

SEMINAR ON PHILANTHROPY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

FACULTY CONVENER

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Course Description

This is a year-long course, associated with the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society (PACS). This seminar is intended for PhD students and postdoctoral fellows doing research on the nature and ramifications of civil society and/or the effects of philanthropy on civil society, either domestically or globally. The course is also open to advanced undergraduates writing senior theses on these topics. The purpose of the seminar is to assist students in pursuing their research and writing. We accomplish this through several means. All members of the seminar will have an opportunity to both lead a session and present their work at least once during the year. Faculty and students will lead discussions of recent writings that form the corpus of scholarly knowledge of civil society, philanthropy, and the nonprofit sector. Students will circulate drafts of chapters, papers, and/or proposals and get feedback from faculty and fellow students. We will also have several leading scholars and practitioners visit us for talks during the latter part of the academic year, and students will have ample opportunity to interact with these guests.

Our aim is to help students produce high-quality work that will have an impact on their respective disciplines and shape the scholarly terrain of research on civil society, philanthropy, and nonprofits. Our expectation is that all participants will take the course for the full year; exceptions are allowed only with permission. The course may be taken more than once, and for 1-3 units. Grading is on a pass/fail basis. Coffee and pastries are served at each session.

The course meets on Fridays, from 10:00am – 12:00pm. We meet in the SCANCOR seminar room, 123 CERAS building, School of Education.

The Fall quarter begins with readings designed to give an overview of the scholarly landscape and to provide a common vocabulary and set of analytical and empirical tools and methods.

Readings:

W.W. Powell and R. Steinberg, *The Nonprofit Sector*, 2nd edition, Yale University Press, 2006 is available at the Stanford Bookstore. This volume is a compendium of current scholarship on the social sector. There are selected readings outlined below, and there will also be others that are suggested.

FALL QUARTER SCHEDULE:

September 28: Introduction

General Orientation. Everyone will describe his or her current research interests and discuss possible topics to explore further. We will also make assignments for the term.

October 5: Civil Society and Associations - - An Overview

Peter Dobkin Hall, "A Historical Overview of Philanthropy, Voluntary Associations, and Nonprofit Organizations in the United States, 1600-2000." Chapter 2 in the Powell and Steinberg volume, 2006.

Helmut Anheier and Lester Salamon, "The Nonprofit Sector in Comparative Perspective." Chapter 4 in the Powell and Steinberg volume, 2006.

Theda Skocpol, with Ganz and Munson, *American Political Science Review*, 2000. A nation of joiners. POSTED TO COURSEWORK.

October 19: Disciplinary Approaches

Henry Hansmann, "Economic Theories of the Nonprofit Organizations," Powell, *The Nonprofit Handbook*, volume 1. POSTED TO COURSEWORK.

Elisabeth Clemens. "The Constitution of Citizens: Political Theories of Nonprofit Organizations." Chapter 9 in the Powell and Steinberg volume, 2006.

Mario Luis Small, *Unanticipated Gains: Origins of Network Inequality in Everyday Life*. Oxford University Press, 2009, Chapters 1 and 8.

November 2: What is a Good Society?

Tocqueville, Excerpts from *Democracy in America*

Archon Fung. 2003. "Associations and Democracies: Between Theories, Hopes, and Realities." *Annual Review of Sociology* 29: 515-39.

November 9: Philanthropy and Social Change

Ken Prewitt, "Foundations," Chapter 15, pages 355-377 in the Powell and Steinberg volume, 2006.

Paul Brest, State of the Hewlett Foundation, President's essay,
http://www.hewlett.org/uploads/files/annual_report_2011/State_of_the_Hewlett_Foundation_2012_Presidents_Essay.pdf

Elisabeth Clemens and Linda C. Lee. 2010. "Catalysts for Change? Foundations and School Reform, 1950-2005." From *American Foundations: Roles and Contributions*," by Helmut K. Anheier, David C. Hammack. POSTED TO COURSEWORK.

November 30: Altruism and the Commodification of the Body

Kieran Healy. 2006. *Last Best Gifts: Altruism and the Market for Human Blood and Organs*. University of Chicago Press.

This little book is both fascinating and wonderfully written, a great model of how to turn a dissertation into a book.

Richard Titmuss. 1971. *The Gift Relationship: From Human Blood to Social Policy*. Vintage Books.

Rene Almeling. 2007. "Selling Genes, Selling Gender: Egg Agencies, Sperm Banks, and the Medical Market in Genetic Material." *American Sociological Review* 72: 319-40.

Debra Satz, TBA