

Spring 2009
Brown University

SOCIOLOGY 2350

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN HEALTH

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This graduate seminar centers on health social movements (HSMs), but also provides some exploration in general social movement theory and research, as well as using concepts from science and technology studies (STS), and covering some core medical sociology concerns, such as health inequalities, personal experience of illness, and lay-professional disputes over disease identification, causation, prevention, and treatment.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Since it is likely that most people will not have taken a course in social movements, it is necessary to provide some background on general social movement theory and research methods. That will be done by starting the seminar with a focus on general social movements, while also studying HSMs. After the first few weeks, we will shift to a focus on HSMs, while also reading one or two general social movement articles each week. By continuing with general social movement readings, we will have the opportunity to examine a variety of theories, methods, and applications, to see how useful social movement scholarship is to HSMs, and to consider ways to expand social movement scholarship. We will not, however, be focused on showing how a specific social movement theory can explain a particular HSM; indeed, we will be examining how elements of multiple theories can be applied to any given HSM.

Each meeting will begin with listening to a song about social movements, followed by discussion of that song.

Each meeting will include lecture material by me and presentations by one or two students. Depending on the number of students, it will be ideal to have one presentation on general social movements and one on HSMs each week. The student presentations will involve analysis and interpretation of required readings; you can feel free to bring in additional readings as well.

A paper or a formal NSF or NIH proposal will be due the last week of the seminar, on a topic of the student's choice, selected in consultation with me. I will provide a list of possible topics, although you are not bound to choose one of them. On Feb. 3 students will present a brief written outline of the paper and a brief presentation to the seminar, so that everyone knows what others are studying. In the last two or three sessions, people will make final presentations, which will occur along with regular discussion of readings. Alternatively, we may dedicate the whole last session to presentations.

Students will, in the course of their paper research, provide a bibliography of articles and books on the HSM they are studying, which may be more extensive than the sources they actually use in the paper. These will be compiled and published on the Contested Illnesses Research Group web site, as a special section on HSMs, both alphabetically and by specific health movement.

REQUIRED READING:

Required reading consists of the books to be purchased, a reading packet available at Allegra Printing [designated on the syllabus with an (R)], and readings on MyCourses [designated with a (W)].

Books available at Brown Bookstore:

Bert Klandermans and Suzanne Staggenborg, Methods of Social Movement Research (Minnesota)

Sandra Morgen, Into Our Own Hands: The Women's Health Movement, 1969-1990 (Rutgers)

Steve Epstein, Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge (California)

Bonnie Lefkowitz, Community Health Centers (Rutgers)

Jan. 21 1) Introduction

Jan. 28 2) Background in Social Movement Theory and Research/History and Theory of Health Social Movements

General social movements – review essays and applications on major theories and approaches

David Meyer, "Protest and Political Opportunities" Annual Review of Sociology 2004 (W)

John McCarthy and Mark Wolfson, "Resource Mobilization by Social Movement Organizations: Agency, Strategy, and Organization in the Movement Against Driving and Drinking" American Sociological Review 1996, 61:1070-1088 (W)

Robert D. Benford and David A. Snow, "Framing Processes and Social Movements: An Overview and Assessment" Annual Review of Sociology 2000 (W)

Health social movements

"Preface" (pp. vi-viii) and "Introduction" (pp. 3-28) in Barbara Ehrenreich and John Ehrenreich, The American Health Empire (R)

Beatrix Hoffman, "Health Care Reform and Social Movements in the United States" American Journal of Public Health. 2003; 93: 75-85 (W)

Phil Brown, Steve Zavestoski, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Rebecca Gasior, "Embodied Health Movements: Uncharted Territory in Social Movement Research" Sociology of Health and Illness 2004 26:1-31 (W)

Steven Epstein, "Patient Groups and Health Movements" In Edward Hackett, Olga Amsterdamska, Michael Lynch, and Judy Wajcman, eds. The Handbook of Science and Technology Studies (W)

Feb. 4 3) Background in Social Movement Theory and Research/Defining and Characterizing HSMs

General social movements -- review essays on major theories and approaches; methods

Francesca Polletta and James M. Jasper, "Collective Identity and Social Movements" Annual Review of Sociology 2001 (W)

The following in Bert Klandermans and Suzanne Staggenborg, Methods of Social Movement Research:

Bert Klandermans and Suzanne Staggenborg, "Introduction"

Bert Klandermans and Jackie Smith, "Survey Research: A Case for Comparative Designs"

Hank Johnston "Verification and Proof in Frame and Discourse Analysis"

Health social movements

Graham Scambler and David Kelleher, “New Social Movements: Issues of Representation and Change” Critical Public Health 2006 16:219-231 (W)

The following in Phil Brown and Stephen Zavestoski, eds., Social Movements in Health:

Phil Brown and Stephen Zavestoski, “Social Movements in Health: An Introduction” (W)

Judith Alsop, Kathryn Jones, and Rob Baggott, “Pain and Loss Experiences as a Catalyst for Political Activism” (W)

Chris Ganchoff, “Regenerating Movements: Embryonic Stem Cells, Social Movements, and the Politics of Potentiality” (W)

Topic selection and presentations

Feb. 11 [Away at Conference – no seminar, or reschedule if possible]

Feb. 18 4) Breast Cancer Activism

General social movements – methods

The following in Bert Klandermans and Suzanne Staggenborg, Methods of Social Movement Research:

Kathleen Blee and Verta Taylor, “Semi-structured Interviewing in Social Movement Research”

Paul Lichterman “Seeing Structure Happen: Theory-Driven Participant Observation”

David Snow and Danny Trom, “The Case Study and the Study of Social Movements”

Phil Brown, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Stephen Zavestoski, Laura Senier, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Elizabeth Hoover, Sabrina McCormick, Brian Mayer, and Crystal Adams, “Field analysis and policy ethnography: New directions for studying health social movements” In Mayer Zald, Jane Banaszak-Holl, and Sandra Levitsky, eds., Social Movements and the Development of Health Institutions. Oxford University Press (in press) (W)

Health social movements

The following in Phil Brown and Stephen Zavestoski, eds., Social Movements in Health:

Emily Kolker, “Reaching for Resources and Recognition: The Breast Cancer Movement” (W)

Maren Klawiter, “Breast Cancer in Two Regimes: The Impact of Social Movements on Illness Experience” (W)

Gayle Sulik “Managing Biomedical Uncertainty: The Technoscientific Illness Identity” Sociology of Health and Illness (draft manuscript) (W)

Topic selection and presentations (continued, if necessary)

Feb. 25 5) Environmental Justice and Environmental Health

General social movements - methods

The following in Bert Klandermans and Suzanne Staggenborg, Methods of Social Movement Research:

Debra Minkoff, “Macro-Organizational Analysis”

Donatella della Porta, “Comparative Politics and Social Movements”

Bert Klandermans, Suzanne Staggenborg, and Sidney Tarrow, “Conclusion: Blending Methods and Theories in Social Movement Research”

Health social movements - activists as scholars

The following from: Special issue of Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science: Phil Brown. ed., "Health and the Environment" 2000, Vol. 584:

Lois Gibbs, "Citizen Activism for Environmental Health" (W)

Jodi Sugerman-Broz and Penn Loh, "Environmental Justice Organizing for Environmental Health" (W)

Mary Arquette et al., "Holistic Risk-Based Environmental Decision Making: A Native Perspective" Environmental Health Perspectives Supplement 2, 2002(W)

-professionals as activists

The following from: Special issue of Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science: Phil Brown. ed., "Health and the Environment" 2000, Vol. 584:

Michael McCally, "Professionals' Activism for Environmental Health" (W)

Richard Clapp, "Popular Epidemiology: "Citizen Health Surveys in Utah and Massachusetts" (W)

Phil Brown, two chapters from book manuscript, Contested Illnesses: Toward a New Environmental Health Movement (spring 2007, Columbia University Press) (W)

Scott Frickel, "Scientist Activism in Environmental Justice Conflicts: An Argument for Synergy" Society and Natural Resources 2004 17:359-366 (W)

Mar. 4

6) Challenges to Knowledge and Lay-Professional Differences

General social movements

David Hess, "Technology- and Product-Oriented Movements: Approximating Social Movement Studies and STS" Science, Technology, and Human Values in press(W)

Health social movements

Javier Auyero and Debra Swistun "The Social Production of Toxic Uncertainty" American Sociological Review 2008 73:357-379 (W)

Sara Shostak, "Environmental Justice and Genomics: Acting on the Futures of Environmental Health" Science as Culture 2004 13:539-562 (W)

Jill Harrison "Guinea pigs and 'equal partners': Pursuing democracy within technical participatory research projects" (draft manuscript) (W)

Stephen Zavestoski, "Local and Global Environmental Advocacy Networks: Responses to the Globalization of Environmental Health Hazards" International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability (2006) (W)

Mar. 11

7) Women's Health Movement

General social movements – emerging social movement groups

Kathleen M. Blee and Ashley Currier, "Character Building: the Dynamics of Emerging Social Movement Groups" Mobilization Volume 10, No. 1: February 2005 (R)

Health social movements

Sandra Morgen, Into Our Own Hands: The Women's Health Movement, 1969-1990

Mar. 18

8) AIDS Movement*General social movements – methods*

The following in Bert Klandermans and Suzanne Staggenborg, Methods of Social Movement Research: Debra Minkoff, “Macro-Organizational Analysis”
 Bert Klandermans, Suzanne Staggenborg, and Sidney Tarrow, “Conclusion: Blending Methods and Theories in Social Movement Research”

Health social movements

Steve Epstein, Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge

Mar. 25

Spring break

Apr. 1

9) Community-Based Participatory Research*General social movements – emotions and culture*

Jeff Goodwin, James Jasper, and Francesca Polletta, “Why Emotions Matter” in Jeff Goodwin, James Jasper, and Francesca Polletta, eds. Passionate Politics: Emotions and Social Movements (R)

Francesca Polletta, “Culture in and Outside Institutions” in Research in Social Movements, Conflicts, and Change 2004 25: 161-183 (Daniel Myers and Daniel Cress, eds., Authority in Contention) (R)

Health social movements

Meredith Minkler et al., Promoting Health Public Policy Through Community-Based Participatory Research: Ten Case Studies University of California-Berkeley and PolicyLink (W)

April 8

Passover – no class

Apr. 15

10) Patients’ Rights Movements: Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Mental Patients, Alzheimer’s Disease, Muscular Dystrophy*General social movements – Science movements*

Kelly Moore, “Powered by the People: Scientific Authority in Participatory Science” (pp. 299-323 in Scott Frickel and Kelly Moore, eds. The New Political Sociology of Science: Institutions, Networks, and Power) (R)

Scott Frickel and Neil Gross, “A General Theory of Scientific/Intellectual Movements” American Sociological Review 2005 70:204-232 (W)

Health social movements

In Phil Brown and Stephen Zavestoski, eds., Social Movements in Health:
 David Hess, “Scientific Research Agendas and Health Social Movements” (W)
 Melinda Goldner, “Dynamic Interplay Between Western Medicine and CAM” (W)
 Renee Beard, “Emergent Voices: Illness Experience, Social Structure, and the Alzheimer’s Disease Movement” (W)

Volona Rabeharisoa, "The Struggle Against Neuromuscular Diseases in France and the Emergence of the 'Partnership Model' of Patient Organization." Social Science and Medicine 2003 57:2127-2136 (W)

Apr. 22 11) Health Access Movements

General social movements: Outcomes

The following in David Snow, Sarah Soule, and Hanspieter Kriei, eds. The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements (R)

Edwin Amenta and Neal Caren, "The Legislative, Organizational, and Beneficiary Consequences of State-Oriented Challengers"

Marco Giugni, "Personal and Biographical Consequences

Health social movements

Bonnie Lefkowitz, Community Health Centers

Constance Nathanson, "The Skeptic's Guide to a Movement for Universal Health Insurance" Journal of Health Policy, Politics, and Law 2003 28:443-471 (W)

Apr. 29 12) Biomonitoring and Household Exposure Activism

General social movements: Outcomes (continued)

The following in David Snow, Sarah Soule, and Hanspieter Kriei, eds. The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements (R)

Jennifer Earl, "The Cultural Consequences of Social Movements"

Nancy Whittier, "The Consequences of Social Movements for Each Other"

Health social movements

Jessica W. Nelson, Madeleine Kangsen Scammell, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Thomas F. Webster, and David M. Ozonoff, "A New Spin on Research Translation: The Boston Consensus Conference on Human Biomonitoring" Environmental Health Perspectives Online 30 October 2008 (W)

Rebecca Altman, Julia Brody, Ruthann Rudel, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Phil Brown, and Mara Averick, "Pollution Comes Home and Pollution Gets Personal: Women's Experience of Household Toxic Exposure" Journal of Health and Social Behavior 2008 49:417-435. (R)

Rachel Morello-Frosch, Julia Green Brody, Phil Brown, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Ruthann A. Rudel, Carla Pérez: "Addressing 'Toxic Ignorance' and the Right-to-Know in Biomonitoring Results Communication: A Survey of Scientists and Study Participants" (draft manuscript) (W)

Body Burden Workshop and Commonwealth Biomonitoring Resource Center, "Is It In Us?: Chemical Contamination in Our Bodies" (W)

May 6 *Student Presentations*