



Critique In/Of Anthropology?

Subseries of the Wednesday Seminars

Ghassan Hage

The critique of tone and the tone of critique



Ghassan Hage is professor of Anthropology and Social Theory at the University of Melbourne, Australia. He has held many visiting professorships around the world including at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences

Sociales in Paris, University of Copenhagen, University of Amsterdam and Harvard. His research interests include: Critical Anthropological Theory; Comparative nationalism, colonialism and racism; The work of Pierre Bourdieu; The anthropology of the Palestinian question; and The anthropology of Lebanon and the Lebanese diaspora. His more recent works includes *Alter-Politics: Critical Anthropological Thought and the Radical Imagination* (2016), and *Is Racism an Environmental Threat?* (2017).

...upcoming next

20.03.2019 WORKSHOP Ghassan Hage
27.03.2019 Didier Fassin
03.04.2019 Julia Eckert

For more information on the series see:

http://ksa.univie.ac.at/wednesday_seminars

Tuesday, 19.03.2019, 5 pm

(HS C, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 4th Floor)

Intellectual critiques do not only have an intellectual content. They can participate in the setting of moods (see Throop 2014, 2017). They can fill people with hope and they can deflate them. A critic can say: 'Patriarchy and colonialism are rampant again' and make everyone feel depressed. They can say the same thing and make people feel invigorated and ready to resist. In this paper, I am interested in the way what I am calling 'the tone' of critique contributes to this energizing/deflating process. This is not only true of political critique. It is also true of inter-academic critique. There are situations where, for example, two different readers make the same critical comments about our work but with differing tones which we clearly feel also differentiates between them in terms of whether they wish us well or not. An anthropology of the tone of critique involves an examination of its undertones and overtones. It takes us into an affective dimension which encapsulates what we can call after Levy-Bruhl the participatory quality of critique. In what way it participates in our being: its capacity to enhance it and propel us, and its capacity to diminish it and suck it out of us.

WORKSHOP: Subsequent to his presentation on 19th March the Department will host a workshop with Ghassan Hage on 20th March (Sitzungszimmer, 9:30 am - 12:45 pm). Students and Graduates are welcome to participate in the discussion of his article *Critical anthropological thought and the radical political imaginary today* (2012, CoA) with reference to his lecture and the overall the topic of the series *Anthropology in/of Critique*. We invite participants also to relate to the previous lectures of Richard Rottenburg and Jeanette Edwards. Aspects of their own research projects might be brought into the discussion as well.

Please register by 15. March: marlene.persch@univie.ac.at