





Who is Alexi Navalny, and why is he such a threat?

Navalny, a 41-year-old lawyer, spent 60 days in detention centers last year and found himself barred from registering as a candidate in the March elections. Instead, he has built an organization that emerged as the most serious domestic political challenge to the regime of President Vladimir Putin. This latest move by the Kremlin seems aimed at shutting down Navalny until after the elections.

[In Moscow, candidates opposed to Putin are running — and winning. Here's why that matters.]

My research on Navalny's organization looks at why the alternative communication space Navalny and his followers built using social media platforms now dominates online political discussion in Russia. This space influences traditional media and the political agenda of the country, giving Navalny a far-ranging voice.

Enter keywords, authors, DOI,

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The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity Volume 43, 2015 - Issue 4

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Articles

War of words: the impact of Russian state television on the Russian

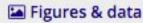
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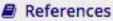
Christina Cottiero, Katherine Kucharski, Evgenia Olimpieva & Robert W. Orttung

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Check for updates.

Welcome to the course



Political science is the study of politics through the procedures of science.

Robert Keohane

I define *politics* as involving attempts to organize human groups to determine internal rules and, externally, to compete and cooperate with other organized groups; and reactions to such attempts. [...]

It includes acts of **leadership and resistance** to leadership, behavior resulting from **deference** and from **defiance**.

Keohane 2009: 359

I define **science** as a *publicly known* set of procedures designed to make and evaluate descriptive and causal inferences on the basis of the self-conscious application of *methods* that are themselves subject to public evaluation.

All science is carried out with the understanding that any conclusions are *uncertain* and subject to revision or refutation.

Keohane 2009: 359

The first principle is that you must not fool yourself—and you are the easiest person to fool.

Richard Feynman



The **sociologist** [...] is someone concerned with understanding society in a disciplined way. The nature of this discipline is scientific.

This means that what the sociologist finds and says about the social phenomena he studies occurs within a certain rather strictly defined frame of reference.

One of the main characteristics of this scientific frame of reference is that operations are bound by certain rules of evidence.

Berger 1963: 16

As a **scientist**, the sociologist tries to be objective, to control his personal preferences and prejudices, to perceive clearly rather than to judge normatively.

This restraint, of course, does not embrace the totality of the sociologist's existence as a human being, but is limited to his operations *qua* sociologist.

Nor does the sociologist claim that his **frame of reference** is the only one within which society can be looked at.

Berger 1963: 16-7

For sociologists, politics happen in any setting where people come to grasp the connections between biography and history or personal troubles and public issues, connections that C. Wright Mills understood as central to the "sociological imagination" (1959: 6).

Politics, in this broad sociological sense, may ultimately play out in institutions that are officially designated as "political" [...].

Clemens 2016: 2

This course is made of

- Lectures an introduction to political sociology that continues your Introduction to Political Science course
 Grades: final exam (40% of final grade)
- Tutorials reading seminars organised around key texts, and workshops to help you work build presentations
 Grades: midterm exam (30%), presentation (30%)
- Readings compulsory readings (reader) and presentation-specific readings (yours to choose)

Take a look at the course folder (Google Drive)



frama.link/polsoc-2021

tation across a authority of the r in a wider web o shared sets of cul very different way built the Great Wa or the locally rec only a few cent hunting and gath Almost any giv different ways of those rough stone

and Turner, it has become a commonplace to accept the view that there is not, and never has een, such a thing as 'the dominant ideology'. Their well-documented study was taken as proof that ideological unity did not exist in the past, nor was it essential to the smooth operation of contemporary societies. While one can easily accepts many of the criticisms levelled against traditional Marxist and functionalist accounts of the dominant ideology thesis it would be too hasty to completely discard the notion of dominant ideology from the sociological vocabulary. In this chapter I argue that the concept remains sociologically indis pensable when attempting to deal with the dominantideological narrative of modernity nationalism. The chapter is organized around the argument that nationalism, in all its diverse principal glue of state legitimacy. However, to fully comprehend its ideological power one needs to dissect a given society's ideological make-up at the two main levels - normative and operative. The potency of nationalism comes from its ability to adapt and metamorphose so as to dovetail with distinct and often contradictory official doctrines. In other words, while normative ideologies may be transient and ephemeral, and may change or Observing the regularity and continuity of individuals' patterns of political behavior over time, already in the 1950s scholars were drawing attention to the need to study processes of early political socialization, Hyman (1959, 25) defined political socialization as an individual's "learning of social patterns corresponding to his societal position as mediated through various agencies of society." It is a process of largely informal learning that almost everyone experiences throughout life as a consequence of interactions with parents, family, friends, neighbors, peers, colleagues, and so forth. Merelman (1986, 279; emphasis added) further describes political socialization as "the process by which people acquire relatively enduring orientations toward politics in general and toward their own political system.

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As most macro-sociologists and socially minded historians now agree, nationalism is a modern phenomenon (Gellner 1983; Smith 1991 Breuilly 1993). The pre-modern world was politically, economically and most of all socially too hierarchical and too stratified to allow for any significant degree of congruence between polity and culture. Before the era of Enlightenment and the French Revolution the social realm was dearly divided between a

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by the Direct Action Network (DAN), stopped most of the 3,000 delegates from 135 countries from reaching the inaugural ceremony. Organized into "affinity groups" only loosely linked with each other, some 10,000 demonstrators sat tied together in chains on the ground, using so-called "lock down" and "tripod" techniques that made the work of the police in removing the blockages more difficult (Smith 2000). When the police arrived to clear the streets leading to the summit, the demonstrators made

sumers"; "WTO = Capitalism without Conscience"; "Trade: Clean, Green

From the morning of the very first day, a series of sit-ins, coordinated

no move to resist but applied the tactics they had learned during courses

rance or irrationality. Game theorists have studied this fundament dicament under a variety of guises.

- · In the tragedy of the commons, no herder can limit grazing by anyone else's flock. If he limits his own use of the common meadow, he alone loses. Yet unlimited grazing destroys the common resource on which the livelihood of all depends
- · A public good, such as clean air or safe neighborhoods, can be enjoyed by everyone, regardless of whether he contributes to its provision. Under ordinary circumstances, therefore, no one has an incentive to contribute to providing the public good, and too little is produced, causing all to suffer.
- · In the dismal logic of collective action, every worker would benefit if all

how they opernts made about

into four parts parties' relation:

entral

cleavages within the national community: Which conflicts came first and which later? Which ones proved temporary and secondary? Which proved obdurate and pervasive? Which cut across each other and produced overlaps between allies and enemies, and which reinforced each other and tended to polarize the national citizenry?

A second group of questions focuses on the conditions for the development of a stable system of cleavage and oppositions in national political life: Why did some early conflicts establish party oppositions and others not? Which of the many conflicting interests and outlooks in the national community produced direct opposition between competing parties, and which of them could be aggregated within the broad party fronts? Which conditions favored extensive aggregations of oppositional groups, and which offered greater incentive to fragmented articulation of single interests or narrowly defined causes? To what extent were these developments affected by changes in the legal and the administrative conditions of political activity, through the extension of the rights of participation, through the introduction of secret voting and the development of strict controls of electoral corruption, and through the retention of plurality

There is only one compulsory reading per tutorial, but the lectures syllabus contains many suggested readings.

Have a look this week, and schedule time to find additional references for your presentations.

During the break, please form student groups in the relevant spreadsheet document on Google Drive.

Also take time to read through the tutorials syllabus, which contains instructions on presentations.





Class rules (similar to Tutorials in Public Policy)

Do the readings before class

All readings are part of your midterm and final exams, so take notes for future revision

Work in groups on your presentations

Our classes will include workshops on research questions, literature reviews, theoretical frameworks, etc.

Catch up any missed tutorial or work session

N.B. Handle absences with admin, and admin only

Presentation topics









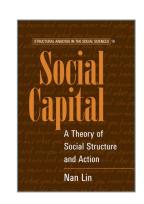


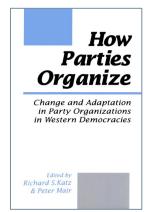
This course discusses events like

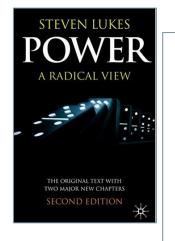
- The U.S. Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s
- The **election of Margaret Thatcher** in Britain, 1979
- The **rise of** Solidarnosc in Poland, 1980–1989
- The Yugoslav Wars, 1991–2001
- The November 2005 riots in France
- The 'Arab Spring' of 2010–2012
- The coup d'État in Thailand, 2014
- The election of Syriza in Greece, 2015

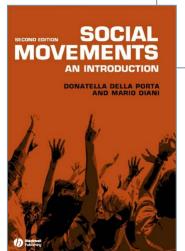
To do so, this course uses concepts like

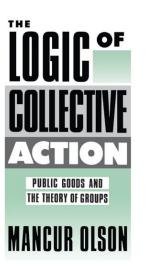
- Power
- 2. States
- 3. Socialization
- 4. Social Capital
- Protest
- Cleavages
- 7. Parties











etc.

Your presentation will (most likely) be about

Protest

Social movements and collective action

Cleavages

Electoral and ideological divisions

Parties

Partisan organization and competition

The exact topic (case study) is yours to choose, but your analytical perspective (and therefore your references) will have to be grounded in political sociology, which is a combination of political science + sociology

For ideas, check those academic blogs

- The Monkey Cage hosted at The Washington Post
- LSE EUROPP. European Politics and Policy
- Noria. Network of researchers in international affairs
- OxPol. The Oxford University Politics Blog

For the *Monkey Cage* and OxPol blogs, here's an almost up-to-date **index of all blog posts** (Google Sheets)

N.B. Not all blog posts provide good examples of academic research applied to recent events — **stay critical**



Reading 1

1 Power and Politics

Travel through almost any part of the world and many of the must-see sites are the physical traces of political orders long gone: castles along the Rhine, the Great Wall of China, the expansive temple complexes of Central America, North Africa, and Southeast Asia, or even a cluster of stone-walled granaries on a windswept plateau in the American Southwest. Each of these places embodies some method for enhancing the ability of human beings to control their environment, to produce collective goods, and, almost always, for some to dominate others. European castles were simultaneously centers of economic activity, "seats" of power that linked family dynasties to recognized and legitimate rule, and military resources that anchored a zone of security and exploitation across a surrounding region. The formal political authority of the ruler who occupied such a castle was rooted in a wider web of social and economic activities as well as shared sets of cultural and religious meanings. Although in very different ways, the same was true of the emperors who built the Great Wall, the priests who controlled those temples, or the locally recognized leaders of any small human group only a few centuries removed from subsistence through hunting and gathering.

Almost any given place has been shaped by the layering of different ways of organizing power. If you were to begin from those rough stone granaries in the southeast corner of Utah,

What political sociology focuses on

Definitions

- Social circumstances of politics (p. 15 'social orders')
- Politics outside of formal institutions (p. 23, e.g. schools)

Concepts

- Deference despite defiance (Weber's Macht, p. 7)
- Social cages, social closure (Weber, Mann, Tilly, pp. 10–5)
- Political quiescence (Gaventa, p. 16)
- Exit, Voice and Loyalty (Hirschman, pp. 17–9)

What political sociology focuses on (continued)

Links to political science and public policy

- Faces of power (Lukes, p.16)
- Agenda control (Bachrach and Baratz, p.16)

Essential concepts reconsidered

- States as forms of social closure (p. 12), and citizenship as a reflection of political order (p. 20)
- Civil society and its relationship to private property (Habermas and Arendt, p. 21)
- Democracy and how civil culture influences the (in)stability of political regimes (Tocqueville, p. 22)

What political sociology focuses on (continued)

More essential determinants

- Individual and collective preferences (p. 8)
- Bounded social orders, e.g. 'systems of trade, rules about property ownership, spiritual practices, and family systems'
 (p. 6) 'economic conflicts, religious beliefs, family practices, ... social identities' (p. 7)
- Processes of social closure, e.g. kinship, ethnicity, religion, class, which are fluid, subjective identities (p. 13) formed through network ties, e.g. marriages, neighbourhoods, debt-credit ties, political sponsorship (p. 14)



Next session

Read Malešević 2006

Tracklist for Tutorial 1

Angelic Upstarts, "Police Oppression" (1979)

Same number a million times before, Shut your mouth son or I'll knock you on the floor

Casey, "Qui sont-ils?" (2006)

Et c'est par les urnes que tu informes Que ça manque de burnes dans les uniformes

• La Rumeur, "La meilleure des polices" (2007)

La meilleure des polices C'est quand les pauvres savent rester à leur place