Department of Political and Social Sciences
Seminar Fall 2009

Contentious Politics: Social Movements, Political Violence and Revolutions

Donatella della Porta, Gerhard Haupt, Steve Smith

Credits: 20 (for both HEC and SPS)

First Term

Mondays, 3-5, Badia Seminar room 2
(PLEASE NOTE EXCEPTIONS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS)

Registration with Monika Rzemieniecka (monika.rzemieniecka@eui.eu)

The concept of contentious politics, developed among others by the historian and sociologist Charles Tilly, covers different phenomena, such as social movements, political violence and revolution. In this interdisciplinary seminar, jointly organized by HEC and SPS departments, we aim at singling out and discuss some main issues in the research on these topics, with particular attention to the repertoires of collective actions, their historical evolution, causes and consequences.

For the different sessions, we have indicated some assigned readings in history and sociology/political science, which are compulsory for all participants, as well as some introductory readings. Although not compulsory, these will be used to introduce the discussion in each session, which will be chaired by one of the convenors.

9 October, 3-5 (NOTE: IT IS A FRIDAY and this session will exceptionally take place in the Theatre).

Session 1. Frame analysis and social movement studies: An assessment
Guest Speaker: David Snow, University of California at Irvine

Assigned readings:
David. A. Snow, Scott C. Byrd, Ideology, Framing Processes and Islamic Terrorist Movements

David A. Snow, Rens Vliegenthart, Catherine Corrigall-Brown, Framing the French Riots: A Comparative Study of Frame Variation

Introductory reading:
12 October. Double session (3-7pm)

Session 2 (3-5 pm). Activists’ media strategy
Guest Speaker: Robert Hackett, Simon Fraser University

Assigned readings


Session 3 (5-7pm): Repertories of collective action: Defining Social Movements, Political Violence and Revolutions

Assigned readings:


16 October, 3-5pm (NOTE: IT IS A FRIDAY)

Session 4. Contesting Media Power
Guest Speaker: Nick Couldry, Goldsmith Center for the Study of Global Media and Democracy

Assigned readings:

Couldry, Nick: Theorising Media as Practice, in Couldry, Nick: Social Semiotic, Sheffield Hallam University, 2007

Couldry, Nick: Towards a post-neoliberal politics. In: Voice that matters: Culture and Politics after Neoliberalism (to be published in 2010)

Couldry, Nick: Does the media have a future?

Introductory reading


19 October

Session 5: Social Structures and Contentious Politics

Assigned readings:


Introductory texts:


26 October
Session 6: Political opportunities and organizational resources

Assigned readings:

Donatella della Porta, Massimiliano Andretta, Lorenzo Mosca and Herbert Reiter, Globalization from Below, Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 2006, chap. 6 and 7.


Introductory texts:


9 November
Session 7: Identities

Assigned readings:


Introductory texts:


16 November
Session 8: Emotions

Assigned readings:


*Introductory texts:*


**23 November**

**Session 9: Time: eventful protest**

*Assigned readings:*


Michelle Perrot, *Les ouvriers en grève: France, 1871-1890* (Paris: Mouton, 1974), tome 2, pp.645-69; 691-700; 714-26 (and also to be recommended are pp.607-43 on 'le discours de la grève')


*Introductory texts:*


**30 November**

**Session 10: Space: local, national and transnational**

*Assigned readings:*


*Introductory texts:*
