



Democratization and Social Movements

First Term 2011-2012

Donatella Della Porta

Mondays, 15:00 – 17:00 pm

Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana

20 Credits

Registration with Alessandra.Torre@eui.eu

Notwithstanding the practical and theoretical relevance of the topic, the interactions between civil society and democratization have rarely been addressed in a systematic way. Additionally, even though social movements and civil society organizations are increasingly recognized, in political as well as scientific debates, as important actors in democracies, interactions between research and thinking in the two fields has been rare. The seminar addresses the role of social movements in democratization processes, bridging social sciences approaches to social movements and democracy. With a theoretical interest in the interactions between structure and agency, we shall discuss contributions from the “transitology” approach to democratization and the political process approach to social movements, as well as more innovative approaches in both areas, addressing both structural preconditions as well as the actors’ strategies, and therefore looking at the intersection of structure and agency. We shall address different sub-questions linked to the broad question of social movements’ participation in democratization processes: a) under which (external and internal conditions) do social movements support democratization processes? b) Under which conditions do they mobilize for democracy? c) Under which conditions are they successful in triggering democratization processes? d) And, finally, which are the legacy of the participation of the civil society during transition to democracy on the quality of democracy during consolidation? Various waves and cases of democratization processes will be discussed.

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

As background readings I suggest D. della Porta and M. Diani, *Social Movements*, Blackwell, 2006 (second edition), and C. Welzel, *Theories of Democratization*, in C. Haerpfer, P. Bernhagen, R. Inglehart, and R. Welzel, eds., *Democratization*, Oxford University Press, 2009, 74-90.



Session 1. – 03 October – Social Movement and democratization: An Introduction

Rossi, F. and D. della Porta 2009, 'Social Movement, Trade Unions and Advocacy Networks', in C. Haerpfer, P. Bernhagen, R. Inglehart, and R. Welzel, eds., *Democratization*, Oxford University Press, 2009, pp. 172-195.

Bermeo, N. 1997, 'Myths of Moderation: Confrontation and Conflict during Democratic Transition', *Comparative Politics*, 29: 205-322.

Ulfelder, Jay (2005), 'Contentious collective action and the breakdown of authoritarian regimes', *International Political Science Review*, 26 (3), 311–34.

Session 2. – 10 October – Forms of resistance in Authoritarian Regimes

Boudreau, V. 2004, *Resisting Dictatorship*, Cambridge University Press, chapters 1, 2, 9

Johnston, Hank, 2011, *States and Social Movements*, London, Polity, chap. 4

Bayat, Asef, 1997, *Street Politics. Poor People's Movements in Iran*, New York, Columbia University Press, chap. 1, 8

Session 3. – 17 October – Networks in movements for democracy

Osa, M. 2003, *Networks in Opposition*, in M. Diani and D. McAdam, eds. *Social Movements and Networks*, Oxford University Press, 77-104.

Parsa, Misagh, 2000, *States, ideologies and Social Revolutions. A comparative analysis of Iran, Nicaragua and the Philippines*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, chaps. 1, 8, 9.

Session 4. – 24 October – Democratization and class politics

Collier, R. B. 1999, *Paths toward Democracy*, Cambridge University Press. Introduction and chap. 5.

Rueschemeyer, D., Stephens, E. H., Stephens, J. (1992), *Capitalist Development and Democracy* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press), chaps. 1, 2, 3.

Session 5. – 07 November – Eventful protests for democracy

Beissinger, M. R. 2002, *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State*, Cambridge University Press, chap. 1.

Della Porta, D., *Eventful Protests, Global Conflicts*, in *Distinktion. Scandinavian Journal of Social theory*, no. 17, 2008, pp. 27-26.



Session 6. – 14 November – Transforming identities in mobilization

Wood, E. 2000, *Forging Democracy from Below*, Cambridge University Press, chap. 1, 8.

Session 7. – 21 November – International norms and Diffusion processes

Beissinger, M.R. 2007a., 'Structure and Example in Modular Political Phenomena: The Diffusion of Bulldozer/Rose/Orange/Tulip Revolutions', *Perspectives on Politics* 5: 259–276.

Brysk, A. (1993), 'From Above and Below: Social Movements, the International System, and Human Rights in Argentina', *Comparative Political Studies*, 26/3: 259-85.

Bunce, Valerie and Sharon Wolchik, Transnational Networks, Diffusion Dynamics and Electoral Change in Post-Communist World, in R. C. Givan, K. M. Roberts and S. A. Soule (eds.), *The Diffusion of Social Movements*, Cambridge University Press, 140-162.

Session 8. – 28 November – Civil society organizations after transition

"Shaping the Web of Civic Participation: Civil Society Websites in Eastern Europe." (with Balázs Vedres, and David Stark.) *Journal of Public Policy*, 2006 25(1):149-163.

Eckiert, G. and J. Kubik 1998, 'Contentious Politics in the New Democracies—Eastern Germany, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, 1988-1993', in *World Politics* 50: 547-581

Session 9. – 05 December – Authoritarianism as Reactions to Movement

Slater, Dan, *Ordering Power. Contentious Politics and Authoritarian Leviathans in South-East Asia*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, chaps. 1, 2, 9

Session 10. – 12 December – Deepening Democracy

Avritzer, Leonardo (2002), *Democracy and the Public Space in Latin America*, Princeton University Press, chaps. 1, 6.

Della Porta, Donatella, 2008, *Democracy in Social Movements*, Palgrave, Chaps. Introduction, 2, 3, 4.