

Envy and Greed: A Political Economy of Accusation and Critique

A workshop on the 4th & 5th of June 2018

**Department of Anthropology
London School of Economics and Political Science**

The organizers are looking for grounded ethnographic work that explores how accusations of envy and greed are deployed in projects of moral policing that are shaped by inter and intra-community power relations. We believe that a deeper understanding of the economic and political realities of those being accused and those doing the accusing allows us to go beyond ethics as merely a cognitive set of rules to instead throw light on everyday hierarchies, inequalities, and differential relations of power. We hope that this workshop can be a step towards an intervention into debates within the anthropology of ethics and the anthropology of emotions and affect, bringing together scholars who emphasise not just social actors' thought-worlds, but also their material conditions and lived realities.

Our focus will be on how moral judgments about emotions are politicized in the course of broader collective struggles. The shift from a focus on emotional states themselves to a focus on accusations and judgements about those emotional states helps forge new connections between a range of vibrant debates within anthropology. We hope to invite contributions that are situated at the intersections between ethics and emotions, but those that simultaneously pay attention to the political and economic factors that shape people's ethical worldviews, their defences, judgements, accusations and anxieties. Potential topics might include but are not limited to the themes of witchcraft, speculative bubbles, commodity booms and busts, inter-ethnic violence, racism, right-wing populism, moral policing, and modes of ethical self-fashioning.

Paper proposals should be sent by the 27th of April 2018 to workshop organizers Geoffrey Hughes and Megnaa Mehtta to envyandgreedworkshop@gmail.com.

Decisions will be sent via e-mail by the end of April.

Terms:

Abstract in English: 300 to 400 words

Abstract should present the research questions, the theoretical context, methods undertaken, field site and main conclusions.

Include 5 to 7 keywords

Title, Author(s) and affiliation(s), Internet address of the author(s)

Confirmed Discussants and Participants: Laura Bear, David Graeber, Beverley Skeggs, and Stuart Strange

We have some funding for travel and accommodation and will do our best to fund all participants, especially graduate students and other precariously employed colleagues.

This is not a closed workshop and we would like to welcome participation, however space will be limited. In case you are interested in attending the workshop but are not presenting a paper, please write to the organizers, who will confirm availability.