

POL S 527 A NGO Politics Winter 2005

Instructor: Aseem Prakash
Class Time: Wednesday, 2:30 - 5:20 p.m.
Class Location: Denny 313
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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. 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, many 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 function, and how they influence public and corporate policy.

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

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

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 paper(s) or your dissertation.

Readings

Books:

- Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Border*. Cornell University Press. ISBN 0-8014-8456-1
- Doug McAdam, John McCarthy, and Mayer Zald. editors. 1996. *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-48516-9

Articles:

Most articles can 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>

I will provide photocopies of a couple of articles.

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 is expected to prepare a two page (single-spaced) summary and critique of article and email it to the class by Tuesday, 12:00 noon. The discussant-presenter should budget about 10-15 minutes for the presentation. I will circulate a sign-up sheet on the first day of class.

Class Participation

All (but the discussant-presenters) will email me key questions they want to discuss in the class. Instead of merely 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). Your email should reach me by Tuesday, 12:00 noon.

Research Proposal

A five page (single-spaced) research proposal is due March 16. Treat this as a first cut for a grant proposal or your MA/PhD thesis proposal. One page proposal outlines are due February 16. 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?

In-class proposal presentations are scheduled for March 16.

Evaluation

“Article critique” memo (10 points per memo)	80 points
“Key questions” memo and overall class participation	20 points
Research proposal	20 points

Class Schedule

January 5

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.
- Vogel. 1980-81. The public interest movement and the American reform tradition. *Political Science Quarterly*, 95(4): 607-627
- Tarrow. 2001. Transnational politics: Contention and institutions in international politics. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 4: 1-20.
- Weisbrod. 1997. The future of the non-profit sector. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 16(4): 541-555.

January 12

NGOs: Definitional Issues

- Vakil. 1997. Confronting the classification problem. *World Development*, 25(12): 2057-2070.
- Keck and Sikkink. *Activists beyond borders*. Chapters 1, 2.
- Wapner. 1995. Politics beyond state: Environmental activism and world civic politics. *World Politics*, 47: 311-340
- Sell and Prakash. 2004. Using ideas strategically. *International Studies Quarterly*, 48(1): 143-175.
- Wapner. 2002. Defending accountability in NGOs. *Chicago Journal of International Law*. 3(1): 197-205.
- Burstein. 1999. Social Movements and Public Policy. Photocopy.

January 19

NGOs and World Politics

- Dalton, Recchia, and Rohrschneider. 2003. The environmental movement and the modes of political action. *Comparative Political Studies*, 36(7): 743-771.
- Betsill and Bulkeley. 2004. Transnational networks and global environmental governance. *International Studies Quarterly*, 48(2): 471- 493.
- True and Mintrom. 2001. Transnational networks and policy diffusion: The case of gender mainstreaming. *International Studies Quarterly*, 45(1): 27-57.
- Bartley. 2003. Certifying forests and factories. *Politics & Society*, 31(3): 433-464.
- Klein, Smith, and John. 2004. Why we boycott?. *Journal of Marketing*, <http://facultyresearch.london.edu/docs/02-701.pdf>
- Rustalia. 1997. States, NGOs, and international environmental institutions. *International Studies Quarterly*, 41 (4): 719-740.

January 26

NGO Political Strategy

- Keck and Sikkink. Chapters 3, 4, and 5
- Price. 1998. Reversing the gun sights. *International Organization*, 52 (3): 613-644.
- Sasser, Prakash, Cashore, and Auld. 2004. Direct targeting as NGO political strategy. Draft (will be emailed).

February 2

Assessing Claims about NGOs

- Henderson. 2002. Selling civil society. *Comparative Political Studies*, 35(2): 139-167.
- Cooley and Ron. 2002. The NGO scramble. *International Security*, Summer: 5-39.
- Avant. 2004. Conserving nature in the state of nature. *Review of International Studies*, 30: 361-382.
- Rohrschnieder and Dalton. 2002. A global network?. *Journal of Politics*, 54(2): 510-533.
- Clark, Friedman, and Hochstetler. 1998. The sovereign limits to global civil society. *World Politics*, October: 1-35.
- Brown, Brown, and Desposato. 2002. Left turn on green? *Comparative Political Studies* 35(7): 814-838.

February 9

Social Movements: Political Opportunities

- McAdams et al, chapters 1-5

February 16 (Proposal outlines turned in)

Social Movements: Mobilizing Structures

- McAdams et al., chapters 6-10

February 23

Social Movements: Framing Processes

- McAdams et al., chapter 11-15.

March 2

Non-Profit Theory

- Hall. Historical overview of the private nonprofit sector. In *The Non Profit Sector* edited by Walter Powell. Photocopy.
- Weisbrod. Modeling the non-profit organization as a multi-product firm. In *To Profit or Not to Profit*, edited by Burton Weisbrod. Photocopy
- Hansman. Economic theories of the non-profit organization. In *The Non-Profit Sector*, edited by Walter Powell. Photocopy.
- Douglas. Political theories of nonprofit organization. In *The Non Profit Sector* edited by Walter Powell. Photocopy.
- Ben-ner, Avner. 2004. For-profit, state, and nonprofit.
<http://www.legacy-irc.csom.umn.edu/RePEC/hrr/papers/0304.pdf>
- DiMaggio and Anheier. 1990. The sociology of nonprofit organizations and sectors. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 16:137-159.

March 9

Empirical Research on Non-Profits

- Regan and Oster. 2002. Does government spending alter non-profit governance?. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 21(3): 359-.
- Goddeeris and Weisbrod. 1998. Conversion from non-profit to for-profit legal status. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 17(2): 215-233.
- Young. 1998. Commercialism in non-profit social service association. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 17(2): 278-297.
- Wollebaek and Selle. 2002. Does participation in voluntary associations contribute to social capital?. *Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 31(1): 32-61.
- Brooks and Lewis, 2001. Giving volunteering and mistrusting the government. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 20: 765-770.
- Gugerty and Kremer. 2004. The Rockefeller effect. Draft (will be emailed).

March 16

Research Proposals Turned In In-Class Presentations