



LAW, ETHNOGRAPHY AND THE GLOBAL (DIS)ORDER

MASTER CLASS

University of Glasgow
Wolfson Medical School - Room 248 (Seminar Room 3 - Gannochy)
Thursday 12 May 2022

Luis Eslava*
Kent Law School

This master class will introduce participants to the critical potential of ethnography in the study of the present global (dis)order and its relation to law. Attending closely to the painstaking processes through which the present has come to be constituted, and to the defining features of ethnographic thinking about law, participants will be invited to provincialise what we conceive as international and globalise what we have learnt to be local.

The master class will be divided into three sessions that will combine interactive lectures, in-class exercises, discussions based on selected ethnographic films, and hands-on fieldwork experience. The allocated readings must be prepared in advance.

Day Schedule

i. Law and our World(s) (9.30am-11.00pm)

Readings:

1. Clifford Geertz, 'Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight' (1972)
2. Eve Darian-Smith, 'Ethnographies of Law' in Austin Sarat, *The Blackwell Companion to Law and Society* (Blackwell Pub., 2004)

Coffee Break (11.00pm-11.30pm)

ii. Ethnography and our Present(s) (11.30pm-1.00pm)

Readings:

1. Luis Eslava, 'The Moving Location of Empire: Indirect Rule, International Law, and the Bantu Educational Kinema Experiment' (2018), 31(3) *Leiden Journal of International Law* 539 *Leiden Journal of International Law* 539.
2. Luis Eslava, 'Istanbul Vignettes: Observing the Everyday Operation of International Law' (2014), 2(1) *London Review of International Law* 3.
3. Luis Eslava, 'Dense Struggle: On Ghosts, Law and the Global Order' (2018) in A. Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos, *Routledge Handbook on Law and Theory* (Routledge, 2018)

Lunch (1.00pm-2pm)

ii. The Ethnographic Gaze: Fieldwork Experience (2.00pm-4.00pm)

* Luis Eslava is a Reader in International Law and Co-Director of the Centre for Critical International Law at Kent Law School. He also holds visiting positions at Melbourne Law School and Universidad Externado de Colombia, and teaches regularly at the Global Workshops organised by the Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School. Bringing together insights from anthropology, history and legal and social theory, his work focuses on the multiple ways in which international norms, aspirations and institutional practices, both old and new, come to shape and become part of our everyday life, arguing that closer critical attention needs to be paid to this co-constitutive relationship between international law 'up there' and life 'down here'. He is the author of *Local Space, Global Life: The Everyday Operation of International Law and Development* (CUP 2015), co-editor of the collections *Bandung, Global History and International Law: Critical Pasts, Pending Futures* (CUP 2017) and *Imperialismo y Derecho Internacional* (Siglo del Hombre Editores, 2016), and editor and co-editor of the special issues 'Citizen In-Security' (*Latin American Law Review*, 2021) and 'Imperial Locations' (*Leiden Journal of International Law*, 2018).

Image courtesy, Andrés Pascual. Andrés Pascual is a self-taught Barcelona-based visual artist. Andrés grew up playing with images from encyclopedias, dictionaries, magazines, city maps and photographs among the buildings in the neighborhood of Barceloneta. Today he delves right into the personality of these and other images, reusing them in a fresh, raw way and reproducing them using a variety of different mediums including acrylic on canvas and collage on paper. His works carry a unique energy, keeping one eye always on the extra-, intra- and infra-planetary. Andrés leaves it up to the viewer to decide how real or fictional the realities he documents might be. He understands himself simply as a decoder of information we already have; as an emissary of the next contact.