

Social Change : Theories and dimensions

Lecturers: prof. Manuela Naldini and Chiara Saraceno

Short Course Description

Why and how social change occurs, whether there are specific general laws or trends, whether the drivers are mainly structural or cultural, what is the respective role of agency and context, what promotes change and what hinders it, are central issues in social analysis. They are also central for policy makers and for all those who wish to affect social change and its direction – be they international bodies like the World Bank, sovranational institutions such as the EU, individual states, civil society actors. Social change implies the notion of time and lies at the intersection of three axes: individual time, generational time, and historical time. It involves material conditions, institutions as well as culture and values. The main goal of this course is to address the questions of why and how change occurs over time at the societal, cohort and individual level and how changes at different system levels affect each other, providing a general overview of the complex relationship between structure and agency.

The course will be divided in two main parts. In the first part, theories of institutional, organizational and cultural change will be discussed. In the second part, specific instances of social change will be analysed, with particular regard for demographic change, the development of the welfare state, changes in patterns of family formation and in gender relations and their impact on life course patterns, on inequality. Although the main geo-political context of reference will be the European one, attention will be given also to other areas of the world and particularly to the developing countries.

Class structure

Students are expected to do the required reading beforehand and to take turns in introducing the day topic and literature (except for the first class).

Required reading

Part I. Theories of Social Change

Lessons 1

Boudon, Raymond. 1984. *Theories of Social Change: A Critical Appraisal*. Cambridge: Polity Press, Introduction and chapters 6 and 7.

Lesson 2

Touraine, Alain, 1992, Beyond Social Movements?, *Theory Culture Society* 1992, 9, pp. 125-145

Gore Charles, 2000, The Rise and Fall of the Washington consensus as a paradigm for developing countries, *World Development*, 28,5, pp. 789-804

Lesson 3

Hall Peter, 1993, Policy Paradigms, Social Learning, and the State: The Case of Economic Policymaking in Britain, *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Apr., 1993), pp. 275-296

Bonoli Giuliano, 2007, Post-industrialisation, new social risks and welfare state adaptation in advanced industrial democracies, *Comparative political Studies*, 40. pp. 495-520

Part II. Instances of Social Change

Lesson 4 Construction and development of the welfare state and the institutionalization of the life course

Guadagno Jill, 1987, Theories of the Welfare State, *Annual review of Sociology*, 13, pp. 109-128

Pfau Effinger Birgit, 2005, Culture and welfare State. A reflection on a complex interrelation, *Journal of Social Policy*, 34, 1, pp. 3-20

Mayer, K. (1991), Life courses in the welfare state, in: *Theoretical Advances in Life Course Research*, (eds) W.R. Heinz, Winbeim, Deutscher Studien Verlag, vol.I, pp. 171-186]

Lesson 5 Demographic change

Coleman D., "Facing the 21st Century. New developments, continuing problems", in M. Macura, A.L. MacDonald e W: Hang (eds.) *The New Demographic Regime. Population Challenges and Policy Responses*, New York/Geneva, UNECE/PAU, 2005, pp. 11-43

Sen Amartya 1990, More than 100 million women are missing, *The New York Review* and Missing women revisited, *British Medical Journal*, 2003

Lesson 6 Patterns of family formation

Kuijsten A.C. (1996), Changes family patterns in Europe. A case of divergence?, *European Journal of Population*, 12, 2, pp. 115-143

Cherlin A. The de-institutionalization of American marriage, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, vol. 66, N° 4 (November 2004): 848–861.

Lesson 7: Gender and Social Change: the unfinished gender revolution

Risman, B. (2004) "Gender as a social structure. Theory wrestling with activism", in: *Gender & Society*, 18, 429-450.

P. England (2010), "The Gender Revolution Uneven and Stalled", in: *Gender & Society*, Vol. 26, n.2, April, 2010, pp. 149-166.

Lesson 8 The gender division of labour and the role of the welfare state

Crompton, R., and Lyonette, C. (2007) "Occupational class, country and the domestic division of labor" Pp. 116-133 in *Women, men, work and the family in Europe*, edited by R. Crompton and C. Lyonette. Houndmills Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Saraceno, C. e Keck, W. (2011), 'Towards an integrated approach for the analysis of gender equity in policies supporting paid work and care responsibilities', in *Demographic Research*, vol. 25, pp. 371-406.

Lesson 9 Care needing and giving patterns in a changing demographic and family context

Naldini M., Karin Wall and Blanche Le Bihan, The changing mix of care in six European countries, in B. Le Bihan, C. Martin and T. Knijn, *Work and Care under Pressure*, Amsterdam University Press, 2013, pp. 171-194

Williams Fiona and Anna Gavanas, 2008, The intersection of childcare regimes and migration regimes: A Three-Country Study, in Helma Luz (ed.), *Migration and Domestic Work. A European Perspective on a Global theme*, Aldershot, UK, now also in C. Saraceno, J. Lewis, A. Leira (eds), *Families and Family Policies*, Edward Elgar, 2012, vol. II, pp. 580-598

Lesson 10 Summing up and discussion of the themes of the final papers

Students are required to present a short paper's proposal for the final assignment

Assessment

50% class discussion, participation and presentation.

50% final assignment: a 2000 words paper on a topic developed in the course.

Submission deadline: 2 weeks after the end of the Course