Postgraduate Seminar: “Collective Action and Social Movements”

Nikos Serdedakis

**Abstract**

In this seminar, social movements are understood as a particular modern form of popular protest and collective claim-making. Since the formation of modern nation-states, during the 19th century, social movements emerged in the public sphere as an attempt of social groups, unrepresented or excluded from decision-making processes, to claim recognition, to express their discontent around various aspects of everyday life and to voice their latent political power against the ruling elites. Throughout the course meetings, we will attempt a dense reconstruction of the periods of the modern capitalist world-system, focusing on the most characteristic social movements emerged in the *longue duree*, their social base, the content of collective claim making and their distinctive repertoires of collective action. In this context, the main theoretical perspectives and research programs on collective action and social movements will be discussed, taking into account their construction in diversified cultural, social, and political settings.

The seminar aims to familiarize students with theoretical currents that attempt to interpret collective action, the rise and the trajectory of traditional and “new” social movements. Focusing on mainstream theories and research projects in the sociology of collective action, students will be able to identify: a) the main research questions advanced by the researchers in the field, b) the methods and research programs that have been set up for the study of collective action, c) the critiques that tend to deconstruct them, opening new perspectives for theoretical reflection and empirical research, and d) the cultural, social and political context in which the dominant theories emerge.

**Thematic focus**

**1. Collective behavior theories.**

a) Gary Marx and Douglas Mc Adam, “The Study of Collective Behavior”, στο Gary Marx and Douglas Mc Adam, *Collective Behavior and Social Movements*, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1987, σελ. 1-24.

b) David Snow, Pamela E. Oliver, «Social Movements and Collective Behavior. Social Psychological Dimensions and Considerations», στο Cook K.S., Fine G.A., House J.S., (eds.), *Sociological Perspectives on Social Psychology*, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1995, σελ 571-599.

c) Steven M. Bouchler, «The Strange Career of Strain and Breakdown Theories of Collective Action», στο David Snow, Sarah Soule & Hanspeter Kriesi, *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004, 47-66.

**2. Rational choice theories: resource mobilization theory.**

a) John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald., «Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory», *American Journal of Sociology* 82: 1212-1241.

b) Craig J. Jenkins, «Resource Mobilization Theory and the Study of Social Movements», *Annual Review of Sociology* 9: 527-553.

c) Bob Edwards and John D. McCarthy, «Resources and Social Movement Mobilization», στο David Snow, Sarah Soule & Hanspeter Kriesi, *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004, 116-152.

**3. New social movements perspective.**

a) Hank Johnston, Enrique Laraña, Joseph R. Gusfield, «Identities, Grievances and New Social Movements, στο, των ιδίων, *New Social Movements. From* *Ideology* *to* *Identity*, Philadelphia, Temple University Press, 1994, σελ. 3-35.

b) Alberto Melucci, «The Process of Collective Identity», στο Hank Johnston and Bert Klandermans, (eds.), *Social Movements and Culture*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1995, σελ. 41-63.

**4. Value change and collective action framing.**

a) Ronald Inglehart, «Changing Values in Post-Industrial Societies», (απόσπασμα από το *The Silent Revolution*) στο Jeff Goodwin, James M. Jasper, *The Social Movements Reader. Cases and Concepts*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2003, 64-80.

b) David Snow, Robert D. Benford, «Master Frames and Cycles of Protest», στο Aldon D. Morris and Carol McClurg Mueller, (eds.), *Frontiers in Social Movement Theory*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992, σελ. 133-155.

c) Robert D. Benford, David Snow, «Framing Processes and Social Movements: An Overview and Assessment», *Annual Review of Sociology*, 26: 611-639, 2000.

d) David Snow, «Framing Processes, Ideology, and Discursive Fields», στο David Snow, Sarah Soule & Hanspeter Kriesi, *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004, σελ. 380-412.

**5. Political context and social movements: Political process theory.**

a) Doug McAdam, *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1982, το κεφάλαιο 3: «The Political Process Model», σελ. 36-59.

b) Doug McAdam, John D. McCarthy, Mayer N. Zald, «Introduction: Opportunities, mobilizing structures, and framing processes – toward a synthetic, comparative perspective on social movements», στο των ιδίων, (eds.), *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements. Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings*, Cambridge University Press, 1996, σελ. 1-20.

c) Sidney Tarrow, *Power in Movement*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998, το κεφάλαιο 5: «Political Opportunities and Constraints», σελ. 71-90 και το κεφάλαιο 9: «Cycles of Contention», σελ. 141-160.

d) David S. Meyer, Sidney Tarrow, «A Movement Society: Contentious Politics for a New Century», στο των ιδίων, (eds.), *The Social Movement Society. Contentious Politics for a New Century*, Boulder, CO: Rowman & Littlefield, 1998, σελ. 1-28.

**6. Cultural perspectives in the study of social movements.**

a) James M. Jasper, *The Art of Moral Protest*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1997, το κεφάλαιο 3: «Basic Dimensions of Protest», σελ. 43-68.

b) Ann Swidler, «Cultural Power and Social Movements», στο Hank Johnston and Bert Clandermans, *Social Movements and Culture*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1995, σελ. 25-40.

c) Joseph E. Davis, «Narrative and Social Movements. The Power of Stories», στο του ιδίου (ed.), *Stories of Change. Narrative and Social Movements*, Albany: State University of New York Press, 2002, σελ. 3-29.

d) Jeff Goodwin, James M. Jaspers, and Francesca Polletta, «Emotional Dimensions of Social Movements», στο David Snow, Sarah Soule & Hanspeter Kriesi, *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004, σελ. 413-432.

**7. Contentious politics.**

a) Sidney Tarrow, «Paradigm Warriors: Regress and Progress in the Study of Contentious Politics, *Sociological Forum*, 14(1): 71-77.

b) Jack A. Goldstone, «Social Movements or Revolutions? On the Evolution and Outcomes of Collective Action», στο Marco Giugni, Doug McAdam, Charles Tilly, *From Contention to Democracy*, Boulder, CO: Rowman & Littlefield, 1998, σελ. 125-145.

c) Charles Tilly, *Κοινωνικά Κινήματα 1768-2004*, Σαβάλλας: Αθήνα, 2007, τα κεφάλαια 1, 6 και 7, σελ. 15-46 και 282-356.

d) Charles Tilly and Sidney Tarrow, *Contentious Politics*, Boulder: Paradigm Publishers, 2007, τα κεφάλαια 1, 2 και 6, σελ. 1-43 και 111-133.