

Government and Politics 878B

Seminar in Social Capital

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x54151

This seminar will focus on social capital in the broadest sense. What is social capital and why is it important? We consider a variety of issues related to social capital: how values and social ties resolve collective action problems, whether civil society is desirable or whether it may lead to biased outcomes, what is the nature and varieties of trust, whether associational membership can produce trust, whether religion contributes to or (as Robert Putnam argues) is an alternative to social capital, whether social capital has an institutional foundation or whether it is in some way “natural” (or genetic) or perhaps cultural, and whether social capital has an economic pay-off.

Each student will serve as discussion leader for at least one seminar. Performance as discussion leader will count for 15% of the course grade. Discussion leaders frame questions for seminar members. They do not give lectures or summaries of the readings. Seminar participation counts for 25% of the course grade.

Each seminar member will do a piece of original research on some aspect of social capital. The research may be quantitative, qualitative, or normative. For students wishing to do quantitative research, I have a large number of potential data bases with questions on social capital. Feel free to come to see me to discuss possible research topics. Each student will present a short paper (approximately 3 pages) outlining his/her research proposal by Week 3. This short paper will count for 10% of the course grade. We will periodically discuss the paper topics in class, but the final meeting of the seminar will be devoted to presentations of papers by seminar members (no more than 15 minutes each). Each seminar member will turn in an outline of the paper the week before (November 30) and another seminar member will act as a discussant offering substantive and methodological criticisms, both to the class and in writing. The critiques will be graded and will count toward 10 percent of the grade. The final paper will be due on December 18 in my office by 12 noon. The final paper will count for 50% of the course grade.

The course readings follow by week:

1. Introductory Meeting
8/31

9/7 NO CLASS (LABOR DAY)

2a. What Is Social Capital?

- 9/14 *Robert D. Putnam, Making Democracy Work, ch. 1..
Glenn Loury, "A Dynamic Theory of Racial Income Differences." In P.A. Wallace and A. Le Mund, eds., Women, Minorities, and Employment Discrimination, 153-186.
Bob Edwards and Michael Foley, "Escape from Politics? Social Theory and the Social Capital Debate," 550-561, in Bob Edwards and Michael Foley, eds., Social Capital, Civil Society, and Contemporary Democracy, American Behavioral Scientist (March/April, 1997).

2b.. Is There Really a Decline in Social Capital?

- 9/14
Putnam, Bowling Alone, chs. 2-3, 5-9., 23-24.
Lemann, N. (1996), "Kicking in Groups," *Atlantic Monthly*, April 1996, 22-24, available at <http://xroads.virginia.edu/%7EHYPER/DETOC/assoc/kicking.html>
Paxton, "Is Social Capital Declining in the United States?," American Journal of Sociology, 105 (1999), 88-127.

3. The Benefits of Social Capital

- 9/21
Putnam, Bowling Alone, chs. 16-21.
Putnam, Making Democracy Work, chs. 2-3.
Knack and Keefer, "Does Social Capital Have An Economic Payoff? A Cross-Country Investigation," Quarterly Journal of Economics, 112 (1997):1251-88.
Kenworthy, "Civic Engagement, Social Capital, and Economic Cooperation," In Bob Edwards and Michael Foley, eds., Social Capital, Civil Society, and Contemporary Democracy, American Behavioral Scientist (1997): 645-656.
Granato, Inglehart, and Leblang, "The Effect of Cultural Variables on Economic Development: Theory, Hypotheses, and Some Empirical Tests," American Journal of Political Science, 40 (1996):607-631.
Jackman and Miller, "A Renaissance of Political Culture?," American Journal of Political Science, 40 (1996):632-659.
Knack, "Social Capital and the Quality of Government: Evidence from the States.," American Journal of Political Science 46 (2002):772-87.
Macaulay, "Non-Contractual Relations in Business: A Preliminary Study," American Sociological Review, 28 (1963):55-67.
Uslaner, "Corruption, Inequality, and Trust," In Gert Tinggaard Svendsen and Gunnar Lind Haase Svendsen, eds., The Handbook on Social Capital, London: Edward Elgar, available at <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/gvpt/uslaner/uslanersocialcapitalhandbookelgar.pdf>
You and Khagram, "A Comparative Study of Inequality and Corruption." American Sociological Review 70 (2005): 136-157, available at <http://irps.ucsd.edu/assets/003/5298.pdf>

9/28 NO CLASS (Yom Kippur)

4. A Virtuous Circle?

10/5

Putnam, Making Democracy Work, ch. 5, 6.

Uslaner, Moral Foundations of Trust, entire

Berman, "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic," *World Politics*, 49 (1997):401-429.

Yamigishi and Yamigishi, "Trust and Commitment in the United States and Japan," Motivation and Emotion, 18(1994):129-166.

Hardin, "The Street-Level Epistemology of Trust," Analyse & Kritik (1992), 14:152-176.

Stolle, "Bowling Together, Bowling Alone: The Development of Generalized Trust in Voluntary Associations," in J. Mondak, Psychological Approaches to Social Capital, Political Psychology, 19 (1998)

Brehm and Rahn, "Individual Level Evidence for the Causes and Consequences of Social Capital," American Journal of Political Science, 41 (July 1997):888-1023.

5. The Downside of Social Capital

10/12

Putnam, Bowling Alone, ch. 22.

Arneil, Diverse Communities, entire

Levi, "Social and Unsocial Capital," Politics and Society, 24 (1996):45-55.

Van Staveren, I. (2002), "Social Capital: What Is In It for Feminist Economics?," Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Working Paper No. 368, available at <http://adlib.iss.nl/adlib/uploads/wp/wp368.pdf>.

Gidwani, V. (2002), "New Theory or New Dogma? A Tale of Social Capital and Economic Development from Gujarat, India," *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 37, 2, 1 March 2002, pp. 83-112(30), available at <http://jas.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/37/2/83>.

Portes, A., Landolt, P. (1996), "The Downside of Social Capital," *The American Prospect* no. 26 (May-June 1996), 18-21, 94, available at <http://www.prospect.org/print-friendly/print/V7/26/26-cnt2.html>

6. The Creation of Social Capital: The Role of Government
10/19
Rothstein, Social Traps and the Problem of Trust, entire
Putnam, Making Democracy Work, ch. 4.
Tyler, "Psychology and Institutional Design," Review of Law and Economics, 4 (2008), available at
<http://www.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1233&context=rle>
Levi, "A State of Trust." In Margaret Levi and Valerie Braithwaite, eds., Trust and Governance. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, available at
<http://www.colbud.hu/honesty-trust/levi/pub01.PDF>
7. Social Capital and Trust in Government
10/26
Hetherington, Why Trust Matters, entire
Citrin, Jack (1974). "Comment: The political relevance of trust in government," American Political Science Review, 68, 973-988.
Hill and Matsubayashi, "Civic Engagement & Mass-elite Policy Agenda Agreement in American Communities," American Political Science Review, 99 (2005):215-224.
Anderson and Tverdova, "Winners, Losers, and Attitudes about Government in Contemporary Democracies," International Political Science Review 22 (2001): 321-38.
Smith, Rasinski, and Toce, "America Rebounds:A National Study of Public Response to the September 11th Terrorist Attacks," NORC, University of Chicago, October, 2001, available at
<http://www.norc.org/NR/rdonlyres/51AA73B5-EB68-4E2A-AC63-75D652AA7D41/0/pubresp.pdf>
8. Social Capital and Religion
11/9
Putnam, Bowling Alone, ch.4.
Wuthnow, Saving America, entire
Harris, "Something Within: Religion as a Mobilizer of African-American Political Activism," Journal of Politics, 56 (1994):42-68.
Schoenfeld, "Image of Man: The Effect of Religion on Trust," Review of Religious Research, 20 (Fall 1978):61-67.
Campbell, "The Puzzle of Religious Pluralism in the United States" (unpublished paper, available from me).
9. Social Capital and Diversity
11/16 Hero, Racial Diversity and Social Capital, entire
Uslaner, "Trust and Social Bonds," Political Research Quarterly (2004), available at
<http://www.bsos.umd.edu/gvpt/uslaner/prqresponsehero.pdf>
Alesina et al., "Fractionalization," Journal of Economic Growth, 8 (2003): 155-194 available at
<http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/alesina/files/fractionalization.pdf>

- Putnam, "E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-first Century," *Scandinavian Political Studies*, 30: 137-173 at <http://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/socialchange/aboutus/news/documents/Putnam2007.pdf>.
- Uslaner, "Trust, Diversity, and Segregation?" available at <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/gvpt/uslaner/uslanertrustdiversitysegregation.pdf>
- Alesina and LaFerrara, "Who Trusts Others?" *Journal of Public Economics*, 85 (2002): 207-234 available at <http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/alesina/files/Who%20Trusts%20Others.pdf>
- Alesina and LaFerrara. "Participation in Heterogenous Communities," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 115 (2000) :847-904.
- Marschall, and Stolle, "Race and the City: Neighborhood Context and the Development of Generalized Trust," *Political Behavior*, 26 (2004): 125-154. available at <http://www.profs-polisci.mcgill.ca/stolle/Final%20published%20version.pdf>

10. Social Networks

11/23

- Mutz, Hearing the Other Side, entire
- Campbell, "Sticking Together: Classroom Diversity and Civic Education," *American Politics Research*, 35 (2007): 57-78.
- Granovetter, "The Strength of Weak Ties," *American Journal of Sociology*, 78 (1973): 1360-1380
- Burt, "Structural Holes versus Network Closure as Social Capital," in N. Lin, C.S. Cook, and R.S. Burt (eds), *Social Capital: Theory and Research* (New York, Aldine de Gruyter, 2000) available at <http://faculty.chicagogsb.edu/ronald.burt/research/SHNC.pdf>
- McPherson, Smith-Lovin, and Cook, "Birds of a Feather: Homophily in Social Networks," *Annual Review of Sociology*, 27 (2001):415-444.

11. Social Capital and the Media

11/30

- Putnam, Bowling Alone, chs.
- Gerbner, Gross, Morgan, and Signorielli. "The 'Mainstreaming' of America: Violence Profile No. 11," *Journal of Communication*, 30 (1980):10-29.
- Uslaner, "Social Capital, Television, and the 'Mean World': Trust, Optimism, and Civic Participation," in J. Mondak, Psychological Approaches to Social Capital, *Political Psychology*, 19 (1998):
- Shah, ""Civic Engagement, Interpersonal Trust, and Television Use: An Individual-Level Assessment of Social Capital," in J. Mondak, Psychological Approaches to Social Capital, *Political Psychology*, 19 (1998):469-96.
- Gerbner, Gross, Morgan, and Signorielli. 1980. "The 'Mainstreaming' of America: Violence Profile No. 11," *Journal of Communication*, 30:10-29.

Norris, "Political Communication and Democratic Politics," available at
<http://www.iceta.org/norris02.pdf>

12. Presentation of Seminar Papers

12/7