

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY (M.A. Sociology)

Fall 2023, Monday 10:15-11:45, Room C112

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Office hours: by appointment (email to rohr@uni-mannheim.de)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How did nation states form? How do small groups of people get large populations to obey them? When and why do people protest and rebel? What is the relationship between the state and the economy? What stabilizes authoritarian regimes? What draws people to populist ideologies? By reading and discussing texts which attempt to provide answers to these and related questions, this course introduces students to the main themes that have dominated the subfield of political sociology, including state formation, revolutions, social movements, nationalism, authoritarianism, populism, political polarization, and voting and political parties. By the end of the course, students will not only be familiar with the main topics within political sociology but also have acquired a sociological perspective on politics and a set of conceptual tools with which to analyze contemporary political developments.

REQUIREMENTS

Class participation. In-class discussions based on assigned readings provide the basic structure for each week's class. All students are expected to read carefully and participate actively in class discussions (which includes active listening). Fruitful discussions are possible only if students do all the readings ahead of class. Thus, if you think you will not be able to do all the readings, this class might not be for you. If you will miss a class, please inform me in advance by email.

Discussant. Each week, one student will serve as the discussant, and each student will serve as the discussant twice. The job of the discussant is to read the assigned readings carefully, serve as the "expert" on the topic, highlight the main points of the readings, and formulate questions for discussion. Questions for discussion need to be sent by email to the instructor by 6pm the Friday before class.

Final paper. Students will write two essays (out of three questions that are given by the instructor). 10-15 pages total (double-spaced). Distributed Monday, December 4 in class; **due Monday, December 18.**

COURSE OVERVIEW

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Power

Week 3: Empires and States

Week 4: Nationalism

Week 5: Regimes and Regime Change

Week 6: Police and Incarceration

Week 7: State and Economy

Week 8: Elites

Week 9: Political Parties and Voting

Week 10: Social Movements

Week 11: Political Polarization

Week 12: NO CLASS

Week 13: Populism

Week 14: Choose Two Articles

COURSE SCHEDULE

Each week, we will read one review article to provide an overview of the topic as well as one important piece of research on that topic. I recommend purchasing the following brief introduction to political sociology as the course relies heavily on it: Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2016. What is Political Sociology? Cambridge and Malden: Polity. All readings for the course (except chapters 2-7 from Clemens 2016) can be found on ILIAS. The readings listed on the syllabus under "additional readings" are optional in case you want to dig deeper, but they will not be part of the class discussions.

Week 1, September 4: Introduction

- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2016. *What is Political Sociology?* Cambridge and Malden: Polity. [Pp. 1-4]

Week 2, September 11: Power

- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2016. *What is Political Sociology?* Cambridge and Malden: Polity. [Ch. 1]
- Weber, Max. 1958. "Politics as a Vocation." Pp. 77-128 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, edited by H. H. Gerth and C. W. Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.

Additional readings:

- Mann, Michael. 1984. "The autonomous power of the state: its origins, mechanisms and results," *European Journal of Sociology* 25(2): 185-213.
- Mann, Michael. 2012. *The Sources of Social Power: Volume 1: A History of Power from the Beginning to AD 1760*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Week 3, September 18: Empires and States

- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2016. *What is Political Sociology?* Cambridge and Malden: Polity. [Ch. 2]
- Charles Tilly. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." Pp. 169-191 in *Bringing The State Back In*, edited by Evans, Rueschemeyer and Skocpol. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Lachmann, Richard. 2010. *States and Power*. Cambridge; Malden, MA: Polity. [Skim Ch. 1]

Additional readings:

- Steinmetz, George. 2014. "The Sociology of Empires, Colonies, and Postcolonialism." *Annual Review of Sociology* 40: 77-103.
- Barkey, Karen. 2008. *Empire of Difference: The Ottomans in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge. [Especially ch. 1.]
- Adams, Julia. 1996. "Principals and Agents, Colonialists and Company Men: The Decay of Colonial Control in the Dutch East Indies." *American Sociological Review* 61(1): 12-28.
- Loveman, Mara. 2005. "The Modern State and the Primitive Accumulation of State Power," *American Journal of Sociology* 110(6): 1651-1683.
- Reed, Isaac A. 2019. "Performative State-Formation in the Early American Republic." *American Sociological Review* 84(2): 334-67.

Week 4, September 25: Nationalism

- Bonikowski, Bart. 2016. "Nationalism in Settled Times." *Annual Review of Sociology* 42: 427-449.
- Wimmer, Andreas and Yuval Feinstein. 2010. "The Rise of the Nation-State across the World, 1816 to 2001." *American Sociological Review* 75(5): 764-790.

Additional readings:

- Mylonas, Harris and Maya Tudor. 2021. "Nationalism: What We Know and What We Still Need to Know." *Annual Review of Political Science* 24: 109-132.
- Gellner, Ernest. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Week 5, October 2: Regimes and Regime Change

- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2016. *What is Political Sociology?* Cambridge and Malden: Polity. [Ch. 3]
- Lee, Ching Kwan and Yonghong Zhang. 2013. "The Power of Instability: Unraveling the Microfoundations of Bargained Authoritarianism in China." *American Journal of Sociology* 118(6): 1475-1508.

Additional readings:

- Goldstone, Jack A. 2001. "Toward a Fourth Generation of Revolutionary Theory." *American Review of Political Science* 4: 139-187.
- Slater, Dan. 2009. "Revolutions, Crackdowns, and Quiescence: Communal Elites and Democratic Mobilization in Southeast Asia." *American Journal of Sociology* 115(1): 203-254.
- Riley, Dylan. 2005. "Civic Associations and Authoritarian Regimes in Interwar Europe: Italy and Spain in Comparative Perspective." *American Sociological Review* 70: 288-310.

- Pfaff, Steven and Hyojoung Kim. 2003. "Exit-Voice Dynamics in Collective Action: An Analysis of Emigration and Protest in the East German Revolution." *American Journal of Sociology* 109(2): 401-444.
- Markoff, John. 1985. "The Social Geography of Rural Revolt at the Beginning of the French Revolution." *American Sociological Review* 50: 761-81.

Week 6, October 9: Police and Incarceration

- Go, Julian. 2020. "The Imperial Origins of American Policing: Militarization and Imperial Feedback in the Early 20th Century." *American Journal of Sociology* 125(5): 1193-1254.
- Uggen, Christopher and Jeff Manza. 2002. "Democratic Contraction? Political Consequences of Felon Disenfranchisement in the United States." *American Sociological Review* 67(6): 777-803.

Additional readings:

- Weaver, Vesla M. and Amy E. Lerman. 2010. "Political Consequences of the Carceral State." *American Political Science Review* 104(4): 817-33.

Week 7, October 16: State and Economy

- Hillmann, Henning. 2013. "Economic Institutions and the State: Insights from Economic History." *Annual Review of Sociology* 39: 251-273.
- Evans, Peter and James E. Rauch. 1999. "Bureaucracy and Growth: A Cross-National Analysis of the Effects of 'Weberian' State Structures on Economic Growth." *American Sociological Review* 64(5): 748-765.

Additional readings:

- Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2005. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Cambridge University Press.
- Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. Crown Business.

Week 8, October 23: Elites

- Khan, Shamus R. 2012. "The Sociology of Elites." *Annual Review of Sociology* 38: 361-377.
- Burris, Val. 2005. "Interlocking Directorates and Political Cohesion among Corporate Elites." *American Journal of Sociology* 111(1): 249-283.

Week 9, October 30: Political Parties and Voting

- Mudge, Stephanie L. and Anthony S. Chen. 2014. "Political Parties and the Sociological Imagination: Past, Present, and Future." *Annual Review of Sociology* 40: 305-330.
- Mudge, Stephanie L. 2018. *Leftism Reinvented: Western Parties from Socialism to Neoliberalism*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. [Ch. 1, pp. 1-24, 32-42]

Additional readings:

- De Leon, Cedric, Manali Desai, and Cihan Tuğal. 2009. "Political Articulation: Parties and the Constitution of Cleavages in the United States, India, and Turkey." *Sociological Theory* 27(3): 193-219.
- De Leon, Cedric. 2014. *Party & Society: Reconstructing a Sociology of Democratic Party Politics*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Lipset, Seymour M., and Stein Rokkan. 1967. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments." Pp. 1-64 in *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspectives*, edited by S. M. Lipset and S. Rokkan. New York: The Free Press.

Week 10, November 6: Social Movements

- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2016. *What is Political Sociology?* Cambridge and Malden: Polity. [Ch. 6]
- Heaney, Michael T. and Fabio Rojas. 2014. "Hybrid Activism: Social Movement Mobilization in a Multimovement Environment." *American Journal of Sociology* 119:1047-1103.

Additional readings:

- McCarthy, John D. and Mayer N. Zald. 1977. "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory." *American Journal of Sociology* 82:1212-1241.
- Snow, David A., E. Burke Rochford, Jr., Steven K. Worden and Robert D. Benford. 1986. "Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation." *American Sociological Review* 51(4): 464-481.
- Morris, Aldon D. 1981. "Black Southern Student Sit-in Movement: An Analysis of Internal Organization." *American Sociological Review* 46:744-767.
- McAdam, Doug. 1982. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*. University of Chicago Press.
- Armstrong, Elizabeth A. 2002. *Forging Gay Identities: Organizing Sexuality in San Francisco, 1950-1994*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Caren, Neal, Kenneth T. Andrews, and Todd Lu. 2020. "Contemporary Social Movements in a Hybrid Media Environment." *Annual Review of Sociology* 46: 443-465.

Week 11, November 13: Political Polarization

- Fiorina, Morris P. and Samuel J. Abrams. 2008. "Political Polarization in the American Public." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 563-588.
- Baldassarri, Delia and Andrew Gelman. 2008. "Partisans Without Constraint: Political Polarization and Trends in American Public Opinion." *American Journal of Sociology* 114(2): 408-446.

Additional readings:

- Bail, Christopher A. et al. 2018. "Exposure to opposing views on social media can increase political polarization." *PNAS* 115(37): 9216-9221.
- DellaPosta, Daniel, Yongren Shi, and Michael Macy. 2015. "Why Do Liberals Drink Lattes?" *American Journal of Sociology* 120(5): 1473-1511.
- Boutyline, Andrei, and Stephen Vaisey. 2017. "Belief Network Analysis: A Relational Approach to Understanding the Structure of Attitudes." *American Journal of Sociology* 122(5): XX-XX.
- Prior, Markus. 2013. "Media and Political Polarization." *Annual Review of Political Science* 16: 101-127.
- Pierson, Paul and Eric Schickler. 2019. *Annual Review of Political Science* 23: 37-58.
- Iyengar, Shanto et al. 2019. "The Origins and Consequences of Affective Polarization in the United States." *Annual Review of Political Science* 22: 129-146.

Week 12, November 20: No class

Week 13, November 27: Populism

- Brubaker, Rogers. 2017. "Why Populism?" *Theory and Society* 46: 357-385.
- McVeigh, Rory, and Kevin Estep. 2019. *The Politics of Losing: Trump, the Klan, and the Mainstreaming of Resentment*. [Ch. 5]
- Berman, Sheri. 2016. "Populism is Not Fascism: But It Could Be a Harbinger." *Foreign Affairs*: 39-44.

Additional readings:

- Berman, Sheri. 2021. "The Causes of Populism in the West." *Annual Review of Political Science* 24: 71-88.
- Garrido, Marco. 2017. "Why the Poor Support Populism: The Politics of Sincerity in Metro Manila." *American Journal of Sociology* 123(3): 647-685.
- Jansen, Robert S. 2011. "Populist Mobilization: A New Theoretical Approach to Populism." *Sociological Theory* 29(2): 75-96.

Week 14, December 4: Choose Two Articles

For today's class students will choose two recent articles. Students will split into two groups and each group will read one of the articles. The two groups will then teach each other the readings in class.

- Skarpelis, Anna. Forthcoming. "Horror Vacui: Knowledge Formation, Symbolic Power and State Expansion through the Lens of Hyper-Racialized Photography." *American Journal of Sociology*.
- Reed, Isaac A. 2019. "Performative State-Formation in the Early American Republic." *American Sociological Review* 84(2): 334-367.
- Braun, Robert. 2016. "Religious Minorities and Resistance to Genocide: The Collective Rescue of Jews in the Netherlands during the Holocaust." *American Political Science Review* 110(1): 127-147.
- Braun, Robert. 2022. "Bloodlines: National Border Crossings and Antisemitism in Weimar Germany." *American Sociological Review* 87(2): 202-236.
- Baker, Regina S. 2022. "The Historical Racial Regime and Racial Inequality in Poverty in the American South." *American Journal of Sociology* 127(6): 1721-1781.
- McDonnell, Erin M. 2017. "Patchwork Leviathan: How Pockets of Bureaucratic Governance Flourish within Institutionally Diverse Developing States." *American Sociological Review* 82(3): 476-510.