

Rupture

A PhD forum

UCL, 15 February 2017

With what forms of thinking can anthropology match a world so often experienced as in turmoil? And how far might that sense of turmoil and radical global shifts – of a world apparently running away with itself – be conceived as an occasion for anthropology to break with *itself*? Is it time, and is there space, for intellectual rupture in anthropology? And how might such a prospect be aligned with ruptures, fractures, fissions and disruptions understood as constituents of the realities anthropologists are called upon to understand?

We take the concept of rupture as the lens through which a concern with radical change is brought into focus. Linking the possibility of a new departure with a deliberate break with existing orders, rupture thematises disavowal, negation and violence as constituents or moments that are immanent to the production of difference. It thus lends a harder edge to all the talk of novelty, creativity, emergence and the event with which anthropological theorizing, reflecting global trends in social discourse, is currently awash. Counterpoising the dynamics of eruption, disruption, radical critique and brutal affirmation to the 'organic' language of potentiality, collaboration, resilience and transformation, our concern with and for rupture seeks itself to make a break for anthropology, and perhaps with it, too.

As part of a larger conference on Rupture, to be held at UCL on the 13-14 February, this open PhD forum is an opportunity for students working on themes related to Rupture to share their work and get comments on it from participants in the Rupture conference. The session is open to PhD students at all stages of work, (including those of have only recently completed). Participants will be expected to present the purchase of their research on the theme or rupture in a 10-minute presentation, leaving plenty of time for discussion throughout the day.

To apply, send a 250 word abstract to rupture2017@gmail.com by the **10 January 2017**. The abstract should outline the nature of your PhD research and make explicit its relevance to the theme of rupture.