

Civil Society and Democracy

Section 13/14

Sima Biondi

Fall 2024

Gov 20: Foundations of Comparative Politics

1 Making Democracy Work (?)

2 Reminders

1 Making Democracy Work (?)

2 Reminders

What is civil society? What different institutions does it require?

What is civil society? What different institutions does it require?

- Civil society are citizen groups that are independent, or not affiliated, with the state.
- Examples:
 - (1) unions
 - (2) religious organizations
 - (3) birdwatching groups

Walking through Putnam's theory: making democracy work

What is Putnam trying to explain?



What is civic engagement?

What is civic engagement?

→ active participation in civic affairs

How is it different than civil society?

How do we measure this?

What is social capital? How is it different than civic engagement?

What is social capital? How is it different than civic engagement?

→ is a feature of social organizations that facilitates a virtuous cycle of cooperation among citizens. This includes dimensions of these organizations like civic trust, norms of reciprocity, and networks of civic engagement.

Is social capital an institution?

1. What does social capital get us?

1. What does social capital get us?

Making democracy work: putting it together

1. What does social capital get us? How does social capital build norms of trust and reciprocity?
2. How does Putnam link social capital and performance of government institutions?

Making democracy work: putting it together

1. What does social capital get us? How does social capital build norms of trust and reciprocity?
2. How does Putnam link social capital and performance of government institutions?

Making democracy work: putting it together

1. What does social capital get us? How does social capital build norms of trust and reciprocity?
2. How does Putnam link social capital and performance of government institutions?

This cooperation allows citizens to effectively coordinate and act collectively. Fundamentally, Putnam argues that participation in civic groups, like the local football league or church choir, fosters trust and citizen participation which aids government effectiveness and democracy.

Why is there more civic engagement in Northern Italy?

Why is there more civic engagement in Northern Italy?

Putnam's argument: historical institutions → present civic engagement → social capital → norms of trust and reciprocity → overcoming collective action problems → good governance

What does social capital look like in the US today?

In other work Putnam argues social capital in the US has eroded? Do you agree with him?

Is social capital always good?

Is her analysis reconcilable with Putnam's? How does she reconcile the two?

How would Varshney explain her findings?

What is Varshney trying to explain?

What is civic engagement in this piece? How is it different than Putnam's? Can social capital reduce the likelihood of ethnic conflict? Why?

Does the theory of social capital relate to or change instrumentalist theories of ethnic conflict?

Connections to other weeks' readings:

- Economic development
- Social revolutions
- State-building

Let's connect social capital some of our readings this week:

- Alesina and Glaser: ethnic heterogeneity and historically-contingent PR systems explain differences in welfare states in US and Europe
 - Their explanation: labor power was weak in the US, but what would Putnam say?
- Levitksy and Ziblatt: national institutional bias toward rural voters allows Republican Party to not respond to democratic incentives

1 Making Democracy Work (?)

2 Reminders

Final exam announcements

Final is on Monday December 16 at 2 pm - 5 pm. You will answer 2 out of 6 essays, and 10 out of several terms.

- **Office hours:** I will have open office hours (so no sign up):
4-5pm (12/10) and 2-3pm (12/11)

Final exam announcements

Final is on Monday December 16 at 2 pm - 5 pm. You will answer 2 out of 6 essays, and 10 out of several terms.

- **Office hours:** I will have open office hours (so no sign up):
4-5pm (12/10) and 2-3pm (12/11)
- Julia sent out review session times, dates, and locations

Final exam announcements

Final is on Monday December 16 at 2 pm - 5 pm. You will answer 2 out of 6 essays, and 10 out of several terms.

- **Office hours:** I will have open office hours (so no sign up):
4-5pm (12/10) and 2-3pm (12/11)
- Julia sent out review session times, dates, and locations
 1. Session 1: Thursday December 12 10am-11:30am @ Tsai Auditorium

Final exam announcements

Final is on Monday December 16 at 2 pm - 5 pm. You will answer 2 out of 6 essays, and 10 out of several terms.

- **Office hours:** I will have open office hours (so no sign up):
4-5pm (12/10) and 2-3pm (12/11)
- Julia sent out review session times, dates, and locations
 1. Session 1: Thursday December 12 10am-11:30am @ Tsai Auditorium
 2. Session 2: Friday December 13 1pm-2:30pm @ Tsai Auditorium