

## **Ethnic Politics II**

Spring 2007  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Political Science 17.506  
Tuesday, 3-5  
Room: 66-148

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### Course Overview

This course is designed mainly for political science graduate students conducting or considering conducting research on identity politics. While Ethnic Politics I is designed as a primarily theoretical course, Ethnic Politics II switches the focus to methods. It aims to familiarize the student with the current conventional approaches as well as major challenges to them. The course discusses definition and measurement issues as well as briefly addressing survey techniques and modeling.

### Requirements

There will be a variety of short assignments. The major requirement is a 20-30 page research paper that resembles a dissertation prospectus. The paper must define a question, specify variables and their measurement, identify underlying causal mechanisms, address the relevant literature, and develop hypotheses. Most students will need to formally present this paper in the last sessions of the course.

### **I. Definitions and Measurement**

#### February 6: Introduction

Overview of course and general discussion.

#### February 13: Definitions and Usage, Old and New

William James, "On a Certain Blindness in Human Beings," in *Theories of Ethnicity: A Classical Reader* (New York: New York University Press, 1996), pp. 34-36.

Max Weber, "Ethnic Groups," in *Theories of Ethnicity: A Classical Reader* (New York: New York University Press, 1996), pp. 52-56.

Fredrik Barth, *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries* (Prospect Heights: Waveland Press, 1969), pp. 5-38.

Discussion of current definitions and measurements of ethnicity in major political science journals. Below is a list of all articles from the *American Political Science Review* and the *American Journal of Political Science* from the last five years that contain the words "ethnic" or "ethnicity" in the title. Students should choose two of the articles that are most relevant to their research interests (except for Posner, which will be considered in the February 27 class), summarize the argument, describe the operationalization of ethnicity, and consider alternative definitions.

Donna Bahry, Mikhail Kosolapov, Polina Kozyreva, Rick K. Wilson, "Ethnicity and Trust: Evidence from Russia" *American Political Science Review*, 99 (04) (Nov 2005): 521-532.

James D. Fearon, David Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War," *American Political Science Review*, Volume 97, Issue 01, Feb 2003, pp 75-90.

Dennis Chong, Dukhong Kim, "The Experiences and Effects of Economic Status Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities," *American Political Science Review*, Volume 100, Issue 03, Aug 2006, pp 335-351.

Daniel N. Posner "Measuring Ethnic Fractionalization in Africa," *American Journal of Political Science* 48 (4)(2004): 849-863.

Wendy K. Tam Cho, "Contagion Effects and Ethnic Contribution Networks," *American Journal of Political Science* 47 (2)(2003): 368-387.

Steven A. Weldon, "The Institutional Context of Tolerance for Ethnic Minorities: A Comparative, Multilevel Analysis of Western Europe," *American Journal of Political Science* 50 (2)(2006): 331-349.

February 20: No class, Presidents' Day

February 27: Measuring Ethnic Diversity

We will examine different measures of ethnic diversity, starting with the widely used ethnolinguistic fractionalization (ELF) found in the 1964 *Atlas Narodov Mira*.

*Atlas Narodov Mira*. (1964). Moscow: Miklukho-Maklai Ethnological Institute at the Department of Geodesy and Cartography of the State Geological Committee of the Soviet Union.

Alberto Alesina, Arnaud Devleeschauwer, William Easterly, Sergio Kurlat, Romain Wacziarg, "Fractionalization," *Journal of Economic Growth* 8(2003): 155-194.

Daniel N. Posner "Measuring Ethnic Fractionalization in Africa," *American Journal of Political Science* 48 (4)(2004): 849–863.

Fearon, J. (2003). "Ethnic Structure and Cultural Diversity by Country." *Journal of Economic Growth*, 8(2): 195-222.

## **II. The Fluidity of Identity, and the Lack of It**

### March 6: Social Identity Theory and Mechanisms of Group Comparison

Rupert Brown, "Social Identity Theory: Past Achievements, Current Problems, and Future Challenges," *European Journal of Social Psychology* 30 (6)(November 2000): 745-778.

James Sidanius, "The Psychology of Group Conflict and the Dynamics of Oppression: A Social Dominance Perspective," in Shanto Iyengar and William McGuire, eds. *Explorations in Political Psychology* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1993).

Donald Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985), Chapters 1 and 2.

### March 13: Fluidity

Rogers Brubaker, *Ethnicity Without Groups* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004). General discussion and application of Brubaker's approach to student projects.

### March 20: Ethnicity, Memory, and Death

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*, (London: Verso, 1983). Selections.

Steve Van Evera, "Primordialism Lives!" *Comparative Politics Section Newsletter*, Winter 2001.

Nicholas Sambanis, measures and findings on hostility and death from *Making War, Building Peace: United Nations Peace Operations* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006), Chapter 3, pp. 67-105.

Timothy Snyder, "Memory of Sovereignty and Sovereignty Over Memory: Poland, Lithuania, and Ukraine, 1939-1999," in *Memory and Power in Post-War Europe: Studies*

*in the Presence of the Past*, Jan-Werner Muller, ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), pp. 39-58.

Roger Petersen, "Memory and Cultural Schema: Linking Memory to Political Action," in Francesca Cappelletto ed., *Memory and Second World War: An Ethnographic Approach*, (Oxford: Berg, 2005).

March 27: No class, Spring Break

April 3: Stigma and Prejudice

Paul Sniderman, *The Outsider: Prejudice and Politics in Italy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000). Read entire book. Also, read appendices that list the questions used in the surveys.

### **III. Processes of Identity Change**

April 10: The Contact Hypothesis

H. D. Forbes, *Ethnic Conflict: Commerce, Culture, and the Contact Hypothesis* (Yale University Press, 1997). Entire book.

James Gibson, *Overcoming Apartheid: Can Truth Reconcile a Divided Nation?* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2004), pp. 133-150.

April 17: No Class, Patriots Day

April 24: Cascade Models

1. Murat Somer, "Cascades of Ethnic Polarization: Lessons from Yugoslavia," *Annals, AAPSS* 573 (January 2001): 127-151.
2. David Laitin, *Identity in Formation: The Russian-Speaking Population in the Near Abroad* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998), Chapter 1, pp. 3-35.
3. Timur Kuran, *Private Truths, Public Lies: The Social Consequences of Preference Falsification* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1995), pp. 1-44, 137-154, 222-243, 310-325.
4. Jon Elster, "Review of Timur Kuran: Private Truths, Public Lies," *Acta Sociologica* 39 (1): 112-115.

May 1: Identity Simulation using Ps-i

Lustick, Ian. "Agent-Based Identity Repertoire Model." Identity modeling program. Downloaded from Lustick's University of Pennsylvania bio page, [http://www.polisci.upenn.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=73](http://www.polisci.upenn.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=73)

Students should familiarize themselves with the model and bring in ideas and examples for practical application of the model. Students should also read a short summary of the model: "Terror Games," by Jeffrey Rothfeder *Popular Science*, March 2004 Volume 264 #3. The link to this article is found on Pro. Lustick's website.

May 8, May 15: Student Presentations