
STATES, POWER, & SOCIETIES



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Fabio Rojas
Indiana University

This Spring has been good for the Political Sociology section. At the 2022 meeting of the American Sociological Association, we will have five panels. One panel will be dedicated to the legacy of Richard Lachmann, our former chair who suddenly passed away last summer. We will also have two panels surveying cutting-edge research, one panel on racial inequality and states, and another on policy

formation. Our roundtable session will include dozens of papers that cover the deep and diverse field of political sociology.

Within this newsletter, you will find many treasures. We have book reviews and a symposium on social conflict, which is sure to be of great interest to many members of our section. Tales from the Field recounts many interesting insights derived from the qualitative research from our members. And of course, please read about our members who will soon be on the academic job market. If a job opens up at your institution, please take some time to look at these scholars.

It is also a pleasure to report that the health of our section is good. Building on the work of previous chairs, our membership is now over 800, which makes Political Sociology the fourth largest section of the American Sociological Association. We also held our first-ever online book panel as a way

to encourage scholarly communication and community building between our annual meetings. Twenty eight people attended this event. I look forward to working with our incoming chair, Paul Almeida, to develop the section in new and exciting ways.

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Bellicose Expectations?

When and where should we expect war? In two essays, Siniša Malešević and Charles K.S. Wu, Yao-Yuan Yeh, Austin Horng-En Wang, and Fang-Yu Chen offer their opinions on how political sociologists might interpret Russia's war on Ukraine and make connections to other times and places.

War and Sociology

Siniša Malešević

University College Dublin

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has shocked many people who did not expect to see a major war in 21st century Europe. Several commentators have described this conflict as 'a cold war relic' or 'the remnant of the barbaric past'. Although social scientists are unlikely to make such simplistic historical analogies, there has been a strong tendency within contemporary sociology to downplay or even ignore the role warfare plays in social life. Until quite recently war has been a marginal topic in mainstream sociological research. It was generally associated with military sociology and its study of armed forces and civil-military relations. In this conventional understanding, warfare was perceived as an aberrant phenomenon that might periodically interrupt normal social life.

However, this has not always been the case. In fact, many classical sociologists, including Hintze, Gumplovitz, Ratzenhofer, Ward, Small, Pareto, Mosca, Lederer, Rustow and Oppenheimer were preoccupied with the study of war and violence. Even the better-known classics such as Weber, Durkheim and Simmel have analyzed different aspects of warfare. From the late 19th century until the end of WWII, sociology was at the forefront of war research. The early historical sociologists such as Otto Hintze and Franz Oppenheimer have

provided the first systematic explorations of the relationship between war and state formation. They both argued that the institution of the state originates in warfare and, as such, it also remains dependent on the historical dynamics of organized violence. Moreover, Hintze shows how many modern institutions such as parliaments and local assemblies owe their existence to war as they initially emerged from the medieval congregations of warriors preparing for military undertakings. Rustow and Gumplovitz also link state development to class relations. They show how social stratification in the contemporary world originates in the traditional military monopolies of the warrior castes who have conquered neighboring populations and established complex and unequal division of labor.

Much of this research was largely ignored until the 1980s when several political and historical sociologists such as Tilly, Mann, Hall and Giddens revisited some of these classical ideas and developed their own theories of state formation. Nevertheless, the central focus of this research was the state rather than warfare as such, and it took another few decades for sociologists to take the study of war seriously. The impetus for more systematic exploration of warfare came in the aftermath of major wars in the former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Afghanistan. In this

context, political sociologists including Miguel Centeno, Anthony King, Andreas Wimmer, Victoria Tin-Bor Hui, Dingxin Zhao, myself and others have analyzed how war has shaped and continues to shape almost every aspect of social life.

Many modern institutions that we now take for granted have their origins in war. This includes the dominant form of polity today, the nation-state, which has developed and spread through revolutions and wars from the late 18th century onwards and which has gradually replaced alternative state forms – empires, patrimonial kingdoms, city-states, and chiefdoms. The democratic institutions also owe their existence to war – from ancient Athens to medieval Switzerland democracy was a product of self-armed farmer soldiers who acquired voting rights based on their participation in war. The protracted wars also fostered the development of modern state administration, effective systems of revenue collection, and society-wide transport and communication networks. To implement successful mechanisms for military recruitment, states have also created compulsory educational systems centered on inculcating a sense of national loyalty among their populations. War has been the principal catalyst for the development of science and technology, as all main technological inventions were pioneered in the military sector and then found their mass application elsewhere –

from wheel, stirrup, and compass to the assembly line, pharmaceuticals, fast food, internet, and robotics. The expansion of warfare was also instrumental in the rise of the public sphere that developed hand-in-hand with increased industrialization and urbanization. Warfare has also stimulated increased literacy and the proliferation of mass media. To facilitate greater popular support and wider participation in war, governments were forced to expand citizenship rights and welfare provisions. The two total wars of the twentieth century were also instrumental in transforming gender relations and have contributed towards the delegitimization of racism. With the mass mobilization of men, governments had no other option but to open the labor force to women, which ultimately changed the gender dynamics in the 20th century. Similarly, the direct consequence of mass recruitment of soldiers from the imperial colonies who fought against Nazism and fascism was delegitimization of racism and imperialism that ultimately resulted in the collapse of old imperial structures.

Hence, war is not an exception that suddenly interrupts normal social life. Unfortunately, warfare has historically been and remains a norm that constantly shapes our social order.

Dr. Siniša Malešević is Professor of Sociology at University College Dublin.

What Ukraine Can (and Cannot) Tell Us about a Cross-Strait War

Charles K.S. Wu, University of South Alabama

Yao-Yuan Yeh, University of St. Thomas

Austin Horng-En Wang, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

and Fang-Yu Chen, Soochow University

Political scientists have a poor track record in predicting world events: the fall of the Berlin Wall, the rise of the Arab Spring, and, added to the list, Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As the international community grapples with the dire situation and carnage in the country, many start to draw comparisons between Taiwan and Ukraine. Would Taiwan be the next? A disclaimer here: we are not offering any prediction for the prospect of war; instead, we hope to learn from the ongoing war in Ukraine and offer our views on the implications of war across the Strait.

For starters, geography matters in international politics. While Russia could mobilize troops into neighboring areas of Ukraine, China does not have the luxury of doing so. The inclement weather in the Taiwan Strait from late fall to early spring creates operational complexity and difficulty for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to transport troops across the Strait. The proximity between Taiwan and China also makes the convoys clear targets in the Taiwan Strait.

Second, while the United States has not sent troops to Ukraine, it is highly likely that it will do so when a contingency occurs across the Strait. Taiwan is situated in an important strategic location on the first island chain, the first line of defense in U.S. military strategy in the Pacific. Losing the island to the PLA would allow China to gain a clear path to Guam and subsequently, the West coast. Thus, it is of little surprise that the U.S.

intervened directly in all three Taiwan Strait crises in history; in comparison, the U.S. did not intervene in the annexation of Crimea in 2014.

The two most important lessons that Russia and China have learned from the war in Ukraine are that 1) vast differences in military capabilities do not naturally translate into a quick and decisive victory, and 2) global apathy toward an issue could change dramatically in a short period. Both lessons apply to Taiwan. Clearly, a sharp disparity in military capabilities has not given Russia the decisive victory, and asymmetrical strategies with the assistance of weapons like the Stinger missiles and drones have created devastating losses for Russia. This is an area that Taiwan has been working on for the past several years.

On the second point, Putin misperceived the lack of collective international response to Crimea as a harbinger of the war in Ukraine. The swift, decisive, and unanimous decision to sanction Russia and provide military assistance to Ukraine from the West took Kremlin by surprise. The support from the international society, the unwavering leader of Ukraine, and constant coverage by social media helped boost morale for Ukraine. The one-sided international response also explains why China has refrained from voicing support for Russia's aggression. Clearly, Xi has learned from the ordeal that an unjustified invasion of Taiwan would pit China against the international community.

Let us not forget the brave actions of citizens in Ukraine to safeguard their own territory. Political science research consistently finds that public support for war is a key predictor of success on the battlefield. The willingness to take up arms and, in some cases, to sacrifice is perhaps the most important reason for Russia's failure. The determination for self-defense among Ukrainians also motivated the international community to side with them.

Polls and research from our own group suggested that citizens in Taiwan demonstrated a similar level of willingness to self-defense, and such willingness will increase when learning information about military assistance from the United States. The tragedy in Ukraine has created an impetus for citizens in Taiwan to be conscious and aware of the importance of self-defense, which will be helpful for the government to roll out new reforms or revert to the conscription system.

Going forward, the prospects of conflict across the Strait will also depend on other factors such as China's internal politics,

Sino-US relations, and China's status in the region. As of now, Russia's experience in Ukraine should have dissuaded China from any immediate plan to attack Taiwan. But for deterrence to continue to work, China will have to believe that citizens in Taiwan are willing to defend themselves and that the United States would absolutely get involved in the conflict. Continuing to send credible messages to Beijing on these two fronts will be our best to maintain peace and security across the Strait.

Dr. Charles K. S. Wu is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of South Alabama.

Dr. Yao-Yuan Yeh is Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of International Studies & Modern Languages at the University of St. Thomas, Houston.

Dr. Austin Horng-En Wang is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

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2022 Annual Meeting Section Activities

Thank you to Fabio Rojas (Indiana University) and Pamela Hong (Indiana University) for organizing these sessions!

The Legacy of Richard Lachmann: A Joint Panel by the Sections on Political Sociology and Comparative-Historical Sociology

Mon, August 8, 8:00 to 9:30am

Richard Lachmann (1956-2021) was an eminent scholar in political sociology and comparative-historical scholarship. His book, *Capitalists in Spite of Themselves*, won the 2003 Distinguished Publication Award from the American Sociological Association. This panel will bring together leading scholars to discuss Lachmann's scholarly legacy and how

his work continues to influence modern sociology. This panel is jointly sponsored by the ASA Sections on Political Sociology and Comparative-Historical Sociology.

Presider: Rebecca Jean Emigh, University of California-Los Angeles

Panelists: Vivek Chibber, New York University; Anna K.M. Skarpelis, Social Science Research Center Berlin; Marcia Esparza, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Sahan Savas Karatasli, University of North Carolina-Greensboro

New Theories of Political Structure

Mon, August 8, 2:00 to 3:30pm

The last three centuries have seen the rise of new forms of politics: democratic states, socialist states, the administrative state, networked politics, and transnational politics. This session presents submissions on cutting edge research that examines new structures for politics in the 21st century.

Presider: Catherine I. Bolzendahl, Oregon State University

“Centrism and Moderation in American Politics” *Steven Michael Karceski, University of Washington*

“Political Elite Networks and the Fate of Democracy: Explaining the End of Emergency in India (1975-77)” *Sourabh Singh, Florida State University*

“Politicization of Inequality: How Striving for Equality Can Produce Inequality” *Ana Velitchkova, University of Mississippi*

“Theories of Imperialism and the US-Imperialist State (a draft)” *Vince Montes, California State University-East Bay*

Race, Ethnicity, and Caste in Political Systems

Mon, August 8, 4:00 to 5:30pm

Race, ethnicity, and caste are important factors that influence political behavior and governance. This session presents submissions from scholars who look at the intersection of the sociology of race and ethnicity and political sociology.

Presider: Muna Adem, Indiana University

“Austerity, Welfare Chauvinism, and Anti-Immigrant Politics in Post-crisis Britain” *Ned Crowley, New York University*

“The Changing Color Line and Municipal Racial Gerrymandering After Shelby v. Holder” *Iris Zhang, Stanford University*

“The US Census, MENA Campaign, and the neoliberal distribution of Pride, Fear, and Deception” *Hadi Khoschnevis, Rhodes College*

“The Asian American Unelectable Paradox: How Racialization of Asian American Shapes Asian American Political Candidates’ and Organizers’ Experiences” *Chen Liang, University of Texas-Austin*

Section on Political Sociology Business Meeting

Tue, August 9, 8:00 to 9:00am

Advances in Political Sociology

Tue, August 9, 10:00 to 11:30am

This session presents cutting edge research in political sociology. Junior and senior scholars will explore issues as diverse as public opinion, social movements, administrative processes, and elections from a sociological perspective.

Presider: Paul D. Alameida, University of California-Merced

“Negative Partisanship is Not Enough: Surprising Asymmetries in Affective Polarization” Steven Lauterwasser, University of California, Berkeley

“Reclaiming the Past to Transcend the Present: Nostalgic Appeals in U.S. Presidential Elections” Bart Bonikowski, New York University; Oscar Stuhler, New York University

“Situated Loyalties and Rare Acts of Moral Courage Among Federal Civil Servants under the Trump Administration” Jamie Kucinkas, Hamilton College

“The Authoritarian Society: Chinese Civil Society and the (Re)Production of Hegemonic Authoritarianism” Anthony J. Spires, The University of Melbourne

“The Local Contexts of American (Anti)-Statism” Stephanie Lynn Ternullo, University of Chicago

Section Roundtables

Tue, August 9, 12:00 to 1:30pm

Frontiers and Milestones in Political Sociology

Tue, August 9, 2:00 to 3:30pm

This session invites papers that take stock of the field and indicate new directions. What questions have been settled in political sociology? What new issues need to be explored by scholars? This panel will bring emerging and established scholars together to answer these questions.

Presider: Paul D. McLean, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

“Emigration and Collective Action Redux” Lauren Duquette-Rury, Wayne State University; Clarisa Pérez-Armendáriz, Bates College

“The Formation of Civil Societies” Simon Yamawaki Schachter

“Exit Freedom as State-Building: Irregular Departures and the Making of the Chinese Emigration State” Jiaqi M. Liu, University of California, San Diego

Tales from the Field

Mapping Reproductive Injustice in Israel/Palestine: How Race, Nationality, and Gender Shape Fieldwork and Data Collection

Gala Rexer

University College London

In my dissertation and book manuscript, *Bodies and Borders: Mapping Reproductive Injustice in Israel/Palestine*, I explore the structural, interpersonal, and affective impediments to reproductive justice for Palestinian women across Israel and Palestine. Based on more than two years of

ethnographic research, I examine how Israeli authorities, policies, and medical staff's practices limit Palestinian women's access to reproductive technologies, but also these women's access to the resources needed to become a parent and raise children more broadly.

Politically and emotionally, I entered the field with a rather typical German framing of Israel in relation to the Shoah and the German practice of *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* (accounting for the past). I was very cautious with what I was allowed to say about Israel. But interviewing Palestinian women and accompanying them to the fertility clinic, speaking to Palestinian policymakers, activists, religious representatives, scholars, and legal service providers, or volunteering with NGOs providing health services for Palestinians – these fieldwork experiences shifted my theoretical and emotional mindset completely and led me to analyze Palestinians' experiences in Israeli hospitals through a settler colonial framework.

Interviews with (predominantly Ashkenazi and male) Jewish-Israeli physicians and medical staff further elucidated my particular role and positionality as a White researcher in Israel/Palestine. In these interview settings, my whiteness and appearance led my interview partners to believe in and perform a shared sense of white supremacy or white innocence (Wekker 2016). They would be completely outspoken about how they see their Palestinian patients: culturally deviant, religiously backward, and producing too many babies. Often, the Palestinian children to be born in their clinics were framed in the language of security (Shalhoub-Kevorkian, 2015), as a “demographic threat”, or “future terrorists”.

While my race and gender were helpful signifiers in these interview situations, I

similarly encountered the “ethnographic limits” (Simpson 2014) of my research. Almost all interviews with Palestinian women were conducted in Arabic together with three different female Palestinian interpreters. They became key interlocutors and research assistants in conducting fieldwork. Interview settings were characterized by our different socio-economic backgrounds, (access to) citizenship, and cultural understandings of reproduction. This created a sense of openness to speak about the hardship and pressure some of the women experienced in trying to conceive. In other interviews, it constituted a different kind of border for Palestinian women to share their experiences with a young, childless German woman, and for me to be fully able to grasp the multiple layers of oppression and agency they inhabited.

Overall, the field demanding my accountability and representation of the Palestinian case reassured me over the years. I came to understand that my positionality is simultaneously an advantage (who will listen to me and take me as a serious and impartial interlocutor) and complicated (how can I grasp a Palestinian woman's experience, and should I even attempt to?). The “moral triangle” (Atshan & Galor, 2020) between Germans, Israelis, and Palestinians, in all its racial and gendered registers, is thus present across *Bodies and Borders*. Both become the main theme of my book project, which will hopefully soon find a publishing home.

Atshan, S., & Galor, K. (2020). *The Moral Triangle. Germans, Israelis, Palestinians*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Shalhoub-Kevorkian, N. (2015). *Security Theology, Surveillance and the Politics of Fear*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Simpson, A. (2014). *Mohawk Interruptus : Political Life across the Borders of Settler States*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Wekker, G. (2016). *White Innocence. Paradoxes of Colonialism and Race*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Dr. Gala Rexer is Postdoctoral Fellow at the University College London Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Racism and Racialisation.

Is My Fieldwork Sensitive?

Chuncheng Liu

University of California, San Diego

My dissertation project explores the design and implementation of social credit systems (SCSs) in China. The SCS I study collects a diverse range of data on an individual to produce a credit score, which is associated with various benefits and punishment. One thing I have been struggling to know before and during my fieldwork is whether my research is politically sensitive.

The reason for my query was not engendered from general intellectual curiosity, but practical concerns of the feasibility of my research and my personal safety. This consideration is particularly important for my research object, as, in the West, SCSs have been commonly perceived as a Black Mirror techno-dystopian. I knew this hyper-sensitive conceptualization was inaccurate, but still not sure what the reality was. When I prepared for my fieldwork in the US, I was like a Protestant in Weber's writings, tossing and turning, hoping that God (the Chinese government) could give me an answer whether I was saved (my research is sensitive) or not. However, I did not (and still do not) have "the government's" phone number.

So, like a good protestant, I started to look for signs and ask for opinions. I went on Chinese social media to see if discussions regarding SCSs were censored. They were not. I also asked my friends in China and

communicated my concerns with different Professors who study China on different occasions. However, I commonly received contradictory replies. One person suggested to me that I should never tell people what I actually study while another insisted that I am not that important and The Party has other things to care about. People did have one consensus: sensitive or not is not absolute. Boundaries can be negotiated and redrawn, and the process is up to one's own interactions with others and the institution to decide.

These words may sound like comfort, but they are rather burdensome. If I am part of the defining process of the sensitivity of my own research, I am shouldering way more responsibilities to make it not sensitive. Meanwhile, it indicates that even if the issue is not sensitive now, it does not mean it was not sensitive before or will not be sensitive in the future. As a result, this means I have to constantly watch my words and behave carefully based on my evaluations of every scenario to make my study "not-sensitive". In contrast, if the sensitivity of my research is purely decided by the mysterious and inscrutable authorities, then whether or not my research can proceed is predetermined. It will be revealed at the moment of my contact with the authorities. While this might mean I cannot conduct my research at all, since there is nothing I can do, I can just wait for it, take it, and then forget about it.

With this uncertainty, I had my pilot fieldwork in a northern Chinese city in 2019 and then a formal one in 2021. Each trip confirms that to locals, SCSs are considered boring for some, honoring for others, but never sensitive by nature. However, this does not mean that my research is not sensitive. In fact, it was quite sensitive for me to conduct my study. My uncle asked me if I am now working for the CIA (I am not), and some

people refused to talk to me. But it was not because of SCS. It was simply because of my affiliation with an American university. Under the increasingly intensified relationship between the two countries, even as a Chinese citizen, my inquiries as a sociologist are suspicious. Fortunately, the toolkits I prepared for my “sensitive” object came in handy – with a bit of adjustment – and I behaved and spoke carefully during my

almost one-year fieldwork. Nowadays, people started to ask me if their fieldworks are sensitive. The best answer I can get is always: it really depends!

Chuncheng Liu is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Sociology, University of California, San Diego.

Political Sociology Bookshelf

Berman, Elizabeth Popp. 2022. *Thinking Like an Economist: How Efficiency Replaced Equality in US Public Policy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Yuemin Li

State University of New York at Albany

Dr. Elizabeth Popp Berman’s new book *Thinking Like an Economist: How Efficiency Replaced Equality in U.S. Public Policy* has greatly inspired my interest and excitement about political sociology recently. This book answers the crucial, yet underappreciated and often inconspicuous, question of how and why the “economic style of reasoning” has become prevalent in Washington’s policy making since the 1960s. The economic style of reasoning is a loose approach that builds upon microeconomic concepts including incentives, three forms of efficiency, and externalities. This approach analyzes policy problems with a focus on efficiency as a measure (and often the only measure) of good policy and introduces market-like elements, such as choice and competition, into areas

that are not governed primarily or solely as markets.

Dr. Berman attributes the rise and institutionalization of this economic reasoning to the emergence and political involvement of two groups of economists: systems analysts from the RAND Corporation who came up with new answers to the question of “how should the government make decisions,” and a loose network of industrial organization economists who asked, “how should we govern markets.” The empirical narratives of the book present detailed analysis on how these two groups of economists coincidentally came to Washington at the same period and how their economic style of reasoning has gradually been institutionalized and impacted public policies in social policy, market governance, and social regulations. This book excellently exemplifies how to trace ideological and institutional transformations to answer a contemporary political problem from a historical perspective.

Yuemin Li is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Sociology, State University of New York at Albany.

Wimmer, Andreas. 2018. *Nation Building: Why Some Countries Come Together While Others Fall Apart*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Steven Pfaff

University of Washington

Last year I taught a graduate course in comparative macrosociology. Designing a new course is always attractive because one can read the recent work one knows one should be reading. I knew that I had to include Andreas Wimmer's *Nation Building* in the course. That's because Wimmer's work has always tackled the big issues in comparative political sociology: social change, ethnic politics, armed conflict, and state formation.

In *Nation Building*, Wimmer examines the tectonic forces that shape nations over the long run. He argues that the success of the nation state matters for the economic well-being of societies, for efforts to contain and reduce inequalities, and for avoidance of civil conflict. He demonstrates that slow-moving processes of political integration and national identification drive modern state-making. In several carefully-chosen case studies, Wimmer uncovers the mechanisms propelling the

nation-state project. The development of cross-cutting ties in civil society and the ability of the state to produce and distribute public goods underlie political integration. Structural causes loom large in that story, but Wimmer also shows that national identity draws upon stuff like a unified elite culture and linguistic homogeneity.

The use of careful case studies and cross-national data provides compelling evidence to back Wimmer's theory of nation building. Beyond the good social science backing his work, I like that Wimmer boldly challenges much of the received wisdom in international politics. Democracy does not make nations; rather, consolidated nation states foster democratization. Nations do not fail because they contain a plenitude of ethnic groups; it is more likely that they fail because over the long-haul ethnic diversity itself is endogenous to state weakness. So how then are "failed states" like Afghanistan averted or repaired? Wimmer shows that foreign assistance and democracy promotion have dismal records. The slow and arduous work of linking groups in civil society, delivering public goods, and cultivating a common culture cannot be substituted. Nation building is good governance.

Dr. Steven Pfaff is Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology, University of Washington.

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Job Market Candidates

Miray Philips

University of
Minnesota



Miray Philips is a PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Minnesota and a Visiting Scholar at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs. Miray's research explores the transnational politics, meaning, and memory of violence at the intersection of religion and rights. Her dissertation specifically examines the geopolitics of contested advocacy around "Christian persecution." Miray's research has been supported by the Social Science Research Council, the Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, the Louisville Institute, and the Global Religion Research Initiative, among others. Her research is forthcoming in the *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*.

aspects of human society, including health, politics, identity, and economic action.

Her research has been published in *Cultural Sociology* and *Social Psychology Quarterly*. She is also a co-editor of *Cultural Sociology: Classics & Frontiers*, the first reader that introduces to the Chinese audience the latest developments in cultural sociology in North America.

Her dissertation compares Chinese college students in the United States and China in terms of how they negotiate their national and global identities along with different regime types (democracy vs. authoritarianism) during an increasingly unsettled time. You can find her latest update by visiting weirongguo.com.

Weirong Guo

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Weirong Guo is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Sociology at Emory University. Her research interests lie at the intersection of culture, politics, social psychology, and global and transnational sociology. She uses mixed methods and a cultural sociological approach to various

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I am a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the 2022 Vivian Lin Thurston Doctoral Research Fellow working at the nexus of the sub-fields of political and environmental sociology, as well as political economy. I will be defending my dissertation, titled *Disciplining Water: Environmental Politics, Justice, and the Return of Infrastructure* in September 2022.

Particularly, I am interested in the socio-political dynamics surrounding questions of climate change adaptation strategies, water policy, and the energy transition. For example, during my graduate work, I have studied certain “unconventional,” but nonetheless increasingly prevalent transnational industrial practices like seawater desalination and hydraulic fracturing. To date I have published original research, as well as theoretical work and public sociology in a variety of venues such as the *Environment and Planning E*, *Journal of World-systems Research*, *International Sociology*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Visual Studies*, *EnviroSociety*, *The Society Pages*, and more.

Miloš Bročić

University of Toronto

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www.researchgate.net/profile/Milos_Brocic

Miloš Bročić is a PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Toronto. His research interests are in the fields of political sociology, culture, and sociological theory. His dissertation examines the social formation of moral orientations towards politics during the transition from adolescence to young adulthood. While socialization is sometimes treated as a relatively conflict-free process that reproduces harmony, his research examines how individuals become primed for conflict and change. This includes assessing 1) how higher education reproduces moral divisions behind ‘culture war’ conflict; 2) alienation’s role in socialization into radical and reactionary movements; and 3) the social



development of openness to change. In this work and others, Miloš re-evaluates classic sociological insights with modern techniques of data analysis, engaging timely issues with a perspective both old and new. This builds on a general interest in charting sociology’s intellectual movements, which comes to a head in work documenting Georg Simmel’s legacy. Recent work is published in the *American Sociological Review* and the *Annual Review of Sociology*.

KaLeigh K. White

University of Iowa

Website:

kaleighkwhite.com

KaLeigh White is a PhD candidate in sociology at the University of Iowa. She studies social inequality, social policy, poverty alleviation, and equity in education. Her dissertation examines how the use of welfare state programs as a form of social control and paternalistic social policies affects the long-term wellbeing of public assistance recipients. Specially, she examines how experiences of social safety net program benefit conditions (e.g., work requirements) and sanctions (e.g., benefit cuts) are related to recipient material hardship, health, and sense of autonomy in the long-term. KaLeigh received a dissertation support grant from the US Administration for Children and Families for this project. Her research portfolio also includes academic, institutional, and applied scholarship examining equity in education. Prior to graduate school, KaLeigh worked for a local United Way as the program director of a Retired and Senior Volunteer Program.



New Publications

Academic articles or chapters

- Bročić, Miloš, and Andrew Miles. 2021. "College and the 'Culture War': Assessing Higher Education's Influence on Moral Attitudes." *American Sociological Review* 86 (5): 856–95. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224211041094>.
- Bročić, Miloš, and Daniel Silver. 2021. "The Influence of Simmel on American Sociology Since 1975." *Annual Review of Sociology* 47 (1): 87–108. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-090320-033647>.
- Cheong, Amanda R. "Deportable to Nowhere: Stateless Children as Challenges to State Logics of Immigration Control." *positions* 30(2): 245–275. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1215/10679847-9573331>
- Elcioglu, Emine Fidan. 2021. "Neoliberal Fatigue: The Effects of Private Refugee Sponsorship on Canadians' Political Consciousness." *Critical Sociology* <https://doi.org/10.1177/08969205211064924>
- Gerteis, Joseph, and Nir Rotem. 2022. "Connecting the 'Others': White Anti-Semitic and Anti-Muslim Views in America." *The Sociological Quarterly* 1–21. doi: [10.1080/00380253.2022.2045882](https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2022.2045882).
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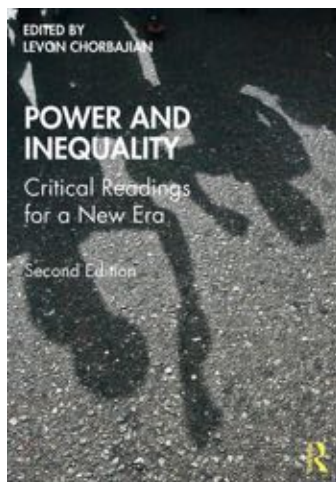
Books



Beck, Colin J., Mlada Bukovansky, Erica Chenoweth, George Lawson, Sharon Erickson Nepstad, and Daniel P. Ritter. 2022. *On Revolutions: Unruly Politics in the Contemporary World*. Oxford University Press.

On Revolutions, co-authored by six prominent scholars of revolutions, reinvigorates revolutionary studies for the twenty-first century. Integrating insights from diverse fields—including civil resistance studies, international relations, social movements, and terrorism—they offer new ways of thinking about persistent problems in the study of revolution. This book outlines an approach that reaches beyond the common categorical distinctions. As the authors argue, revolutions are not just political or social, but they feature many types of change.

Structure and agency are not mutually distinct; they are mutually reinforcing processes. Contention is not just violent or nonviolent, but it is usually a mix of both. Revolutions do not just succeed or fail, but they achieve and simultaneously fall short. And causal conditions are not just domestic or international, but instead, they are dependent on the interplay of each. Demonstrating the merits of this approach through a wide range of cases, the authors explore new opportunities for conceptual thinking about revolution, provide methodological advice, and engage with the ethical issues that exist at the nexus of scholarship and activism.



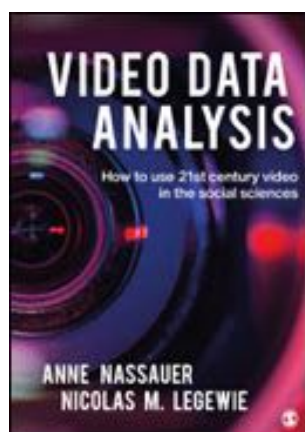
Chorbajian, Levon, ed. 2021. *Power and Inequality: Critical Readings for a New Era*. Routledge.

Successfully bringing together accessible readings that cover the broad range of issues of importance to those studying politics and society, this new edition of *Power and Inequality* provides a unique mix of theoretical and empirical pieces, such as state and electoral politics, that address both classic issues in political sociology and more recent developments, such as globalization. With strong integration of race and gender throughout, this collection offers a coherent analysis of power that reflects the contributions of a variety of critical perspectives, including Marxism, feminism, critical race theory, postmodernism, and power structure theory.



Kenworthy, Lane. 2022. *Would Democratic Socialism Be Better?*. Oxford University Press.

Socialism is back in the conversation, and recent polls suggest the share of young Americans who have a favorable impression of socialism is about the same as the share that have a favorable view of capitalism. The case for a modern democratic socialism is that capitalism is bad, or at least not very good, and that socialism would be an improvement. To fully and fairly assess democratic socialism's desirability, we need to compare it to the best version of capitalism that humans have devised: social democratic capitalism. I offer a close look at the evidence about how capitalist economies have performed on an array of outcomes. I conclude that social democratic capitalism achieves most of what contemporary democratic socialists say we should want.

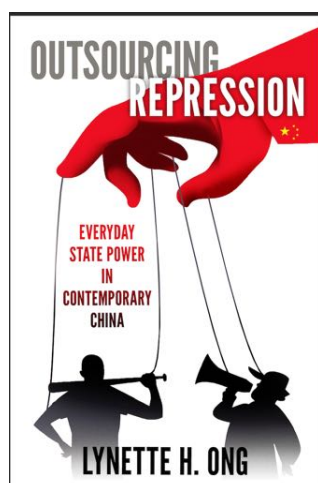


Nassauer, Anne and Nicolas Legewie. *Video Data Analysis: How to Use 21st Century Video in the Social Sciences*. SAGE Publishing.

Video data is transforming the possibilities of social science research. Whether through mobile phone footage, body-worn cameras or public video surveillance, we have access to an ever-expanding pool of data on real-life situations and interactions.

This book provides a flexible framework for working with video data and understanding what it says about social life. With examples from a range of real video research projects, the book showcases step-by-step how to analyse any kind of data, including both found and generated videos. It also includes a non-technical discussion of computer vision and its opportunities for social science research.

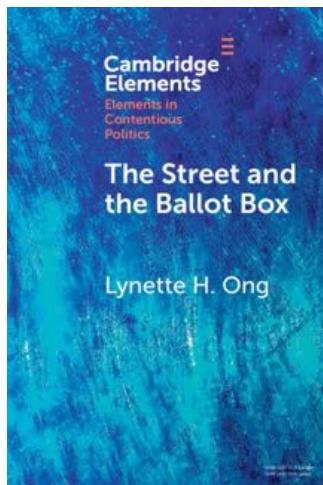
This book is an ideal toolkit for researchers or postgraduate students across the social sciences working with video data as a part of their research projects. Accessible and practical, is written for qualitative and quantitative researchers, newcomers and experienced scholars.



Ong, Lynette. 2022. *Outsourcing Repression: Everyday State Power in Contemporary China*. Oxford University Press & Columbia University Press Weatherhead East Asia Series.

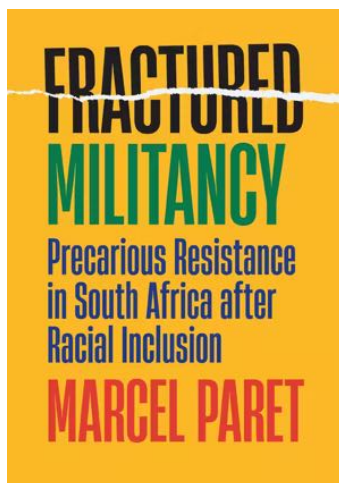
How do states coerce citizens into compliance while simultaneously minimizing backlash? In *Outsourcing Repression*, Lynette H. Ong examines how the Chinese state engages nonstate actors, from violent street gangsters to nonviolent grassroots brokers, to coerce and mobilize the masses for state pursuits, while reducing costs and minimizing resistance. She draws on ethnographic research conducted annually from 2011 to 2019--the years from Hu Jintao to Xi Jinping, a unique and original

event dataset, and a collection of government regulations in a study of everyday land grabs and housing demolition in China. Theorizing a counterintuitive form of repression that reduces resistance and backlash, Ong invites the reader to reimagine the new ground state power credibly occupies. Everyday state power is quotidian power acquired through society by penetrating nonstate territories and mobilizing the masses within. Ong uses China's urbanization scheme as a window of observation to explain how the arguments can be generalized to other country contexts.



Ong, Lynette. 2022. *The Street and The Ballot Box: Interactions Between Social Movements and Electoral Politics in Authoritarian Context*. Cambridge University Press.

How do discontented masses and opposition elites work together to engineer a change in electoral authoritarian regimes? Social movements and elections are often seen as operating in different terrains – outside and inside institutions, respectively. In this Element, I develop a theory to describe how a broad-based social movement that champions a grievance shared by a wide segment of the population can build alliances across society and opposition elites that, despite the rules of the game rigged against them, vote the incumbents out of power. The broad-based nature of the movement also contributes to the cohesion of the opposition alliance, and elite defection, which are often crucial for regime change. This Element examines the 2018 Malaysian election and a range of cases from other authoritarian regimes across Asia, Eastern Europe, and Africa to illustrate these arguments.

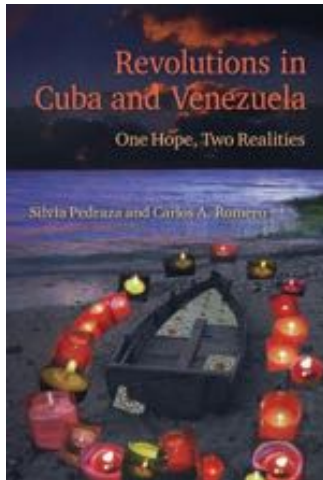


Paret, Marcel. 2022. *Fractured Militancy: Precarious Resistance after Racial Inclusion*. ILR/Cornell University Press. [Discount code: 09BCARD]

Drawing on extensive ethnographic fieldwork and interviews with activists, *Fractured Militancy* tells the story of postapartheid South Africa from the perspective of Johannesburg's impoverished urban Black neighborhoods. Nearly three decades after South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy, widespread protests and xenophobic attacks suggest that not all is well in the once-celebrated "rainbow nation."

Marcel Paret traces rising protests back to the process of democratization and racial inclusion. This process dangled the possibility of change but preserved racial inequality and economic insecurity, prompting residents to use militant protests to express their deep sense of betrayal and to demand recognition and community development. Underscoring remarkable parallels to movements such as Black Lives Matter in the United States, this account attests to an ongoing struggle for Black liberation in the wake of formal racial inclusion.

Rather than unified resistance, however, class struggles within the process of racial inclusion produced a fractured militancy. Revealing the complicated truth behind the celebrated “success” of South African democratization, Paret uncovers a society divided by wealth, urban geography, nationality, employment, and political views. *Fractured Militancy* warns of the threat that capitalism and elite class struggles present to social movements and racial justice everywhere.

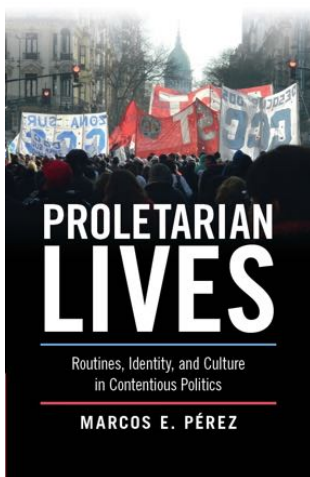


Pedraza, Silvia and Carlos A. Romero. *Revolutions in Cuba and Venezuela: One Hope, Two Realities*. University of Florida Press.

Revolutions in Cuba and Venezuela compares the sociopolitical processes behind two major revolutions—Cuba in 1959, when Fidel Castro came to power, and Venezuela in 1999, when Hugo Chávez won the presidential election. With special attention to the Cuba-Venezuela alliance, particularly in regards to foreign policy, Silvia Pedraza and Carlos Romero show that the geopolitical theater where these events played out determined the dynamics and reach of the revolutions.

Updating and enriching the current understanding of the Cuban and Venezuelan revolutions, this study is unique in its focus on the massive exodus they generated. Pedraza and Romero argue that this factor is crucial for comprehending a revolution's capacity to succeed or fail. By externalizing dissent, refugees consolidated the revolutions, but as the diasporas became significant political actors and the lifelines of each economy, they eventually served to undermine the movements.

Using comparative historical analysis and data collected through fieldwork in Cuba and Venezuela as well as from immigrant communities in the U.S., Pedraza and Romero discuss issues of politics, economics, migrations, authoritarianism, human rights, and democracy in two nations that hoped to make a better world through their revolutionary journeys.



Pérez, Marcos E. *Proletarian Lives: Routines, Identity, and Culture in Contentious Politics*. Cambridge University Press. [Discount code: PEREZ22]

Based on multi-year ethnographic fieldwork on the Unemployed Workers' Movement in Argentina (also known as the piqueteros), *Proletarian Lives* provides a case study of how workers affected by job loss protect their traditional forms of life by engaging in progressive grassroots mobilization. Using life-history interviews and participant observation, the book analyzes why some activists develop a strong attachment to the movement despite initial reluctance and frequent ideological differences. Marcos Pérez argues that a key appeal of participation is the opportunity to engage in age and gender-specific practices associated with a

respectable blue-collar lifestyle threatened by long-term socioeconomic decline. Through their daily involvement in the movement, older participants reconstruct the routines they associate

with a golden past in which factory jobs were plentiful, younger activists develop the kind of habits they were raised to see as valuable, and all members protect communal activities undermined by the expansion of poverty and violence.

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