**Prof. Pope Fischer**

Lpopefischer@citytech.cuny.edu

**ANTH 1102**

**Attendance/Participation Questions for**

**Week 14: Syncretism, Power, Resistance and Cultural Change**

**Attendance/Participation:** We will be watching the film “Devils Miner” to review some key concepts from the course, but also to look at the impact of power on local communities. Watch the film “Devil’s Miner” – and answer **one** of the following 9 sets of questions in **detail.**  Please only do one set of questions. (aim for 250 words).

Watch film “The Devil’s Miner” on [Kanopy](https://citytech.kanopy.com/video/devils-miner) or go to You tube -- the film is in Spanish but has English subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZlpBQh_0jc>

Reference for film:

Davidson, Kief, and Richard Ladkani. 2005. *The Devil's Miner.* Documentary Film. Directed by Kief Davidson and Richard Ladkani. Cinema Delicatessen.

Option 1: Can you identify and describe an example of Syncretism in the film? How is this related to power in the film? Explain how your example fits the definition of “syncretism.” Can you relate this to the Eric Wolf article?

Wolf, Eric R. "[The Virgin of Guadalupe: A Mexican National Symbol."](https://login.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/login?qurl=https://www.jstor.org/stable/537957)*The Journal of American Folklore* 71, no. 279 (1958): 34-39. Accessed March 16, 2021. doi:10.2307/537957.

Option 2: What is Evans-Pritchard’s definition of Magic? Can you find an example of Evans-Pritchard’s understanding of magic in the film? Explain how your example fits the definition. Can you relate this to an example in the Evans-Pritchard article?

Evans-Pritchard, EE “[Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events](https://bbhosted.cuny.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-2667924-dt-forum-rid-423228157_1/xid-423228157_1) ” in  Reader in Comparative Religion: An Anthropological Approach edited by William A. Lessa and Evon Z. Vogt.  New York: Harper & Row, 1979

Option 3: What is the definition of magic fetish according to George Gmelch? Can you find an example of a magic fetish in the film? Explain how your example fits the definition. Can you relate this to the George Gmelch article?

Gmelch, George 2000 “[Baseball Magic](http://www.meissinger.com/uploads/3/4/9/1/34919185/gmelch_baseball_magic.pdf)” Revised version of “Superstition and Ritual in American Baseball” in *Elysian Fields Quarterly,* Vol. 11, No. 3, 1992, pp 25-36.

Option 4: What is the definition of summarizing symbol according to Sherry Ortner? Can you find an example of a summarizing symbol in the film? Explain how your example fits the definition. Can you relate this to the Ortner article?

Ortner, Sherry B. "[On Key Symbols."](https://login.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/login?qurl=https://www.jstor.org/stable/674036)*American Anthropologist*, New Series, 75, no. 5 (1973): 1338-346. Accessed March 16, 2021. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/674036>.

Option 5: Define a liminal phase according to Viktor Turner. Can you find an example of a liminal phase or liminal space in the film? Explain how your example fits the definition. Can you relate this to the Turner or Winslow article?

Turner, Victor “[Liminality and Communitas](https://bbhosted.cuny.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-2667922-dt-forum-rid-423228136_1/xid-423228136_1)”, in Reader in the Anthropology of Religion. Edited by Michael Lambek. Blackwell Anthologies: New York, 2008.

Winslow, Donna. 1999. “[Rites of Passage and Group Bonding in the Canadian Airborne.](http://citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=tsh&AN=2026795&site=ehost-live&scope=site)” Armed Forces & Society (0095327X)25 (3): 429–57. doi:10.1177/0095327X9902500305.

Option 6: Define how analogical pairs are used in magic according to Stanley Tambiah. Can you find an example of analogical pairs in the film? Explain how your example fits the definition. Can you relate this to the Tambiah article?

Tambiah, Stanley. 2017 “[Form and Meaning of Magical Acts](https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdfplus/10.14318/hau7.3.030),” Reprinted by HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory 7 (3) 451-473.

Option 7: Can you identify and describe an example of an “invented tradition” as understood by Eric Hobsbawm in the film? How is this related to power in the film? Explain how your example fits the definition of “Invented tradition.” Can you relate this to the Hobsbawm article?

Hobsbawm, Eric “[Introduction: Inventing Traditions](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/citytech-ebooks/reader.action?docID=1864711&ppg=7)” in The Invention of Tradition, Eds. Eric Hobsbawm, & Terence Ranger. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-14, 1983.

Option 8: This film is an excellent parallel to the Taussig article. How does Taussig suggest cultural change results in forms of magic, or magic interpretations of commodity fetishism? Can you relate or compare examples from the movie to Taussig’s article?

Taussig, Michael. "[The Genesis of Capitalism amongst a South American Peasantry: Devil's Labor and the Baptism of Money."](https://login.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/login?qurl=https://www.jstor.org/stable/178173) *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 19, no. 2 (1977): 130-55. Accessed March 23, 2021. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/178173>.

Option 9: This film talks about the impact of Spanish Colonialism and how it changed their beliefs. You might be able to compare this to examples from the Karen McCarthy Brown book Mama Lola as she talks about Vodou as a combination of African and Catholic beliefs.

McCarthy Brown, Karen [Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn.](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL17415590M/Mama_Lola) Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991

[Mama Lola #1](https://bbhosted.cuny.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-2667928-dt-forum-rid-423225080_1/xid-423225080_1)

[Mama Lola #2](https://bbhosted.cuny.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-2667928-dt-forum-rid-423225081_1/xid-423225081_1)

[Mama Lola #3](https://bbhosted.cuny.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-2667928-dt-forum-rid-423225082_1/xid-423225082_1)