

Civil Society, Social Capital, and the State in Comparative Perspective

Political Science 17.955
Fall 2004

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<i>Office hours</i>	Thursdays 1:30 – 3:30 PM or by appointment
 <i>Class</i>	 Tuesdays 12:00 – 2:00 PM E51-385

Course overview

In recent years both scholars and policymakers have expressed a remarkable amount of interest in the concepts of social capital and civil society. A growing body of research suggests that the social networks, community norms, and associational activities signified by these concepts can have important effects on social welfare, political stability, economic development, and governmental performance. We will examine the roles played by these networks, norms, and organizations in outcomes ranging from local public goods provision and the performance of democracies to ethnic conflict and funding for terrorism. This course is designed to:

- Familiarize students with the existing theoretical literature and empirical research.
- Trace the historical evolution of these concepts and examine their application in different cultural contexts.
- Evaluate recent research on the effects that civil society and social capital have on a variety of political and economic outcomes.
- Equip students with the background and tools to contribute original research on these issues.

Requirements

Everyone is expected to complete the vast majority of required reading before class every week and to contribute actively to class discussions. “Cold calls” may therefore sometimes be used, although comments contributed will only help, and not hurt, one’s grade.

Participants will write three short response papers (750 – 1000 words) that critically discuss a given week’s readings. You may also write more than three papers and drop the least successful one from your grade. All papers should be e-mailed to l_tsai@mit.edu by 5:00 pm on the Monday preceding class. To ensure unbiased grading, please put your name on a separate page at the end of the paper.

Each seminar participant is also expected to serve as discussion leader for a class session in a week for which they have not written a response paper.

Finally, participants will write a research proposal (3500 – 4000 words) for an original research project. The proposal should review the relevant theoretical literature, assessing existing approaches to the research question; derive testable hypotheses to be evaluated in the proposed project; and describe a methodology for testing these hypotheses. A 1-2 page prospectus for this proposal is due in class on November 2nd. The research proposal is due on December 13th. The response papers and class participation will count for 60 percent of the final grade, and the research proposal for 40 percent.

INTRODUCTION

SEPT 14: ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

SEPT 21: WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL CAPITAL?

Robert Bellah, *Habits of the Heart*, Preface, Chapters 1, 2, 7, 8, 10.

Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*, Chapters 1, 3, 4, 6.

Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone*, Chapters 17-20.

Meenakshi Ganguly, "A Banking System Built for Terrorism," *Time*, October 5, 2001.

WHAT ARE CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL CAPITAL? CONCEPTS AND CONCEPTUAL EVOLUTION

SEPT 28: CIVIL SOCIETY AND ASSOCIATIONS

Frank Sorauf, "The Conceptual Muddle," in *The Public Interest: Nomos V*, ed. Carl J. Friedrich, 1962, pp.490-94.

Ivan Vallier, "Empirical Comparisons of Social Structure: Leads and Lags," in *Comparative Methods in Sociology: Essays on Trends and Applications*, 1971, pp.223-27.

Richard Locke and Kathleen Thelen, "Problems of Equivalence in Comparative Politics: Apples and Oranges, Again," in *Newsletter of the APSA Organized Section in Comparative Politics* 8, No.1 (Winter 1998), pp.1-9.

Adam Seligman, "The Modern Idea of Civil Society," in *The Idea of Civil Society*, 1992, pp.15-58.

Karl Marx, excerpts from "On the Jewish Question," in *The Civil Society Reader*, eds. Hodgkinson and Foley, pp.96-112.

Alexis de Tocqueville, excerpts from *Democracy in America*, in *The Civil Society Reader*, eds. Hodgkinson and Foley, pp.113-32.

Michael Foley and Bob Edwards, "Beyond Tocqueville: Civil Society and Social Capital in Comparative Perspective." *American Behavioral Scientist*, Vol.42, No.1 (September 1998), pp.5-20.

Chris Hann, *Civil Society: Challenging Western Models*, eds. Hann and Dunn, Introduction.

Bronislaw Geremek, "Civil Society Then and Now," *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, eds. Diamond and Plattner, Chapter 20. ** Optional **

Peter Dobkin Hall, "A Historical Overview of Philanthropy, Voluntary Associations, and Nonprofit Organizations in the United States, 1600-2000." Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations. ** Skim **

Robert Weller, *Alternate Civilities: Democracy and Culture in China and Taiwan* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1999), Chapters 2 and 5.

John Keane, "Global Civil Society?" in *Global Civil Society 2001*, eds. Helmut Anheier, Marlies Glasius, and Mary Kaldor, Chapter 2.

Supplemental:

W.B. Gallie, "Essentially Contested Concepts," *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, Vol.51, 1956.

Paul Thagard, *Conceptual Revolution*, 1992, Chapter 1 ("The Problem of Revolutionary Conceptual Change.")

OCT 5: SOCIAL CAPITAL, NETWORKS, AND NORMS

James Coleman, "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol.94 (1988), pp.S95-S120.

Mark Granovetter, "The Strength of Weak Ties," *American Journal of Sociology*, No.78 (1973), pp.1360-1380.

Alejandro Portes, "Social Capital: Its Origins and Applications in Modern Sociology." *Annual Review of Sociology*, (1998), pp.1-24.

Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*, Chapter 5. Look over Chapter 6 again.

Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone*, Chapter 1.

Robert Putnam and Kristin Goss, *Democracies in Flux*, Introduction.

Elinor Ostrom and T.K. Ahn, "Introduction," in *Foundations of Social Capital*, eds. Ostrom and Ahn, 2002.

Michael Foley and Bob Edwards, "Escape from Politics? Social Theory and the Social Capital Debate," *American Behavioral Scientist*, Vol.40, No.5 (1997), pp.550-61.

WHAT EFFECTS DO CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL CAPITAL HAVE?

OCT 19: DEVELOPMENT

Peter Evans, "Introduction: Development Strategies Across the Public-Private Divide," and "Government Action, Social Capital, and Development: Reviewing the Evidence of Synergy," in *State-Society Synergy*, 1996.

Elinor Ostrom, "Crossing the Great Divide: Coproduction, Synergy, and Development," in *State-Society Synergy*, 1996.

Michael Woolcock, "Social Capital and Economic Development." *Theory and Society*, Vol.27, No.2, pp.151-208.

Peter Evans, *Embedded Autonomy*, 1995, Chapter 3.

Francis Fukuyama, "Social Capital and the Global Economy," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.74, No.5 (September/October 1995).

Tar-Der Luo, "The significance of networks in the initiation of small businesses in Taiwan," *Sociological Forum*, Vol.12, No.2, pp.297-317.

Julia Elyachar, "Empowerment Money: The World Bank, Non-Governmental Organizations, and the Value of Culture in Egypt," *Public Culture*, Vol. 14, No.3, pp. 493-513.

Vijayendra Rao, "Poverty and Public Culture," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, No.573, pp.85-104. ** Optional **

OCT 26: REGIME CHANGE AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Larry Diamond, "Toward Democratic Consolidation." In *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, ed. Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, 1996, pp.227-240.

Julia Paley, *Marketing Democracy: Power and Social Movements in Post-Dictatorship Chile*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001), pp. 1-20, 143-181.

Iliya Harik, "Pluralism in the Arab World," in *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, ed. Diamond and Plattner, 1996, Chapter 23.

Augustus Richard Norton, *Civil Society in the Middle East*, 1996, Foreword and Introduction. ** Optional **

Binnaz Toprak, "Civil Society in Turkey," in *Civil Society in the Middle East*, ed. Norton, 1996, Chapter 3.
** Optional**

Grzegorz Ekiert and Jan Kubik, *Rebellious Civil Society: Popular Protest and Democratic Consolidation in Poland, 1989-1993*, 1999, Chapter 2.

M. Steven Fish, "Russia's Fourth Transition," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 5, No.3 (July 1994), pp. 31-43.

James Gibson, "Social Networks, Civil Society, and the Prospects for Consolidating Russia's Democratic Transition," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol.45, No.1 (January 2001), pp.51-68.

Elizabeth Perry and Ellen Fuller, "China's Long March Toward Democracy," *World Policy Journal*, Vol.8, No.4 (1991), pp.663-85.

X. L. Ding, "Institutional Amphibiousness and the Transition from Communism: The Case of China," *British Journal of Political Science*, No. 24 (1994), pp. 293-318. ** Optional **

E. Gyimak-Boadi, "Civil Society in Africa," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (April 1996), pp. 118-132.

Larry Diamond, "Nigeria: The Uncivic Society and the Descent into Praetorianism," in *Politics in Developing Countries*, ed. Diamond, Linz, and Lipset, 1995, Chapter 9. ** Optional **

NOV 2: GOVERNMENTAL PERFORMANCE, PUBLIC GOODS PROVISION, AND STATE CAPACITY

Note: Prospectus due in class.

Margaret Levi, "A State of Trust," in *Trust and Governance*, eds. Braithwaite and Levi, Chapter 4.

Deepa Narayan, "Bonds and Bridges: Social Capital and Poverty," World Bank report.

Wai Fung Lam, "Institutional Design of Public Agencies and Coproduction: A Study of Irrigation Associations in Taiwan," in *State-Society Synergy*, 1997.

Edward Miguel and Mary Kay Gugerty, "Ethnic Diversity, Social Sanctions, and Public Goods Provision in Kenya," working paper, December 2002.

Lily L. Tsai, "Cadres, Temple and Lineage Institutions, and Governance in Rural China." *The China Journal*, 2002.

Lester Salamon, "Of Market Failure, Voluntary Failure, and Third-Party Government: Toward a Theory of Government-Nonprofit Relations in the Modern Welfare State."

NOV 9: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND GLOBALIZATION

Global Civil Society 2001, eds. Helmut Anheier, Marlies Glasius, and Mary Kaldor, Chapter 1.

N.S. Jamwal, "Hawala – The Invisible Financing System of Terrorism." *Day After India*.

Matthias Schramm and Markus Taube, "Evolution and Institutional Foundation of the *Hawala* Financial System," Report, German Institute for Economic Research, DIW-Berlin, June 2002.

Larry Lambert, "Underground Banking and National Security," *SAPRA India Bulletin*, February-March 1996.

Sanjeev Khagram, James Riker, and Kathryn Sikkink, "From Santiago to Seattle: Transnational Advocacy Groups Restructuring World Politics," in *Restructuring World Politics: Transnational Social Movements, Networks, and Norms*, 2002, Chapter 1.

Kathryn Sikkink, "Restructuring World Politics: The Limits and Asymmetries of Soft Power," in *Restructuring World Politics: Transnational Social Movements, Networks, and Norms*, 2002, Chapter 15.

Alison Brysk, "From Above and Below: Social Movements, the International System, and Human Rights in Argentina," *Comparative Political Studies*, No.3, pp.259-85.

Jude Howell and Jenny Pearce, "Manufacturing Civil Society from the Outside: Donor Interventions," in *Civil Society and Development*, Chapter 5.

John Helliwell, "Maintaining Social Ties: Social Capital in a Global Information Age," Keynote address to the 75th Anniversary Conference of the University of Tilburg on Sustainable Ties in the Information Society, March 26-28, 2003.

William Fisher, "Doing Good? The Politics and Antipolitics of NGO Practices," *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol.26, pp.439-464.

Akira Iriye, "A Century of NGOs," *The Ambiguous Legacy: U.S. Foreign Relations in the "American Century"*, 1999, Chapter 13.

NOV 16 – to be rescheduled: DOMESTIC POLITICS AND POLICYMAKING

Ashutosh Varshney, "Ethnic conflict and civil society: India and beyond," *World Politics*, No.53 (April), pp.362-98.

Susan Schrepfer, "Establishing Administrative 'Standing': The Sierra Club and the Forest Service, 1897-1956." In C. Miller, ed. *American Forests: Nature, Culture, and Politics*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1997, pp.125-42.

Theda Skocpol, *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the United States*, Chapter 6.

Robert Weller, *Alternate Civilities: Democracy and Culture in China and Taiwan* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1999), Chapter 6 (Forms of Association and social action: Taiwan's Environmental Movement).

Elisabeth Clemens, "Organizational Repertoires and Institutional Change: Women's Groups and the Transformation of American Politics, 1820-1890." In *Civic Engagement in American Democracy*, Chapter 3.

Sidney Tarrow, "Mad Cows and Social Activists: Contentious Politics in the Trilateral Democracies." In *Disaffected Democracies*, ed. Susan Pharr and Robert Putnam, Chapter 12.

HOW DO CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL CAPITAL WORK? CAUSAL MECHANISMS

NOV 23: POLITICAL VOICE, SKILLS, AND PARTICIPATION

Carles Boix and Daniel Posner, "The Origins and Political Consequences of Social Capital," *British Journal of Political Science*, July 1998.

Kay Lehman Scholzman, Sidney Verba, and Henry Brady, "Civic Participation and the Equality Problem." In *Civic Engagement in American Democracy*, Chapter 12.

Joshua Cohen and Joel Rogers. "Secondary Associations in Democratic Governance," *Politics and Society*, No.20 (1992), pp.393-472.

Theda Skocpol and associates, "How Americans Became Civic," in *Civic Engagement in American Democracy*, Chapter 2.

Jeffrey Berry, "The Rise of Citizen Groups," in *Civic Engagement in American Democracy*, Chapter 10.

Morris Fiorina, "Extreme Voices: A Dark Side of Civic Engagement." In *Civic Engagement in American Democracy*, Chapter 11.

Elizabeth Reid, "Nonprofit Advocacy and Political Participation." Chapter 9.

NOV 30: TRUST, RECIPROCITY, AND OBLIGATION

Michael Hechter, *Principles of Group Solidarity*, Chapters 2 and 3.

Robert Axelrod, *The Evolution of Cooperation*, Chapter 1. ** Chapter 9 optional **

Robert Putnam, "Reciprocity, Honesty, and Trust," in *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, 2000, Chapter 8.

Russell Hardin, "Trust in Government," in *Trust and Governance*, ed. Braithwaite and Levi, Chapter 1.

Tom Tyler, "Trust and Democratic Governance," in *Trust and Governance*, eds. Braithwaite and Levi, Chapter 11.

Mark Peel, "Trusting Disadvantaged Citizens," in *Trust and Governance*, eds. Braithwaite and Levi, Chapter 13.

John Braithwaite, "Institutionalizing Distrust, Enculturating Trust," in *Trust and Governance*, eds. Braithwaite and Levi, Chapter 14.

Russell Hardin, "The Street-Level Epistemology of Trust," *Politics and Society*, (1993), pp.505-31.

Mayfair Mei-Hui Yang, *Gifts Favors and Banquets: The Art of Social Relationships in China*, pp. 75-108.

Alvin Gouldner, "The Norm of Reciprocity: A Preliminary Statement," *American Sociological Review* (April 1960), pp.161-78. ** Optional **

Marshall Sahlins, *Stone-Age Economics*, pp.185-232. ** Optional **

HOW DO WE USE THESE CONCEPTS? ISSUES OF APPLICATION AND MEASUREMENT

DEC 7: OPERATIONALIZATION AND HYPOTHESIS TESTING

A variety of existing survey instruments for social capital and civil society studies (to be determined).

Re-read Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*, Chapter 4.

Robert Jackman and Ross Miller, "A Renaissance of Political Culture?" *American Journal of Political Science*, (1996), pp.632-59.

Robert Jackman and Ross Miller, "Social Capital and Politics," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 1998, pp.47-73.

Vartuhi Tonoyan, "The Bright and Dark Sides of Trust: Corruption and Entrepreneurship – A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Emerging vs. Market Economies," Paper presented at the International Conference on Trust and Entrepreneurial Behavior in East and West European Economies: Concepts, Developments, and Comparative Aspects, University of Bremen, September 2003.

Robert Sampson, Jeffrey Morenoff, and Thomas Gannon-Rowley, "Assessing 'Neighborhood Effects': Social Processes and New Directions in Research," *Annual Review of Sociology*, (2002), pp.443-78.

John Scholz, "Trust, Taxes, and Compliance," in *Trust and Governance*, eds. Braithwaite and Levi, Chapter 6.

Stephen L. Morgan and Aage B. Sorensen, "Parental Networks, Social Closure, and Mathematics Learning: A Test of Coleman's Social Capital Explanation of School Effects." *American Sociological Review*, No.64 (October 1999), pp.661-81.

Peter Dobkin Hall, "Historical Statistics of the United States Chapter on Voluntary, Nonprofit, and Religious Entities and Activities: Underlying Concepts, Concerns, and Dilemmas." November 1998.

Supplemental:

Sidney Verba, "Cross-National Survey Research: The Problem of Credibility." In *Comparative Methods in Sociology: Essays on Trends and Applications*, ed. Ivan Vallier, 1971.
