

Course Instructors	Carolyn Prouse	Email: cpv@queensu.ca
Offices	Mac-Corry D304	
Contact Time	2x 1.5 remote seminars/week	Tel: 613-533-6000 ext. 78592
Format	Seminar discussions, multimedia engagements	
Class Assessment	Weekly discussions; group presentation; choice of multimedia outputs; final research project	

COURSE OVERVIEW: Pandemic Biosecurity

In 2000 the World Health Organization declared infectious disease a “deadlier threat than war” (Cooper 2008: 76). Managing disease threats has always been central to colonial and imperial endeavours, but this statement in 2000, alongside increasing concerns around bioterror, marked a shift towards new forms of biosecurity. To geographer Bruce Braun (2007, p. 23), biosecurity “names a global project that seeks to achieve certain biomolecular futures by pre-empting others” through the management of zoonotic, food-borne, and infectious disease threats. Biosurveillance, or the surveillance of biological data, is increasingly central to biosecurity: the big data and genomics revolutions have intensified tracking of infectious disease data and behaviour, and platform companies are using life itself (such as viruses, bacteria, and tissues) to accumulate money. In this class we will interrogate how power relations such as capitalism, (neo)colonialism, and imperialism shape the uneven management of life and control of certain populations to mitigate against infectious disease threats. We will take a global and historical perspective, looking at diseases across both the Global North and South, the histories of pandemics, COVID-19 now, and post-COVID futures.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe and apply key theoretical approaches to biosecurity, including political economic, biopolitical, and political ecological
2. Communicate complex ideas to a general public in written and/or verbal form
3. Demonstrate geographical skills honed throughout your scholarly career, including writing, mapping, and interviews

COURSE TOPICS

Unit 1: Biosecurity and Global Health; Unit 2: Zoonosis and OneHealth; Unit 3: Surveilling Pandemics; Unit 4: Vaccines, Diagnostics, and Therapeutics

COURSE READINGS (a selected list subject to change) – note that the books will be selected chapters only

- Ahuja, Neel. (2016). *Bioinsecurities: Disease Interventions, Empire, and the Government of Species*. Duke University Press.
- Browne, Simone (2015). *Dark Matters: On the Surveillance of Blackness*. Duke University Press.
- Cooper, Melinda (2006). Pre-empting emergence: The biological turn in the war on terror. *Theory, Culture and Society* 23: 113–135.
- Craddock & Hinchliffe (2015). One world, one health? Social science engagements with the one health agenda. *Social Science and Medicine* 129: 1–4. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2014.11.016
- Global Health Watch 6 (2022). *In the Shadow of the Pandemic*. Bloomsbury.
- Hinchliffe, S., Allen, J., Lavau, S. Bingham, N. and Carter, S. (2012). Biosecurity and the topologies of infected life: from borderlines to borderlands. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 38(4): 531-543.
- Lyon, David (2021). *Pandemic Surveillance*. Wiley.
- Patchin, Paige Marie (2020). Thresholds of empire: Women, biosecurity, and the Zika Chemical Vector Program in Puerto Rico. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 110(4): 967-982.