

## SOCIOLOGY 401 INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS

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**M: 6:10 – 9:00**  
**Office Hours: tba**

**Course description:** This is an advanced treatment of the theory and empirical practice of institutional analysis in sociology and related fields. Part one of the course focuses on three core approaches—economic or rational choice institutionalism, historical institutionalism, and sociological/organizational institutionalism—working through classic statements and then important elaborations. Of central interests here are the different mechanisms by which institutions promote order, stability and distinctive patterns of behavior, policy and organization. Topics covered included path dependence, isomorphism, "lock in," structure-induced equilibria, institutional contingency, diffusion, and globalization. Part two of the course focuses on more recent, cutting edge work on the creation, emergence, reproduction and transformation of institutions, tackling the thorny problems of how explain institutional building and change without abandoning the contextual insights of institutional analysis. Topics covered include punctuated equilibria versus evolutionary theories of change, the microdynamics of institutional work, institutionalization and change, and processes of transposition, theorization and translation. Here, we will be particularly interested in how recent work on the institutional emergence and change takes into account the preexisting structure of institutions or fields, and the interactions between conventional institutional dynamics and more political processes grounded in mobilization, contestation and collective action.

**Course prerequisite:** Sociology 211, Introduction to Sociology and one upper division class in sociology, or consent of the instructor.

**Course assignments:** This is a reading intensive seminar that will proceed entirely by discussions of materials supported by regular reading memos. One to two page memos are due each week for the first half of the semester. Three to four somewhat longer reading memos of three to five pages will be due roughly every other week for the second half of the semester. There are no other papers or exams. Late work will not be accepted.

**Readings:** The following books are available at the Reed College bookstore and are on reserve. Additional readings listed below are available though JSTOR or the moodle.

- Paul Pierson. 2004. *Politics in Time*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- W. R. Scott, Martin Ruef, Peter J. Mendel, and Carol A. Caronna. 2000. *Institutional Change and Healthcare Organizations*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Patricia Thornton, William Ocasio and Michael Lounsbury. 2012. *The Institutional Logics Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- John Padgett and Walter Powell. 2012. *The Emergence of Markets and Organizations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Neil Fligstein and Doug McAdam. 2012. *A Theory of Fields*. Oxford: Oxford Press.

## **READING ASSIGNMENTS**

### **PART I THE NEW INSTITUTIONALISMS: CORE APPROACHES AND ELABORATIONS**

#### **Week 1: (September 9)**

*Rational choice/economic institutionalism: classic statements*

Williamson, O. 1981. "The Economics of Organization: The Transaction Cost Approach." *American Journal of Sociology* 87: 548-77.

Barry Weingast and W. Marshall. 1988. "The Industrial Organization of Congress; Or Why Legislatures, Like Firms, Are Not Organized Like Markets." *Journal of Political Economy* 1: 132-63.

North Douglass and B Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth Century England." *The Journal of Economic History* 4: 803-32.

Gary Leibcap, G. 2007. "The Assignment of Property Rights on the Western Frontier: Lessons for Contemporary Environmental and Resource Policy" *Journal of Economic History* 67: 257-91.

George Akerloff. 1970. "The Market for "Lemons": Quality Uncertainty and the Market Mechanism." *The Quarterly of Economics* 84: 488-500.

#### **Week 2: (September 16)**

*Elaborations: Institutions as equilibria, endogenous change, modernity*

Avner Greif. 2006. *Institutions and the Path to the Modern Economy*.  
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-4, 6, 8, 10.

#### **Week 3: (September 23)**

*Historical Institutionalism: Institutions as context, comparative structuralism*

Dunlavy, Colleen. 1992. "Political Structure, State Policy and Industrial Change: Early Railroad Policy in the United States and Prussia." In *Structuring Politics*.

Immergut, Ellen. 1992. "The Rules of the Game: The Logic of Health Policy-Making in France, Switzerland, and Sweden." In *Structuring Politics*

Steinmo, S and Jon Watts. 1995. "It's the Institutions, Stupid!: Why the United States Can't Pass Comprehensive National Health Insurance" *Journal of Health Politics Policy and Law* 2: 329-372.

Colin Crouch. 1985. "Conditions for Trade Union Wage Restraint," in L.N.Lindberg and C.S. Maier (eds) *The Politics of Inflation and Economic Stagnation*. Washington DC: Brookings.

Peter Hall and David Soskice. 2001. "An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism," In *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kathleen Thelen. 2001. "Varieties of Labor Politics in the Developed Democracies," in *Varieties of Capitalism*.

Margarita Estevez-Abe, Torben Iversen and Davide Soskice. 2001. "Social Protection and the Formation of Skills: A Reinterpretation of the Welfare State," in *Varieties of Capitalism*

#### **Week 4:** (September 30)

*Elaborations: path dependence, time and institutional development*

Paul Pierson, *Politics in Time*, chapters 1-6 no

Jacob Hacker. 1998. "The Historical Logic of National Health Insurance: Sequence and Structure in the Development of British, Canadian and US Medical Policy. *Studies in American Political Development* 12: 57-130.

#### **Week 5:** (October 7)

*Sociological/Organizational Institutionalism: Classic statements, modernity*

Meyer, J. and B. Rowan. 1977. "Institutionalized Organizations: Formal Structure as Myth and Ceremony." *American Journal of Sociology* 83: 340-63.

DiMaggio, P and WW Powell. 1983. "The Iron Cage Revisited: Institutional Isomorphism and Collective Rationality in Organizational Fields." *American Sociological Review* 48: 147-160.

Tolbert, P., and L Zucker. 1983. "Institutional Sources of Change in the Formal Structure of Organizations: The Diffusion of Civil Service Reform, 1880-1935." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 28: 22-39.

John Meyer, John Boli, George M. Thomas, and Francisco O. Ramirez. 1997. "World Society and the Nation-State." *American Journal of Sociology* 103: 144-81.

Schofer, Evan and John Meyer. 2005. "The Worldwide Expansion of Higher Education in the Twentieth Century." *American Sociological Review* 70: 898-920. (Reserve folder).

Schneiberg, M, and E Clemens. 2006. "The Typical Tools for the Job: Research Strategies in Institutional Analysis." *Sociological Theory* 3: 195-227.

**Week 6:** (October 14)

*Elaboration: Shifts in Logics and Institutional Contingency*

W. Richard Scott, M Ruef, PJ Mendel, and C Caronna. 2000. *Institutional Change and Healthcare Organizations*: Chapters 6, 7, 9, 10.

Patricia Thornton and William Ocasio. 1999. "Institutional Logics and the Historical Contingency of Power: Executive Succession in the Higher Education Publication Industry, 1958-1990." *American Journal of Sociology* 3: 801-43

**Fall break: October 19-27**

**PART II  
INSTITUTIONAL EMERGENCE AND CHANGE: CUTTING EDGES**

**Week 7** (October 28)

*Institutional Fields*

Fligstein and McAdam. *A Theory of Fields*. Entire

**Week 8:** (November 4)

*Field creation, institution building and change: empirical studies I*

Ferguson, P. 1998. "A Cultural Field in the Making: Gastronomy in 19<sup>th</sup> Century France." *American Journal of Sociology* 104: 597-641

Rao H., P. Monin and Rodolphe Durand. 2003. "Institutional Change in Touque Ville: Nouvelle Cuisine as an Identity Movement in French Gastronomy." *American Journal of Sociology* 4: 795-843.

Briscoe, F. & Safford, S. 2008. The Nixon in China effect: activism, imitation and the institutionalization of contentious practices. *Administrative Science Quarterly* 53, 460-91.

WE Douglas Creed and Maureen Scully. 2000. "Songs of Ourselves: Employees' Deployment of Social Identity in Workplace Encounters." *Journal of Management Inquiry* 9: 391-412

**Week 9:** (November 11)

*Field creation, institution building and change: empirical studies II*

Marc Schneiberg and Sarah Soule. 2005. "Institutionalization as a Contested, Multi-level Process:" Pp. 122-160 in *Social Movements and Organizations*, edited by Mayer Zald, WR Scott and Jerald Davis. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Colyvas, Jeannette A. 2007. From Divergent Meanings to Common Practices: The Early Institutionalization of Technology Transfer in the Life Sciences at Stanford University. *Research Policy* 36: 456-476.

Colyvas, Jeanette and Stefan Jonnson. 2011. Ubiquity and Legitimacy: Disentangling Diffusion and Institutionalization." *Sociological Theory* 29: 29-54

Strang, D and John Meyer. 1993. "Institutional Conditions for Diffusion." *Theory and Society* 22: 487-511.

Clemens, Elizabeth and James Cook. 1999. "Politics and Institutionalism: Explaining Durability and Change." *Annual Review of Sociology* 25: 441-66.

**Week 10:** (November 18)

*Institutional Logics*

Thornton, Ocasio and Lounsbury. *The Institutional Logics Perspective*

**Week 11:** (November 25)

*Field creation, institution building and change: empirical studies III*

Schneiberg, M. 2007. "What's on the Path? Path Dependence, Organizational Diversity and the Problem of Institutional Change in the US Economy." *Socio-Economic Review*, 5:47-80.

Morrill, Calvin. 2006. "Institutional Change and Interstitial Emergence: The Growth of Alternative Dispute Resolution in American Law, 1965-1995." In *How Institutions Change*, edited by W. Powell and D. Jones. Chicago: University of Chicago.

Zilber, Tammar. 2002. "Institutionalization as an Interplay between Actions, Meanings, and Actors: The Case of a Rape Crisis Center in Israel." *Academy of Management Journal*, 45: 234-254

Pache, Anne-Claire and Filipe Santos. 2013. "Inside the Hybrid Organization: Selective Coupling as a Response to Competing Logics." *Academy of Management Journal*, 56: 972-1001.

Binder, Amy. 2007. "For love and money: Organizations' creative response to multiple institutional logics." *Theory and Society*, 35: 547-571.

Charlene Zietsma and Thomas Lawrence. 2010. "Institutional Work in the Transformation of an Organizational Field: The Interplay of Boundary Work and Practice Work." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 55: 189-221.

**Week 12:** (December 2)

*Institutional and Organizational Genesis*

John Padgett and Walter Powell. 2012. *The Emergence of Markets and Organizations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1, 5, 6

**Week 13:** (December 9)

*Institutional and Organizational Genesis, cont'd*

Powell and Padgett. 2012. *Emergence*. Chapters 13, 14, 16