

## Project 3 | Assignment 4

Our final reading for the semester is an essay by two Harvard professors who are interested in the ethical effects of public representations of suffering, whether those forms of representation are photographic, indexical, or statistical. Arthur Kleinman's and Joan Kleinman's "The Appeal of Experience; the Dismay of Images: Cultural Appropriations of Suffering in Our Times," identifies a moral problem as relevant today as it was in 1996: how do public representations distort, exoticize, or evacuate the lived experiences of sufferers in order to efficiently provoke a response of public concern?

Similar to what you did in Project 3, when you applied Fineman's legal concept to the fictional narrative, you'll want to read the Kleinmans' work both on its own terms—what contemporary problem does it reveal and what solution to the problem does it propose—and it terms of *The Ghost Map* as, for our purposes, a public representation of illness, suffering, and an epidemiological approach to reckoning with the ravages of a pandemic. The Kleinmans are concerned about the ways in which public health officials, the medical profession, and journalists "appropriate the suffering" of others in images (maps, photographs, and other forms of data display) and in texts (news stories, field notes, and bureaucratic reports). I ask that you pay attention to two things: (1) how Arthur and Joan Kleinman argue their case (the connections they make between their examples and their central claim), and (2) any connections you see between their argument and the way in which Johnson approaches his subject. Said bluntly, is Snow's ghost map analogous to the official documents and other public images that the Kleinmans bring forward as their problem cases?

To prepare for seminar on Tuesday, November 2, I ask that you construct your own map of sorts—a map that reveals connections you find between Kleinman and Kleinman and *The Ghost Map*. I would like you to locate four passages in the Kleinmans' essay that you believe could be profitably applied to Johnson's work. In other words, the passages you choose could help to illuminate aspects of Johnson's work that would be difficult or impossible to notice without the Kleinmans' observation or idea to guide you. Copy out each passage (each single-spaced with the appropriate page number in parentheses at the end of the passage) and number them 1, 2, 3, and 4. Below each passage, in a different font, copy out a passage from Johnson's *The Ghost Map*, that you can connect to the Kleinmans' passage. Such a passage may provide an illustration of a point they make, or might provide an analogous example to an example they point to, or may elucidate a concept they offer.

*The Ghost Map* offers us two kinds of representations of the pandemic. Johnson himself represents London, its residents, and the progress of the pandemic, and he offers us examples of archival documents (maps, newspaper reports, official documents, private correspondence, etc.) of the historical moment. You are welcome to quote from both kinds of texts as you assemble your pairings.

Please upload your work to Moodle by **Sunday, November 1, at 11:00 p.m.**