HS 15346

The Sociology of International Relations – State, Society and Transnational Cooperation in the 21st Century

Tuesday, 2pm – 4pm (Starts 13/04/2011)
Room 105, Garystrasse 55

Overview

This seminar explores the oscillating boundaries between the disciplines of (Political) Sociology and International Relations. Theories on the societal dimensions of international politics have been proliferating in the past decade, both through a renewed interest in grand social theories and sociological writings and as a reflection of the desire for new explanatory frameworks that capture the manifold ways in which state and society, public and private actors and institutions relate in an age of globalisation. The seminar is divided into two parts: part I will look at a range of influential social theories and the ways in which they have been seized and 'used' in International Relations, and adapted to the specific world of social interaction and societal organisation beyond national boundaries. Core sociological theories on power/authority, social organization/institutions, communication or globalisation/world culture will be explored in terms of their relevance for International Relations scholarship. The seminar participants will examine to what extent these theories have been broadening theoretical approaches in International Relations or helped to highlight new phenomena in international politics. Part II will look at specific sub-fields of a sociology of international relations using concrete empirical insights from: war and conflict; migration, citizenship, identity; social inequality and globalisation; international organizations; transnational social networks and movements etc.

Aims of the Seminar

This seminar shall enable students to explore a vibrant field of contemporary interdisciplinary research. At the end of the seminar, students should have a thorough grasp of the various theories, concepts and empirical research areas that unite Sociology and International Relations. In the course of the seminar, students shall practice their ability to critically assess how IR scholars have made use of sociological theories and concepts in their exploration of international politics and transnational cooperation. We will try to assess to what extent there actually is a distinct International Political Sociology or not. The seminar requires in-depth reading of core literature both from Sociology and International Relations.

Introductory Readings and Seminar Reader

- Introductory readings:
    - Michael Drake (2010), <u>Political Sociology for a Globalizing World</u> (Cambridge: Polity Press)
    - Stephen Hobden/John M. Hobson (2002) (eds.), <u>Historical Sociology of International Relations</u> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)
- A seminar reader containing all required readings for the seminar is available at the Copy-Shop in Habelschwerdter Allee 37.
- Apart from the compulsory readings for all students, specific texts will be made available for in-class presentations via *Blackboard* (see section on *Blackboard* below). For some sessions, further material will be made accessible via *Blackboard.*

Criteria for Successful Participation and Assignments

1) **Criteria for ALL participants, no matter if you want to acquire a 'Teilnahmeschein' or a 'Leistungsschein'**
    a) **Attendance** means
        - Regular attendance (you can miss class up to 2 times without excuse)
        - Active participation in the seminar
    b) **Presentation**
        - Depending on the size of the seminar group, presentations can be held either individually or in small groups
        - Presentations must be accompanied by a **handout.** Apart from a meaningful summary of the main points of the presentation, handouts should formulate a range of questions for in-class discussion.
        - Handouts should be sent via email to the seminar leader **one day prior to the presentation.**
        - Presentations must be discussed with the seminar leader during the week preceding the presentation.
        - Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes.

2) **Those participants who want to acquire a 'Leistungsschein' have to hand in a seminar paper (Hausarbeit)**
    a) The word limit for papers is 6000 words (including footnotes, endnotes and references).
    b) Seminar papers should, where possible, be closely related to the presentation topic.
    c) Seminar papers that are too short, too long or formally incorrect will not be accepted. Useful information regarding academic writing will be given by the seminar leader towards the end of the seminar. You can also find good advice here: Cornelia Ulbert/Thomas Conzelmann (2004), „Hinweise zum Anfertigen einer wissenschaftlichen Arbeit", available at: http://www.atasp.de/downloads/ulbert_wissenschaftlich_arbeiten.pdf
    d) Papers must be submitted both in electronic form (as .pdf, .doc or .rtf) **and** as a hard copy by 30th September 2011.

Blackboard, Office Hours and Contact Details

- In order to guarantee smooth communication between the seminar leader and seminar participants you are required to register for the e-learning platform *Blackboard* as soon as possible. Useful information (newspaper articles, reports, alerts, internship opportunities etc.) will be made available through *Blackboard* as well.

- Go to http://lms.fu-berlin.de/webapps/portal/index.jsp, register and select the course. The **password** for registration is **SocIR**.

- My office hours are **Wednesday, 14.30-16.00h** in room 107, Ihnestrasse 22. **Please register for an appointment using the list that is displayed at my office door!**

- **Contact**
  Telefon   838 55054
  Email   anna.holzscheiter@fu-berlin.de

Useful Information for ‚Studienordnungen', Campus Management and Blackboard

- Studienordnungen
  - „Studieren am OSI – Übersicht über die am OSI angebotenen Studiengänge": http://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/polwiss/studium/ressourcen/Studieren_am_OSI_Feb_2010.pdf
- Campus Management
  - CMS: https://www.ecampus.fu-berlin.de
  - Studienbüro: http://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/studium/studienbuero/index.html
- Blackboard
  - Registration: https://lms.fu-berlin.de/selbstregistrierung/html/index-studierende.php
  - Using Blackboard (FAQs): http://www.cms.fu-berlin.de/lms/faq/studierende/bedienung/index.html

SYLLABUS

Session 1 *12.04.2011*	**Introductory session**

Part I: Social Theory and International Relations – Locating and analysing the 'social' in international politics

Session 2 *19.04.2011*	**Where are the boundaries between Sociology and International Relations, what are their common denominators?**
	During this session, we will aim to explore what exactly is *political sociology and what an International Political Sociology implies. We will try to map the landscape of Political Sociology as it relates to IR, seeking to clarify how transnational cooperation poses new questions and requires new approaches and conceptual frameworks to study actors, institutions and political processes at the beginning of the 21st century. We will ask:* • *What are the real world processes that justify a distinct International Political Sociology?* • *How does IPS express a reconfiguration of the relationship between the political and the social/societal?* • *What can IPS offer in terms of interdisciplinary dialogue between Sociology and IR?*
	Required readings: • Michael Drake, Chapter 1, "Political Sociology and Social Transformation", pp. 3-24 in <u>Political Sociology for a Globalising World</u> (Cambridge: Polity Press) • Didier Bigo/R.B.J. Walker, "International. Political. Sociology", in *International Political Sociology* 1:1 (2007), S. 1-5 • Friedrich Kratochwil, "Sociological Approaches", in: Christian Reus-Smit/Duncan Snidal, <u>The Oxford Handbook of International Relations</u> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 444-461

Session 3 *26.04.2011*	**State and Society in International Relations**
	In this session, we will explore the extent to which the disciplines of Sociology and International Relations both have considerably departed from their narrow focus on states respectively nation-states in recent times. We will aim to see how much overlapping terrain there is between Political Sociology and International Relations Theory. We will discuss the extent to which sociological thinking has helped breaking up dominant conceptualisations of the state in IR. In this session, we will ask:

- *Are there idiosyncratic theoretical and conceptual debates that clearly pertain to one or the other of the two disciplines?*
- *How has globalisation and globality altered Sociology's understanding of society and IR's understanding of the State?*

Required readings:
- Fred Halliday (1987), "State and Society in International Relations: A Second Approach", in Millennium, 16:2, pp. 215-229
- Martin Shaw (2002), "Globality and historical sociology: state, revolution and war revisited", in: Stephen Hobden/John M. Hobson, Historical Sociology of International Relations (Cambridge: CUP), pp. 82-98

Session 4 03.05.2011	**Social Institutions in International Relations**

The theory and analysis of institutions occupies centre stage in IR scholarship. For considerable time now, sociological institutionalism has inspired a whole range of – mostly constructivist – thinkers to go beyond rationalist, actor-focused explanatory frameworks for the creation and role of institutions in world politics, stressing the intersubjective, structural facets of institutions and the mutual constitution between actors and social structures. In this session, will address the following questions:
- *What is a sociological institutionalist perspective on world politics?*
- *Why is this a new perspective on institutions?*
- *What is the potential, what are the possible limits of such a perspective?*
- *How do international human rights regimes exemplify the 'logic of appropriateness', i.e., the influence of social institutions on actors' behaviour?*

Required readings:
- Martha Finnemore (1996), "Norms, Culture and World Politics: Insights from Sociology's Institutionalism", International Organization 50:2, pp. 325-347
- J.G. March and J. P. Olsen (1998). "The Institutional Dynamics of International Political Orders." International Organization **52:**4, pp. 943-969.

Readings for in-class presentation:
- Thomas Risse et.al. (1999), The Power of Human Rights (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Introduction and selected case studies

Session 5 10.05.2011	The Sociology of International Organizations
	In this session, we will look specifically at and inside international organizations. An interesting strand of research on what international organisations actually do and how they 'behave' has borrowed heavily from organizational sociology, particularly from Max Weber's writings on bureaucracy. Rather than seeing international organizations as merely the 'mirror' of nation-states interests, sociological approaches to international organisations suggest that international bureaucracies can develop a life of their own, exerting considerable power in world politics. In this session, we will attempt to answer the following questions: • *What does a sociological perspective on international organisations imply?* • *How do international organisations exert power independently from the power of their member states?* • *How does a sociological perspective also allow the study of the 'pathologies' of IOs and why is this an important extension of traditional thinking of IOs?*
	Required readings: • Max Weber (1966), "Legal Authority with Bureaucratic Administrative Staff", in: <u>The Theory of Social and Economic Organization</u>, 3rd edition (Toronto: Collier-Macmillan), pp. 329-341 • Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore (1999), "The Politics, Power and Pathologies of International Organizations", <u>International Organization</u> 53:4, 699-732 **Readings for in-class presentation** • Mark Walkup (1997), "Policy Dysfunction in Humanitarian Organizations: The Role of Coping Strategies, Institutions, and Organizational Culture", <u>Journal of Refugee Studies</u>, 10:7, pp. 37-60 • Steffen Bauer (2006), "Does Bureaucracy Really Matter? The Authority of Intergovernmental Treaty Secretariats in Global Environmental Politics", <u>Global Environmental Politics</u>, 6:1, pp. 25-49

Session 6 17.05.2011	**Explaining and Analysing Power**
	In this session, we will turn to an 'eternal' problem that has vexed social scientists of all disciplines: the concept and analysis of power. We will look at two most influential multi-dimensional theories of power that have been formulated in the 1970s and see how they have been adapted to the specific dynamics and structures of global governance. We will ask: • *What are the different dimensions of power that are at play in International Relations?* • *How can we possibly study these dimensions empirically?* • *What are the benefits of a multi-dimensional perspective on power?* • *Can we draw any implications for political practice from such a power analysis?*

Required readings:
- Stephen Lukes (1993), <u>Power – a radical view</u>, 17th edition (Basingstoke: Macmillan), pp. 9-25
- Peter Bachrach and Morton S. Baratz (1970), <u>Power and Poverty</u> (New York: Oxford University Press), pp. 3-16 and 42-51
- Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall (2005), "Power in global governance", in: Barnett/Duvall (eds.), <u>Power in Global Governance</u> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), pp. 1-32

Readings for in-class presentation:
- Mark Laffey/Jutta Weldes, "Policing and Global Governance", in Barnett/Duvall (2005), pp. 59-79

Session 7 ***24.05.2011***	**Understanding and Analysing Discourse in IR – Foucault**
	Closely related to session 6, this seminar session will look more closely at one particular social theorists whose theory on power has had a major impact on a wide variety of academic disciplines: Michel Foucault. Addressing the way in which Foucault conceptualises discourse as a powerful nexus between societal conventions, state institutions and dominance, we will aim to see how IR scholars have made use of Foucault's discourse theory in their empirical research. We will ask: • *How does Foucault define discourse?* • *Why is his discourse theory also a theory on power?* • *What are the dimensions of power that we can 'see' using his discourse lens?* • *How are these dimensions most relevant to the study of international standard-setting processes?*

Required readings:
- Michel Foucault (2007), "The Discourse on Language", in: <u>The Archaeology of Knowledge</u> (London: Routledge, 2007)
- Kimberley Hutchings 1997, "Foucault and International Relations Theory", in: Moya Lloyd and Andrew Thacker (eds.), <u>The Impact of Foucault on the Social Sciences and Humanities</u> (London: Macmillan), 1-27

Readings for in-class presentation:
- Charlotte Epstein (2005), "Knowledge and power in global environmental activism", <u>International Journal of Peace Studies</u> 10:1, pp. 48-67
- Karen Litfin (1995), "Framing Science: Precautionary Discourse and the Ozone Treaties", <u>Millennium</u> 24, pp. 251-277

Session 8 *31.05.2011*	**Understanding and Analysing the Transnational Public Sphere with Habermas**
	This session will look again at the concept of discourse but from a much different angle. For some time now, the discipline of IR has sought to make use of the Habermasian Theory of Communicative Action, primarily seeking to expand rationalist explanatory frameworks and models for what happens during international negoations. In its empirical application, the Habermasian 'model' of an ideal-speech situation in which the logic of arguing and the 'power of the better argument' can prevail has been a rather tricky affair. We will discuss the relevance and limitations of such a concept in a pluralist, multicultural and most heterogeneous world of transnational relations using insights from the field of gender and politics of representation. We will aim to answer the following questions: • *What is the essence of Habermas' discourse ethics?* • *What is an ideal-speech situation? What is arguing?* • *Is it possible to empirically study instances and processes of arguing in international politics?*
	Required readings: • Jürgen Habermas (1974), "The Public Sphere: An Encyclopedia Article", <u>New German Critique</u>, 3, pp. 49-55 • Nancy Fraser (2007), "Transnationalizing the Public Sphere. On the Legitimacy and Efficacy of Public Opinion in a Post-Westphalian World", <u>Theory, Culture & Society</u> 24:7, pp. 7-30 **Readings for in-class presentation** • Jackie Smith (2004) "The World Social Forum and the challenges of global democracy", <u>Global Networks</u> 4:4, pp. 413-421 • Janet Conway & Jakeet Singh (2009), "Is the World Social Forum and Transnational Public Sphere", <u>Theory, Culture & Society</u>, 26:5, 61-84

Part II: Empirical research fields in sociology and IR – different perspectives on the same phenomena?

Session 9 *07.06.2011*	**Conflict Sociology, Social Movements and Transnational Activism** **NEW: Guest talk with Prof Jeffrey Checkel**
	In this session, we will look at a very prominent field of sociological thinking: conflict sociology and its particular interest in revolutions, social movements and transnational activism. Looking at recent events in the Middle East, we will aim to understand what a theory of social movements and revolutions must entail in times of increasing transnational cooperation and networking.
	Required readings: • Theda, Skocpol, "Explaining Social Revolutions: Alternatives to Existing Theories", in: dies. <u>States and Social Revolutions</u> (Cambridge: CUP,

1979), pp. 3-24
- Sidney Tarrow, <u>The New Transnational Activism</u> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapter 1 (pp. 1-12) and Chapter 7 (pp. 143-160)
- Jeffrey Checkel, "Transnational Dynamics of Civil War", unpublished manuscript

Readings for in-class presentation:
- Collect information on the recent developments in the Middle East
- Analyse the recent revolutionary movements in the Middle East using the lens of social revolutions and transnational activism.

Session 10 *14.06.2011*	**The Transformation of Warfare in the Post-Cold War Era**
	Since the end of the Cold War and, particularly, since 09/11, the discipline of IR has profoundly altered the ways in which it thinks about international warfare. Sociological approaches to war have played a major role in breaking up state-centrist conceptualisations of war as, primarily, violence between national armies, stressing the multiple forms that organized violence can take and the transnational nature of conflicts.
	Required readings: • Michael Drake, <u>Political Sociology for a Globalising World</u>, chapter 10 ("War, Terror and Security") • Sinisa Malesevic (2008), "The Sociology of New Wars? Assessing the Causes and Objectives of Contemporary Violent Conflicts", <u>International Political Sociology</u>, 2:2, pp. 97-112 **Readings for in-class presentations:** • Choose one recent violent conflict and assess the extent to which the theory of 'new wars' applies to it

Session 11 *21.06.2011*	**Global (Civil) Society, Cosmopolitanism and World Culture**
	• John Boli (2005), "Contemporary Development in World Culture", <u>International Journal of Comparative Sociology</u> 46 (5-6), pp. 383-404 • Ulrich Beck (2000), "The Cosmopolitan Society and its Enemies", <u>Theory, Culture and Society</u>, 19:1-2, pp. 17-44 **Readings for in-class presentations:** • Semin Suvarierol (2011), "Everyday cosmopolitanism in the European Commission", <u>Journal of European Public Policy</u> 18:2, pp. 181-200 • Magdalena Nowicka and Ramin Kaweh (2009), "Looking at the Practice of UN Professionals", in: Nowicka/Kaweh (eds.), <u>Cosmopolitanism in Practice</u> (Farnham: Ashgate), pp. 51-71

Session 12 *28.06.2011*	**Globalisation, Transnational Capitalism and Global Inequalities**
	• Saskia Sassen (2002), "Women's Burden: Counter-Geographies of Globalization and the Feminization of Survival", <u>Nordic Journal of International Law</u> 71, pp. 255-274 • Leslie Sklair (2000), "The transnationalist capitalist class and the discourse of globalisation", <u>Cambridge Review of International Affairs</u> 14:1, pp. 67-85 **Readings for in-class presentation:** • Saskia Sassen (2002), "New frontiers facing urban sociology at the millennium", <u>British Journal of Sociology</u> 51:1, pp. 143-159 • Leslie Sklair (2005), "The Transnational Capitalist Class and Contemporary Architecture in Globalizing Cities", <u>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</u> 29:3, pp. 485-500

Session 13 *05.07.2011*	**Migration, Citizenship and Diaspora**
	• Thomas Faist (2001), "Transnationalization in international migration: implications for the study of citizenship and culture", <u>Ethnic and Racial Studies</u>, 23:2, pp. 189-222 • William E. Callahan (2003), "Beyond Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism: Diasporic Chinese and Neo-Nationalism in China and Thailand", <u>International Organization</u> 57:3, pp. 481-517 **Readings for in-class presentation** • Sarah Wayland (2004), "Ethnonationalist networks and transnational opportunities: the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora", <u>Review of International Studies</u>, 30, pp. 405-426

Session 14 *12.07.2011*	**Concluding Session**
	Required readings: o Friedrich Kratochwil (2010), "International Law and International Sociology", <u>International Political Sociology</u> 4:3, pp. 311-315 o Barry Buzan and Richard Little (2001), "Why International Relations has failed as an intellectual project and what to do about it", <u>Millennium</u> 30:1, pp. 19-31