

SYLLABUS

Political Science 761 - Political Psychology and Constructivism in International Politics

Professors Sylvan and Hopf

Winter Quarter, 2004

Tuesdays 3:30 - 6:30 pm; Derby Hall 62

Hopf Office: 2176 Derby Hall

Hopf telephone: 292 3392

Hopf office hours: 230-430p, Thursdays

Sylvan Office: 2032 Derby Hall

Sylvan telephone: 292-3235

Sylvan Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30 - 4:15 pm and by appointment

Description:

This graduate seminar explores the intellectual links between international relations scholarship that adopts a social constructivist perspective, and IR scholarship that falls under the rubric of political psychology. Among the questions that will be addressed are

If it is reasonable to assert that social and cognitive psychology have no social theory animating them, what role can social constructivist work in IR play to fill this void?

If it is also reasonable to assert that much social constructivist work has difficulty speaking to the role and action of individuals, is there a way that scholarship in political psychology can help address that weakness?

Course Paper Assignment

Students are to address a specific political (IR) puzzle that has the potential to draw upon both political psychological and constructivist approaches. The paper should then propose a research design to address the puzzle, and then explicitly discuss in what ways the two approaches would complement/contradict each other.

Papers should be typed, approximately 15 - 20 pages long, and **due on March 12.**

The paper will count for two-thirds of the course grade, with class discussion and preparedness accounting for the remaining one third of the grade.

READINGS:

Students are expected to read all materials listed under "required readings." We will discuss in class a number of alternative means available for students to obtain and read these materials. For the weeks where there are "supplementary readings," one student will be responsible for summarizing that reading in writing and getting the summary to other students in the class (most easily by email) by 9am on the day of the class.

COURSE INTRODUCTION: What are we doing here?

Date: January 6

Hopf and Sylvan offer an overview of constructivism and political psychology and IR theory.

TOPIC 1: A Few Readings from Psychology

Dates: January 13 and 20

Presenter(s): _____

Required Readings:

1. Heuristics, framing and representativeness

Kahneman, Daniel and Amos Tversky, "Prospect Theory: An Analysis of Decision under Risk," Econometrica Vol. 47, 1979, pp. 263-291.

Sherman, Steven J. and Eric Corty, 1984. "Cognitive Heuristics," in Robert S. Wyer, Jr. and Thomas K. Srull, eds, Handbook of Social Cognition.vol. 1 Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum and Associates, pp. 245-76

2. Belief systems and ontologies

Rokeach, M. The Open and Closed Mind. New York: Basic Books, 1960, pp. 3 - 97, 196 - 214, 293 - 311, 391 - 410.

McGuire, William J., "Attitudes and Attitude Change," in Handbook of Social Psychology, 1986, pp. 233 - 253 and 295 - 304.

3. Identity

Marilynn Brewer and Norman Miller, *Intergroup Relations*, Brooks/Cole Publishing, 1996, Chapters, 1, 2, 3 and 6.

Brewer, Marilynn and Rupert Brown. 1998. Intergroup Relations In D. Gilbert, S. Fiske, and G Lindzey (Eds.) *Handbook of Social Psychology*, Vol. 2. 4th Edition.

Richard D. Ashmore, Lee Jussim, and David Wilder, eds. *Social Identity, Intergroup Conflict, and Conflict Reduction* (Oxford 2001, chapter by Brewer.

Petty, R. E., Cacioppo, J. T., & Goldman, R. (1981). Personal involvement as a determinant of argument- based persuasion. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 41, 847-855.

Petty, R. E., & Cacioppo, J. T. (1984). The effects of involvement on response to argument quantity and quality: Central and peripheral routes to persuasion. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 46, 69-81.

Harre, Rom (1997) "'Berkeleyan" Arguments and the Ontology of Cognitive Science" in David Martel Johnson and Christina E. Erneling (eds.) *The future of the cognitive revolution*. New York : Oxford University Press

Tetlock, P.E. (2003). Coherence and correspondence indicators of good judgment. In D. Hardman & L. Macchi (eds). *Thinking: Psychological perspectives on reasoning, judgment and decision making*. Cambridge University Press.

Tetlock, P.E. & Mellers, B. (2002). The great rationality debate: The impact of the Kahneman and Tversky research program. *Psychological Science*, 13, 94-99.

Supplementary Readings:

Jost, John T., Jack Glaser, Arie Kruglanski, and Frank Sulloway, (2003) "Political Conservatism as Motivated Social Cognition," Psychological Bulletin, Vol. 129, No. 2, 339 - 375.

Wilder, D.A. (1978). "Perceiving persons as a group: Effects on attributions of causality and beliefs." In Social Psychology (41:13-23).

Burnstein, E. & K. Sentic (1981). "Attitude polarization in groups." In R.E. Petty, T.M. Ostrom, & T.C. Brock (eds.), Cognitive Responses in Persuasion. Hillsdale: Erlbaum (197-216).

Dawes, Robyn M., and Reid Hastie (2001). *Rational Choice in an Uncertain World : The Psychology of Judgement and Decision Making*

Nisbett and Ross (1980) - Human Inferences. Psychodynamic versus psychological

Petty, R.E., & Cacioppo, J. T. (1986). Communication and persuasion: Central and peripheral routes to attitude change. New York: Springer/Verlag. (Springer Series in Social Psychology; 262 pp

Petty, R. E., Cacioppo, J. T., & Strathman, A., & Priester, J. R. (1994). To think or not to think? Exploring two routes to persuasion. In S. Shavitt & T. C. Brock (Eds.), *Persuasion: Psychological insights and perspectives* (pp. 113-147). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

TOPIC 2: Social Constructivism

Date: January 27 and February 3

Required Readings:

Sociological Turn, January 27

Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann, *The Social Construction of Reality* (Anchor 1966)

Linguistic Turn, February 3

John R. Searle, *The Construction of Social Reality* (Free 1995)

TOPIC 3: Constructivist International Relations

Date: Week of February 10

Required Readings:

David Dessler, "What's at Stake in the Agent-Structure Debate?" *International Organization*, (IO) 43 (1989)

Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics," *IO*, 46:2 (1992), 391-425

Alexander Wendt, "Collective Identity Formation and the International State," *American Political Science Review (APSR)* 88:2 (June 1994), 384-96

Ted Hopf, *Social Construction of International Politics* (Cornell 2002), chs 1 and 6

Roxanne Lynn Doty, "Foreign Policy as Social Construction: A Post-Positivist Analysis of US Counterinsurgency Policy in the Philippines," *International Studies Quarterly* (ISQ) 37:3 (September 1993), 297-320

Iver B. Neumann, "Self and Other in International Relations," *European Journal of International Relations* (EJIR) 2:2 (1996), 139-74

TOPIC 4: Political Psychology and International Relations

Dates: February 17 and 24

Presenter(s): _____

Required Readings:

Snyder, Richard C., H.W. Bruck, and Burton Sapin (eds.) with Valerie M. Hudson, Derek H. Cholleet, and James M. Goldgeier., 2002. *Foreign Policy Decision Making (Revisited)*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. (all 180 pages)

Holsti, Ole R., (1962) "The Belief System and National Images: A Case Study," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 6, pp. 244-252.

Holsti, Ole and James Rosenau, (1999) "The Political Foundations of Elites' Domestic and Foreign-Policy Beliefs" in *The domestic sources of American foreign policy : insights and evidence* edited by Eugene R. Wittkopf, James M. McCormick. Lanham, Md. : Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. pp. 33 - 50.

Sylvan, Donald A. and Stuart J. Thorson, "Ontologies, Problem Representation, and the Cuban Missile Crisis," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 36, No. 4, December 1992, pp. 709 - 732.

Sylvan, D.A., and J.F. Voss (eds.), Problem Representation in Foreign Policy Decision Making: Chapter 1 (D. Sylvan, "Introduction"); Chapter 2 (J. Voss, "On the Representation of Problems: An Information Processing Approach to Foreign Policy Decision Making").

J. M. Goldgeier and P. E. Tetlock, "Psychology and International Relations Theory," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2001, 4:67-92.

G.M. Bonham, and M.J. Shapiro, "Representing the Discourses of Nationalism"

Jack Snyder, *Ideology of the Offensive* (Cornell 1984), 41-56, 57-106 (Read strategically)

Daniel Druckman, "Nationalism, Patriotism, and Group Loyalty: A Social Psychological Perspective," *Mershon International Studies Review* 38 (1994)

Rodger A. Payne, "Persuasion, Frames and Norm Construction," *EJIR* 7:1 (January 2001), 37-61

Jennifer Sterling-Folker, "Realism and the Constructivist Challenge: Rejecting, Reconstructing, or Rereading," *International Studies Review* 4:1 (Spring 2002), 73-97

Jonathan Mercer, "Anarchy and Identity," *International Organization*, 49:2 (1995): 229-52

Supplementary Reading:

Shafir, E., I. Simonson, and A. Tversky, "Reason-Based Choice," Cognition, Vol. 49, Vols. 1-2, October-November 1993, pp. 11-36.

Vertzberger, Yaacov (1990). *The world in their minds : information processing, cognition, and perception in foreign policy decisionmaking* . Stanford, Calif. : Stanford University Press.

David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy, and Robert Jervis, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology* (Oxford 2003)

S. Thorson, "The Problem with Problem Representation"

Shannon Lindsey Blanton, "Images in Conflict: The Case of Ronald Reagan and El Salvador," *ISQ* 40:1 (March 1996), 23-44

Kurt Weyland, "Risk Taking in Latin American Economic Restructuring: Lessons from Prospect Theory," *ISQ* 40:2 (June 1996), 185-208.

Dan Reiter, "Learning, Realism, and Alliances: The Weight of the Shadow of the Past," *World Politics* 46:4 (July 1994), 490-526

Kaufman, Chaim D., "Out of the Lab and into the Archives: A Method for Testing Psychological Explanations of Political Decision Making," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 38, No. 4. (Dec., 1994), pp. 557-586.,

TOPIC 5: Empirical Applications of Constructivist IR

Date: March 2

Required Readings:

Hopf, *Social Construction*, Chapters 2 and 3 OR 4 and 5

Nina Tannenwald, "The Nuclear Taboo," *IO* 53:3 (Summer 1999), 433-68

Richard Price, "Reversing the Gun Sights: Transnational Civil Society Targets Land Mines," 613-44

Jennifer Milliken, *The Social Construction of the Korean War: Conflict and its Possibilities* (Manchester 2000) (in response to framing and prob. rep.)

Michael Barnett, "Culture, Strategy, and Foreign Policy Change: Israel's Road to Oslo," *EJIR* 5:1 (March 1999), 5-36 (framing, identity, narratives)

Thomas Risse-Kappen, "Collective Identity in a Democratic Community," in Peter J. Katzenstein, *The Culture of National Security* (Columbia 1996), 357-99

Naeem Inayatullah and David L. Blaney, "Knowing Encounters," in Yosef Lapid and Friedrich Kratochwil, eds. *The Return of Culture and Identity to IR Theory* (Rienner 1996), 65-84

TOPIC 6: Pulling it together

Date: March 9

This session will be composed of presentations of student papers.