

Political Science/International Relations

Academic Year 2019 - 2020

Identity and Violence

RI-SP071 - Spring - 6 ECT

Fridays 10h15-12h00

Room S4

> PROFESSOR

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> ASSISTANT

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Course Description

This course analyzes the link between identity and action in episodes of collective violence, underscoring the endogeneity of identity to violence and the resulting interplay between local and the supra-local affinities. Topics include the following: identity based explanations for violence; measuring identity; identity complexity and salience; measuring violence; group membership and the fragility of group solidarity; the ritualization of violence; violence and collective memory; case studies—the blood feud, ethnic violence, civil war and genocide.

Syllabus

Course Requirements

Requirement 1: Students are expected to keep up with the assigned readings, which are limited in number with a view towards generating a more detailed discussion of each work. It is therefore essential that you read the assigned material carefully and critically, and to come to class *prepared* for discussion. Attendance in class is required, active participation is expected. You should therefore anticipate being called upon.

Requirement 2: Students will be assigned to lead class discussion once during the semester. As discussion leader, you are responsible for presenting to the class a brief, but detailed summary and a more lengthy critical assessment of the readings for your assigned session. Your report should last about 10-15 minutes for each reading reviewed, and be accompanied by a one-page single spaced handout, again for each reading you review. Your handout should include the following: (a) concise summary of the theoretical approach; (b) identification of the dependent and independent variables; (c) synopsis of the argument knitting the variables together; (d) discussion of methodology used and evidence marshaled in support of the argument; (e) a detailed critique of the work, with questions for discussion and thoughts about how the argument may be refined or further extended. Email the handout(s) as a PDF file to the instructor and teaching assistant by 14:00 pm on Wednesday afternoon prior to class. Late work will not be accepted resulting in a zero grade for the entire assignment. A template for the handout is posted on the course moodle page.

Requirement 3: You are expected to make one 25-30 minute presentation summarizing the findings of original research you have conducted over the course of the semester on the relation between identity and violence. These presentations will constitute 25% of your course grade and be held during the in-class symposium from May 4th to June 1st. Additional details to follow.

Course Material

All course readings may be downloaded from the course moodle page.

Course Evaluation

The seminar's success depends on up-to-date reading and active participation. Evaluation will be based upon:

1.	Attendance	25%
2.	Participation	25%
3.	Discussion Leader/Handout	25%
4.	Research Presentation	25%

Course Schedule¹

Introduction: Overview of Course Structure/Discussion Leader Assignments

Friday, February 21

Session 2: Identity and Violence

Friday, February 28

Evans-Pritchard, E. E. 1940. *The Nuer: A Description of the Modes of Livelihood and Political Institutions of a Nilotic People*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Akerlof, George., Kranton, Rachel., 2000. "Economics and Identity." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* (115): 715–753

Session 2: Identity Based Explanations for Violence

Friday, March 6

Bhavnani, Ravi, and David Backer. 2000. "Localized Ethnic Conflict and Genocide: Accounting for Differences in Rwanda and Burundi." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44:3 (June): 283-306.

Fearon, James, and David Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity." *International Organization* 54:4 (September): 845-877.

Mueller, John. 2000. "The Banality of 'Ethnic War'." *International Security* 25:1 (Summer): 42-70.

Sen, Amartya. 2006. *Identity and Violence*. New York: W.W. Norton (Prologue, Preface, Chapter 1 "The Violence of Illusion" and Chapter 2 "Making Sense of Identity").

Session 3: Measuring Identity

Friday, March 13

Laitin, David, and Daniel Posner. 2001. "The Implications of Constructivism for Constructing Ethnic Fractionalization Indices." *APSA-CP 12* (Winter): 13-17.

Posner, Daniel. 2004. "Measuring Ethnic Fractionalization in Africa." *American Journal of Political Science* 48:4 (October): 849-863.

Abdelal, Rawi, Herrera, Yoshiko, Johnston, Alastair, and Rose McDermott. 2006. "Identity as a Variable." *Perspectives on Politics* 4:4 (December): 695-711.

Labart, Kelly. 2010. "What is Hidden Behind the Indicators of Ethno-Linguistic Fragmentation?" *Working Paper 7* (June): Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international.

Session 4: Identity Complexity and Salience

Friday, March 20

Bax, Mart. 2000. "Warlords, Priests and the Politics of Ethnic Cleansing: A Case Study from Rural Bosnia Herzegovina." *Ethnic & Racial Studies* 23:1 (January): 16-36.

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2003. "The Ontology of 'Political Violence': Action and Identity in Civil Wars." *Perspectives on Politics* 1:3 (September): 475-494.

Christia, Fotini. 2008. "Following the Money: Muslim versus Muslim in Bosnia's Civil War." *Comparative Politics* 40:4 (July): 461-480.

Schmid, Katharina, Hewstone, Miles, and Ananthi Al Ramiah. 2012. "Neighborhood Diversity and Social Identity Complexity: Implications for Intergroup Relations." *Social Psychological and Personality Science* 4:2 (May): 135-142.

Session 5: Measuring Violence

Friday, March 27

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2008. "Promises and Pitfalls of an Emerging Research Program: The Microdynamics of Civil War" in S. Kalyvas, I. Shapiro and T. Masoud (eds). *Order, Conflict, and Violence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Spagat, Michael. 2012. "Estimating the Human Costs of War; The Sample Survey Approach" in Michelle Garfinkel and Stergios Skaperdas (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Peace and Conflict*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Corlazzoli, Vanessa, and Jonathan White. 2013. "Measuring the Un-Measurable: Solutions to Measurement Challenges in Fragile and Conflict-affected Environments." (March) *Results Initiative in Conflict, Crime, and Violence Programming*, DfID.

Bruck, Tilman, Justino, Patricia, Verwimp, Philip, and Andrew Anthony Tedesco. 2016. "Measuring Violent Conflict in Micro-level Surveys: Current Practices and Methodological Challenges." *Policy Research Working Paper WPS 7585*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

¹The instructor reserves the right to modify the course content and schedule during the semester.

Session 6: Group Membership and the Fragility of Group Solidarity

Friday, April 3

- Gould, Roger. 1999. "Collective Violence and Group Solidarity: Evidence from a Feuding Society." *American Sociological Review* 64:3 (June): 356–380.
- Spencer, Jonathan. 2000. "On Not Becoming a Terrorist: Problems of Memory, Agency and Community in the Sri Lankan Conflict" in Veena Das et al. (eds). *Violence and Subjectivity*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Bhavnani, Ravi. 2006. "Ethnic Norms and Interethnic Violence: Accounting for Mass Participation in the Rwandan Genocide." *Journal of Peace Research* 43:6 (November): 651-669.
- Kalyvas, Stathis. 2008. "Ethnic Defection in Civil War." *Comparative Political Studies* 41:8 (August): 1043-1068.

Easter Break

Friday 10 to Sunday 19 April, 2020

Session 7: The Ritualization of Violence

Friday, April 24

- Van der Veer, Peter. 1995. "Riots and Rituals: The Construction of Violence and Public Space in Hindu Nationalism" in P. Brass (ed). *Riots and Pogroms*. MacMillan/New York University Press.
- Tambiah, Stanley. 1997. *Leveling Crowds: Ethnonationalist Conflicts and Collective Violence in South Asia*. Berkeley: University of California Press (Chapter 8: "The Routinization and Ritualization of Violence").
- Hinton, Alexander. 1998. "Why Did You Kill? The Cambodian Genocide and the Dark Side of Face and Honor." *Journal of Asian Studies* 57:1 (February): 93–122.
- Alcorta, Candace, and Richard Sosis. 2013. "Ritual, Religion, and Violence: An Evolutionary Perspective" in Michael Jerryson, Mark Juergensmeyer and Margo Kitts (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Violence*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Session 8: Violence and Collective Memory

Friday, April 27

- Daniel, Valentine E. 2000. "Mood, Moment and Mind" in Veena Das et al. (eds). *Violence and Subjectivity*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Das, Veena. 2000. "The Act of Witnessing: Violence, Poisonous Knowledge and Subjectivity" in Veena Das et al. (eds). *Violence and Subjectivity*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Cairns, Ed, and Mícheál Roe. 2003. *The Role of Memory in Ethnic Conflict*. London: Palgrave Macmillan (Introduction: Why Memories in Conflict? And Chapter 1 "A Theoretical Overview of Memory and Conflict").
- Tepora, Tuomas. 2014. "Coming to Terms with Violence: Sacrifice, Collective Memory and Reconciliation in Inter-War Finland." *Scandinavian Journal of History* 39:4 (September): 487-509.

Research Symposium

Friday, May 1: No class, Institute Closed (Labour Day)

Friday, May 11

Friday, May 18

Friday, May 25

Friday, June 1