

SOCIOLOGY 439 Comparative and Historical Sociology

Spring 2008

Tuesdays, 3:30 - 6:00 pm, Parkes Hall 222

Professor Ann Shola Orloff

1808 Chicago Avenue, Room 201

a-orloff@northwestern.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12:30 - 1:30 pm, and by appointment

This seminar offers a broad overview of different theoretical and empirical approaches in historical and comparative social science to explaining change and durability in social and political structures and processes. We begin by briefly surveying some of the grand themes of second-wave historical social science of the 1970s and 1980s - collective action, revolutions, state formation, war and policymaking, then investigate contemporary rethinking of these themes and the emergence of new perspectives and topics (including agency, identities, religion, "race" and nations, and gender, culture).

Course format and requirements: Sociology 439 is a seminar in which students are active participants in discussion. Students will take turns leading class discussions and will write two short essays and a longer paper. In the short essays, approximately 4-5 pages in length, you are asked to assess (some aspect of) the readings critically (**due before class - hard copy and in the digital dropbox -- on April 22 and May 20**). In the final paper, approximately 15-20 pages in length and **due at noon on Monday, June 2 (again, in hard copy and in the digital dropbox**, you are asked *either* to reflect on some aspect of theoretical developments in comparative and historical sociology and/or political science (e.g., how have power or agency been conceptualized? how do rational choice theories of state formation differ from culturalist accounts? what changes when gender or "race" are brought into accounts of state policy? etc.!!), **or** to discuss how an empirical project on which you are

working speaks to a significant debate in comparative and historical sociology and/or political science.

Course readings: We will read three books, and a number of articles (available on Blackboard [noted with *]). The following books are available at Beck's Bookstore on Clark St.:

Julia Adams, Elisabeth Clemens and Ann Shola Orloff (editors), *Remaking Modernity: Politics, History and Sociology* (Durham, NC and London: Duke University Press, 2005).

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979).

George Steinmetz , *The Devil's Handwriting: Precoloniality and the German Colonial State in Qingdao, Samoa, and Southwest Africa* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

The schedule of readings is open to revision by seminar participants.

Seminar Schedule

April 8: Overview of Historical and Comparative Sociology

Reading:

Remaking Modernity, Introduction, Steinmetz and Magubane essays

*James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, "Comparative Historical Analysis: Achievements and Agendas," pp. 3-38 in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

April 15: The Second Wave, part 1: Collective Action and Revolution

Reading:

#Charles Tilly, "Does Modernization Breed Revolution?" *Comparative Politics* 5 (1973) (No.3, Special Issue on Revolution and Social Change): 425-447.

Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*

Recommended reading:

Charles Tilly, *From Mobilization to Revolution* (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1978)

SHORT CRITICAL ESSAY #1 DUE BY NOON, APRIL 22, HARD COPY IN PROFESSOR ORLOFF'S MAILBOX, ALSO POST TO DIGITAL DROPBOX

April 22: The Second Wave, part 2: States, War and Welfare

Reading:

#Ann Shola Orloff and Theda Skocpol, "'Why Not Equal Protection?': Explaining the Politics of Public Social Spending in Britain, 1900-1911 and the United States, 1880s-1920," *American Sociological Review* 49 (1984): 726-50.

#Jill Quadagno, "Welfare Capitalism and the Social Security Act of 1935," *American Sociological Review* 49 (1984): 632-47.

#Walter Korpi, "Power, Politics and State Autonomy in the Development of Social Citizenship," *American Sociological Review* 54 (1989): 309-28.

*Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital and European States, A.D. 990-1990* (New York: Blackwell, 1992), pp.1-37.

*Perry Anderson, *Lineages of the Absolutist State* (London: Verso, 1974), pp.15-59.

Recommended reading:

Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, editors, *Bringing the State Back In* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985).

Gosta Esping-Andersen, *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990).

Theda Skocpol, *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1992).

**April 29: The Third Wave, part 1:
Identities, Group Formation, Collective Action, and Revolution**

Reading:

Remaking Modernity, essays by Brubaker, Gould, Sohrabi, Spillman and Faeges

#Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, "Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation," *American Sociological Review* 62 (1997): 465-80.

#Mara Loveman, "Is 'Race' Essential?" *American Sociological Review* 64 (1999): 891-98.

#Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, "The Essential Social Fact of Race" [reply to Loveman], *American Sociological Review* 64 (1999): 899-906.

*Denise Riley, excerpt from "Am I That Name?" *Feminism and the Category of "Women" in History* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1988), pp.96-114 ("Bodies, Identities, Feminisms").

**May 6: The Third Wave, part 2:
States, War and Welfare: Challenging Exclusion and Repression?**

Reading:

Remaking Modernity, essays by Kestnbaum, Orloff, Gorski, Kiser and Baer, Somers

#Ann Shola Orloff "Gender and the Social Rights of Citizenship: The Comparative Analysis of Gender Relations and Welfare States," *American Sociological Review* 58 (1993): 303-28.

#Philip Gorski, "The Protestant Ethic Revisited: Disciplinary Revolution and State Formation in Holland and Prussia," *American Journal of Sociology* 99 (1993): 265-316.

Recommended reading:

#Lynne Haney, "Homeboys, Babies, Men in Suits: The State and the Reproduction of Male Dominance." *American Sociological Review* 61 (1996): 759-78.

#Edgar Kiser and Joachim Schneider, "Bureaucracy and Efficiency: An Analysis of Taxation in Early Modern Prussia," *American Sociological Review* 59 (1994): 187-204.

#Philip Gorski, "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Bureaucracy," *American Sociological Review* 60 (1995): 783-786

#Kiser and Schneider, "Rational Choice versus Cultural Explanations of the Efficiency of the Prussian Tax System," *American Sociological Review* 60(1995): 787-91.

**May 13: The Third Wave, part 3:
Capitalism, Modernity and the Economic Realm**

Guest seminar leader: Professor Bruce Carruthers

Reading:

Remaking Modernity, essays by Emigh, Carruthers, Lo

*Bruce Carruthers, "Frontier Arbitrage," Newsletter of the Section on Comparative and Historical Sociology (American Sociological Association), vol. 17, no.1, Fall 2005, pp.3-6

SHORT CRITICAL ESSAY #2 DUE BY NOON, MAY 20; HARD COPY IN PROFESSOR ORLOFF'S MAILBOX, ALSO POST TO DIGITAL DROPBOX

May 20: The Third Wave, part 4: Agency

Reading:

Remaking Modernity, essay by Biernacki

*Julia Adams, "The Rule of the Father: Patriarchy and Patrimonialism in Early Modern Europe," in *Max Weber at the Millennium: Economy and Society for the 21st Century*, edited by C. Camic, P. Gorski and D. Trubek (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007).

#John W. Meyer and Ronald L. Jeppersen, "The 'Actors' of Modern Society: The Cultural Construction of Social Agency," *Sociological Theory* 18/#1(2000):100-120.

#William H. Sewell, Jr., "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency and Transformation," *American Journal of Sociology* 98(1992): 1-29.

May 27: The Future of Historical and Comparative Sociology

Reading:

Remaking Modernity, essay by Clemens

*Theda Skocpol, "Doubly Engaged Social Science: The Promise of Comparative Historical Analysis," pp. 407-28 in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

#*International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 47/#5 (2006): special forum on *Remaking Modernity*, with essays by Abbott, Charrad, Goldstone, Mahoney, Riley, Roy, Sewell, Wingrove, and Zerilli, and response from Adams, Clemens and Orloff

FINAL PAPER DUE AT NOON, MONDAY, JUNE 2; HARD COPY IN PROFESSOR ORLOFF'S MAILBOX, ALSO POST TO DIGITAL DROPBOX.