NEW PERSPECTIVES ON VULNERABILITY
DON KULICK

Fall Term 2020
Thursdays 15.00-17.00, with one exception (7 October, which is a Wednesday)
Venue to be determined

The idea of vulnerability is currently undergoing re-evaluation in the social sciences and the humanities. From having been perceived as a condition from which subjects should be defended, rescued or liberated, vulnerability and passivity have increasingly come to be theorized as a position and experience that confronts us with the limits of understanding, empathy, ethics and theory. This course will discuss work that attempts to engage with vulnerability as a challenge that can guide us towards new ways of thinking about and engaging with the world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Active class participation and presentations. Throughout the course, you will be called on to present and discuss the arguments made by the various authors we will read. You will also be asked at various points to prepare introductions to the literature. The point of these introductions, which must last no longer than 5 minutes, is to quickly summarize the material and open the discussion to topics that you feel merit attention.

2. A total of four critical/reaction papers posted on the course site. You may choose whichever four weeks you like. The papers should be about one page in length, at 16 pt. line spacing, Times New Roman font. They may deal with any questions the readings raise for you, such as queries or criticisms you have of the authors' method or argument; connections to other readings; disparities among the readings; implications of the readings for important issues in anthropology or ethnography, and the like.

A guiding rule of engagement in this class is: be generous. The authors we are reading are not stupid, and they have probably considered at some length most of the questions or objections you may raise. With that in mind, engage with the texts in the spirit of dialogue and generosity, not opposition and attack. I put tremendous stock in exegesis and will stress this throughout the class, because in order to engage critically with a text, you need to have really understood what it says. So make sure that you work out the various authors' arguments clearly before you engage in any kind of critique.

To facilitate discussion, the papers must be posted by noon on the Wednesday before the material is to be discussed in class. Everyone should take 30 minutes before class to read through the papers that have been posted there. These papers will not be graded but they obviously should make it evident that you have read the relevant literature.
3. A final paper that uses the literature to discuss a topic of your choice that puts the various topics covered in the course in conversation with one another. The paper should primarily be exegetical and must range over a number of the arguments developed by scholars whose works we read during the course. It must be written in English.

By 15 October you must submit a written one page summary of the topic you plan to write on, along with a list of the literature you plan on using. The paper is due by Friday 6 November at noon. Put a hard copy of the paper in my mailbox in the Anthropology Department, and email me the paper as an attachment to don.kulick@antro.uu.se.

Length: no more than 10 pages, excluding title page and bibliography (Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double spaced, 1 inch margins on all sides). Do not use footnotes. Do not forget to number the pages.

REQUIRED BOOKS
You are expected to buy or borrow the following books and you must read them thoroughly before the class in which they will be discussed.

Derrida, Jacques 2008. The Animal that Therefore I Am. Fordham Univ Press (or read the article version, in Critical Inquiry)

Book chapters will be provided, you should find the articles online.

COURSE SCHEDULE
Note: it is best to read the literature in the order it is listed below in each section.

Session 1. Introduction, 10 September

Note: you are expected to have read both these books and the articles before the first class. Be ready to summarize and discuss them.

Session 2. Nussbaum on the capabilities approach, 17 September

Session 3. Animals and vulnerability, 24 September
Derrida, Jacques 2002. The animal that therefore I am (more to follow). Critical Inquiry 28 (2): 369-418. NOTE: this long article has also been published as a book by Fordham Univ Press. Read the text in either format. Read everything, but skip pages 404-415 in the article. Check with me regarding the corresponding pages in the book.

Session 4. Ethical engagement, 1 October

Session 5. Vulnerability and language, 7 October (OBS – this is a Wednesday)
Session 6. Levinas on the face of the Other, 15 October

Session 7. The power and vicissitudes of silence and ignorance, 22 October
Reread Foucault’s remarks on silence in The history of sexuality, Vol. 1., esp. p. 27.

ATTENDANCE
Attendance is obligatory. You are allowed one unexcused absence, which must be made up by submitting a 5-page paper that summarizes the literature read during the week of the absence. This paper must be turned in, in class, the week following the absence. Two absences during the term for any reason will result in an automatic fail grade.

GRADING
The class will be graded as Pass/Fail. The final grade is not determined on the basis of a strict mathematical calculation, but will be based on whether you have read the literature thoroughly and can actively participate in class discussions, and on your degree of seriousness, thoughtfulness, and engagement.
If you haven’t read the literature for a given week, or if you don’t complete all four reaction papers, or the final essay, you will fail the course.

INCOMPLETE
You cannot receive an Incomplete in this class.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS
No late papers will be accepted.

USE OF COMPUTERS AND CELL PHONES IN CLASS
Please turn off and put away all cell phones and computers during class.

TONE OF CRITIQUE IN CLASS
READ THIS QUOTE FROM JOHN RAWLS AND KEEP IT IN MIND WHEN ENGAGING WITH THE LITERATURE

I always assumed…that the writers we were studying were always much smarter than I was…If I saw a mistake in their arguments, I supposed they saw it too and must have dealt with it, but where? So I looked for their way out, not mine. Sometimes their way out was historical: in their day the question need not be raised; or wouldn’t arise or be fruitfully discussed. Or there was a part of the text I had overlooked, or hadn’t read.
The annual Vulnerability Review analyzes the evolution of software security from a vulnerability perspective. The review presents global data on the prevalence of vulnerabilities and the availability of patches, and maps the security threats to IT infrastructures. What does the Vulnerability Review cover? Whenever a new vulnerability is reported, a Secunia Advisory is released after verification of the information. A Secunia Advisory provides details including description, risk rating, impact, attack vector, recommended mitigation, credits, references and more for the vulnerability â€“ including additional details discovered during verification and testing, thus providing the information required to make appropriate decisions about how to protect systems. Vulnerability research has been an important foundation in urban risk management. To make cities safe and resilient, it is also necessary to integrate the connection among cities into a vulnerability assessment. Therefore, this paper proposed a new conceptual framework for urban social vulnerability assessment based on network theory, where a new dimension of social vulnerability (connectivity) was added into the framework. Using attribute data, the traditional social vulnerability index of a city (SVInode) was calculated via the projection pursuit cluster (PPC) model. A New Framework for Understanding Urban Social Vulnerability from a Network Perspective. by. Yi Ge. Vulnerability management is the first solution in the industry to bridge the gap between security administration and IT administration during remediation process. Create a security task or ticket by integrating with Microsoft Intune and Microsoft Endpoint Configuration Manager. Real-time discovery. To discover endpoint vulnerabilities and misconfiguration, threat and vulnerability management uses the same agentless built-in Defender for Endpoint sensors to reduce cumbersome network scans and IT overhead. It also provides: Real-time device inventory - Devices onboarded to Defender for Endpoint