



POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

States, Power, and Societies

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Symposium: Great Books and Articles Every Political Sociologist Should Know

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Editor's Note: To kick off this issue, I've asked a handful of political sociologists to list and explain: "3-5 great books or articles that every political sociologist should know."

Bruce Western: "Each of these works reflects my interest in the power relations embedded in state institutions and their connection to systems of social inequality.

Weber's *Agrarian Sociology of Ancient Civilization* describes the economic system of antiquity, sustained by a logic of military conquest that ultimately sowed the seeds of its own destruction.

Polanyi's *Great Transformation* describes (among other things) the emergence of the labor market in nineteenth century England as an essentially political act produced by the elimination of outdoor poor relief.

Przeworski's essay on "Proletariat into a Class" in 1977 *Politics and Society* provides a radically anti-structural account of class in which classes (and perhaps other social groups) are seen as actively produced through projects of collective action and political conflict.

Esping-Andersen's *Social Foundations of Post-Industrial Economies* analyzes the relationship between social policy and the organization of contemporary household economies in different welfare state regimes.

Wilson's *The Declining Significance of Race* is known to us all as an analysis of urban poverty, but it equally offers a macrosociology of racial inequality in which institutionalized forms of racial difference shape the economic status of blacks, until the Civil Rights movement significantly deracializes the state, opening an era of class-based inequality."

Jill Quadagno: "One cannot discuss welfare state research without referring to Gosta Esping-Andersen's *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. This book established a new paradigm for comparative welfare state research, focused around the concept of regimes.

Another influential book is Julia O'Connor, Ann Orloff and Sheila Shaver's

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Section Officers

Chair: John Myles
Chair-Elect: Gay Seidman
Past Chair: Ann Orloff
Secretary-Treasurer: Lynne Haney
Council: Gianpaolo Baiocchi, Greta Krippner, Gwen Moore, Pamela Paxton, Steven Pfaff, and John Skrentny

The Chair's Corner

According to Mancur Olsen, organizations like ours ought to face a huge collective action problem. I'm happy to report that Olsen is wrong. In my brief tenure as section chair, able and willing volunteers to do the work of the section have been popping up all over. I am particularly grateful to the many younger members of the section who have come forward and especially to Dave Brady who has taken over responsibility for editing our newsletter from the able hands of Gianpaolo Baiocchi.

Ours is one of the largest sections of the ASA. This year we passed the 800 mark.

With size comes diversity. As any of you who have surveyed political sociology reading lists will be aware, the range of theoretical, methodological, and substantive interests of our members is both breathtaking and not a little daunting to accommodate. The natural process of intergenerational succession adds to the diversity. The intellectual passions that drove my generation in the 70s and 80s are not always those that motivate younger scholars and the many graduate students who make up a large

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THE CHAIR'S CORNER Continued...

share of our members. And the ASA sections have an especially important role in providing a platform for the “next generation” to do their thing.

Fortunately, size also brings us extra sessions to help us accommodate a broader range of interests. The additional session we have for 2008 will be an open paper session entitled “political sociology” organized by Tom Janoski and open to all comers. And chair-elect Gay Seidman along with Denise Scott will be organizing our always lively roundtables. Political economy, I was glad to learn, isn't dead but it is being reshaped. Together with the Comparative Historical Section, we are co-sponsoring two sessions on political economy organized by Greta Krippner and Isaac Martin. Session one – *New Directions in Political Economy* – is listed under Political Sociology and session 2 – *Ideas and Interests in Neoliberal Politics* – appears in the CHS program. Both are open paper sessions.

If you've been following the news, you will know that the political implications of immigration and growing ethno-racial diversity has become one of the hottest political topics on the European continent. Moreover, much of that concern is rooted in the American experience as the historical exemplar. Some argue that greater diversity undermines popular support for redistribution producing less generous welfare states. Others suggest that increasing diversity threatens civic engagement and other foundations of democratic participation. Irene Bloemraad is looking for papers that take up these issues in an open paper session entitled *Ethno-Racial Diversity, Civic Engagement, and the Politics of Redistribution*

Invited panels that offer the prospect of controversy and debate are always a draw at the annual meetings. John Skrentny is organizing an invited panel that should be lively entitled *Political Sociology and Political Science: How Similar? How Different?* Come and join the debate. For someone steeped in the tradition of class analysis, ASA President Arne Kalleberg's 2008 theme – *Worlds of Work* -- is near and dear to my heart and I was determined to have at least one session to reflect the theme. Bruce Western leapt into the breach and agreed to organize an invited panel entitled *Politics at Work*. Bruce has worked his networks to put together a high-powered set of speakers but I won't try to scoop his announcement here. Stay tuned.

John Myles
2007-2008 Section Chair

Graduate Student Paper Prize

(Committee: Pamela Paxton, chair, Jon Agnone, Greta Krippner, Donald Light)

Co-Winners: Hiro Saito (University of Michigan) “Reiterated Commemoration: Hiroshima as National Trauma,” and Eran Shor (Stony Brook University) “The Power of Human Rights in Times of Conflict: The Spiral Model for Norms of Socialization Revisited.”

Hiro Saito and Eran Shor are co-winners of the Graduate Student Paper Prize because, as noted by one of the reviewers, “both papers were of the highest quality.” Indeed, both discuss important cases, investigated in detail, in ways that are theoretically interesting. Hiro Saito's paper, “Reiterated Commemoration: Hiroshima as National Trauma,” examines the historical transformation of Japanese commemoration of Hiroshima. This interesting and insightful paper theorizes how communities remember the past in ways that help define and redefine collective identity. Saito's richly textured discussion of the case brings in almost every idea and source in a suggestive, almost artistic style. Eran Shor's paper “The Power of Human Rights in Times of Conflict: The Spiral Model for Norms of Socialization Revisited” examines the issue of state compliance with universal human rights norms. As noted by one of the reviewers, the paper is “theoretically incisive with a crisp presentation.” The paper critiques and extends the spiral model of human rights intervention by highlighting its shortcomings vis-à-vis the Israeli case. A redirected focus to change in specific, perhaps isolated, norm violations offers an improvement to the model that is generalizable to other industrialized democracies.

Best Article Award – Outstanding Contribution to Scholarship

(Committee: Gwen Moore, chair, Bayliss Camp, Erik W. Larson, Steven Pfaff, Monica Prasad)

Winner: Andreas Wimmer and Brian Min. 2006. “From Empire to Nation-State: Explaining Wars in the Modern World, 1816-2001.” *American Sociological Review*

The paper examines how nation-state formation and changes in the nature of political structures can lead to wars. The study is based on an extensive dataset prepared by the authors that allows comparison within and across nations for the period 1816-2001. One selection committee member commented “They reduced a great deal of complicated patterning to a relatively straightforward argument.” Another selection committee member summarized her/his review this way: “The attempt to look at wars is an important corrective to political sociology (for which politics seems to stop short of one of the most important undertakings of the state, war) as well as an important corrective to the study of the causes of wars, which could benefit from more attention to these macro-historical processes.”

Awards Continued on p.3

AWARDS Continued...**Honorable mention:**

Brian Steensland. 2006. "Cultural Categories and the American Welfare State: The Case of Guaranteed Income Policy."

American Journal of Sociology

Using both political sociological and cultural sociological approaches, Brian Steensland investigates how conceptions of worthiness drove public policy discussions and formation in the case of the Guaranteed Income Policy debate in the 1960s and 1970s. A committee member commented: "Many analyses of the link between culture and policy outcomes run into theoretical and methodological problems. Steensland—through a careful and nuanced process-tracing study--does a better job than most [others]." Another writes: "[a good case] for the culture argument, and as that debate is currently a live one in the discipline, the article should be taken seriously."

Best Book Award – Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship

(Committee: Barb Brents, chair, Nathalia Rogers, Alan Czaplicki, John Skrentny, Georgi Derlugian)

Winner: *Moon-Kie Jung. Reworking Race: The Making of Hawaii's Interracial Labor Movement, Columbia University Press*

This is an innovative look at how race and class were mutually constituted in Hawaii's labor movement at mid-century. Jung makes impressive use of historical methods to weave a complicated story involving business power, class coalitions, and constructions of race in a clear, coherent narrative. The book makes important contributions in two ways. First, it builds on our understanding of how race and class interact by looking at how labor and anti labor politics constructed race, how the meaning of race and particular "races" shifted over time in relation to immigration policy, political incorporation of Hawaii, US-Japanese relations, civilization discourses, and US policy in the Philippines. Second, Jung contributes to the literature on contemporary race relations by providing an empirical account of how interracial coalitions actually succeeded. Interracial coalitions, as members of the committee noted, are constantly celebrated, but almost never empirically studied. Jung finds that race does not have to recede for racial groups to cooperate successfully.

Honorable Mentions:

Francesca Polletta's, It was Like a Fever: Storytelling in Protest Politics, University of Chicago Press

This book tells the story of the power of storytelling for social movements. It blends political sociology, literary theory, cultural studies and the study of social movements in an original and compelling way. Her book provides cases of how stories make meanings, how they generate commitment, and how institutions and political conditions give power to certain stories. She argues that ambiguous stories are sometimes most effective. As one reviewer said, "I admit I was never persuaded that 'narrative' was worth the fuss it was getting in sociology but this book showed me why. It's rich, the cases varied, creative and very well written."

Monica Prasad's The Politics of Free Markets: The Rise of Neoliberal Economic Policies in Britain, France, Germany, and the United States, University of Chicago Press

This book is a comparative-historical analysis of the development of neoliberal policies in these Britain, the U.S., France and Germany. Prasad provides an innovative and counter-intuitive explanation for the rise and uneven spread of neoliberalism. Neoliberalism in the U.S. and Britain arose not because the Left was too weak, but because it was too strong. Prasad shows in masterfully argued sketches the actual complex politics and the circumstantial alliances of actors who pushed for policies, often without quite knowing what they were doing. The book contributes to current institutional theories of welfare state development, and will surely generate many discussions about the key factors that define economic and social policies as well as the outcomes of policies in different nations.

BOOK ABSTRACTS

Pamela Paxton and Melanie Hughes. Women, Politics, and Power: A Global Perspective (Pine Forge Press, 2007) provides a clear and comprehensive introduction to the study of women's political power around the globe. From historical accounts of women's fight for political rights to a contemporary focus on women's share of high-level political positions, authors Pamela Paxton and Melanie M. Hughes trace women's political achievements and setbacks over more than a century. The authors use broad statistical overviews and detailed case study accounts to document women's political representation across a wide range of countries and regions. And drawing upon research in political science, comparative studies, sociology, and women's studies, the book offers both a thorough and multidisciplinary synthesis of research on women's political power around the world. The book is topical, covering subjects such as the relationship between religion and women in politics, the post-genocide election of nearly 50% women to Rwanda's parliament, and the prospect of electing a woman to the US presidency. But the book also provides a

Book Abstracts Continued on p.5

SYMPOSIUM Continued...

States, Markets and Families. This book revealed the gendered dimensions of welfare state stratification and moved the field in new directions.

The person that has helped reshape debates concerning the relative salience of class vs. institutions is Edwin Amenta. Although he has written several important books, the one I like best is his new book, *When Movements Matter*.

Several books helped me understand the racial dimensions of U.S. social policy. One that most influenced my thinking about the perpetuation of racial inequality was *Black Wealth/ White Wealth* by Melvin Oliver and Thomas Shapiro."

Nicola Beisel: "The relationship between the reproduction of children and the reproduction of systems of social inequality is the puzzle that has driven my intellectual life and, stated in various ways, contemporary American politics. Some political sociologists dismiss moral reform movements as "merely" symbolic politics, claiming that conflicts about gender and sexuality do not reflect "real, material" interests. My list of essential readings help me think about the resources attached to sexual and family ties, how and why norms regulating the value and exchange of those resources change, and how these changes are contested in movements to regulate or transform sexuality and reproduction (and Republican party politics).

Kristin Luker's *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*, published in 1984, remains the most insightful discussion of what is at stake for pro-life and pro-choice women. It is particularly interesting to read now, given transformations in the global economy, growing economic inequality in the United States, and the effects of these economic changes on the male breadwinner family.

Bill Sewell's "The Duality of Structures" and Bourdieu's *Distinction* are the vital theoretical tools for understanding the relationship between culture and resources. Neither is a gender theorist and I think Bourdieu gets gender wrong, but both greatly expand the possibilities for thinking about resources, power, and the nature of politics.

Two vital books for thinking about children as a resource are Viviana Zelizar's *Pricing the Priceless Child* and Nancy Folbre's *Who Pays for the Kids?* Both reflect on how industrialization changed the value of children, and thus open the question of how globalization is doing the same.

Finally, a reading list on the politics of sex and gender would be meager indeed without Gayle Rubin's brilliant essays: "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex," "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality," and her interview with Judith Butler (which appeared in *Differences*), entitled "Sexual Traffic." The first is a foundational essay in feminist theory (and must be one of the most influential essays ever written by a graduate student), the second is equally important to the formation of queer theory. I read Rubin in part to recover the materialist foundations of feminist thought and in part to think about the economic underpinnings of sexual spaces."

Jeff Manza: "As my interests shift over time, I find myself drawn to different kinds of scholarship, and different conceptions of what books and articles "every" political sociologist should know. One thing I would say is that almost all political sociologists (myself included) can benefit enormously from a richer engagement with the political science subfields that overlap most closely with our own work. For this reason, I would include Ira Katznelson and Helen Milner's *Political Science: The State of the Discipline* (Norton 2002) on my list. There are many gems among its 29 essays, and with some patience it is impossible for political sociologists not to learn about new literatures and debates that could inform our work. Some of my recent research leads me to suggest some other books as essential. Working on the historical origins of felon disenfranchisement in the United States in the last few years convinces me of the importance for all Americanists to have a firm grasp on the sources and consequences of the American racial state. There is no single book that settles the question, but Philip Klinkner and Rogers Smith's *The Unsteady March: The Rise and Decline of Racial Equality in America* (University of Chicago Press, 1999) provides a suitably long view and a compelling synthesis. More recently, I have been working on questions concerning the welfare state and public opinion. In regard to the former, it is almost impossible to investigate the topic of social provision without grappling with Gosta Esping-Andersen's *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (Princeton 1990). Not all of its core ideas have survived 15 years of critical scrutiny, but it has reshaped debates in a way that few other books have. On public opinion, William Gamson's *Talking Politics* (Cambridge 1992) has been a defining work, opening up the question of how citizens react and respond to the framing of issues by elites and in the media.

There are a couple of other books that are less central to my own current interests, but which have rich theoretical and empirical insights worth mining, and perhaps have not received as much attention as they should. Edward Laumann and David Knoke's *The Organizational State* (Wisconsin 1987) develops a bold rethinking of what we mean by the concept of the "state," challenging much of the conventional wisdom of our field. Jeff Goodwin's *No Other Way Out* (Cambridge 2001) is remarkable for the depth of its investigations into the universe of post-World War II revolutionary movements around the world, as well as a state-of-the-art theoretical contribution to the question of how state structures and social movements intertwine."

BOOK ABSTRACTS Continued...

detailed overview of the explanations for women's political representation. Integrating established theories and cutting-edge research, the authors explore why women in some countries have had success obtaining positions such as cabinet minister, legislator, prime minister, or president, while in other countries women are largely excluded from the political process. Overall, the book offers a clear, integrated, and thorough presentation of research on women's political power worldwide.

Irene Bloemraad. *Becoming a Citizen: Incorporating Immigrants and Refugees in the United States and Canada* (University of California Press, 2006). How can societies that welcome immigrants from around the world create civic cohesion and political community out of ethnic and racial diversity? This thought-provoking book is the first to provide a comparative perspective on how the United States and Canada encourage foreigners to become citizens. Based on vivid in-depth interviews with Portuguese immigrants and Vietnamese refugees in Boston and Toronto and on statistical analysis and documentary data, *Becoming a Citizen* shows that greater state support for settlement and an official government policy of multiculturalism in Canada increase citizenship acquisition and political participation among the foreign born. The United States, long a successful example of immigrant integration, today has greater problems incorporating newcomers into the polity. While many previous accounts suggest that differences in naturalization and political involvement stem from differences in immigrants' political skills and interests, Irene Bloemraad argues that foreigners' political incorporation is not just a question of the type of people countries receive, but also fundamentally of the reception given to them. She discusses the implications of her findings for other countries, including Australia and immigrant nations in Europe.

William Minter, Gail Hovey, and Charles Cobb Jr. (editors), with a foreword by Nelson Mandela. *No Easy Victories: African Liberation and American Activists over a Half Century, 1950-2000* (Africa World Press, 2007). For the first time, a panoramic view of U.S. activism on Africa from 1950 to 2000. Hundreds of thousands of Americans mobilized to oppose apartheid in the 1980s. That successful movement built on decades of behind-the-scenes links between African liberation movements and American activists, both black and white. Lavishly illustrated with 120 photos, *No Easy Victories* draws on the voices of activists of several generations to explore this largely untold history. While U.S.-based groups and individuals contributed to African liberation, African struggles also inspired U.S. activism, including the civil rights and black power movements. Today Africa and the world face global injustices as deadly as apartheid. Understanding this history of solidarity is essential for finding new paths to a future of equal human rights for all.

Sandbrook, Richard, Marc Edelman, Patrick Heller, and Judith Teichman. *Social Democracy in the Global Periphery: Origins, Challenges, Prospects* (Cambridge University Press, 2006). This book focuses on social-democratic regimes in the developing world that have, to varying degrees, reconciled the needs of achieving growth through globalized markets with extensions of political, social and economic rights. The authors show that opportunities exist to achieve significant social progress, despite a global economic order that favours core industrial countries. Their findings derive from a comparative analysis of four exemplary cases: Kerala (India), Costa Rica, Mauritius and Chile (since 1990). Though unusual, the social and political conditions from which these developing-world social democracies arose are not unique; indeed, pragmatic and proactive social-democratic movements helped create these favourable conditions. The four exemplars have preserved or even improved their social achievements since neoliberalism emerged hegemonic in the 1980s. This demonstrates that certain social-democratic policies and practices - guided by a democratic developmental state - can enhance a national economy's global competitiveness. The book provides a truly interdisciplinary and inter-regional analysis with authors complementing one another in regional expertise and academic discipline; extends the debates about social democracy from the developed to the developing world, combines intensive analysis of case studies with comparative analysis of major themes and development experiences.

Hank Johnston and Paul Almeida (editors). *Latin American Social Movements: Globalization, Democratization, and Transnational Networks* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006). The two current trends of democratization and deepening economic liberalization have made Latin American countries a ground for massive defensive mobilization campaigns and have created new sites of popular struggle. In this edited volume on Latin American social movements, original chapters are combined with peer-reviewed articles from the well-regarded journal *Mobilization*. Four sections represent major themes in Latin American social movement research. An introductory section is followed by one discussing large-scale collective action by civil society against economic liberalization policies. The third section focuses on democratic transition in the context of neoliberalism. The fourth section examines two important cases of women's empowerment through protest mobilization, while the final section includes case studies on the strategic mobilization of Latin American movements. The volume includes original chapters on the Madres de Plaza de Mayo movement in Argentina and the Zapatista movement in Chiapas, Mexico. Also included in its coverage of the region's major movements are los piqueteros and antisweatshop labor organizing. This is the first study to focus closely on the related issues of neoliberal globalization, democratization, and the workings of transnational advocacy networks in Latin America.

BOOK ABSTRACTS Continued...

Marnia Lazreg. *Torture and the Twilight of Empire: From Algiers to Baghdad* (Princeton University Press, November 30, 2007). This book looks at the intimate relationship between torture and colonial domination through a close examination of the French army's coercive tactics during the Algerian war from 1954 to 1962. By tracing the psychological, cultural, and political meanings of torture at the end of the French empire, I also shed new light on the United States and its recourse to torture in Iraq and Afghanistan. I construct the anatomy of torture--its methods, justifications, functions, and consequences. Drawing extensively from archives, confessions by former torturers, interviews with former soldiers, and war diaries, as well as writings by Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, and others, I argue that occupying nations justify their systematic use of torture as a regrettable but necessary means of saving Western civilization from those who challenge their rule. I show how torture was central to *guerre revolutionnaire*, a French theory of modern warfare that called for total war against the subject population and which informed a pacification strategy founded on brutal psychological techniques borrowed from totalitarian movements. I analyze torture's impact on the Algerian population--especially women--and also on the French troops who became their torturers. I further explore the roles Christianity and Islam played in rationalizing these acts, and the ways in which torture became not only routine but even acceptable.

Nitsan Chorev. *Remaking U.S. Trade Policy: From Protectionism to Globalization* (Cornell University Press, 2007). The emergence of globalization was neither accidental nor inevitable. To make the "free flow" of commodities, capital, and money possible, governments first had to introduce a new political infrastructure. *Remaking U.S. Trade Policy* explores the political origins of today's global economy by investigating trade liberalization in the United States from the 1930s to the present. Why did the U.S. government adopt liberal trade policies? In this book, the explanation lies in domestic political struggles; particularly, political struggles over the institutional arrangements in place. Advocates of free trade prevailed in the struggle with protectionists by changing the institutions governing trade policy, replacing institutional arrangements that favored protectionism with new ones that favored a free-market approach. The new institutional arrangements shifted authority from a protectionist Congress to judicial agencies at the executive branch and to the World Trade Organization. These transformations entailed a move from a politicized location, in which direct negotiations and debates dominate the process of decision-making, to bureaucratic and judicial arenas where a legal logic dominates and active political struggles are marginalized.

Kathrin Zippel. *The Politics of Sexual Harassment: A Comparative Study of the United States, the European Union and Germany* (Cambridge University Press, 2006). Sexual harassment, in particular in the workplace, is a controversial topic which often makes headline news. What accounts for the cross-national variation in laws, employer policies, and implementation of policies dealing with sexual harassment in the workplace? Why was the United States on the forefront of policy and legal solutions, and how did this affect politicization of sexual harassment in the European Union and its member states? Exploring the way sexual harassment has become a global issue, Kathrin Zippel draws on theories of comparative feminist policy, gender and welfare state regimes, and social movements to explore the distinct paths that the United States, the European Union and its member states, specifically Germany, have embarked on to address the issue. This comparison provides invaluable insights on the role of transnational movements in combatting sexual harassment, and on future efforts to implement the European Union Directive of 2002.

DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

Melanie M. Hughes, Ohio State University, "Politics at the Intersection: A Cross-National Analysis of Minority Women's Legislative Representation."

Researchers, organizations, and activists advocate increased political representation for both women and minority groups. But looking around the world, we know little about how politics at the intersection of these identities impacts the legislative representation of minority women. In this dissertation I collect data on the representation of more than 250 racial, ethnic, and religious groups across more than 80 democratic and semi-democratic countries. Then, using this new data, I conduct the first large-scale, cross-national investigation of the factors that explain minority women's political representation across different cultural, structural, and political contexts. Employing Hierarchical Linear Modeling, I investigate whether traditional explanations for women's differential presence in national politics also account for differences in minority women's political representation. But I also analyze new factors such as ethnic conflict that may have particularly important effects for minority women in some countries. I find that in many countries, the separate struggles for the political advancement of women and minority groups may translate into few legislative gains for minority women. Indeed, minority women worldwide are underrepresented compared to both their male and majority group female counterparts. But under certain circumstances, politics at the intersection may create strategic advantages for minority women. For instance, the simultaneous use of both gender and minority group quotas—policies that guarantee a certain percentage of the seats in a legislature must be occupied by women and/or minorities—produce higher numbers of minority women in politics. This research suggests that scholars and activists should

Dissertation Abstracts Continued on p.8

SYMPOSIUM CONTINUED...

Jeff Paige: “Classics: Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*; E.P Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*; Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Modern World System*. Significant contemporary work: Peter Evans, *Embedded Autonomy*. A brilliant theoretical statement on the determinants of the developmental state backed up by a comparative study of the computer industry in Korea, India and Brazil. Ivan Szelenyi, *Intellectuals on the Road to Class Power*. The definitive statement on the role of intellectuals in former state socialist regimes by the leading authority (written as an underground document in Communist Hungary). Stephen Bunker, *Underdeveloping the Amazon*. Fundamental statement of the role of resource dependence in underdevelopment and the relationship of environment and the state based on first hand field work in the Amazon by the late Steve Bunker. Hot off the Presses: Ching Kwan Lee, *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt*. Exemplary application of Burawoy's extended case method by one of his most talented students. Based on extensive comparative ethnographic work in both the 'rust belt' of former state industries in Northeast China and the rising industrial dynamo of China's South. Indispensable for understanding workers and worker protests in the industrial transformation of China. George Steinmetz, *The Devil's Handwriting: Precoloniality and the German Colonial State in Qingdao, Samoa and Southwest Africa*. A pathbreaking comparative work on racism and the colonial state based on a novel use of primary archival documents to compare three colonies of the same colonial power (Germany) in three dramatically different cultures (China, Africa, and Polynesia). Elisabeth Jean Wood, *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. A vivid portrayal of the thoughts and feelings of El Salvadoran peasant supporters of the Salvadoran revolution based on field work in conflict zones during and immediately after the Salvadoran Civil War. Innovative demonstration of the centrality of emotion, morality, conviction and religious faith in revolutionary action.”

Gay Seidman: “I’ve included pieces that shaped my thinking about political sociology in the global South – articles and books to which I still refer to, decades after I first read them. Some of the titles I might have listed have been mentioned by other contributors to this symposium, so I’ll add some new ones:

Fred Block, “The Ruling Class Does Not Rule: Notes on the Marxist Theory of the State”, *Socialist Revolution* 7:33 (1977), argues that politicians’ interest in sustaining business confidence gives business leaders a veto power over economic policies – an analysis that helps understand the pressures that globalization and capital mobility place on democratic governments in the global South..

Michael Burawoy, “The Functions and Reproduction of Migrant Labor: Comparative Material from Southern Africa and the United States,” *Am. J. of Sociology* 82(5), 1976, asking how and for whom migrant labor becomes ‘cheap’, and looking at how capitalist states, as well as employers, might profit from migrant labor streams.

Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Enzo Faletto, *Dependency and Development in Latin America* (1979). Long before he was elected president of Brazil, Cardoso was one of the continent’s most insightful sociologists. This book, co-authored with Enzo Faletto, offers what still reads as an extraordinarily insightful discussion of Latin America’s political dynamics.

Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (1996). Part of an ongoing discussion about citizenship in post-colonial contexts, Mamdani demands that we look at how patterns of exclusion under colonialism carry over into the present, and how those colonial legacies may complicate democratic processes today.

Judith Stacey, *Patriarchy and Socialist Revolution in China* (1984), offers a provocative discussion of why revolutionary parties – even those explicitly committed to addressing gender inequality – find themselves recreating gender hierarchy. When China’s Communist Party gave precedence to concerns about peasant households, those concerns were articulated by male heads of households; in responding to popularly-expressed concerns, the party ignored or silenced its own activists, mainly women, who had hoped the new state would address gender subordination.”

 SECTION STATISTICS

At the end of 2007, our section membership stood at 844. This was the highest level since at least 2000 (the year section statistics begin on the ASA website). Our section membership has grown almost 38% since 2000 (from 612) and 9.5% since 2006 (from 771). In 2000, 4.8% of ASA members were members of the Political Sociology section, and in 2006, this rose to 5.7%. Our section is now the eighth largest section of the 44 sections in the ASA. This also reflects growth, as our section was the tenth largest section in 2006.

DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS Continued...

consider not only how to empower women and minorities, but also how to advance the political representation of individuals at the intersection of these social categories.

Paul Lachelier, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, "Democracy, Individualism, & the Civil-Civic Citizen: Young Americans Talk about Community, Politics & Citizenship."

Like all citizens of modern nations in a globalizing world, Americans are socially "entangled yet detached," to adapt political philosopher Michael Sandel's phrasing. Yet as citizens of the lone "super-power," the thoughts and actions of Americans, especially as voters, matter to the world perhaps now more than ever. 9/11, like global warming, confirms the inescapability of politics, yet there is evidence that young Americans are politically less engaged than their predecessors. Given these conditions and concern about the political engagement of young Americans, I conducted semi-structured interviews with thirty-five young American professionals (whose work, as professionals, inclines them somewhat more to political engagement) in a northeastern city to learn about the meanings they attach to politics, community and citizenship. I found that my interviewees generally upheld what I call a "civil-civic citizenship" which stresses politeness and charity, but eschews politics, especially partisan and collective politics. To the extent that my interviewees do support political activity, the good citizen to them is not an activist who pressures and persuades, but an independent, reflective voter who discusses issues in a balanced manner with those near. This contrasts quite sharply with earlier forms of citizenship in American history. I argue why this model is in certain ways politically disengaging, or signals disengagement, in important part because it upholds forms of individualism inimical to collective action. Then, drawing on my interviews and Alexis de Tocqueville's conception of individualism, I argue that another form of individualism democracy has to fear is not selfish and isolated, but on the contrary, can be quite giving and social, though within the narrow, private compass of one's intimates. That form I call "intimate individualism." I conclude with, among other things, elements toward an ethic of political engagement to counter these forms of disengaging individualism.

Elizabeth Essary, Duke University, "Latent Destinies: Incorporation and Nationalism in Hawai'i, Alaska, and Puerto Rico."

This dissertation offers a comparative historical analysis of the role of the state in shaping nationalist sentiment in Hawai'i, Alaska, and Puerto Rico during the 20th century. There are active sovereignty movements within these three territories, yet these is important variation among them in terms of rhetoric, size, organization, and goals. I explain these differences as a result of state policy during the process of incorporation. From the moment a territory is annexed, various government policies are directed at organizing and integrating the new populations. These policies have an unintended effect of shifting political, economic, and cultural dynamics among the populace, which in turn impact the development of nationalist sentiment. Using archival materials, I specifically focus on citizenship, land rights, and language use, demonstrating how policy in these areas created the rationale and rhetoric for subsequent separatist movements. My research contributes to our understanding of how culture and policy, nation and state, are mutually constituted.

Colin J. Beck, Stanford University, "Ideological Roots of Global Waves of Revolution."

The existence of ideologically contentious waves, such as the Revolutions of 1848 or the collapse of communism in 1989, has posed a problem for the sociology of revolution. This study argues that changes in systemic conditions, particularly those of culture and ideas, reduce states' capacity for the absorption of opposition by creating more ideological uncertainty in political. States rely upon symbolic and ideological structures for the legitimate exercise of power. Contradiction between institutions' symbolic aspects leads to a state of ideological uncertainty in which contention emerges interstitially in autonomous social spaces. Ideological constructions of political authority thus have a causal role in the onset of revolutions and the diffusion of contentious waves. The role of absorption and ideological uncertainty are illustrated with examinations of contentious waves, including the Protestant Reformation. Using data on five hundred years of European revolutionary mobilizations, multivariate analyses demonstrate the connection between conditions of the international system and revolution. Finally, the case of political Islam in the modern world is appraised as a contentious wave generated by systemic cultural conditions, but locally experienced according to political authority and ideological structures.

EDITOR'S NOTE AND CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

It has been a pleasure to become editor of our section's newsletter. I aim to maintain the high quality that Gianpaolo was able to produce, as I always found his editions to be engaging and stimulating. As a small change, I've elevated one aspect of the newsletter: augmenting the listing of books to book abstracts. I encourage and welcome submissions from section members. ***If you've got a book coming out or recently published, I want to publish an abstract of it!***

Also, I've started a new, hopefully reappearing, feature of a symposium. In this issue, I present the thoughts on "Great Books/Articles Every Political Sociologist Should Know." In upcoming issues, I would like to have symposiums on "The Relations Between Political Science and Political Sociology," "The Future of Political Sociology," "Methodological Advances," and the upcoming election or other themes. The next issue will feature: "Great Resources for Teaching Undergraduates Political Sociology." I invite submissions on this theme. ***If you teach political sociology to undergraduates, and have had success with a book, article or film, please write something and submit it.***

The newsletter will also be featuring *dissertation abstracts*, so graduate students should write a summary and send it in.

Finally, Gianpaolo and his collaborators had an uncanny knack for publishing stimulating and provocative commentary. I hope to do everything possible to continue this tradition. If you have something to say to the section about politics, political sociology or anything else, I'd like the newsletter to be a home for your writing. If you have a letter to write in response to something in the newsletter, I'll publish that as well. Submissions should be sent to my email below. Best regards,

Dave Brady
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