

**SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS:  
COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON THE STATE  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 518  
FALL 2007**

Professor: Mona Lena Krook  
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Course Time: Tuesdays, 1-3 PM  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4-6 PM,  
or by appointment

### **Course Description**

This course surveys traditional and more recent comparative research on the state, covering such issues as state formation, state-society relations, development and erosion of welfare states, globalization and state capacity, and states in emerging patterns of multi-level governance. It will draw on material from developed and developing countries, as well as from democratic and non-democratic states.

### **Course Requirements**

This course aims to introduce you to basic debates informing comparative research on the state. It also seeks to 'socialize' you into the field of political science through two sets of course assignments:

- 1) **Acting as a peer-reviewer** (30%) You will act as a co-reviewer (along with me) on your fellow students' work as it develops over the course of the semester.
- 2) **Writing an article-length paper** (70%) You will write an article-length paper on some aspect of the state in stages over the course of the semester. Deadlines: a paper proposal on October 2, a first section on October 30, a second section on November 27, and the final paper on December 19.

### **Required Texts**

All of the readings will be available on ERes (password "state"), with the exception of six books that are available for purchase at the campus bookstore:

Anderson, Benedict. 1983. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso.

Evans, Peter H., Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds. 1985. *Bringing the State Back In*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Gellner, Ernest. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Hertel, Shareen. 2006. *Unexpected Power: Conflict and Change Among Transnational Activists*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Scott, James C. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Tarrow, Sidney. 2005. *The New Transnational Activism*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### **September 4: Genealogy of the State Concept in Political Science**

No assigned reading – discussion of course aims and introduction to the state concept.

## **ORIGINS OF THE STATE**

### **September 11: State Formation and Capacity-Building**

Spruyt, Hendrik. 1994. *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-7, 34-57, 153-180.

Tilly, Charles. 1990. *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1992*. Cambridge: Blackwell, pp. 1-37.

Skowronek, Stephen. 1982. *Building A New American State: The Expansion of National Administrative Capacities, 1877-1920*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-35, 39-46, 165-176.

De Swaan, Abram. 1988. *In Care of the State: Health Care, Education, and Welfare in Europe and the USA in the Modern Era*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-12, 218-257.

## **STATE-SOCIETY RELATIONS**

### **September 18: Marxism and the Relative Autonomy of the State**

Gramsci, Antonio. 1971. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*. Edited and translated by Quintin Hoare and Geoffrey Nowell Smith. New York: International Publishers, pp. 123-205, 257-276.

Althusser, Louis. 1971. *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*. Trans. Ben Brewster. New York: Monthly Review Press, pp. 127-186.

Poulantzas, Nicos. 1978. *State, Power, Socialism*. Trans. Patrick Camiller. New York: Verso, pp. 11-46, 49-53, 123-126.

### **September 25: Bringing the State Back In**

Evans, Peter H., Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds. 1985. *Bringing the State Back In*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-37, 39-43, 165-168, 347-366.

Almond, Gabriel A. 1988. "The Return of the State." *American Political Science Review* 82, no. 3: 853-874.

Cammack, Paul. 1989. "Review Article: Bringing the State Back In?" *British Journal of Political Science* 19, no. 2: 261-290.

Krasner, Stephen D. 1984. "Approaches to the State: Alternative Conceptions and Historical Dynamics." *Comparative Politics* 16, no. 2: 223-246.

## **October 2: States and Limits to the Organization of Society**

Scott, James C. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 1-8, 53-83, 87-102, 183-191, 309-357.

Migdal, Joel. 1988. *Strong Societies and Weak States: State-Society Relations and State Capabilities in the Third World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-44, 238-278.

Mann, Michael. 1984. "The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms and Results." *Archives Européennes de Sociologie* XXV: 185-213.

## **October 9: States and the Creation of National Identities**

Anderson, Benedict. 1983. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso, pp. 1-140.

Gellner, Ernest. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 1-7, 39-62, 88-109.

Weber, Eugen. 1976. *Peasants into Frenchmen: The Modernization of Rural France 1870-1914*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 485-496.

Marx, Anthony W. 1998. *Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of the United States, South Africa, and Brazil*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-25, 267-278.

## **October 16: States and Societies as Mutual Political Actors**

Evans, Peter. 1995. *Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-73, 227-250.

Migdal, Joel S. 2001. *State in Society: Studying How States and Societies Transform and Constitute One Another*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-94.

Mitchell, Timothy. 1991. "The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and Their Critics." *American Political Science Review* 85, no. 1: 77-96.

## **DEVELOPMENT AND EROSION OF WELFARE STATES**

### **October 23: Origins and Types of Welfare States**

Polanyi, Karl. 1944. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Boston: Beacon Press, pp. 3-19, 56-85.

Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 1-34.

Orloff, Ann Shola. 1993. "Gender and the Social Rights of Citizenship: The Comparative Analysis of Gender Relations and Welfare States." *American Sociological Review* 58, no. 3: 303-328.

Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1999. *Social Foundations of Postindustrial Economies*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-12, 73-94.

### **October 30: The Rise and Fall of Developmental States**

Woo-Cummings, Meredith, ed. 1999. *The Developmental State*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 32-60, 137-181, 276-305.

White, Gordon and Mark Robinson, eds. 1999. *The Democratic Developmental State: Politics and Institutional Design*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 52-83, 150-186, 280-305.

Ó Riain, Seán. 2000. "The Flexible Developmental State: Globalization, Information Technology, and the 'Celtic Tiger.'" *Politics & Society* 28, no. 2: 157-193.

### **November 6: Dynamics of Welfare State Retrenchment**

Offe, Claus. 1984. "Theses on the Theory of the State." Pp. 119-129 in *Contradictions of the Welfare State*, ed. John Keane. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Pierson, Paul. 1996. "The New Politics of the Welfare State." *World Politics* 48, no. 2: 143-179.

Huber, Evelyne and John D. Stephens. 2001. *Development and Crisis of the Welfare State: Parties and Policies in Global Markets*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 202-311.

Rudra, Nita. 2002. "Globalization and the Decline of the Welfare State in Less-Developed Countries." *International Organization* 56, no. 2: 411-445.

## **GLOBALIZATION AND STATE CAPACITY**

### **November 13: The State in World Politics**

Kahler, Miles. 2002. "The State of the State in World Politics." Pp. 56-83 in *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*, ed. Ira Katznelson and Helen V. Milner. New York: W. W. Norton.

Evans, Peter. 1997. "The Eclipse of the State? Reflections on Stateness in an Era of Globalization." *World Politics* 50, no. 1: 62-87.

Risse, Thomas, Stephen C. Ropp, and Kathryn Sikkink, eds. 1999. *The Power of Human Rights: International Norms and Domestic Change*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-38, 234-278.

Kantola, Johanna. 2007. "The Gendered Reproduction of the State in International Relations." *British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 9, no. 2: 270-283.

### **November 20: NO CLASS**

## **November 27: States and Transnational Activism**

Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1-38, 199-217.

Hertel, Shareen. 2006. *Unexpected Power: Conflict and Change Among Transnational Activists*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 1-112.

Tarrow, Sidney. 2005. *The New Transnational Activism*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 15-34, 59-76, 120-179.

## **December 4: States and Emerging Patterns of Multi-Level Governance**

Banaszak, Lee Ann, Karen Beckwith, and Dieter Rucht. 2003. "When Power Relocates: Interactive Changes in Women's Movements and States." Pp. 1-29 in *Women's Movements Facing the Reconfigured State*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Hooghe, Liesbet and Gary Marks. 2003. "Unraveling the Central State, but How? Types of Multi-Level Governance." *American Political Science Review* 97, no. 2: 233-243.

Hooghe, Liesbet and Gary Marks. 2000. *Multi-Level Governance and European Integration*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 1-32, 69-80, 143-162.

Börzel, Tanja A. 2002. *States and Regions in the European Union: Institutional Adaptation in Germany and Spain*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 211-233.