

Tentative Syllabus

SOC 715-3: Ethnic Identity, Conflict, and Cooperation

1:30 pm-4:00 pm Wednesday, Saunders Hall 242

Sun-Ki Chai

This course will cover the fast-growing social science literature on the cross-national modeling of ethnic identity and conflict. This work encompasses sociology, political science, and economics, as well as drawing from other social science disciplines. It comprises general theories, both qualitative and quantitative, as well as historical, ethnographic, and statistical empirical studies, including experimental work both in the lab and the field. In investigating the causes of conflict, theorists have inevitably also looked at the effect of ethnic identity on cooperation. We seek to identify the major theoretical schools of thought in this literature, strengths and weaknesses of various methodological approaches, and opportunities for integration.

We will attempt to address a number of unresolved questions in this literature. These include: To what extent is ethnic identity a causal factor or simply a label that is assigned to contemporary political violence? If ethnicity is a causal factor, is it compatible with predictive theories, and if so how can it be incorporated? Can we account for the origins and nature of ethnic identity, and if so, how? How can structure, identity, and agency be integrated into united theories of conflict and cooperation? What are the roles of qualitative case studies, retrospective statistical analysis, and experiments in informing theoretical development? Finally, how can empirical findings and the theories they inform be used to develop concrete policy recommendations for reducing conflict?

Assigned Texts:

- Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).
- Henry E. Hale, *The Foundations of Ethnic Politics: Separatism of States and Nations in Eurasia and the World*, (Cambridge University Press, 2008).
- Sun-Ki Chai, *Choosing an Identity: A General Model of Preference and Belief Formation* (University of Michigan Press, 2001).

Prospective List of Topics and Readings:

Ethnic Conflict: The State of the Literature

- Rogers Brubaker and David D. Laitin, "Ethnic And Nationalist Violence" *Annual Review of Sociology* 24:1 (1998), 423-52.
- Francesco Caselli and Wilbur J. Coleman "On the Theory of Ethnic Conflict" National Bureau of Economic Research , Working Paper (2006).
- James Fearon, "Ethnic Mobilization and Ethnic Violence" in Barry R. Weingast and Donald Wittman (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Political Economy* Oxford: Oxford University Press (2007).

Ethnic vs. "Non-Ethnic" Models of Collective Conflict

- Christopher Blattman and Edward Miguel, "Civil War", *Journal of Economic Literature* (June 2008).
- Niklas Sambanis, "Do Ethnic and Non-Ethnic Wars Have the Same Causes?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45:3 (2001), 259-282.
- Stathis Kalyvas, "Ethnicity and the Dynamics of Civil Wars", Yale University Working Paper (2008).

Collective Conflict: The Question of Rationality

- Christopher Cramer, "Homo Economicus Goes to War: Methodological Individualism, Rational Choice and the Political Economy of War" *World Development* 30:11 (2002), 1845-1864.
- Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, Parts I, II, VI.

Incorporating Identity into Analysis of Conflict

- Ernst Fehr and Herbert Gintis, "Human Motivation and Social Cooperation: Experimental and Analytical Foundations" *Annual Review of Sociology* 33:1 (2007), 43-64.
- Kanchan Chandra, "What Is Ethnic Identity And Does It Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 9:1 (2006), 397-424.
- James Fearon and David D. Laitin, "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation" *American Political Science Review* 90:4 (1996), 715-735.

Micro-Models of Identity

- George Akerlof and Rachel Kranton, "Economics and Identity", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 115:3 (August 2000).
- Sun-Ki Chai, *Choosing an Identity*, Chapters 1-3.

The Formation of Ethnic Identity

- Henry Hale, *The Foundations of Ethnic Politics*, Introduction and Part I.
- Rogers Brubaker et al, Ethnicity as Cognition, *Theory and Society*, Volume 33, Number 1, February 2004 , pp. 31-64(34)
- Sun-Ki Chai, *Choosing an Identity*, Chapter 5.

Case Studies and Qualitative Comparison (1)

- Henry Hale, *The Foundations of Ethnic Politics*, Part II.
- Daniel N. Posner (2004b). The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi. *American Political Science Review*, 98(04), 529-545.

Case Studies and Qualitative Comparison (2)

- Kanchan Chandra, "The Transformation of Ethnic Politics in India: The Decline of Congress and the Rise of the Bahujan Samaj Party in Hoshiarpur" *Journal of Asian Studies* 59:1 (2000), 26-61.
- Steven Wilkinson, "Which Group Identities Lead to Most Violence? Evidence from India" in Stathis Kalyvas et al., *Order, Conflict, and Violence* (Cambridge University Press, 2008).

Quantitative Cross-National Studies

- Andreas Wimmer, Lars-Erik Cederman and Brian Min, "Ethnic politics and armed conflict. A configurational analysis of a new global dataset", *American Sociological Review* 74:2 (forthcoming 2009).
- James D. Fearon and David Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War" *American Political Science Review*, 97:1 (2003), 75-90.
- Alberto Alesina and Robert Baqir, and William Easterly, "Public Goods and Ethnic Divisions" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114:4 (1999), 1243-1284.

Experimental Studies

- Joseph Henrich et al., "'Economic Man' in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Behavioral Experiments in 15 Small-Scale Societies" *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 28:6 (December 2005), 795-855.
- Benedikt Herrmann, et al., "Anti-social Punishment Across Societies" *Science* 319:1362 (March 7, 2008).
- James Habyarimana, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner And Jeremy M. Weinstein, "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?", *American Political Science Review* 101:4 (November 2007), 709-725.

Main Assignments

50% of grade: For each class from the third week on, all class members are required take on turn in a set of critical notes on each of the readings. These should include a list of at least 3 study questions or comments the literature, which are designed to trigger further discussion. A class listserv will be set up to provide You will be expected to raise these (and optionally other) questions during class oral discussions.

50% of grade: You will be expected to turn in a final research paper in academic journal article format, and graded according to social science criteria for such articles. You may pick the topic of your choice relating to the topic of the course, and work with the professor to locate appropriate outside references. The last two meetings of the course will be devoted to oral presentations of your papers in their current stage.