András Kovács: Nationalism, national identity, national feeling: the sociological and socio-psychological approach

Fall semester, 2015

Core course, 4 credits

Course description

The course will concentrate on the most influential sociological and social-psychological theories of nationalism, national, ethnic, supranational and transnational identity, national feeling, majority-minority relations and ethnic conflicts. After a general introduction, the lectures will deal with sociological and socio-psychological theories on different patterns of identities, with the theoretical interpretations of group relations, like assimilation, dissimilation, and, finally, with the sociology and social-psychology of attitudes, stereotyping, prejudice. Special attention will be given to the methods of empirical sociological investigation of the subject.

Requirements

Students registered for this course are expected to attend class regularly, read the assigned readings every week and participate in class discussions. All students are expected to present at least two texts as introduction to the discussion on the given subject. The presentations should be summarized on a handout, 1-2 pages in length. The summaries should incorporate critical reactions to the readings and can also include issues that were raised in prior classes and readings. These comments are intended to help students clarify their own thinking and to raise issues that help to structure the class discussion. The handouts should be submitted by email by 10 am two days before the corresponding class.

The participants of the course will also be required to prepare a final paper or a Student Research Project (ca. 10 typewritten double spaced pages) on a subject connected to the topics discussed in the course. The literature for the final paper should be based on the common readings and on individual research.

Course evaluation

Class participation and activity: 20%
In-class presentation: 30%
Final paper: 50%
Outline of the course

1. week    - Introduction;

2 – 4. week - Identity, group identity, ethnicity, ethnic identity: concepts and debates
   Readings:
   Tajfel(1), Sarbin-Scheibe, Brubaker–Cooper, Bar-Tal, Brubaker 1, Calhoun – Brubaker debate, Gans , Brubaker2

5 – 7. Week - National identity, religious identity, nationalism, patriotism, supranational identity
   Readings:
   a) Smith 1, Guibernau, Brubaker 3,
   b) Dekker et al., Shulman, Schatz, Weiss,
   c) Smith 2., Chryssochoou, Portes1, Portes2

8 - 9. week - Social groups, intergroup relations, majority, minority, assimilation, cultural pluralism
   Readings:
   a) Tajfel 2, Tajfel 3.
   b) Gordon, Morawska, Gans, Brubaker

10 -11. week - Ethnic and national stereotypes and prejudices
   Readings:
   a) Allport, Tajfel 4. (Ch.7), Bobo,
   b) Phalet-Poppe, Eagly-Kite, Green-Seher

12. week    - Summing up

Literature

1. Identity, social identity, ethnic, national and supranational identity;

A)
- Henri Tajfel: Ch. 12, Social categorization, social identity and social comparison
- Daniel Bar-Tal: Group Beliefs as an Expression of social identity.

-- Rogers Brubaker – Frederick Cooper: Beyond ‘Identity’.
   In: Theory and Society. See Introductory reader.

- Rogers Brubaker: Ethnicity without groups. (Brubaker 1.)


- Rogers Brubaker: Neither individualism, nor ‘groupism’. A reply to Craig

- Craig Calhoun: The Variability of Belonging: A Reply to Rogers Brubaker.


-Rogers Brubaker, Ethnicity in Post-Cold War Europe, East and West,
   In: in Ethnic Europe: Mobility, Identity, and Conflict in a Globalized World, ed.
   Roland Hsu (Stanford University Press, 2010, pp. 44-62). (Brubaker 2)

B)

  Ch.4. p. 71-98

- Montserrat Guibernau: Anthony D. Smith on nations and national identity: a critical

- Rogers Brubaker: Religion and Nationalism: Four Approaches (Brubaker 3.)

C)


- Stephen Shulman: Challenging the civic/ethnic and West/East dichotomies in the study of nationalism.

- Robert T. Schatz, Ervin Staub, Howard Lavine: On the Varieties of National
  Attachment: Blind Versus Constructive Patriotism.

- Hilde Weiss: A Cross-National Comparison of Nationalism in Austria, the Czech and
  Slovak Republics, Hungary, and Poland.

D)

- Anthony D. Smith: A Europe of Nations. Or the Nation of Europe?

- Xenia Chryssochoou: Memberships in a superordinate level: re-thinking European
  Union as a multi-national society.

2. Social groups, intergroup relations, majority, minority, conflict, assimilation, pluralism

A)

- Henri Tajfel: The attributes of intergroup behaviour.
- Henri Tajfel: The social psychology of minorities.

B)

  Oxford Univ. Press, New York, 1976. Ch. 3.; 5.; p. 60-83; 115-159.;
- Rogers Brubaker: The return of assimilation? Changing perspectives on immigration and its sequels in France, Germany and the United States. (Brubaker 3.)

3. Ethnic and national stereotypes, prejudices

A)

  Addison-Wesley, Reading, Mass. 1954 (first edition); Part I. Ch. 1-3. (pp. 3-46).
- Henri Tajfel: Social stereotypes and social groups.

B)

- A.H. Eagly-M.E. Kite: Are Stereotypes of Nationalities Applied to Both Women and Men?
- Donald P. Green and Rachel L. Seher: What role does prejudice play in ethnic conflict?