

The New Institutional Behavioralism

2nd term, Academic Year 2024-2025

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. Final deadline for the memos: 12:00. noon on the Monday of the class.

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 6th : 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.

2. January 13th: Historical & Sociological 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.
- 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.

3. January 20th: Durkheim I

- Emile Durkheim. (2013 [1984, 1893]). *The Division of Labour in Society* (2nd edn.). Houndsmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, e-Book, (perhaps look at "Introduction to this Edition" by Steven Lukes and "Introduction to the 1984 Edition" by Lewis Coser), Preface to the First edition (1893), Preface to the Second Edition (1902); Book III chapter 1 The Anomic Division of Labor, Conclusion.
- Emile Durkheim. (1951 [1897]). *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. NY/UK: Routledge/Free Press, E-book, Durkheim's Introduction; Book I Chapter 4 section IV; (if interested in role of religion, skim through Book II, Chapter 2, Sections I, II, III); Book II, Chapter 5 Anomic Suicide (all, but don't get bogged down in statistical details); Book III, Chapter 1 The Social Element of Suicide).

4. January 27th: Durkheim II

- Emile Durkheim. ([1912] 1976). *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*. Trans. Joseph Ward Swain. London: George, Allen & Unwin, Introduction, pp. 1-20; Book I Chapter 1, Section III, pp. 36-42; Book II, Chapters 2 & 3, pp. 128-156; Book II, Chapter VII, pp. 205-239; Book III, Chapter III, pp. 351-369.
- Linus Westheuser and Delia Zollinger. (2024). "Cleavage Theory Meets Bourdieu: Studying the Role of Group Identities in Cleavage Formation." *European Political Science Review*. Published online 2024:1-18. doi:10.1017/S1755773924000249.

5. February 3th: The Sacred

Guest: Elisabeth Ivarsflaten

- Elisabeth Ivarsflaten and Paul Michael Sniderman (2002). *The Struggle for Inclusion: Muslim Minorities and the Democratic Ethos*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, e-Book, focus on Chapters 1; 3; 7. (The others could be read depending on interest (for islamophobia and discrimination ch2; speech ch4; national identity ch5; participation ch6; political consequences and conjectures ch 8.)

6. February 10th: Solidarity

- Femke Roosma and Erwin Gielens. (2024). "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 Hootegeem 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.

7. February 17th: Bordieu

- Pierre Bourdieu. ([1979] 2010, 1984). *Distinction: A Sociological Critique of Taste*, Trans. Richard Nice, London: Routledge, Part I, Chapter 1, Section 1, pp. 3.-9; Part II, Chapters 2-4, pp. 93-222; beginning of chapter 4, pp. 223-231 (skim to get main ideas, technique).

8. February 24th: Cleavages I

Guest: Delia Zollinger

- Delia Zollinger and David Attewell, "Updating Cleavage Theory for the 21st Century," September 2024, *under review*.
- Delia Zollinger. (2024). "Cleavage Identities in Voters' own Words: Harnessing Open-Ended Survey Responses." *American Journal of Political Science*, 68(1), 139-159.
- David Attewell and Delia Zollinger. (2024). "Educational Networks, Social Closure, and Cleavage Stabilization." Paper prepared for presentation at the 2024 American Political Science Association Meetings, Philadelphia, PA, 5-8 September 2024.

9. March 3th: Cleavages II

- Simon Bornschier, Lukas Haffert, Silja Häusermann, Marco Steenbergen and Delia Zollinger. (2024). *Cleavage Formation in the 21st Century: How Social Identities Shape Voting Behavior in Contexts of Electoral Realignment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Reto Bürgisser, Fabienne Eisenring, Silja Häusermann. (2024). "Recognition or Redistribution: What Knowledge Economy Losers Expect from Labor Market Policies," ms.

10. March 10th: Wrap Up and Conclusions