

Critical Agrarian Studies: An Historical and Multidisciplinary Perspective

Overview

This course aims to provide participants with an in-depth background on historical and current debates in agrarian studies. The course will familiarize participants with key topics in agrarian studies related to development policy, human rights and environmental change. Some of the questions that the course engages include: How has the peasantry been conceptualized historically? What are the historical and contemporary debates around agrarian social movements; food sovereignty versus food security; agro-ecology versus industrial agriculture; and conflicts over seeds and intellectual property? The course will examine critical questions around rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas to land and territory and the social and cultural impacts of urbanization and industrialization on agrarian contexts. It will highlight the importance of rural areas and agrarian studies for broader historical and social scientific investigation and public policy.

You Should Attend If...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ You are a graduate or advanced undergraduate student, or faculty member with an interest in agrarian studies, development studies, economics, geography, human ecology, political science, sociology and social anthropology.▪ You are practitioner in the field of development and public policy.
Fees	There is no participation fee. However, note that AUD does not have facilities to accommodate outstation participants.

About Marc Edelman



Marc Edelman is Professor of Anthropology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He received his PhD in anthropology from Columbia in 1985. For more than three decades, Edelman's research and writing have focused on agrarian issues, social movements, and a variety of Latin American topics, including the historical roots of nationalism and contemporary politics. Most of his work has dealt with changing land tenure and land use patterns, production systems, rural class relations, and social movements in Central America. He has a longstanding concern with understanding changing forms of capitalism and with the politics of controlling markets, whether through welfare states, civil society pressure or global trade rules. During the mid 1980s, after seeing his fieldwork zone in northern Costa Rica tragically converted into a staging area for the civil war in Nicaragua, he also carried out research in the USSR and wrote extensively on Soviet-Latin American relations.

Edelman is the author of *The Logic of the Latifundio* (1992), *Peasants Against Globalization* (1999) and *Estudiosagrarioscriticos* (2017); co-author of *Social Democracy in the Global Periphery* (2007) and *Political*

Dynamics of Transnational Agrarian Movements (2016); and co-editor of *The Anthropology of Development and Globalization* (2005); *Transnational Agrarian Movements Confronting Globalization* (2009) and *Global Land Grabs: History, Theory and Method* (2015). He recently co-edited special journal issues on global land grabs, political reactions 'from below' to land-grabbing, critical perspectives on food sovereignty, and critical agrarian studies. His works have been translated in several languages.

Currently, Edelman is working on the efforts of transnational agrarian movements to have the United Nations approve a Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. For more information on Edelman's work visit:
<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/anthropology/faculty-staff/full-time-faculty/edelman-marc>

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