

Interdisciplinary Programmes (MINT)

Academic year 2017 - 2018

Civil Society and Social Movements

MINT085- Autumn- 6 ECTS

Course Description

The focus of this seminar course lies on the role of NGOs in social mobilisation at the local, national and international/transnational levels, using as a starting point the indigenous movement. On this basis, students will each select an organisations or form of mobilisation based on their research interests or previous experience, with the purpose of contributing to the main themes to be addressed, namely the historical, social and cultural dimensions of transnational mobilisation, and the power plays it involves at all levels, from the internal politics of specific movements to their engagement with states and international organisations. Given the disciplinary anchoring of this class in anthropology, methodological issues - including ethics - relevant to the study of social mobilisation and activism will be especially addressed.

> PROFESSOR

Isabelle Schulte-Tenckhoff
isabelle.schulte-tenckhoff@graduateinstitute.ch

[Office hours:](#)

> ASSISTANT

Sophie Anggawi
sophie.anggawi@graduateinstitute.ch

[Office hours](#)

Syllabus

Week 1 (25 Sept 2017) – Introduction, and organisation of class. In preparation for Weeks 1 and 2, students are encouraged to have a look at one (or two...) of the following articles highlighting specific instances of social mobilisation to gain a sense of the complexity and elusiveness of the concepts of, both, ‘civil society’ and ‘social movement’:

- BATLIWALA S., 2002, Grassroots movements as transnational actors: implications for global civil society. *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Non-Profit Organizations* 13(4): 393-409.
- COX J.M., 2017, The source of a movement: making the case for social media as an informational source using Black Lives Matter. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 40(11): 1847-1854.
- DIANI M., 1992, The concept of social movement. *Sociological Review* 40(1): 1-25.
- DOLATA U. & J.-F. SCHRAPE, 2015, Masses, crowds, communities, movements: collective action in the Internet age. *Social Movement Studies* 15/(1): 1-18

- DRAZKIEVICZ-GRODZICKA E., 2016, 'State bureaucrats' and 'those NGO people': promoting the idea of civil society, hindering the state. *Critique of Anthropology* 36(4): 341-362.
- HOLSTON J., 2009, Insurgent citizenship in an era of global urban peripheries. *City & Society* 21(2): 245-267.
- PRENTOULIS M. & L. THOMASSEN, 2013, Political theory in the square: protest, representation and subjectification. *Contemporary Political Theory* 12(3): 166-184.
- SCOONES I., 2008, Mobilizing against GM crops in India, South Africa and Brazil. *Journal of Agrarian Change* 8 (2-3): 315-344.
- THOMPSON E.P., 1971, The moral economy of the English crowd in the eighteenth century. *Past & Present* 50: 76-136.
- WELCH C. E., 2009, Defining contemporary forms of slavery: updating a venerable NGO. *Human Rights Quarterly* 31: 70–128.

Also, it is useful if, from the outset, participants think about a social movement they wish to study. As of November, the class schedule will be fine-tuned according to the number of students enrolled and their research interests.

Week 2 (2 Oct 2017) – Conceptual and theoretical overview

Week 3 (9 Oct 2017) – Conceptual and theoretical overview (cont'd)

Week 4 (16 Oct 2017) – Applications: The indigenous movement

Week 5 (23 Oct 2017) – Applications: Activism

Week 6 (30 Oct 2017) – Class colloquium regarding student topics and research dossiers

Week 7 (6 Nov 2017) – Social movement research: ethics, positioning, activism

Week 8 (13 Nov 2017) – Student presentations

Week 9 (20 Nov 2017) – Student presentations

Week 10 (27 Nov 2017) – Student presentations

Week 11 (4 Dec 2017) – Student presentations

Week 12 (11 Dec 2017) – Review

Seminar paper to be handed in by 14 December 2017 midnight

Week 13 (18 Dec 2017) – Oral evaluation based on research paper (mini-defence)

Teaching Objectives

This seminar will enable students:

- to familiarise themselves with a variety of theoretical approaches and methodological problems in the study of civil society and social movements
- to probe the sociocultural and power dimensions of social movements
- to understand continuity and change in addressing social movements
- to problematise tensions between social activism and the researcher's stance
- to undertake, present and defend a research dossier on a social movement of their choice

- based on their case study and the engagement with the literature used: to develop a critical perspective on social movements research and practice

Readings

Students are expected to read a number of texts for specific sessions. Class readings are made available on the class Moodle page as the class progresses, and additional references and readings will be posted as needed.

Furthermore, each student must assemble a research dossier on a topic of her or his choice. This involves choosing a series of readings including an authored book (for starters, aside from general references, the bibliography below contains a number of studies on specific movements). Readings may include class readings (including additional references posted after classes) but must also introduce new literature, especially to document the movement that is the focus of the dossier. Students are expected to share insights from the book and their other readings in class on a regular basis, and to undertake one presentation to foster class discussion and peer learning.

Student presentations are meant to allow the class to engage with the material presented, and to help (re)focus or further develop the topic (exact modalities TBD depending on the number of students enrolled). To be provided ahead of time to the entire class: an outline of the presentation and a one-page bibliography (to be annotated for the final version of the dossier). Furthermore, each presenter chooses one class reading relevant to his or her topic, that will be matched by the professor.

Evaluation

Student progress is evaluated on the basis of regular and active participation in the seminar, a research dossier (see above) and an oral mini-defence scheduled on the last day of class, that is, **18 December 2017**. The research dossier documents either a specific social movement or engages with one of the basic themes addressed in class, for example: the link between civil society and social mobilisation, the implications of the qualifier 'social' as opposed to, say, 'cultural' or 'political', the historical dimension of a given movement, the politics of social mobilisation (within and beyond the movement in question), the role of social media and the Internet. Students are expected to be able to speak about their case and the progress of their research in class, in reference to the theoretical and conceptual issues addressed over the various sessions.

Final decisions about individual topics ought to be reached by the third week of class. It will be helpful if participants give some thought to a possible topic before the start of class (ideally have a short paragraph ready), and have a preliminary look at the relevant literature.

The final grade will be determined as follows: 50% for class participation and the research dossier, 50% for the mini-defence. The criteria for both components will be communicated in a separate document and discussed in class.

Select Bibliography

AGUILAR R.G., 2014, *Rhythms of the Pachakuti: Indigenous Uprisings and State Power in Bolivia*. Duke University Press.

BROADBENT J., V. BROCKMAN (eds), 2011, *East Asian Social Movements: Power, Protest and Change in a Dynamic Region*. Springer.

BUECHLER S.M., 2011, *Understanding Social Movements: Theories from the Classical Era to the Present*. Paradigm.

- CHEN X., 2012, *Social Protest and Contentious Authoritarianism in China*. Cambridge University Press.
- CHESTERS G., I. WELSH, 2011, *Social Movements: The Key Concepts*. Routledge.
- CLIFFORD B., 2012, *The Global Right Wing and the Clash of World Politics*. Cambridge University Press.
- CONRAD S., D. SACHSENMAIER (eds), 2007, *Competing Visions of World Order: Global Moments and Movements, 1880-1930*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- DELLA PORTA D., A. MATTONI (eds), 2014, *Spreading Protest: Social Movements in Times of Crisis*. ECPR Press.
- DERRICK, J., 2008, *Africa's 'Agitators': Militant Anti-Colonialism in Africa and the West, 1918–1939*. Columbia University Press.
- ELLIS S., I. VAN KESSEL (eds), 2009, *Movers and Shakers: Social Movements in Africa*. Brill.
- FILLEULE O. et al. (eds), 2010, *Penser les mouvements sociaux: conflits sociaux et contestations dans les sociétés contemporaines*. La Découverte.
- GOODWIN J., 2001, *No Other Way Out: States and Revolutionary Movements, 1945-1991*. Cambridge University Press.
- GRAEBER D., 2009, *Direct Action: An Ethnography*. AK Press.
- HARVEY J. et al. (eds), 2013, *Sport and Social Movements: From the Local to the Global*. Bloomsbury Academic.
- HAUGERUD A., 2013, *No Billionaire Left Behind: Satirical Activism in America*. Stanford University Press.
- JOHNSTON H., 2014, *What is a Social Movement?* Polity Press.
- JOHNSTON H., B. KLANDERMANS (eds), 1995, *Social Movements and Culture*. London: Routledge.
- JURIS J.S., 2008, *Networking Futures: The Movements against Corporate Globalization*. Duke University Press.
- JURIS J.S. & A. KHASNABISH (eds), 2013, *Insurgent Encounters: Transnational Activism, Ethnography, and the Political*. Duke University Press.
- KECK M.E., K. SIKKINK, 1998, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Cornell University Press.
- KLANDERMANS B.S. STAGGENBORG, 2002, *Methods of Social Movement Research*. University of Minnesota Press.
- LAQUA, D., 2011, *Internationalism Reconfigured: Transnational Ideas and Movements Between the Wars*. I.B. Tauris.
- LARAÑA E. et al. (eds), 1994, *New Social Movements: From Ideology to Identity*. Temple University Press.
- LIPSCHUTZ R.D. (ed.), 2006, *Civil Society and Social Movements: Domestic, Transnational, Global*. Ashgate.
- MARTIN D.-C., 2010, *L'identité en jeux: pouvoirs, identifications, mobilisations*. Karthala.
- McADAM D., S. TARROW, C. TILLY, 2001, *Dynamics of Contention*. Cambridge University Press.
- MOGHADAM V. M., 2013, *Globalization and Social Movements: Islamism, Feminism, and the Global Justice Movement*. Second Edition. Rowan & Littlefield.
- MOTTA S. (ed.), 2011, *Social Movements in the Global South: Dispossession, Development and Resistance*. Palgrave/Macmillan.
- NASH J. (ed.), 2005, *Social Movements: An Anthropological Reader*. Blackwell.
- NEVEU E., 1996, *Sociologie des mouvements sociaux*. La Découverte.
- ROSENBERG, E. S. ed., 2012, *A World Connecting*. Harvard University Press.
- SCOTT J. C., 1990, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts*. Yale University Press.

- SHAH A., 2010, *In the Shadows of the State: Indigenous Politics, Environmentalism and Insurgency in Jharkhand, India*. Duke University Press.
- SNOW D.A., S.A. SOULE, 2010, *A Primer on Social Movements*. W.W Norton & Co.
- TARROW S., 1998, *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge University Press.
- TARROW S., 2005, *The New Transactional Activism*. Cambridge University Press.
- TILLY C., 1978, *From Mobilization to Revolution*. Random House.
- TILLY C., 2004, *Social Movements 1768-2004*. Paradigm Publishers.
- VENKATESVAR S., E. HUGHES (eds), 2011, *The Politics of Indigeneity: Dialogues and Reflections on Indigenous Activism*. Zed Books.
- WELTY E. et al. (eds), 2013, *Occupying Political Science: The Occupy Wallstreet Movement from New York to the World*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- WERBNER P., 2014, *The Making of an African Working Class: Politics, Law and Cultural Protest in the Manual Workers' Union of Botswana*. University of Chicago Press.
- WOLFSON T., 2014, *Digital Rebellion: The Birth of the Cyber Left*. University of Illinois Press.
- YASHAR D., 2005, *Contesting Citizenship in Latin America: The Rise of Indigenous Movements and the Postliberal Challenge*. Cambridge University Press.

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