

Reaching a Summit  
End of first quarter

Making connections

### What does synthesis mean?

- c : “the combining of often diverse conceptions into a coherent whole”

*Miriam-Webster On-line Dictionary*

- ***The work of synthesis occurs little by little.***
- ***After this session the work of synthesis is still to be done – by you.***

### Social glue: What holds people together in a family or a state?

- ***King Lear:*** The bonds that hold together king and subject, parent and child depend on an understanding of reciprocal benefits, duties, and obligations.
- ***Two Treatises of Government:*** Locke uses a vocabulary of “law” and “compact” to explain how people live together in civil society.

### Social glue, cont.

- **What sort of “social glue” held Filipina/o immigrants together in the 20s and 30s?**
- “Fictive” families & “a culture founded on reciprocity” (Prof. Fujita-Rony, p. 132)
  - We might say that the Filipina/o community replicated traditional social relations but did so in a larger social structure shaped by compact or contract.

### Association/Dissociation

In *Lear*, we see a complex, traditional form of association that fuses family and state.

In Locke, we see an explanation of the association called state (Locke assumes the existence of the family).

In Freud, we see the struggle not only between small associations (family) and the wider association called civilization, but also the conflict between the individual and the associations he/she forms.

In the laws regarding marriage in California in 1933, we see a powerful desire for dissociation. A multi-cultural world tests the boundaries of previous thinking about family and state.

### The meaning of human & liminal figures (those who occupy the “border between”)

- Victor
- Kaspar Hauser
- Can Filipina/o immigrants be said to be liminal figures?
  - (Consider their status as US “nationals”; consider “Salvador Roldan vs Los Angeles County et al.)
- Liminal figures tell us as much about the known side of the border as the unknown (perhaps more)
- Are these borders comparable?

### The costs of association

- Locke: giving up liberty of the state of nature to gain the security of civil society
- The wild child: giving up the precarious liberty of nature to accept the doubtful benefits of civilization
- Freud: gaining the benefits of civilization at the cost of neuroses
- US colonial power and immigrants: Attempted destruction of nationalist association in Philippines; social and legal exclusion in US; eventual challenge by immigrants to fundamental assumptions about the nature of association in US