

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY (M.A. Sociology)

Fall 2024, Monday 10:15-11:45, Room C112

Instructor: Benjamin Rohr, PhD

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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, 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, two students will serve as discussants. The job of both discussants is to serve as "experts" on the assigned readings. The first discussant will briefly highlight the main points of the readings (3-4 minutes). The second discussant will formulate questions for discussion (2-3). Questions for discussion need to be sent by email to the instructor by **6pm** the **Saturday** 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 Wednesday, January 1; **due Wednesday, January 15.**

COURSE OVERVIEW

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Power

Week 3: Empires and States

Week 4: Regimes and Regime Change

Week 5: State and Economy

Week 6: Elites

Week 7: Political Parties

Week 8: Police and Incarceration

Week 9: Social Movements

Week 10: Local politics

Week 11: Political Polarization

Week 12: Populism

Week 13: State and Race

Week 14: TBD

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. 2024. *What is Political Sociology?* Cambridge and Malden: Polity. All readings for the course (except chapters 2-8 from Clemens 2024) 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 2: Introduction

- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2024. *What is Political Sociology?* Cambridge and Malden: Polity. [Pp. 1-5]

Week 2, September 9: Power

- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2024. *What is Political Sociology?* Cambridge and Malden: Polity. [Ch. 1]
- Gaventa, John. 1980. *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press. [pp. 1-20]

Additional readings:

- 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.
- Lukes, Steven. 2005. *Power: A Radical View*. Second edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 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 16: Empires and States

- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2024. *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: Polity. [Ch. 1, skim]

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 23: Regimes and Regime Change

- 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.
- Slater, Dan. 2009. "Revolutions, Crackdowns, and Quiescence: Communal Elites and Democratic Mobilization in Southeast Asia." *American Journal of Sociology* 115(1): 203-254.
- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2024. *What is Political Sociology?* Cambridge and Malden: Polity. **[Ch. 3, voluntary]**

Additional readings:

- Goldstone, Jack A. 2001. "Toward a Fourth Generation of Revolutionary Theory." *American Review of Political Science* 4: 139-187.
- 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 5, September 30: 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 6, October 7: 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 7, October 14: Political Parties

- 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.
- Desai, Manali. 2002. "The Relative Autonomy of Party Practices: A Counterfactual Analysis of Left Party Ascendancy in Kerala, India, 1934–1940." *American Journal of Sociology* 108(3): 616-657.

Additional readings:

- Mudge, Stephanie L. 2018. *Leftism Reinvented: Western Parties from Socialism to Neoliberalism*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- 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 8, October 21: 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.

- Uggem, 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 9, October 28: Social Movements

- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2024. *What is Political Sociology?* Cambridge and Malden: Polity. **[Ch. 6]**
- Karell, Daniel, Andrew Linke, Edward Holland, and Edward Hendrickson. 2023. "'Born for a Storm': Hard-Right Social Media and Civil Unrest." *American Sociological Review* 88(2): 322-349.

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.
- 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.
- Heaney, Michael T. and Fabio Rojas. 2014. "Hybrid Activism: Social Movement Mobilization in a Multimovement Environment." *American Journal of Sociology* 119:1047-1103.
- Useem, Bert, and Jack A. Goldstone. 2022. "The paradox of victory: social movement fields, adverse outcomes, and social movement success." *Theory and Society* 51: 31-60.
- 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 10, November 4: Local Politics

- Ternullo, Stephanie. 2024. "Place-Based Partisanship: How Place (Re)produces Americans' Partisan Attachments." *American Journal of Sociology* 130(2): 293-343.

- Ternullo, Stephanie. 2024. "The Local Politics of National Realignments: U.S. Political Transformation from the New Deal to the Religious Right." *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 4(2): 221-253.

Additional readings:

- Garrido, Marco Z. 2019. *The Patchwork City: Class, Space, and Politics in Metro Manila*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Pacewicz, Josh. 2015. "Playing the Neoliberal Game: Why Community Leaders Left Party Politics to Partisan Activists." *American Journal of Sociology* 121(3): 826-881.

Week 11, November 11: Political Polarization

- Fiorina, Morris P., and Samuel J. Abrams. 2008. "Political Polarization in the American Public." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 563-588.
- Kozlowski, Austin and James Murphy. 2021. "Issue alignment and partisanship in the American public: Revisiting the 'partisans without constraint' thesis." *Social Science Research* 94.
- Bail, Christopher A. et al. 2018. "Exposure to opposing views on social media can increase political polarization." *PNAS* 115(37): 9216-9221.

Additional readings:

- 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.
- 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): 1371-1447.
- 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 18: 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 13, November 25: State and Race

- James, David R., and Kent Redding. "Theories of Race and the State." Pp. 187-198 in *The Handbook of Political Sociology*, edited by Janoski, Alford, Hicks, and Schwartz. **[both groups]**
- 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. **[group 1]**
- Skarpelis, Anna. 2023. "*Horror Vacui*: Knowledge Formation, Symbolic Power and State Expansion through the Lens of Hyper-Racialized Photography." *American Journal of Sociology* 129(2): 313-383. **[group 2]**

Additional readings:

- Loveman, Mara. 2014. *National Colors: Racial Classification and the State in Latin America*. Oxford University Press.
- Brown, Hana E. 2020. "Who Is an Indian Child? Institutional Context, Tribal Sovereignty, and Race-Making in Fragmented States." *American Sociological Review* 85(5): 776-805.
- Fox, Cybelle. 2010. "Three Worlds of Relief: Race, Immigration, and Public and Private Social Welfare Spending in American Cities, 1929." *American Journal of Sociology* 116(2): 453-502.

Week 14, December 2: TBD