HS 2013

MA Seminar „Revolutions and protests under authoritarian rule: do the masses matter in the process of democratisation?“

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This version: 10 August 2013 (subject to changes)

Large parts of the theoretical literature on democratisation processes leave the citizens apart. Therefore, the important role of the masses in the latest wave of democratisation in Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East comes rather as a surprise.

This seminar looks at political protest under authoritarian regimes, the regime reaction, and the contribution of mass mobilisation to the democratisation process. We look at analytical studies of civil society and of mass protests against authoritarianism, and at repressive counter-measures by the state. We will develop an analytic framework, and apply it to study the post-communist revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union and to recent revolutions in the Arab world.

Course requirements
- Regular lecture of required readings. Active participation in class.
- Assignment 1: class presentation (~12 minutes)
- Assignment 2: class participation and discussion of one of the presentations
- Assignment 3: term paper

Specific files for assignments 1 and 3.

Grading
- Regular reading of class readings. Active participation in class.
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Specific files for assignments 1 and 3.

Enrolment
The seminar is part of the following programs
MA Political Science, MA CIS, Osteuropastudien

Readings
Mandatory readings will be provided electronically on OLAT.
Note on further literature: Most readings for student presentations should be available online or in the IPZ library.
Topics and readings (preliminary version)

Introduction

18 September: Introduction, organisation of the seminar


Weeks 2-4: Some theoretical underpinnings

25 September: Theory (I): Authoritarian regimes and theories of democratisation


Further literature: (Geddes 2007, 1999b; Levitsky and Way 2010, 2002; Schedler 2006; Gandhi and Lust-Okar 2009)

2 October: Theory (II). Democratisation – from above or from below?


Further literature: (Haerpfer et al. 2009, 74-90)
On comparability: (Schmitter and Karl 1994; Karl and Schmitter 1995; Bunce 1995)

9 October: Theory (III). Regimes, protests, and revolutions


Student presentations:

2. Contention and revolutions

Further literature: (Goldstone 2001; Ulfelder 2005; Lichbach and Gurr 1981; Ash 2011; Goldstone et al. 1991; Eckstein 1980; Goodwin 1994, 3-34)

Weeks 5-9: Waves of revolutions

16 October: Revolutions and transition I - Historical perspectives


Student presentations:

Further literature: (Tilly 1973, 2004; Gurr 1973)

23 October: Revolutions and transition II: 1956-1989 in Central Europe


Student presentations:

30 October: Paper workshop

6 November: Revolutions and transition III: Coloured revolutions


Student presentations:
2) Georgia and Kyrgyzstan:


13 November: Revolutions and transition IV: Arab spring


Student presentations:

Further literature: (Lynch 2013; Walt 2011; Barany 2011; Lutterbeck 2013; Anderson 2006; Perthes 2008; Fish 2002; Beinin and Vairel 2011)

Weeks 10-15 Models of protest and democratisation

20 November: Micro-foundations and models of protest


**Student presentations:**

**Further literature:** (Howard and Roessler 2006; Geddes 1999a; Oberschall 1994; Tucker 2007; Davenport 2010)

### 27 November: State repression and security forces


**Student presentations:**
1. State reaction in the coloured revolutions:


2. Loyalty of the security forces.


**Further literature:** (Francisco 1996; Gupta et al. 1993; Moore 1998; Pierskalla 2010; Gurr and Lichbach 1986; Lichbach 1987; Silitski 2010; Ó Beacháin and Polese 2010; Ostrowski 2009; Wilson 2009; Allina-Pisano 2010) Repression: Davenport 2004 AJPS (Davenport 2007b) (Davenport 2007a)

### 4 December: Diffusion of protests and revolutions


**Student presentations:**
1. Diffusion of protests in democracies

2. Diffusion in autocracies

**Further literature:** (Strang and Soule 1998; Myers 1997; Kaempfer and Lowenberg 1992; Beissinger 2006; Lamont 2009; Kuzio 2006; Ramet and Pavlaković 2005; Ramet 2002; Della Porta and Tarrow 2012; Locke Binnendijk and Marovic 2006; White and McAllister 2009; Kuzio 2010; Polese 2009; Vachudova 2010; Way 2008; Silitski 2010; Lane 2009; White 2009; Di Palma 1991, 183-99; Youngs 2010; Starr 1991; Starr and Lindborg 2003; O'Loughlin et al. 1998; Gleditsch 2002, 148-78; Leeson and Dean 2009; Simmons et al. 2006)

**11 December: Democratisation and non-democratisation after revolutions**


**Student presentations:**
1) Models of transition and diffusion of democracy


**Further literature:** (Bunce 2003; Casper and Taylor 1996, chapter 4)

**18 December: Round-up of the seminar**

**23 December: Final papers due**


