

Theories and Methods in Research on Political Participation and Associational Life

2003-2004 Seminar – Second Semester – January-April 2003

Donatella Della Porta

Tuesday 15-17

Seminar room 2

(Register with Eva Breivik)

This seminar aims at presenting theories of and methods for the analysis of political participation, collective action, social movements, associations and the like. The first part of the seminar is devoted to the analysis of the main approaches to social movement and their contribution to the analysis of different forms of political participation and associative life. In the second part to methods for empirical research in the field. Each of the four sessions of the second part will focus on a research project in which a specific combination of methods were used in order to discuss characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of each methodology the reading list includes for each session articles that present the chosen methods as well as reports from research using combination of those methods. “Raw” empirical materials (transcripts of life histories, focus groups, judiciary documents, questionnaires, etc.) will be also presented during the sessions.

Participants are expected to give short presentations, when possible linking the methodological discussion with their own research projects.

Session 1. Forms of participation: An introduction

(January 6, 2004)

McAdam, Doug, Sidney Tarrow and Charles Tilly, 2001, *Contentious Politics*, New York, Cambridge University Press, chapters 1 and 2.

Donatella della Porta and M. Diani, *Social Movements: An Introduction*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1999, chapter 1.

Session 2. Conflicts, new conflicts and political participation: between grievances and cleavages

(January 13, 2004)

McAdam, Doug, Sidney Tarrow and Charles Tilly, 2001, *Contentious Politics*, New York, Cambridge University Press, chapter 7.

della Porta, Donatella and M. Diani, *Social Movements: An Introduction*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1999, chapter 2.

Additional reading:

Touraine, Alain et al., *Anti-nuclear Protest*, Cambridge, Cambridge University press, 1983.

Session 3. Framing conflicts; building identities

(January 20, 2004)

Melucci, Alberto, 1989, *Nomads of the Present*, Hutchinson, chap. 1.

Eder, Klaus, 2003, *Identity Mobilization and Democracy: An Ambivalent Relationship*. In Pedro Ibarra (ed.), *Social Movements and Democracy*, New York, Palgrave, pp. 61-80.

Donatella della Porta and M. Diani, *Social Movements: An Introduction*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1999, chapter 3 and 4.

Additional reading:

McAdam, Doug, *Freedom Summer*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1988.

Session 4. Resource mobilization and the organization of political participation

(January 27, 2004)

della Porta, Donatella and M. Diani, *Social Movements: An Introduction*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1999, chapter 5 and 6.

Kitschelt, Herbert, 2003, *Landscape of Political Interest Intermediation: Social Movements, Interest Groups, and Parties in the Early Twenty-First century*, in Pedro Ibarra (ed.), *Social Movements and Democracy*, New York, Palgrave, pp. 81-104.

Diani, Mario, 2004, *Cities in the World: Local Civil Society and Transnational Issues in Britain*, in Donatella della Porta and Sidney Tarrow (eds), *Transnational Activism between the Local and the Global*, Rowman and Littlefield, forthcoming.

Additional reading:

Diani, Mario, *Green Networks*, Edinburg, Edinburg University Press, 1995.

Session 5. Repertoires of political participation

(February 3, 2004)

Donatella della Porta and M. Diani, *Social Movements: An Introduction*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1999, chapter 7.

della Porta, Donatella, 2001, *Social Movements and New Challenges to Representative Democracies*, in „Politique Européenne“, n. 4, pp. 73-103.

Rucht, Dieter, 1998, *The Structure and Culture of Collective Protest in Germany Since the 1950ies*, in David S. Meyer and Sidney Tarrow (eds.), *A Social Movement Society*, New York, Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 29-58.

Additional reading:

Tarrow, Sidney, *Democracy and Disorder*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1989.

Session 6. Shifting opportunities

(February 10, 2004)

Donatella della Porta and M. Diani, *Social Movements: An Introduction*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1999, chapters 8 and 9.

Kriesi, Hanspeter et al., *New Social Movements in Western Europe. A Comparative Analysis*, Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1995, chapter 2.

Additional reading:

Kriesi, Hanspeter et al., *New Social Movements in Western Europe. A Comparative Analysis*, Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1995.

Session 7. The use of life histories in comparative analysis of political violence

(February 17, 2004)

Donatella Della Porta, *Life Histories Analysis of Social Movement Activists*, in M. Diani e R. Eyerman (eds.), *Studying Social Movements*, London, Sage, 1992, pp. 168-193.

Donatella della Porta, *Social Movements, Political Violence and the State*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1995, chapters 6-7.

Donatella della Porta, *Comparative Politics and Social Movements*, in Bert Klandermans and Suzanne Staggenborg (eds), *Methods of Social Movement Research*, Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 2002, pp. 286-313.

Additional reading:

Donatella della Porta, *Social Movements, Political Violence and the State*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Session 8. Combining semi-structured interviews with participant observation in research on the policing of protest

(February 24, 2004)

Blee, Kathleen M. and Verta Taylor, *Semi-Structured Interviewing in Social Movement Research*, in Bert Klandermans and Suzanne Staggenborg (eds), *Methods of Social Movement Research*, Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota Press, 2002, pp. 92-117.

Lichterhan, Paul, 2002, *Seeing Structure Happen: Theory-Driven Participant Observation*, in Bert Klandermans and Suzanne Staggenborg (eds), *Methods of Social Movement Research*, Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota Press, 2002, pp. 118-145.

Donatella della Porta, *Police Knowledge and Protest Policing: Some Reflections on the Italian Case*, in Donatella della Porta and Herbert Reiter (eds), *Policing Protest*, Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1998, pp. 228-252.

Additional readings:

Donatella della Porta and Herbert Reiter (eds), *Policing Protest*, Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1998,

Session 9. Combining focus groups and survey data in research on “global activists”

(March 9, 2004)

Klandermans, Bert and Jackie Smith, *Survey Research: A Case for Comparative Design*, in Bert Klandermans and Suzanne Staggenborg (eds), *Methods of Social Movement Research*, Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota Press, 2002, pp. 3-31.

Touraine, Alain, *The Voice and the Eye. An Analysis of Social Movements*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1981, pp. 139-166.

Donatella della Porta, 2004, *Antipolitics or Other Politics? Transnational Activists between the Global and Local Fora*, in Donatella della Porta and Sidney Tarrow (eds), *Transnational Activism between the Local and the Global*, Rowman and Littlefield, forthcoming

Additional reading:

Donatella della Porta, *Social Movements, Political Violence and the State*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Session 10. Combining protest events and organizational data in the study of protest cycles

(March 16, 2004)

Koopmans, Ruud and Dieter Rucht, *Protest Event Analysis*, in Bert Klandermans and Suzanne Staggenborg (eds), *Methods of Social Movement Research*, Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota Press, 2002, pp. 231-259.

della Porta, Donatella and Sidney Tarrow, 1986, *Unwanted Children. Political Violence and the Cycle of Protest in Italy. 1966-1973*, in "European Journal of Political Research", XIV (1986), 6, pp. 607-632.

della Porta, Donatella and Massimiliano Andretta, 2002, *Social Movements and Public Administration*, in "International Journal of Urban Research", XXVI, n. 2, pp. 244-265.

Additional reading:

Rucht, Dieter (Hg.), *Protest in der Bundesrepublik*, Frankfurt, Campus verlag, 2001.