

NGO Politics (POL S 527 A)
Aseem Prakash
Fall 2010

Class Time: Monday, 1:30-4:20 p.m.
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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. Like firms and governments, NGNPOs suffer from principal-agent problems and develop, with varying levels of success, governance mechanisms to mitigate such problems. 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 public and corporate 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 doctoral seminar 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. I hope this seminar will help you synthesize various NGNPO literatures and develop ideas for research papers, research grants, and/or your dissertation.

Readings

Book:

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

Articles

I will create an electronic reserve for the assigned articles:

- <http://catalog.lib.washington.edu/search/p?SEARCH=prakash>

You will need your UW email password to access the course reserve. These articles can also be accessed through UW's online e-journal library. Here are the URLs:

- On campus: <http://www.lib.washington.edu/types/ejournals/>
- Off campus: <http://offcampus.lib.washington.edu/menu>

Course Expectations

This seminar *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 Friday, 12:00 noon. The discussant-presenter should budget about 10 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, please will email me a couple of 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 Friday, 12:00 noon.

Research Proposal

A five page (single-spaced) research proposal is due December 6. Treat this as a first cut for a grant proposal (say, NSF dissertation grant) or your MA/PhD thesis proposal. One page proposal outlines are due November 15. The research proposal could be structured as follows:

Research Puzzle

What is the central issue you want to study and why is it theoretically important? What is (are) your dependent variable (s), independent variable(s), and the logic connecting the two?

Research Context

How does your topic fit in the existing NGO/Social Movement/ Non-Profit literature? What are relevant concepts or models? What are the research gaps?

Research Design

What is the appropriate research strategy for examining your research puzzle? What are your hypotheses? What are your data requirements? How would you analyze and interpret the data?

Research Contributions

What new insight your research is expected to provide? What are the implications for future research on NGOs, social movements, or non-profits?

Evaluation

Article Memo	40 points
Key Questions Memo and class participation	40 points
Research proposal	20 points

Class Schedule

October 4

The Civil Society Debate

- 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.
- Sabine. 1952. The Two Democratic Traditions. *The Philosophical Review*, 61(4): 451-474.
- Andersen, Curtis, and Grabb. 2006. Trends in Civic Association Activity in Four Democracies. *American Sociological Review*, 71(3): 376-400.
- Chambers and Kopstein. 2001. Bad Civil Society. *Political Theory*, 29 (6): 837-865
- Aldrich and Crook. 2008. Strong Civil Society as a Double-Edged Sword: Siting Trailers in Post-Katrina New Orleans. *Political Research Quarterly*, 61(3): 379-389.

October 11

NGOs: An Overview

- Tarrow. 2001. Transnational Politics: Contention and Institutions in International Politics. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 4: 1-20.
- Sell and Prakash. 2004. Using Ideas Strategically. *International Studies Quarterly*, 48(1): 143-175.
- Salisbury. 1969. An Exchange Theory of Interest Groups. *Midwest Journal of Political Science*, 13(1) : 1-32;
- Walker. 1983. The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America. *American Political Science Review*, 77(2): 390-406.
- Lowery and Gray. 1998. The Dominance of Institutions in Interest Representation: A Test of Seven Explanations. *American Journal of Political Science*, 42(1): 231-255.
- Mueller and Opp. 1986. Rational Choice and Rebellious Collective Action. *American Political Science Review*, 80: 471-504.

October 18

NGOs and World Politics

- Keck and Sikkink. 1999. Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics. *International Social Science Journal* (March): 89-101.
- Berman. 1997. Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic. *World Politics*, 49 (3): 401-429
- Reimam. 2006. A View from the Top: International Politics, Norms, and the Worldwide Growth

of NGOs. *International Studies Quarterly*, 50: 45-57.

- Rohrschnieder and Dalton. 2002. A Global Network? *Journal of Politics*, 54(2): 510-533.
- McClearly and Barro. 2008. Private Voluntary Organizations Engaged in International Assistance. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 37(3): 512-536.
- Bartley, 2007. How Foundations Shape Social Movements. *Social Problems*, 54(3):229-255.

October 25

Advocacy Strategies

- McAdam. 1983. Tactical Innovation and the Pace of Insurgency. *American Sociological Review*, 48: 735-54.
- Ron, Ramos, and Rodgers. 2005. Transnational Informational Politics: NGO Human Rights Reporting. *International Studies Quarterly*, 49: 557-587.
- Bob. 2002. Merchants of Morality. *Foreign Policy*, March-April: 36-45.
- Carpenter. 2007. Studying Issue (Non) Adoption in Transnational Advocacy Networks. *International Organization*, 61(3): 643-667.
- Rasler. 1996. Concessions, Repression, and Political Protest in the Iranian Revolution. *American Sociological Review*. 61(1): 132-152.
- Hojnacki. 1997. Interest Groups' Decisions to join alliance or Work alone. *American Journal of Political Science*, 41(1): 61-87.

November 1

Accountability

- Henderson. 2002. Selling Civil Society. *Comparative Political Studies*, 35(2): 139-167.
- Grant and Keohane. 2005. Accountability and Abuses of Power in World Politics. *American Political Science Review*, 99(1): 29-43.
- Wapner. 2002. Defending Accountability in NGOs. *Chicago Journal of International Law*. 3(1): 197-205.
- Ebrahim, 2005, Accountability Myopia: Losing Sight of Organizational Learning. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 34(1): 56-87.
- Burger and Owens. 2010. Promoting Transparency in the NGO Sector. *World Development*. 38(9): 1263-1277.
- Prakash and Gugerty. 2010. Trust but Verify? Voluntary Regulation Programs in the Nonprofit Sector. *Regulation & Governance*, 4(1): 22-47.

October 8

Social Movements (1)

- Mahera. Threat, Resistance, and Collective Action: The Cases of Sobibór, Treblinka, and Auschwitz. *American Sociological Review*. 2010 75: 252-272.
- Andrews. 1997. The Impacts of Social Movements on the Political Process: The Civil Rights Movement and Black Electoral Politics in Mississippi. *American Sociological Review*, 62: 800-819.
- Miceli. 2005. Morality Politics vs. Identity Politics: Framing Processes and Competition Among Christian Right and Gay Social Movement Organizations. *Sociological Forum*, 20(4): 589-612.
- Kitschelt. 1986. Political Opportunity Structures and Political Protest: Anti-Nuclear Movements in Four Democracies. *British Journal of Political Science*, 16: 57-85.
- McCarthy and Wolfson. 1996. Resource Mobilization by Local Social Movement Organizations: Agency, Strategy, and Organization in the Movement Against Drinking and Driving. *American*

Sociological Review, 61: 1070-1088.

- Cress and Snow. 1996. Mobilization at the Margins: Resources, Benefactors, and the Viability of Homeless Social Movement Organizations. *American Sociological Review*. 61: 1089-1109.

Research Proposal Outline due

November 15

Social Movements (2)

- Walker, Martin, and McCarthy. 2008. Confronting the State, the Corporation, and the Academy: The Influence of Institutional Targets on Social Movement Repertoires. *American Journal of Sociology*. 114(1): 35–76.
- Andrews. 2001. Social Movements and Policy Implementation: The Mississippi Civil Rights Movement and the War on Poverty. *American Sociological Review*, 66: 71-95.
- Soule and King. 2008. Competition and Resource Partitioning in Three Social Movement Industries. *American Journal of Sociology*. 113(6): 1568–610.
- Zald and Berger. 1978. Social Movements in Organizations: Coup d'Etat, Insurgency, and Mass Movements. *American Journal of Sociology*, 83 (4):823-861.
- Koopmans and Olzak. 2004. Discursive Opportunities and the Evolution of Right-Wing Violence in Germany. *American Journal of Sociology*, 110 (1): 198-230.
- Sampson, McAdam, MacIndoe, and Elizondo, 2005. Civil Society Reconsidered. *American Journal of Sociology*, 111(3): 673-714.

November 22

Non-Profits

- Hansmann. 1980. The Role of Nonprofit Enterprise. *Yale Law Journal*. 89(5): 835-901.
- Ortmann and Schlesinger. 1997. Trust, Repute and the Role of Non-Profit Enterprise. *Voluntas*, 8(2):97-119.
- Van Slyke, 2007. Agents or Stewards: Using Theory to Understand the Government – Nonprofit Social Services Contracting Relationship. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 17(2): 157-187.
- O’Neill. 2009. Public confidence in Charitable nonprofits. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 38(2): 237-269.
- Garner and Garner. 2010. Volunteering an Opinion: Organizational Voice and Volunteer Retention in Nonprofit Organizations *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*.
doi:10.1177/0899764010366181
- Bekkers and Wiepking. 2010. A Literature Review of Empirical Studies of Philanthropy: Eight Mechanisms That Drive Charitable Giving *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*.
doi:10.1177/0899764010380927

November 29

Social Capital

- Wollebaek and Selle. 2002. Does Participation in Voluntary Associations Contribute to Social Capital? *Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 31(1): 32-61.
- McFarland and Thomas.2006. Bowling Young: How Youth Voluntary Associations Influence Adult Political Participation. *American Sociological Review*, 71 (3): 401-425.
- Casey and Christ. 2005. Social Capital and Economic Performance in the American States. *Social Science Quarterly*, 86(4): 826 - 845

- Krishna. 2001. Moving from the Stock of Social Capital to the Flow of Benefits: The Role of Agency. *World Development*, 29 (6): 925-943.
- Portes. 1998. Social Capital: Its Origins and Applications in Modern Sociology. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 24.
- Ellison, Steinfield, and Lampe. 2007. The Benefits of Facebook “Friends:” Social Capital and College Students’ Use of Online Social Network Sites. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 12: 1143–1168.

Final Paper turned in

December 6

NGOs and Collective Action

Prakash and Gugerty, Editors. 2010. *Advocacy Organizations and Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press.

To be emailed.