

Organizations in Politics & Society
Sociology 950
(Section 3)
Fall 2008

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Monday 2:00-4:30

Hamilton 523

Purpose of the Course

In this course we will examine major theories of organizations asking how well they help us explain the characteristics and dynamics of social and political organizations like nonprofits, civic associations, interest groups, congregations, and social movement organizations. Implicitly most organizational sociologists examine market-based organizations, but formal organizations constitute many other areas of social life from local neighborhood associations and congregation to transnational advocacy groups and social movement organizations. Because this is a kind of hybrid course, we will draw from multiple sub-fields and disciplines beyond organizational sociology including political science, nonprofit studies, social movements, political sociology, and sociology of religion. This course will also introduce students to major strategies for studying organizations including historical, fieldwork and case studies, surveys, event history, and network analysis.

Class Format

This course will be organized as a seminar – meaning that we will use our meetings to collaboratively evaluate, apply, and critique work on political and social organizations. Each Tuesday I will post or email observations about the reading and its place in the broader field and pose several discussion questions for the following meeting. I will also meet with two students who will be responsible for preparing a brief response to those questions to launch our weekly meetings the following Monday. Your response should focus attention on key analytic issues and help set the stage for broader discussion and debate. You should not summarize the readings. Everyone will have read the readings beforehand, and we can address any questions about what the readings mean through our discussion of them.

In addition to engaging discussion questions at two meetings, the other major requirement is a research proposal. Your proposed research must be conversant with major themes and scholarship addressed in this course. Your proposal will be developed through two initial drafts and a final version. If appropriate, this paper should include the findings of preliminary research. The goal for this assignment is a proposal suitable for a master's paper, grant/fellowship application, or dissertation. You may propose an alternative writing format if it would be more appropriate for you at this stage of your graduate career or program – such as a literature review. I will circulate a detailed handout on the paper assignment at our September 8th meeting.

Course grades will be based on class participation throughout the semester (25%), discussion questions/presentation (25%), and the research proposal (50%).

Readings

The majority of our readings for this course come from journals or sections of books. These materials will be available through the course webpage. Our readings combine “classics” in the field and recent work at the forefront of current scholarship. Given the breadth of the course, our readings are selective and should be seen as a starting point – especially if you plan to do further research in this area.

Wilson, James Q. 1995 [1973]. *Political Organizations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press

Skocpol, Theda. 2003. *Diminished Democracy: From Membership to Management*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma.

Strolovitch, Dara Z. 2007. *Affirmative Advocacy: Race, Class, and Gender in Interest Group Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

All articles listed will be available either through UNC's E-Journals or as a PDF on the course webpage.

Schedule

August 25 – Introduction

Review the syllabus; discuss course goals, format and content; introduce ourselves to one another.

September 8 – Organizations – Definitions, Concepts, and Debates

Wilson, James Q. 1973. *Political Organizations*. NY: Basic Books. (Introduction and Chapters 1-5)

Scott, W. Richard. 2004. "Reflections on a Half-Century of Organizational Sociology." *Annual Review of Sociology* 30:1-21.

Recommended

Campbell, John L. 2005. "Where Do We Stand? Common Mechanisms in Organizations and Social Movements Research." Pp. 41-68 in *Social Movements and Organization Theory*.

Andrews, Kenneth T., and Bob Edwards. 2004 "Advocacy Organizations in the U.S. Political Process." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 30: 479-506.

Helmut K. Anheier and Lester M. Salamon. 2007. "The Nonprofit Sector in Comparative Perspective" from *The Nonprofit Sector*, edited by W. Powell and R. Steinberg.

Knoke, David, and David Prenskey. 1984. "What Relevance Do Organization Theories Have for Voluntary Associations?" *Social Science Quarterly* 65:3-20.

Wilson, John. 2000. "Volunteering." *Annual Review of Sociology* 26:215-240.

Phillip Selznick. 1948. "Foundations of a Theory of Organization." *American Sociological Review*. 13: 25-35.

September 15 – Organizations, Conflict and Power

Gaventa, John. 1982. "Power and Participation." Pp 1-32 of *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Tilly, Charles. 1978. *From Mobilization to Revolution*. Englewood, California: Prentice-Hall. (pp. 52-84)

Jenkins, J. Craig, and Charles Perrow. 1977. "Insurgency of the Powerless: Farm Worker Movements (1946-1972)." *American Sociological Review* 42:249-268.

Fantasia, Rick. 1988. "Union Organizing and Collective Interaction: 'Like a Thief in the Night.'" Pp 121-79 in *Cultures of Solidarity*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

McVeigh, Rory. 2006. "Structural Influences on Activism and Crime: Identifying the Social Structure of Discontent." *American Journal of Sociology* 112:510-566.

Recommended:

Charles Perrow. 1991. "A Society of Organizations." *Theory and Society*. 20: 725-762.

Gamson, William. 1990. *The Strategy of Social Protest*. Belmont: Wadsworth.

Schwartz, Michael. 1976. *Radical Protest and Social Structure*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

September 22 –Rationalist Theories of Organization and Collective Action

- Olson, Mancur. 1965. "A Theory of Groups and Organizations." From *The Logic of Collective Action*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.
- Knoke, David. 1988. "Incentives in Collective Action Organizations." *American Sociological Review* 53:311-329.
- Chong, Dennis. 1991. *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Chapters 1-3.
- Klandermans, Bert. 2004. "The Demand and Supply of Participation: Social-Psychological Correlates of Participation in Social Movements." Pp. 360-379 in *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, edited by David A. Snow, Sarah A. Soule, and Hanspeter Kriesi. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Recommended:

- Hansen, John Mark. 1985. "The Political Economy of Group Membership." *American Political Science Review* 79:79-96.
- Salisbury, Robert H. 1969. "An Exchange Theory of Interest Groups." *Midwest Journal of Political Science* 13:1-32.

September 29 – Institutions and Institutionalization

- Walter Powell and Paul DiMaggio. 1991. *The New Institutionalism in Organizational Analysis*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, (Chapters 2, 3, & 11)
- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 1993. "Organizational Repertoires and Institutional Change: Women's Groups and the Transformation of U.S. Politics, 1890-1920." *American Journal of Sociology* 98:755-798.
- Frank, David John, Ann Hironaka, and Evan Schofer. 2000. "The Nation-State and the Natural Environment over the Twentieth Century." *American Sociological Review* 65 (February): 96-116.
- Armstrong, Elizabeth A. 2005. "From Struggle to Settlement: The Crystallization of a Field of Lesbian /Gay Organizations in San Francisco, 1969-1973." Pp. 161-187 in *Social Movements and Organization Theory*, edited by G. F. Davis, D. McAdam, W. R. Scott, and M. N. Zald. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Recommended:

- Clemens, Elisabeth S., and James M. Cook. 1999. "Politics and Institutionalism: Explaining Durability and Change." *Annual Review of Sociology* 25:441-466.
- March, James G., and Johan P. Olson. 1983. "The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life." *American Political Science Review* 78:734-749.
- Stinchcombe, A. L. 1997. "On the virtues of the old institutionalism." *Annual Review of Sociology* 23:1-18.
- Phillip Selznick. 1996. "Institutionalism 'Old' and 'New'," *Administrative Science Quarterly*. 41, 270-7.

October 6 – Explaining Organizational Change: Founding and Growth

- Rao, Hayagreeva, Calvin Morrill and Mayer Zald. 2000. "Power Plays: How Social Movements and Collective Action Create New Organizational Forms." *Research in Organizational Behavior* 22: 237-81.
- Minkoff, Debra C. 1997. "The Sequencing of Social Movements." *American Sociological Review* 62:779-799.
- Gray, Virginia, and David Lowery. 1996. "A Niche Theory of Interest Representation." *Journal of Politics* 58:91-111.
- Finke, Roger, Avery M. Guest, and Rodney Stark. 1996. "Mobilizing Local Religious Markets: Religious Pluralism in the Empire State, 1855 to 1865." *American Sociological Review* 61:203-218.
- Greve, Henrich R., Jo-Ellen Pozner, and Hayagreeva Rao. 2006. "Vox Populi: Resource Partitioning, Organizational Proliferation, and the Cultural Impact of the Insurgent Microradio Movement." *American Journal of Sociology* 112:802-837.

Recommended:

- McCarthy, John D., Mark Wolfson, David P. Barker, and Elaine Mosakowski. 1988. "The Founding of Social Movement Organizations: Local Citizens' Groups Opposing Drunken Driving." Pp. 71-84 in *Ecological Models of Organizations*, edited by Glenn R. Carroll. Cambridge, MA: Ballinger.

October 13 – Inter-organizational Dynamics: Networks and Competition

Wilson – Chapter 13 (Competition and Coalitions)

- Mische, Ann and Philippa Pattison. 2000. "Composing a Civic Arena: Publics, Projects, and Social Settings" *Poetics* 27: 163-194.
- Diani, Mario, and Ivano Bison. 2004. "Organizations, Coalitions, and Movements." *Theory and Society* 33:281-309.
- Galaskiewicz, Joseph, Wolfgang Bielefeld, and Myron Dowell. 2006. "Networks and Organizational Growth: A Study of Community Based Nonprofits." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 51:337-380.
- Soule, Sarah A., and Brayden G. King. 2008. "Competition and Resource Partitioning in Three Social Movement Industries." *American Journal of Sociology* 113:1568-1610.

Recommended

- Diani, Mario and Doug McAdam. 2003. *Social Movements and Networks: Relational Approaches to Collective Action*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Selections)
- Walter Powell, "Neither Market nor Hierarchy: Network Forms of Organization," *Research in Organizational Behavior*, 12, 1990: 295-336.
- McPherson, J. Miller, et al. 1992 "Social Networks and Organizational Dynamics." *American Sociological Review*, 57: 153-170
- Klandermans, Bert. 1992. "Multi-Organizational Fields." in *Frontiers in Social Movement Theory*, edited by Aldon Morris and Carol Mueller.

October 20 – Leadership, Authority and Governance

Wilson – Chapters 11 (Authority and Leadership) and 12 (Organizational Democracy)

Barakso, M. 2005. "Civic Engagement and Voluntary Associations: Reconsidering the Role of the Governance Structures of Advocacy Groups." *Polity* 37:315-334.

Ganz, Marshall. 2000. "Resources and Resourcefulness: Strategic Capacity in the Unionization of California Agriculture, 1959-1966." *American Journal of Sociology* 105.

Recommended:

Ferree, Myra Marx, and Patricia Yancey Martin. 1995. "Doing the Work of the Movement: Feminist Organizations." in *Feminist Organizations: Harvest of the New Women's Movement*, edited by Myra Marx Ferree and Patricia Yancey Martin. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Rothschild-Whitt, Joyce. 1979. "The Collectivist Organization: An Alternative to Rational-Bureaucratic Models." *American Sociological Review* 44:509--527.

Francesca Polletta. "How Participatory Democracy Became White and Other Stories of Organizational Choice." *Mobilization* 9 (3), June 2005.

Martin, Andrew W. 2008. "The Institutional Logic of Union Organizing and the Effectiveness of Social Movement Repertoires." *American Journal of Sociology* 113:1067-1103.

McCammon, Holly J., Soma Chaudhuri, Lyndi Hewitt, Courtney Sanders Muse, Harmony D. Newman, Carrie Lee Smith, and Teresa M. Terrell. 2008. "Becoming Full Citizens: The U.S. Women's Jury Rights Campaigns, the Pace of Reform, and Strategic Adaptation." *American Journal of Sociology* 113:1104-1147.

Jenkins, J. Craig. 1977. "Radical Transformation of Organizational Goals." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 22:568-586.

Lipset, Seymour Martin, Martin Trow, and James S. Coleman. 1956. *Union Democracy: The Internal Politics of the International Typographical Union*. NY: Free Press.

October 27 - Social Capital and American Democracy: Decline or Change?

Skocpol, Theda. 2003. *Diminished Democracy: From Membership to Management*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma.

Robert D. Putnam. 1995. "Tuning in, Tuning Out: The Strange Disappearance of Social Capital in America." *PS*.

Robert Sampson, Doug McAdam, Heather MacIndoe, and Simon Weffer-Elizondo. 2005. "Civil Society Reconsidered: The Durable Nature and Community Structure of Collective Civic Action." *American Journal of Sociology* 111:3, 673-714.

Recommended:

Fisher, Dana. 2006. *Activism, Inc.: How the Outsourcing of Grassroots Campaigns Is Strangling Progressive Politics in America*. Stanford University Press.

Schier, Steven. 2000. *By Invitation Only*, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Shaiko, Ronald G. 1999. *Voices and Echoes for the Environment: Public Interest Representation in the 1990s and Beyond*. New York: Columbia University Press.

November 3 – Discussion and Feedback on Projects

November 10 – Civil Society and Democracy: Theoretical and Cross-National Approaches

- Craig Calhoun, "Civil Society and the Public Sphere," *Public Culture* 5:2, 267-80.
- Edwards, Bob and Michael W. Foley. 1997. "Social Capital and the Political Economy of Our Discontent." *American Behavioral Scientist* 40:669-678.
- Paxton, Pamela. 2002. "Social Capital and Democracy: An Interdependent Relationship." *American Sociological Review* 67:254-277.
- Almeida, Paul D. 2003. "Opportunity Organizations and Threat-Induced Contention: Protest Waves in Authoritarian Settings." *American Journal of Sociology* 109:345-400.
- Evan Schofer and Wesley Longhofer. 2008. "The Structural Sources of Associational Life." Working paper.

November 17 – Interests and Representation

- Strolovitch, Dara Z. 2007. *Affirmative Advocacy: Race, Class, and Gender in Interest Group Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Danielian, Lucig H. and Benjamin I. Page. 1994. "The Heavenly Chorus: Interest Group Voices on TV News." *British Journal of Political Science* 38:1056-1078.

November 24 – Organizations, Policy, and Social Change

- Burstein, P., and A. Linton. 2002. "The impact of political parties, interest groups, and social movement organizations on public policy: Some recent evidence and theoretical concerns." *Social Forces* 81:381-408.
- Laumann, Edward O., David Knoke, and Yong-Hak Kim. 1985. "An Organizational Approach to State Policy Formation: A Comparative Study of Energy and Health Domains." *American Sociological Review* 50:1-19.
- Andrews, Kenneth T. 2001. "Social Movements and Policy Implementation: The Mississippi Civil Rights Movement and the War on Poverty, 1965-1971." *American Sociological Review* 66:71-95.
- King, Brayden G. and Sarah A. Soule. 2007. "Social Movements as Extra-Institutional Entrepreneurs: The Effect of Protests on Stock Price Returns." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 52:413-442.

Recommended:

- Smith, Richard A. 1995. "Interest Group Influence in the U.S. Congress." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 20:89-139.
- Amenta, Edwin, and Neal Caren. 2004. "The Legislative, Organizational, and Beneficiary Consequences of State-Oriented Challengers." Pp. 461-488 in *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, edited by David A. Snow, Sarah A. Soule, and Hanspeter Kriesi. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.
- Schneiberg, M., M. King, and T. Smith. 2008. "Social movements and organizational form: Cooperative alternatives to corporations in the American insurance, dairy, and grain industries." *American Sociological Review* 73:635-667.

December 1 – Presentation and Discussion of Projects