



Agrarian Societies

Culture, Power, History, and Development

Instructors

Marcela Echeverri, History

K. Sivaramakrishnan, Anthropology and
School of the Environment

Elisabeth Wood, Political Science

Meetings

Wednesdays, 1:30-3:10 pm on Zoom

Discussions

Wednesdays, 3:30-5:20 pm in two
breakout rooms on Zoom

Anthropology 541a; Forestry and
Environmental Studies 80054a; History
965a; Political Science 779a

- ▶ Join our introductory, multidisciplinary, seminar examining the modern transformation of the countrysides of the world.
- ▶ The course provides a comparative discussion of the peasant question in the light of the recent history of social movements, environmental change, and commodity agriculture.
- ▶ Following work in “peasant studies,” our team-taught seminar explores the initial modernization of the European countryside and the subsequent engagement and ongoing incorporation of the countryside of Asia, Africa, and the Americas into the “modern” order.
- ▶ We will study the rise of a capitalist mode of production as the engine of a world economy considering why the emergence of a contentious international polity of nation-states, and the propagation of rationalizing religions and standardizing national identities, are among the processes that have transformed rural livelihoods and cultures since the 1500s.
- ▶ Our lectures and assigned readings highlight how and why these processes have not been inevitable, or irreversible, or complete. We build on the core concern of peasant studies to demonstrate the varied ways in which agriculturalists have shared in the making of the modern world that has in turn transformed their lives.
- ▶ For more information, please contact k.sivaramakrishnan@yale.edu.