Deviant Globalization: The Unpleasant Underside of Transnational Integration
Political Science 123A, Spring 2007, course control number 772239
University of California, Berkeley
Wednesdays 5:30-8:00 pm
Conference room, Institute for International Studies, Moses Hall

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This course examines the various covert uses and manifestations of the overt processes and systems of globalization. We consider aspects of transnational integration that mainstream discussions of economic and cultural globalization rarely address—topics such as the international organ trade, the global sex industry, pandemics, smuggling networks, transnational gangs, and failed states. Rather than rehash theoretically and morally hackneyed questions associated with proliferating commodities in rich countries and sweltering sweatshops in the Global South, this course explores topics where the categories of exploiter and exploited, winner and loser, are much more ambiguous. We also ask how these sordid manifestations of globalization intersect with questions of identity: whereas the other of mainstream globalization is unambiguously coded as poor, dark-skinned, and likely female, the actors in these other forms of globalization have much more ambiguous and fluid identities.

This course pushes the ethical debate over globalization beyond the classic modernist binaries of dominance and exploitation. In this standard model of globalization, the “Subject” (i.e., the active initiator, and winner) of globalization is coded as a multilingual, overeducated, wealthy, airport-hopping white man. Likewise, in the standard model, the “Object” (i.e., passive “victim”) of globalization is coded as a poor person of dark skin, working in a sweatshop in the Third World or marginalized in a de-industrializing slum in the First World. In the standard model, in short, winners and losers (and the ethical implications) are well-defined and understood. By contrast, the subjects and objects of deviant globalization offer a very different set of binaries, of winners and losers. Sometimes the subject of deviant globalization may be a corrupt Swiss banker – not so different from the standard subject of globalization. But the subject of deviant globalization may be also a suicidal young jihadi, or a teenage German hacker, or even a microbe. Each of these subjects in turns suggests a different object of deviant globalization: a first world drug user, random riders on the Tube, computer users the world over, or anyone living in a place without a solid public health system. In sum, the topic of dark globalization forces us to traverse a much more uneven ethical topography than the clearly demarcated, evenly graded ethical landscape charted by mainstream political theories of globalization.

Assignments
Every student in the class will co-lead one weekly seminar. The week they lead the seminar, they will also deliver a 5-page, double-spaced, written “contextual review” of that week’s required and supplemental readings (25%). Each student will also write a 10-15 page research
paper on the globalization subject of their choice (60%). Participation will account for the last 15% of the grade.

**Texts to buy at MLK Student Union Bookstore**

- Gargi Bhattacharyya, *Traffick: The Illicit Movement of People and Things*
- Moisés Naim, *Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy*

**Course reader: available at Copy Central**

**January 17: Introduction to the themes of the course; sign up for weekly assignments.**

**January 24: Globalization: The Mainstream Debate**

**Required reading:**


**Supplemental reading:**


**January 31: The Twisted Ethics of Deviant Globalization**

**Required reading:**

5. Moisés Naim, Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy, ch. 1-2 (The Wars We Are Losing” and “Global Smugglers Are Changing Your World”)

Supplemental reading:

Theme I: “Unpleasant Goods”
February 7: Deviant medicine: the global organ bazaar
Required reading:

Supplemental reading:
February 14: Deviant commerce: narcotics trafficking

Required reading:

2. Gargi Bhattacharyya, Traffick: The Illicit Movement of People and Things, ch. 4 (“Drugs, Territory and Transnational Networks”).

Supplemental reading:

February 21: Deviant militarism: the global weapons trade

Required reading:

1. Gargi Bhattacharyya, *Traffick: The Illicit Movement of People and Things*, ch. 5 (“Nuclear Holocaust or Drive-By Shooting?”).

Supplemental reading:


February 28: Deviant immigration: contemporary slavery and human smuggling networks

Required reading:


Supplemental reading:


March 7: Deviant dumping: the global flow of garbage

Required reading:


2. Moisés Naim, Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy, ch. 8 (“What Do Orangutans, Human Kidneys, Garbage and Van Gogh Have in Common?”).


Supplemental reading:


Theme II: “Dual Use”

March 14: Deviant tourism: global sex trade

Topics for Research Papers Due

Required reading:


Supplemental reading:

March 21: Deviant banking: transnational money laundering

Required reading:
1. Moisés Naím, Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy, ch. 7 (“The Money Washers”).

Supplemental reading:

March 28: Spring Break
April 4: Deviant NGOs: transnational gangs

Required reading:


Supplemental reading:


Theme III: “The Return of the Repressed”

April 11: Deviant militaries: global guerrillas, mercenaries and pirates

Required reading:


Additional reading:


April 18: Deviant public health: global diseases/pandemics

Required reading:


Additional reading:


April 25: Deviant authority: the new cast of actors in failed states

Required reading:


Additional reading:


May 2: Conclusion  
*Research Papers Due*

Required reading:


Appendix: Additional Deviant Globalization Readings


