

September 24, 2015

NGO Politics (POL S 403b)
Aseem Prakash
Fall 2015

Class Time: Monday and Wednesday, 10:30-12:20
Class Location: Mechanical Engineering 102
Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Objective

Non-governmental, non-profit organizations (NGNPOs) have emerged as important actors in local, national, and international politics. As units of collective action, they advocate policy positions and produce collective goods. They are often viewed as crucial building blocks for democracy and economic growth. NGNPOs compete and cooperate with governments and with firms. Importantly, they compete and cooperate with one another for membership, external funding, and media attention. Although they are termed as ‘non-governmental’ organizations, many of them rely on governments for much of their funding. And, some NGNPOs have highly questionable and normatively inappropriate goals. In sum, there is a scholarly need to systematically examine NGNPOs as units of collective action, and answer key questions such as under what conditions they emerge, how they structure their organization, how they function, and how they influence policy.

Several literatures study the advocacy and collective good provision functions of NGNPOs. These are:

- the NGO politics and civil society literatures in political science,
- the social movement literature in sociology, and
- the non-profit (NP) literature in public policy/administration/management.

This course will investigate key theoretical and empirical issues raised in these literatures pertaining to NGNPO goals, strategy, politics, and efficacy. We will focus on topics that are theoretically and empirically interesting, and have attracted scholarly attention.

Readings

Book:

Aseem Prakash and Mary Kay Gugerty. Editors. 2010. *Advocacy Organizations and Collective Action*. 2010. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Articles

I have posted articles on Canvas.

Course Expectations

This course *requires* active student participation. You are expected to energetically and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions in the following ways.

Student Presentations

For every session, students will present and critique the assigned articles. The discussant-presenter should prepare a **two page (single-spaced)** “Article Memo” which summarizes the article, examines its strengths and weaknesses, and identifies questions it raises for future research. Please email this memo to the class by Sunday noon for the Monday class, and by Tuesday noon for the Wednesday class. The discussant-presenter should budget about 10-15 minutes for the in-class oral presentation.

Class Participation

Needless to say, I expect seminar participants to review *all* the assigned readings prior to the class. Based on these readings, for **any 5 sessions** (but only one session per week), please will email me two questions or issues you want to discuss in the class (students assigned a specific article will not do so; they will email their “Article Memo” only). Instead of listing your questions, please briefly explain how these questions contribute to our understanding of the article(s) under discussion. Your “Key Questions Memo” should be about **one page (single-spaced)** and reach me by Sunday noon for the Monday class, and by Tuesday noon for the Wednesday class

Research Paper

A **five page (single-spaced)** research paper is due **November 9**. Identify an NGO and explore **any two** of its salient dimensions such as organizational structure, advocacy or service delivery strategies, fund raising, etc. Make sure to relate this to the relevant readings in the course. One page paper outline is due **December 9**.

Evaluation

Article Memos:	50 points
Key Questions Memos:	10 points
Class Participation:	20 points
Research Paper:	20 points

Note

I reserve the right to change the syllabus without prior notice.

Class Schedule

Session 1

Wednesday, September 30

Introduction to the course

Session 2

Monday, October 5

What is Civil Society?

- Salamon. 1994. The Rise of the Nonprofit Sector. *Foreign Affairs*, 73, 109–122
- Hansmann. 1987. Economic Theories of Nonprofit Organization. *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook*, pp: 27-42.
- Werker and Ahmed. 2007. What Do Non-Governmental Organizations Do? *Journal of Economic Perspectives*: <http://www.hbs.edu/faculty/Publication%20Files/08-041.pdf>

Session 3

Wednesday, October 7

Origins and Variations

- Reimann. 2006. A View from the Top: International Politics, Norms, and the Worldwide Growth of NGOs. *International Studies Quarterly*, 50: 45-57.
- Salamon and Anheier. 1998. Social Origins of Civil Society. *Voluntas*, 9, 213-248.
- Langohr. 2004. Too Much Civil Society, too Little Politics: Egypt and Liberalizing Arab Regimes. *Comparative Politics*: 181-204.

Session 4

Monday, October 12

National Styles of Civil Society

- Rikmann and Keedus. 2013. Civic Sectors in Transformation and Beyond: Preliminaries for a Comparison of Six Central and Eastern European Societies. *Voluntas*. 24(1). 149-166.
- Archambault, Priller, and Zimmer. 2014. European Civil Societies Compared: Typically German–Typically French?. *Voluntas*, 25(2): 514-537
- Sabine. 1952. The Two Democratic Traditions. *The Philosophical Review*, 61(4): 451-474.

Session 5

Wednesday, October 14

Bottom Up or Top Down?

- Putnam. 1995. Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital. *Journal of Democracy*, 6(1): 65-78.
- Skocpol, Ganz, and Munson. 2000. A Nation of Organizers. *American Political Science Review*, 94(3): 527-546.
- McFarland and Thomas. 2006. Bowling Young: How Youth Voluntary Associations Influence Adult Political Participation. *American Sociological Review*, 71 (3): 401-425.

Session 6

Monday, October 19

Social Capital

- Woolcock and Narayan. 2000. Social Capital: Implications for Development Theory, Research, and Policy. *The World Bank Research Observer*, 15(2): 225-249.
- Wollebaek and Selle. 2002. Does Participation in Voluntary Associations Contribute to Social Capital? *Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 31(1): 32-61.
- Dolsak. *Collecting Garbage*. Manuscript.

Session 7

Wednesday, October 21

Advocacy Strategies

- Weed. 1993. The MADD queen: Charisma and the Founder of Mothers against Drunk Driving. *The Leadership Quarterly*, 4(3): 329-346.
- Ron, Ramos, and Rodgers. 2005. Transnational Informational Politics: NGO Human Rights Reporting. *International Studies Quarterly*, 49: 557-587.
- Guo and Saxton. 2014. Tweeting Social Change: How Social Media Are Changing Nonprofit Advocacy. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 43(1): 57-79.

Session 8

Monday, October 26

Advocacy Organizations and Collective Action

- Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 1, Introduction
- Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 5, Bob
- Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 8, Ron and Cooley
- Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 10, Henderson

Session 9

Wednesday, October 28

Advocacy Organizations and Collective Action

- Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 2, McGee
- Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 3, Gill & Pfaff
- Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 6, Barakaso
- Prakash and Gugerty, Chapter 7, Pralle

Session 10

Monday, November 2

Problematizing Civil Society

- Berman. 1997. Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic. *World Politics*, 49(03): 401-429.
- Chambers and Kopstein. 2001. Bad Civil Society. *Political Theory*, 29 (6): 837-865.
- Ahmad. 2007. The Careers of NGOs Field-Workers in Bangladesh, *Nonprofit Management & Leadership*. 17(3). 349-365.

Session 11

Wednesday, November 4

Norm Conflict

- Cloward, 2015. Elites, Exit Options, and Social Barriers to Norm Change: The Complex Case of Female Genital Mutilation. *Studies in Comparative and International Development*, 50(3): 378-407.
- Dupuy, Ron, and Prakash. 2015. Hands Off My Regime! Governments' Restrictions on Foreign Aid to NonGovernmental Organizations in Poor and Middle-Income Countries, draft.
- Phillips. 1999. Who needs Civil Society?: A Feminist Perspective, *Dissent*, Winter

Paper outline is due

Session 12

Monday, November 9

Accountability

- Burger. 2012. Reconsidering the Case for Enhancing Accountability Via Regulation. *Voluntas*. 23(1): 85-108.
- Ebrahim, 2005, Accountability Myopia: Losing Sight of Organizational Learning. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 34(1): 56-87.
- Benjamin. 2012. Nonprofit Organizations and Outcome Measurement *American Journal of Evaluation*. 33: 431

Wednesday, November 11

Veteran's Day; No Class

Session 13

Monday, November 16

Nonprofits

- Ostrander. 2007 The Growth of Donor Control: Revisiting the Social Relations of Philanthropy. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*; 36: 356.
- Laidler-Kylander, Quelch and Simonin. 2007. Building and valuing global brands in the nonprofit sector. *Nonprofit Management & Leadership*. 17(3): 253–277.
- Minkoff. 2002. The Emergence of Hybrid Organizational Forms: Combining Identity-Based Service Provision and Political Action. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 31(3) p.377-401.

Session 14

Wednesday, November 18

Organization Structure

- Brown and Iverson. 2004. Exploring Strategy and Board Structure in Nonprofit Organizations. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 33(3): 377-400
- Hudson and Bielefeld. 1997. Structures of multinational nonprofit organizations. *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*, 8: 31–49. doi: 10.1002/nml.4
- Esparza, Walker, and Rossman. 2014. Trade Associations and the Legitimation of Entrepreneurial Movements Collective Action in the Emerging Gourmet Food Truck Industry. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. 43(2): 143S-162.

Session 15

Monday, November 23

Charity Markets

- Stride and Lee. 2007. No Logo? No Way. Branding in the Non-Profit Sector. *Journal of Marketing Management*, 23 (1-2): 107-122.
- Sargeant and Woodliffe. 2007. Building Donor Loyalty: The Antecedents and Role of Commitment in the Context of Charity Giving. *Journal of Nonprofit & Public Sector Marketing*, 18(2): 47-68.
- Keller, Dato-on, and Shaw. 2010. NPO branding: preliminary lessons from major players. *International Journal of Nonprofit Voluntary Sector Marketing*, 15: 105–121. doi: 10.1002/nvsm.361

Session 16

Wednesday, November 25

Foundations

- Bartley, 2007. How Foundations Shape Social Movements. *Social Problems*, 54(3):229-255.
- Grønbjerg, Martell and Paarlberg. 2000. Philanthropic Funding of Human Services: Solving Ambiguity through the Two-Stage Competitive Process. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. 29: 9-40.
- Diaz. 1996. The Behavior of Foundations in Organization Frame. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 25(4)

Session 17

Monday, November 30

NGOs and the War on Terror

- Jafar. 2007. Engaging Fundamentalism: The Case of Women's NGOs in Pakistan. *Social Problems*, 54(3): 256–273.
- Zaidi. 1999. NGO Failure and the Need to Bring Back the State. *Journal of International Development*. 11(2).
- Naviwala. 2010. Harnessing Local Capacity: US Assistance and NGOs in Pakistan. http://www.hks.harvard.edu/cchrp/sbhrp/forum/article_0003/HarnessingLocalCapacity.pdf

Session 18

Wednesday, December 2

NGOs and Foreign Aid

- Nezhina and Ibrayeva. 2013. Explaining the Role of Culture and Traditions in Functioning of Civil Society Organizations in Kazakhstan. *Voluntas*, 24(2): 335-358.
- Chahim and Prakash. 2014. NGOization, Foreign Funding, and the Nicaraguan Civil Society. *Voluntas*, 25(2): 487–513.
- Brown and Hu. 2012. Building Local Support for Chinese Civil Society with International Resources. *Voluntas*, 23(3): 711-733.

Session 19

Monday, December 7

In-class presentations

Session 20

Wednesday, December 9

In-class presentations

Paper turned in