NEW COURSE
Spring 2014 - research seminar - 5 units
Wednesday 5:15 – 8:05 pm; bldg. 300-303
Anthro 339A – French 339A – REES 339A

TECHNOLOGIES OF EXTINCTIONS
ECOCIDES AND GENOCIDES

This course will explore the relationship between history, ecological evolution and mass killing in the age of humanly caused species extinction. It will explore the universalization of the notion of the Jewish Holocaust, its use to integrate into genocide studies the Native American “spiritual” holocaust, the Japanese nuclear holocaust and the Rwandan genocide, and the ethical dilemmas posed by the ideas of biotic, animal and ecological holocausts. Anthropology and history of genocides and extinctions as well as posthumanist, multispecies theories will provide theoretical frames for the course.

Topics of the seminar will include: genocide and ecocide studies in the framework of Anthropocene Humanities; genocides as human suicide/self-extinction; strategies of dehumanization (humans and insects); paradigms of genocides; comparisons between (human and animal) holocausts and slavery (human and animal); ecocide as environmental "holocaust"; Native Americans’ spiritual holocaust or/and environmental genocide; nuclear holocaust (Hiroshima); post-catastrophic spaces as ecological Eden (Chernobyl) - nature without humans.

This is an advanced-level seminar designed to help students work on papers for other classes, theses and individual projects. It will introduce various approaches to ecocides and genocide studies and stress an awareness of how to draw on and combine these approaches for analyzing students’ own research materials. It advocates a bottom-up approach to theory building; thus, it also teaches students how to formulate their own interpretative categories and small range theories based on case study analysis.

First meeting: Wednesday, April 2nd, 5:15, bldg. 300-303

Ewa Domanska
Department of Anthropology
email: ewa.domanska@stanford.edu