



Department of Political and Social Sciences  
*Seminar Fall 2009*

## ***Contentious Politics: Social Movements, Political Violence and Revolutions***

Donatella della Porta, Gerhard Haupt, Steve Smith

Credits: 20 (for both HEC and SPS)

First Term

**Mondays, 3-5, Badia Seminar room 2  
(PLEASE NOTE EXCEPTIONS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS)**

Registration with Monika Rzemieniecka ([monika.rzemieniecka@eui.eu](mailto:monika.rzemieniecka@eui.eu))

The concept of contentious politics, developed among others by the historian and sociologist Charles Tilly, covers different phenomena, such as social movements, political violence and revolution. In this interdisciplinary seminar, jointly organized by HEC and SPS departments, we aim at singling out and discuss some main issues in the research on these topics, with particular attention to the repertoires of collective actions, their historical evolution, causes and consequences.

For the different sessions, we have indicated some assigned readings in history and sociology/political science, which are compulsory for all participants, as well as some introductory readings. Although not compulsory, these will be used to introduce the discussion in each session, which will be chaired by one of the convenors.

**9 October, 3-5 (NOTE: IT IS A FRIDAY and *this session will exceptionally take place in the Theatre*).**

**Session 1. Frame analysis and social movement studies: An assessment  
Guest Speaker: David Snow, University of California at Irvine**

*Assigned readings:*

David A. Snow, Scott C. Byrd, *Ideology, Framing Processes and Islamic Terrorist Movements*

David A. Snow, Rens Vliegthart, Catherine Corrigan-Brown, *Framing the French Riots: A Comparative Study of Frame Variation*

*Introductory reading:*

David A. Snow, *Framing Processes, Ideology and Discursive Fields*, in David A. Snow, Sarah A. Soule & Hanspeter Kriesi (eds.), *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, Oxford, Blackwell

## **12 October. Double session (3-7pm)**

### **Session 2 (3-5 pm). Activists' media strategy**

**Guest Speaker: Robert Hackett, Simon Fraser University**

#### *Assigned readings*

Robert Hackett and William K. Carroll, *Remaking media. The struggle to democratize public communication*, London, Routledge. 2006, Chap. 3. Social movements and public communication

### **Session 3 (5-7pm): Repertories of collective action: Defining Social Movements, Political Violence and Revolutions**

#### *Assigned readings:*

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, 2006, chapter 1 and 7.

Richard Cobb, The Pattern of Popular Protest, 1795-1815, in: the same, *The Police and the People. French Popular Protest 1789-1820*, Oxford 1970, pp. 85-117.

## **16 October, 3-5pm (NOTE: IT IS A FRIDAY)**

### **Session 4. Contesting Media Power**

**Guest Speaker: Nick Couldry, Goldsmith Center for the Study of Global Media and Democracy**

#### *Assigned readings:*

Couldry, Nick: *Theorising Media as Practice*, in Couldry, Nick: *Social Semiotic*, Sheffield Hallam University, 2007

Couldry, Nick: *Towards a post-neoliberal politics*. In: *Voice that matters: Culture and Politics after Neoliberalism (to be published in 2010)*

Couldry, Nick: *Does the media have a future?*

#### *Introductory reading*

William Gamson, *Bystanderds, Public Opinion and the Media*, in David A. Snow, Sarah A. Soule & Hanspeter Kriesi (eds.), *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, Oxford, Blackwell, 2004.

## **19 October**

### **Session 5: Social Structures and Contentious Politics**

#### *Assigned readings:*

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

Friedrich Lenger, 'Beyond exceptionalism: Notes on the artisanal phase of the labour movement in France, England, Germany and the United States', *International Review of Social History* XXXVI (1991), 1-23.

*Introductory texts:*

della Porta, Donatella and M. Diani, *Social Movements: An Introduction*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 2006, chapter 2.

## **26 October**

### **Session 6: Political opportunities and organizational resources**

*Assigned readings:*

Donatella della Porta, Massimiliano Andretta, Lorenzo Mosca and Herbert Reiter, *Globalization from Below*, Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 2006, chap. 6 and 7.

G.V.Rimlinger, Labor and the State on the Continent 1800-1939, in: *Cambridge Economic History of Europe* 8, 1989, 549-606

*Introductory texts:*

Donatella della Porta and M. Diani, *Social Movements: An Introduction*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 2006, chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Elisabeth S. Clemens and Debra C. Minkoff, Beyond the Iron: Rethinking the Place of Organizations in Social Movements, in David A. Snow, Sarag A. Soule & Hanspeter Kriesi (eds.), *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, Oxford, Blackwell, 2004.

## **9 November**

### **Session 7: Identities**

*Assigned readings:*

Donatella della Porta, 2005, *Multiple belongings, tolerant identities and the construction of Another Politics*, in Donatella della Porta and Sidney Tarrow (eds), *Transnational Protest and Global Activism*, New York, Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 175-202.

S. A. Smith, *Like Cattle and Horses: Nationalism and Labor in Shanghai, 1897-1927*, 'Class and National Identities' (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2002), pp.190-213.

*Introductory texts:*

Donatella della Porta and M. Diani, *Social Movements: An Introduction*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 2006, chapter 3 and 4.

Polletta, Francesca and James J. Jasper. 2001. Collective identity and social movements, *Annual review of Sociology*, 27, 283-305.

## **16 November**

### **Session 8: Emotions**

*Assigned readings:*

Donatella della Porta and Marco Giugni, *Emotions in the internal life of global justice movement organizations*, in Donatella della Porta and Dieter Rucht (eds.), *Power and Democracy in Global Justice Movements*, in preparation.

Georges Lefebvre, *The Great Fear of 1789: Rural Panic in Revolutionary France* (London: NLB, 1973), pp.137-62; 202-09.

*Introductory texts:*

Goodwin, Jeff, James M. Jasper and Francesca Polletta, Emotional dimensions of Social Movements, in David A. Snow, Sarah A. Soule & Hanspeter Kriesi (eds.), *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, Oxford, Blackwell, 413-432.

David Ost, *The Defeat of Solidarity : Anger and Politics in Postcommunist Europe* (Cornell University Press, 2005), pp.1-36; 60-68.

**23 November**

**Session 9: Time: eventful protest**

*Assigned readings:*

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

Michelle Perrot, *Les ouvriers en grève: France, 1871-1890* (Paris: Mouton, 1974), tome 2, pp.645-69; 691-700; 714-26 (and also to be recommended are pp.607-43 on 'le discours de la grève')

E.P. Thompson, Time, Work Discipline and Industrial Capitalism, in: *Past and Present* 38, 1967, 56-97

*Introductory texts:*

William Sewell, 1996, Political Events as Structural Transformation, in *Theory and Society*, 25, 841-881.

Gail Hershatter, The Gender of Memory: Rural Women and Collectivization in 1950s China  
<http://www.yale.edu/agrarianstudies/papers/11gender.pdf>

**30 November**

**Session 10: Space: local, national and transnational**

*Assigned readings:*

Juris, Jeffrey S., 2008, *Networking Futures. The movement against corporate globalization*, Duke University Press, chap. 4.

Mayfair Mei-Hui Yang, 'Desacralizing Space: Spatial Struggles: Postcolonial Complex, State Disenchantment, and Popular Reappropriation of Space in Rural Southeast China', *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 63:3, 2004, 719-55.

*Introductory texts*

Donatella della Porta, *Social Movements and Europeanization*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2009, chap. 4 and 5.

Marcel van der Linden, 'Globalizing Labour Historiography: The IISH Approach',  
<http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/10/142.html>