovic, Martin. "Sex Lies, and European Hegemony: Travel Literature and Ideology," Journal of Popular Culture 26:4 (Spring 1993). 141-153.
- \*% Picard, Michel. "Cultural Tourism in Bali: National Integration and Regional Differences," in Tourism in South-East Asia. 48-70.
- \*% Selwyn, Tom. "Peter Pan in South-East Asia: views from the brochures," in Tourism in South-East Asia. ed. Hitchcock, Michael; King, Victor; and Parnwell, Michael. 117-137.
- \*% Wheeler, Valerie. "Traveler's Tales: Observations on Travel Book and Ethnography," Anthropological Quarterly 59:2 (April 1986). 52-63.

\* Either: Look through one or many travel literature to SEAsia in the 19th c. (Many are in catalogue cards, not the NLS.) Examples: Mouhot, Henri. Diary: Travels in Central Parts of Siam, Cambodia and Laos during 1858-1861.

La Loubere, Simone de. The Kingdom of Siam.

Bowring, Sir John. The Kingdom and People of Siam, 2 vols.

Linschoten, Jan Huygen van. The Voyage of John Huygen Linschoten to the East Indies.

Ibrahim, Muhammad Ibu. Ship of Sulaiman.

Also, the works by Ferdinand Mendez Pinto, Joost Schouten, Maurice Collis, Tome Pires, Engelbert Kaempfer, Nicholas Gervaise, Antonio De Morga, James Brookes, John Crawford.

\* Or: See the guidebooks or collecting travel brochures about other countries, especially Asia. See HOW those travel literature or guidebooks present, portray, or show the destination.

Clifford, James. "Traveling Cultures," in ed. Lawrence Grossberg, Cary Nelson, and Paula Treichler. Cultural Studies.

Campbell, Mary B. The Witness and the Other World: Exotic European Travel Writing 400-1600. part I, chap 3-4.

Baudet, Henri. Paradise on Earth: Some Thoughts on European Images on Non-European Man.

Schwartz, Milliam L. The Imaginative Interpretation of the Far East in Modern French Literature 1800-1925. see chap 3, 1885-1905.

Porter, Dennis. Haunted Journey: Desire and Transgression in European Travel Writing. (for post-modernist view) parts 1,2 and 4.

Pratt, Mary Louise. Imperial Eyes: Travel Writings and Transculturation. chap.1

Week 4 (Sept 23) Ethnographic construct

Issue: What is ethnography? What does an ethnographer do? Observation (gaze), fieldwork, and writing. To what extent an ethnographic object created by an ethnographic writer?

\* Vickers, Adrian. Bali: A Paradise Created.

Schulte Nordholt, H. Bali: Colonial Conceptions and Political Change 1700-1940.

Boon, James. Affinities and Extremes. chap. 1-2.

Heniger, Johannes, "Dutch Contributions to the Study of Exotic Natural History in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries," in Terra Australis: the Furthest Shore. ed. W. Eisler and B. Smith. 59-66.

Smith, Bernard. "The Intellectual and Artistic Framework of Pacific Exploration in the Eighteenth Century," in Terra Australis (ibid). 123-128.

Fabian, Johannes. Time and The Other: How Anthropology Makes Its Object

Talal, Asad. Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter.

Atkinson, Paul. The Ethnographic Imagination: Textual Construction of Reality, see chap.4.

See an anthropological debate over Margaret Mead's classic work on Samoa.

Mead, Margaret. Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization.

Freeman, Derek. Margaret Mead and Samoa: The Making and Unmaking of an Anthropological Myth.

Week 5 (Sept 30) Museum, Exposition, Exhibiting the Other

Issue: How do the fragmented objects and materials speak? Different methods, settings, styles and arrangements. Living human on display. Museum, expos, circus, and zoo, and power relations.

- \*% Mitchell, Timothy. "Orientalism and the Exhibitionary Order," in ed. Nicholas Dirk. Colonialism and Culture. 289-318.
- \*% Hinsley, Curtis. "The World as Market Place: Commodification of the Exotic at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893," in ed. Ivan Karp and Steven D. Levine. Exhibiting Cultures. 344-365.
- \*% Ames, Michael M. "Cannibal Tours and Glass Boxes: the Anthropology of Museums. see the article "How Anthropologists Stereotype Other People," and "How Anthropologists Help Fabricate the Cultures they Study." 49-69.
- \*% Chapman, William Ryan. "Arranging Ethnology: A.H.L.F. Pitt Rivers and the Typological Tradition," in ed. Stocking, George. Objects and Others: Essays on Museums and Material Cultures. 15-48.

Stocking, George. Objects and Others: Essays on Museums and Material Cultures. see the articles by Ira Jacknis, Elizabeth Williams, and James Clifford.

Mitchell, Timothy. Colonizing Egypt. chap.1.

% Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara. "Objects of Ethnography," in Exhibiting Cultures. 386-443. (highly recommended).

Rydell, Robert. All the World's A Fair.

Benedict, Burton. The Anthropology of World's Fair: San Francisco's Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915.

Smith, Bernard. European Vision and the South Pacific 1768-1850: A Study in the History of Art and Ideas. especially chap. 1,2,4,11.

Week 6 (Oct 7) The colonial fiction and the post-colonial conscience

Issue: The function of the East in Conrad's stories. Individualism, adventure, soul-searching, and the white man's burden. Colonialism, race, gender in Conrad's Malay novels. Comparison between Conrad, Kipling and Forster or Orwell.

\* Conrad, Joseph. Lord Jim.

\* Forster, E.M. Passage to India. (novel or film)

Orwell, George. "Shooting an Elephant," see in any complete Orwell's writings.

Moore, Gilbert. Kipling and "Orientalism".

Krenn, Heliena. Conrad's Lingard Trilogy: Empire, Race, and Women in the Malay Novels.

McClure, John A. Kipling and Conrad: the Colonial Fiction.

Darras, Jacque. Joseph Conrad and the West: Signs of Empire. part 1.

Warren, James F. At the Edge of Southeast Asian History. chap.2, "Joseph Conrad's Fiction as Southeast Asian History: Trade and Politics in East Borneo in the Late Nineteenth Century." 8-21.

% Winks, Robin W., and Rush, James R. eds. Asia in Western Fiction. see the following articles:- Donald Lach, "Images of asia and Asians in European Fiction, 1500-1800," James Rush, "Journeys to Java: Western Fiction about Indonesia, 1600-1980."

% Osborne, Milton. Fear and Fascination in the Tropics: a Reader's guide to French Fiction on Indochina. (Also published as an article in ibid.)

See the anthology and studies of Dutch literature from and about the Netherlands Indies in the colonial period.

Nieuwenhuys, Robert. Memory and Agony: Dutch Stories from Indonesia. Mirror of the Indies: A History of Dutch Colonial Literature.

Beekman, E.M. ed., tran, and intro. Fugitive Dreams: An Anthology of Dutch Colonial Literature.

Roskies, D.M. Imperial Perceptions: Examples of Colonial Fiction from Netherlands Indies.

Parrish, Cecile. The Images of Asia in Children's Literature 1814-1964.

% Lai nam Chen. Images of Southeast Asia in Children's Fiction. chap.3

Week 7 (Oct 14) Women and Orientalism

Issue: An English governess and an Oriental despot; female orientalist and Oriental king. Was she a feminist or simply became a (male-like) colonialist? Was Orientalism factored by gender? Feminine Orientalism; do they represent the Orient differently? A missionary?

\* See "The King and I"- the film based on Landon, Margaret. Anna and the King of Siam.

\*% Morgan, Susan. "An Introduction to Victorian Women's Travel Writings about Southeast Asia," Genre 20 (Summer 1987). 189-207

Leonowens, Anna. The Romance of the Harem. (The 1991 reprint has an interesting introduction about Anna's unclear biography.)

\_\_\_\_\_. Siamese Harem Life.

\_\_\_\_\_. The English Governess at the Siamese Court.

Melman, Billie. Women's Orient: English Women and the Middle East, 1718-1918. see pp.4-18 and part 2 on Harem.

% Notar Beth. "Contextual Contradictions: Race, Class and Gender in the 19th c. Travel Writings of Isabella Bird," (unpublished paper for the AAS meeting, 1993).

% Donaldson, Laura. "The King and I in Uncle Tom's Cabin or On the Border of the Women's Room," Cinema Journal 29:3 (Spring 1990). 53-67.

Mills, Sara. Discourse of Difference: an Analysis of Women's Travel Writing and Colonialism. part 1.

Griswold, A.B. King Mongkut of Siam. (In defense of King Mongkut)

Moffat, Abbot L. Mongkut: the King of Siam.

Blofeld, John. King Maha Mongkut of Siam.

Bradley, William. Siam Then: the Foreign Colony in Bangkok before and after Anna. (Good background of Bangkok and the court in Anna's time).

Week 8 (Oct 21) Western Media and the Third World: the case of Bangkok as the prostitution capital of the world

Issue: Factual reports and the effects beyond facts. Distorted objectivity? Moral ambivalence: rescuer or exploiter. Politics of covering the Third world; politics of anti-Western media. Look beyond this case to others:- human rights, poverty, wild life protection, etc.

\*% Examples of news reports about prostitution, AIDS, and sex industry in Thailand (and others), see in the red file for the week.

\*% Bangkok Post: Sunday Perspective: "Who are the oppressor?" see in the red file for the week.

(Some background readings for the case of Bangkok and sex industry.)

% Thitsa, Khin. Providence and Prostitution: Image and Reality for Women in Buddhist Thailand.

Erik Cohen. "Open-ended Prostitution as a Skilful Game of Luck: opportunity, risk, and security among tourist-oriented prostitutes in a Bangkok *soi*," in ed. Hitchcock, Michael; King, Victor T.; and Parnwell, Michael. Tourism in Southeast Asia.

Phongpaichit, Pasuk. "Bangkok Masseuses: Holding Up the Family Sky," Southeast Asia Chronicle 78 (1981). 15-23.

Truong, Thanh-Dam. "The Dynamics of Sex Tourism: The Case of Southeast Asia," Development and Change 14:4 (1983). 533-553.

\_\_\_\_\_. Sex, Money and Morality: Prostitution and Tourism in Southeast Asia.

Bonacci, Mark. Senseless Casualties: the AIDS Crisis in Asia. chap.1,3,4.

Said, Edward. Covering Islam.

Week 9 (Oct 28) Haunted Enemy: Vietnam in American Memory

Issue: What is Vietnam in the American literature and films about the Vietnam War? The War, a place, a mind-set, anathema, or a remotely forgotten theater? How is it remembered? How is it forgotten or avoided? Ignoring it? Representing it otherwise? Subduing a new enemy?

\* See some films about Vietnam war or think about the ones you have seen:- the Green Berets, Rambo II, Platoon, The Deer Hunter, Full Metal Jacket, Born on the Fourth of July, Apocalypse Now, etc. Then do some reading from a large number of studies about the Vietnam War novels and films. Here are only examples.

\*% Lomperis, Timothy. 'Reading the Wind' the Literature of the Vietnam War. chap.4, "The Great Lost Fact: The Asians," pp.63-81.

\* Cultural Critique 3 (Spring 1986), the special issue on American Representations of Vietnam. See two article:-

% Springer, Claudia. "Military Propaganda: Defense Department Films from World War II and Vietnam," 151-167; and

% Berg, Rick. "Losing Vietnam: Covering the War in the Age of Technology." 92-125.

\*% Schulte-Sasse, Jochen and Linda, "War, Otherness, and Illusionary Identifications with the State," Cultural Critique 19 (Fall 1991). 67-95. (This issue is about the economies of war; see some other interesting articles.)

% Melling, Philip. Vietnam in American Literature. see intro (xiii-xviii) and chap. 8 "Seeing Vietnam." (Vietnam as New England)  
Hellman, John. American Myth and the Legacy of Vietnam. (Vietnam as a mythic Landscape).

Auster, Albert and Quart, Leonard. How the War Was Remembered: Hollywood and Vietnam.

Dittmar, Linda and Michaud, Gene eds. From Hanoi to Hollywood: the Vietnam war in American Films.

Week 10 (Nov 4) The Native Response

Issue: Reaction from the Orient, a nationalist view and a humanist one.  
Are their views affected by Orientalism?

\* Rizal, Jose. The Lost Eden (Noli me tangere). trans. by Leon ma. Guerrero. (There are some other translations of this famous Filipino novel. Try to find this version first. If not found, look up in the NLS for Noli me tangere.)

And/Or \* Toer, Pramoedya Ananta. This Earth of Mankind. (About the author and the significance of the book, see introduction and afterwords of the 1991 edition.)

Reyes, Soledad. The Noli me tangere: A Century After.

Arcilla, Jose S. ed. Understanding the Noli: Its Historical Context and Literary Influences.

[Try some short stories about or against the American Era]

% Bresnahan, Roger. " 'Thanks Joe!': The American Image in Philippine Literature."

Yabes, Leopold Y. ed. Philippine Short Stories, 1925-1940, and Philippine Short Stories, 1941-1955 2 vols.

Anderson, Benedict, and Mendiones, Ruchira, ed.& intro. In the Mirror. see pp.19-40 and some stories, esp. pp.123-153.

Week 11 (Nov 11) The Orient's Other

Issue: "Orientalism" or the representation of the Other in eastern cultures. The Other Without and the Other Within. Politics of ethnonyms. Power relations of the Orient's Orientalism, and how does this fit, contradict, or parallel the grand Orientalism of the West.

\* Read the following:-

- % Sunait Chutintaranond. "The Image of the Burmese Enemy in Thai Historical Perceptions and Historical Writings," Journal of the Siam Society (check the recent issues or see the instructor).
- % Tanaka, Stefan. Japan's Orient. at least the introduction.
- % Thongchai Winichakul. "The Other Within: Ethnography and Travel Literature from the Bangkok Metropolis to Its Peripheries, 1885-1910," (draft paper, see the instructor).
- \* And/Or see two Thai films about the Lao people in Thailand: "Luk Isan" and "Thongpan." (Available at the audio-visual service, 4th floor Memorial Library, ask for South & Southeast Asia Video Collection. If we want to do it together, time and place can be arranged.)

Khamphun Bunthawi, Child of the Northeast, trans. from Luk Isan which becomes the film above.

Keyes, C.F. Isan: Regionalism in Northeastern Thailand.

Streckfuss, David. "Creating 'the Thai': the Emergence of Indigenous Nationalism in Non-colonial Siam 1850-1980," M.A. thesis, UW-Madison.

Anderson, Benedict. "Introduction" to Southeast Asian Tribal Groups and Ethnic Minorities.

Week 12 (Nov 18) Ethnic Identity and Others

Issue: The indispensable Other. The changing identification in reference to one another. No identity without the Other

\* Leach, Edmund. Political System of Highland Burma.

Barth, Fredrik. Ethnic Group and Boundaries: the Social Organization of Cultural Difference. see introduction.

Keyes, C.F. Ethnic Adaptation and Identity: the Karen on the Thai Frontier with Burma. see the articles by Keyes, Kunstadter, Marlowe, Lehman and introduction.

Moerman, Michael. "Ethnic Identification in a Complex Civilization: Who are the Lue?" American Anthropologist 67, no.5, part 1, (Oct 1965), pp. 1215-30.

Week 13 (Nov 25) Thanksgiving

Week 14 (Dec 2) Concluding Discussion

\*% Clifford, James. "On Orientalism" in his book The Predicament of Culture. (First printed as a review essay in History and Theory 19 (1980). 204-223.

\*% Said, Edward. "Representing the Colonized: Anthropology's Interlocutors," Critical Inquiry 5, no.2 (Winter 1989): 205-225.

Week 15 (Dec 9) Presentations of research essays