

Non-State Actors in World Affairs (PSC 757.001)

Autumn 2007 ----- Tuesday, 3.30-6.15pm ----- 315 Maxwell Hall

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Tuesday/Wednesday, 10-11am

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Non-state actors play an increasingly visible role in global governance and maintain increasingly complex transnational relations across traditional state boundaries. This seminar will focus primarily on the academic literature analyzing non-state activism and its role in shaping global institutions and domestic political and social change. The seminar will begin with a survey of the key theoretical literature on non-state activism and identify some of the methodological challenges arising from studying transnational relations. The second half of the seminar will present in-depth examples of the consequences of non-governmental activism in the humanitarian, environmental, development, and human rights areas. The following questions will guide our joint inquiry into the rapidly growing field:

1. What accounts for the emergence and evolution of transnational actors, their goals, and strategies/tactics?
2. What are the core differences and similarities among non-state actors as well as between non-state actors and states?
3. What determines the success of non-state actors in global affairs? What are the limits of transnational activism?
4. How and why do experiences of non-governmental activism vary across regions and issue areas?
5. How legitimate are transnational interventions orchestrated by non-state actors?

Requirements

The requirements for successful completion of this class are -

- (1) regular reading of the required materials before class, regular attendance, and active participation in class discussions (10 per cent),
- (2) two reviews/short papers (800-1,000 words, 12pt, double spaced) based on assigned readings (20 per cent),
- (3) one research paper (4,800-6,000 words, 12pt, double spaced) applying a theoretical argument to a comparison of non-state actors in world affairs (60 per cent).
- (4) one presentation of your final paper in the two final class sessions (10 per cent).
- (5) one peer review and discussion of another student's introduction of his/her final paper.

Schedule

Part I: Introduction

Week One (August 28): Defining transnationalism and non-state actors

Week Two (September 4): Global civil society?

1. Willetts, 'What is a Non-Governmental Organization?'
2. Martens, 'Mission Impossible'
3. Munck, 'Global Civil Society'
4. Anheier, 'Reflections'
5. Florini, 'Is Global Civil Society a Good Thing?'

Part II: Perspectives on transnational non-state actors

Week Three (September 11): Transnationalism and non-state actors (*due: paragraph on your final paper; topic, rationale, etc.*)

1. Orenstein/Schmitz, 'Transnationalism'
2. Risse, 'Transnational Actors and World Politics'
3. Keohane/Nye, 'Transnational Relations and World Politics'
4. Keck/Sikkink, 'Transnational Advocacy Networks'
5. Brown/Timmer, 'Transnational Learning'

Week Four (September 18): Critical perspectives (*due: first review essay*)

1. Demirovic, 'NGOs, the State, and Civil Society'
2. Tarrow, 'The New Transnational Activism'
3. Krasner, 'Power politics'
4. Flanigan, 'Paying for God's work'

Week Five (September 25): Advocacy abroad (*due: outline final paper*)

1. Risse-Kappen, 'Bringing Transnational Relations Back In'
2. Risse/Sikkink, 'The Socialization of Human Rights Norms'
3. Schmitz, 'Transnational Mobilization'
4. Bob, 'The Marketing of Rebellion'

Part III: The role of non-state actors in global affairs

Week Six (October 2): Unpacking activism

1. Hopgood, 'Keepers of the Flame'
2. Buchanan, 'The Truth will set you free'
3. Youngs, 'Private Pains/Public Peace'
4. Watson, 'Human Rights Watch'

Week Seven (October 9): Global justice (*due: second review essay*)

1. Glasius, 'Expertise in the Cause of Justice'
2. Snyder/Vinjamuri, 'Trials and Errors'
3. Spees, 'Women's Advocacy'

Week Eight (October 16): The humanitarian quagmire (*due: intro to final paper*)

1. Fast, 'NGO insecurity'
2. Kennedy, 'The Dark Side of Virtue'
3. Cooley/Ron, 'NGO Scramble'
4. Walker, 'Cracking the Code'

Week Nine (October 23): Global governance (*presentations and peer review*)

1. Zagorac, 'Amnesty International'
2. Price, 'Reversing the Gun Sights'
3. Tannenwald, 'Stigmatizing the Bomb'
4. Hill et al., 'UN SC resolution 1325'

Week Ten (October 30): Global environment (*due: third review essay*)

1. Rohrschneider/Dalton, 'A Global Network?'
2. Currie, 'The Experience of Greenpeace'
3. Gereffi et al, 'The NGO-Industrial Complex'
4. Meidinger, 'Forest Certification'

Week Eleven (November 6): Global development

1. Bebbington, 'Donor-NGO Relations in Aid Chains'
2. Mallaby, 'Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor'
3. Ebrahim, 'NGOs and Organizational Change'
4. Murphy, 'The World Bank, INGOs, and Civil Society'

Week Twelve (November 13): Accountability and legitimacy (*due: 10 pages*)

1. Ebrahim, 'Accountability in Praxis'
2. Slim, 'By What Authority?'
3. Rubenstein, 'Accountability in an Unequal World'
4. Atack, 'Four Criteria for Development NGO Legitimacy'

Week Thirteen (November 20): Thanksgiving**Week Fourteen (November 27): Presentations of final papers****Week Fifteen (December 4): Presentations/wrap-up/evaluation**

Due date for final paper: December 11, 2007 (5pm)