

Value added? Nongovernmental organizations, transnational advocacy networks and democracy in international politics

**MA Seminar (Democracy and Public Sphere TM 1.2)
SoSe 2013
Tuesday 14:00 – 16:00, AR-K 503/04**

Transnational advocacy networks (TANs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) increasingly participate in discussions about how to solve global problems, and launch campaigns with respect to issues such diverse as climate change or landmines. While some of these networks and campaigns have been studied quite extensively, some questions still remain partly unanswered: How do TANs and NGOs select an issue on which they campaign? How can we measure the credibility and the legitimacy of NGOs? During this course, we will study how scholars of international relations seek to answer these questions.

Prerequisites: Good command of the English language.

Aims:

- In-depth treatment of the constitution of NGOs and TANs and their contributions to global governance
- Understanding of key concepts
- Overview of important developments and trends in the literature on NGOs and TANs pertaining to both theories as well as empirical phenomenon
- Evaluation of different theoretical approaches

Acquisition of soft skills:

- Ability to work in teams (group projects)
- Rhetorical skills and debate (discussion)
- Presentation (class presentation)
- Doing research & writing skills

Requirements for 3 credit points (Studienleistung):

- Regular attendance and active participation in class discussion on the basis of the required readings;
- You will be given assignments on a regular basis which are intended to acquaint you doing research and hone your writing skills.

Requirements for 3 credit points (Prüfungsleistung): 12-15page paper following consultations with the instructor

- until 30 June 2013, 1-2 page Abstract due -> has to be discussed with instructor during office hours
- 31 August 2013, paper due

Literature

The relevant literature is available on *moodle*. It is necessary that you register for the class in order to download the literature. You will be given the password that is necessary for registration. Registration is limited until April 11. Please make sure that you register until that date.

In addition, a *Semesterapparat* will be provided in the library. Unfortunately, due to organizational problems, the *Semesterapparat* will not be available before April 24.

For instructions on how to write papers and excerpts, see *moodle* and http://www.uni-siegen.de/phil/sozialwissenschaften/politik/mitarbeiter/andrea_schneiker/lehre.html?lang=de

You will also find information on how NOT to prepare a poster on *moodle*.

!!! Subject to alterations !!!!

Date	Assignments
Week 1 09 April	Introduction and Discussion of Assignments

I Defining Key Concepts

Week 2 16 April	<p>What's in a definition? The term "non-governmental organization" (NGO) and its implications</p>
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Based on the text by Kerstin Martens we will discuss the following questions in class:

- Why do we need a definition of an NGO?
- What characterizes an NGO?
- What different types of NGOs exist?
- What are the problems associated with defining NGOs?

Required Reading: Martens, Kerstin (2002): Mission impossible? Defining Nongovernmental Organizations. *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations* 13 (3): 271-285.

You will be assigned an organization. Please read carefully the article by Kerstin Martens and explain in writing (max. 1 page) whether and how the definition of NGO and the corresponding criteria formulated by Martens apply to "your" organization. Upload your work on *moodle* until Sunday evening, 14 April, 23:55 o'clock. We will discuss your findings in class.

Week 3 23 April	<p>What are Transnational Advocacy Networks (TANs) and why do they matter?</p>
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Based on the text by Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink we will discuss the following questions in class:

- What is a TAN?
- Why and how have TANs emerged?
- How do TANs work?
- Under what conditions do TANs have influence?

Required Reading:
Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink (1998): *Activists Beyond Borders. Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, pp. 1-38.

Exercise: Applying the concept of TANS to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)

Week 4
30 April

You will apply the concept of TANS as it is explained by Keck and Sikkink to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL). Each of the groups of last week prepares a presentation to be held in class in week 5. The presentation will deal with the specific aspect of TANS that the group has discussed last week.

You will find some material on *moodle*. However, you are expected to search for and take account of additional academic literature on the ICBL.

Week 5
7 May

Presentation of your group work

Week 6
14 May

How can we determine the legitimacy of NGOs?

Required Reading:

Collingwood, Vivien and Louis Logister (2005): State of the Art: Addressing the INGO 'Legitimacy Deficit'. *Political Studies Review* 3 (2): 175–192.

Based on the article by Collingwood and Logister we will have a discussion among three groups:

- (1) those who argue that NGOs are lacking legitimacy
- (2) those who argue that NGOs have legitimacy based on normative criteria
- (3) those who argue that NGOs have legitimacy based on policy-oriented criteria

In order to prepare for the discussion you will write an excerpt of the text by Collingwood and Logister (1-2 pages max.) and upload it on *moodle* until Friday, 10 May, 23:55 o'clock.

Week 7
28 May

Studying the Credibility of NGOs

We will study why NGOs need to have credibility, what different sources of credibility exist and what effects the need for credibility has. Every group will prepare one text and present it in class. For your presentation, please focus on the following aspects:

- different sources of credibility
- the effects of the need for credibility

Required Readings:

Group A: Wong, Wendy (2012): Becoming a household name: how human rights NGOs establish credibility through organizational structure. In: Gourevitch, Peter A. and David A. Lake and Janice Gross Stein (eds.): *The*

Credibility of Transnational NGOs. When Virtue is Not Enough. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 86-111.

Group B: Thaut, Laura and Janice Gross Stein and Michael Barnett (2012): In defense of virtue: credibility, legitimacy dilemmas, and the case of Islamic Relief. In: Gourevitch, Peter A. and David A. Lake and Janice Gross Stein (eds.): *The Credibility of Transnational NGOs. When Virtue is Not Enough*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 137-164.

II (Critical) assessment of NGO and TAN activity

After having discussed scholarly literature that promotes a rather positive outlook on NGOs and TANs, we will deal with a body of literature that seeks to determine criteria for the success of NGO and TAN activity including more critical approaches in analyzing NGOs and TANs.

Week 8

The Sovereign Limits of Global Civil Society

04 June

Required reading:

Clark, Ann Marie and Elisabeth J. Friedman and Kathryn Hochstetler (1998): The Sovereign Limits of Global Civil Society: A Comparison of NGO Participation in UN World Conferences on the Environment, Human Rights, and Women. *World Politics* 51 (1): 1-35.

In order to prepare for the discussion you will write an excerpt of the text by Collingwood and Logister (1-2 pages max.) and upload it on *moodle* until Friday, 31 May, 23:55 o'clock.

Week 9

Conditions for success

11 June

Required reading:

Joachim, Jutta (2003): Framing Issues and Seizing Opportunities: The UN, NGOs, and Women's Rights. *International Studies Quarterly* 47 (2): 247-274.

Identify the different types of framing discussed by Jutta Joachim and write a short definition of each type (in total 1 page max.) and upload it on *moodle* until Friday, 7 June, 23:55 o'clock.

Week 10

Marketization

18 June

Required reading:

Cooley, Alexander and James Ron (2002): The NGO Scramble. *International Security* 27 (1): 5-39.

The two authors argue that due to 'contractual incentives and organizational pressures' (p. 7) INGOs act like firms on a market. Hence, they claim to observe a marketization of INGO activities. In preparation for the class you will identify criteria for marketization (such as competition) and indicators in order to measure these criteria.

Imagine that you seek to demonstrate that INGOs compete to raise money and that the material you can use for your analysis are the homepages and publications of selected INGOs. What type of information on these homepages and in these publications could be an indicator for competition?

In class we are going to analyze some INGO homepages on the basis of your criteria and indicators.

Week 11

Studying issue non-adoption by NGOs and TANs

25 June

We will discuss why some issues are not adopted.

Group A will prepare the text by Clifford Bob and present it in class.

Group B will prepare the text by Charli R. Carpenter and present it in class.

Please discuss in your presentation:

- factors that facilitate agenda-setting
- factors that explain why gatekeepers do not adopt an issue

Required readings:

All: Bob, Clifford (2009): 'Introduction: Fighting for New Rights.' In: Bob, Clifford (ed.): *The International Struggle for New Human Rights*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 1-13.

Group A: Bob, Clifford (2009): "'Dalit Rights Are Human Rights": Untouchables, NGOs, and the Indian State.' In: Bob, Clifford (ed.): *The International Struggle for New Human Rights*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 30-51.

Group B: Carpenter, Charli R. (2009): 'Orphaned Again? Children Born of Wartime Rape as a Non-Issue for the New Rights Movement'. In: Bob, Clifford (ed.): *The International Struggle for New Human Rights*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 14-29.

Applying theoretical concepts to different policy fields and campaigns

We will apply the theoretical concepts that we discussed in the previous weeks to different policy fields and campaigns:

- NGOs and the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- NGOs and climate change (conferences)
- NGOs and peacebuilding
- Civil society and nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

We will split up into four groups and each group will prepare a poster presentation relating to one of the four above named themes. You will thereby (1) determine key actors (NGOs and/or members of a TAN), and discuss issues such as (2) legitimacy of the actors, (3) the success of their activities, (4) the marketization of their activities.

Week 12 02 July	Reading week: You will prepare your poster presentation.
Week 13 09 July	Poster session: You will present your poster in class.
Week 14 16 July	Reflections & Evaluation