

# The New Institutional Behavioralism

**2<sup>nd</sup> term, Academic Year 2023-2024**

**Instructor: Ellen M. Immergut**

**Mondays, 15.00-17.00, Seminar Room 2**

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## Course description

March and Olsen's pathbreaking 1984 article, "The New Institutionalism," launched an institutionalist wave in political science as well as in political sociology. Nearly forty years later, we are in the midst of a behavioralist wave. The question for us now is whether this will be a reverse wave or a wave forward that unites the insights of the institutionalist and behavioralist perspectives. This seminar will take stock of where we are on a meta-theoretical level, drawing both on classical social thought and on recent empirical applications to argue for the great potential inherent in synthesizing these approaches.

The aim of the class is three-fold. One is to familiarize students with foundational classic texts as well as recent publications in sociology and political science that probe the relationship between institutions and social and political behaviour. The second is to help students develop their own research projects by encouraging them to see it through the lenses of institutionalism and behaviouralism. Third, where appropriate, we will discuss the differences, advantages and disadvantages of institutionalist versus behavioralist approaches to social and political phenomena and will seek to bridge these in a new synthesis.

For each session (starting with session 2), we ask students to post a short memo about the readings (or—especially interesting—the relationship amongst the readings). It would be very helpful to receive these by late Sunday night or early Monday morning, as these memos will guide our discussion in the next day's class and are fundamental for a fruitful discussion of the materials.

**Requirements:** readings, participation, weekly memos.

**Learning Outcomes** Understand the distinction between behavioralism and institutionalism, and their theoretical assumptions, including the similarities and differences of the three branches (rational choice, sociological and historical institutionalism). Be able to propose research designs and methodologies derived from these three schools for specific empirical problems. Learn from key examples how to parse the literature and develop a rationale and justification for a dissertation puzzle. Develop a sensitivity to the fit of theoretical model to a given empirical application.

## Preliminary Reading List

***Subject to change!***

### 1. January 8th : Introduction: From Behaviouralism to Institutionalism

- David Easton. (1957). "An Approach to the Analysis of Political Systems." *World Politics*, 9(3 (April)): 383-400.
- Peter A. Hall and Rosemary C. R. Taylor. (1996). "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* 44: 936-57.

## Part 1: Types of Neo-Institutionalism

### 2. January 15th: Sociological Institutionalism

- Walter W. Powell and Paul J. DiMaggio. (1991). "Introduction." In *The New Institutionalism in Organizational Analysis*, ed. Walter W. Powell and Paul J. DiMaggio. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1-38.
- James G. March and Johan P. Olsen. (2008). "The Logic of Appropriateness." In *The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy* ed. Robert Goodin and Michael Moran. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 689-708.
- Gerd Gigerenzer. (2001). "Decision making: Nonrational Theories." *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 5(1): 3304-3309.

### 3. January 22nd: Historical Institutionalism

- Douglass C. North. (1990). *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 3-10, 73-104.
- Kathleen Thelen and Sven Steinmo. (1992). "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics." In *Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis*, ed. Sven Steinmo, Kathleen Thelen and Frank Longstreth. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1-32.

### 4. January 29th: Durkheim I

- Emile Durkheim. (2013 [1984, 1893]). *The Division of Labour in Society* (2nd edn.). Houndsmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, selection. (e-Book)
- Emile Durkheim. (1951 [1897]). *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. NY/UK: Routledge/Free Press, selection. (e-Book on order)

### 5. February 5th: Durkheim II

- Emile Durkheim. (1965). *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*. Trans. Joseph Ward Swain. New York: Free Press, selection. (In Library)
- Pierre Bourdieu. (2010 1984). *Distinction: A Sociological Critique of Taste*, Trans. Richard Nice, London: Routledge, selection. (In Library)

## Part 2: Uniting Institutionalism and Behaviouralism

### 6. February 12th: Classification

- Jenna Burrell and Marion Fourcade. (2021). "The Society of Algorithms." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 47(1): 213-237. doi:10.1146/annurev-soc-090820-020800.

- Marion Fourcade and Keiran Healy. (2013). "Classification Situations: Life-Chances in the Neoliberal Era." *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, 38(8): 559-572. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aos.2013.11.002>.

## 7. February 19th: The Sacred

### Guest: Elisabeth Ivarsflaten (TBC)

- Elisabeth Ivarsflaten and Paul Michael Sniderman (2002). *The Struggle for Inclusion: Muslim Minorities and the Democratic Ethos*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, selection. (e-book)

## 8. February 26th: Solidarity

### Guest: Femke Roosma

- Femke Roosma and Erwin Gielens, "Including the Old and Disabled, Excluding the Unemployed: Europeans' Increased Differentiating in Solidarity with Beneficiaries of Social Policies," ms.
- Anouk Kootstra and Femke Roosma, F. (2018). "Changing public support for welfare sanctioning in Britain and the Netherlands: A persuasion experiment." *Social Policy & Administration*, 52(4): 847-861. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/spol.12401>.
- Tijs Laenen, Arno Van Hoetegem and Federica Rossetti. (2023). "The Multidimensionality of Public Support for Basic Income: A Vignette Experiment in Belgium." *Journal of European Public Policy*, 30(5): 849-872. doi:10.1080/13501763.2022.2055112.

## 9. March 4th: Cleavages I

### Guest: Liesbet Hooghe

- Liesbet Hooghe and Gary Marks, The Social Roots of the Transnational Cleavage: Education, Occupation and Sex, Robert Schumann Centre for Advanced Studies Working Paper, RSC 2022/53.
- Ruth Dassonneville, Liesbet Hooghe and Gary Marks. "Transformation of the Political Space: A Citizens' Perspective." *European Journal of Political Research*, n/a(n/a). doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12590>.
- Liesbet Hooghe, Gary Marks, and Jonne Kamphorst, „Why It Makes sense to Pay Attention to a Person’s Field Alongside their Level of Education: Voting on the Socio-Cultural Divide ,“ ms.

## 10. 11 March: Cleavages II

- Delia Zollinger. "Cleavage Identities in Voters' Own Words: Harnessing Open-Ended Survey Responses." *American Journal of Political Science*, n/a(n/a). doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12743>.
- Bornschie, Simon, Silja Häusermann, Delia Zollinger, Céline Colombo. (2021). How Us and Them Relates to Voting Behavior – Social Structure, Social Identities, and Electoral Choice. *Comparative Political Studies* 54(12): 2087-2122.
- Silja Häusermann Simon Bornschie, (2023). *Democratic Conflict and Polarization: Healthy or Harmful?* UBS Center Public Paper #14. Zürich: University of Zürich Center for Economics in Society.