

BC3905: Funding Social Change: A Research Practicum Fall 2005

Wed 9:00-10:50am
403 Barnard Hall

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-5pm

Course Overview

Here is the crux of the dilemma regarding social movement philanthropy: despite expressed good intentions, foundation funding for social movements is thought to be inherently conservative, channeling movement groups in more moderate directions with the consequence that social dissent is diffused. One version of this narrative posits that such heavy-handedness on the part of foundation funders is a more or less explicit strategy, as they seek to ensure social stability and thus their elite standing in society. A different account, which leads to roughly the same result, is that the moderating influence of foundation support reflects the tendency of all organizations (and nonprofits in particular) to adopt conventional structures and practices in order to meet the expectations of major organizational stakeholders in their fields so as to insure organizational survival. Either way, the results are substantially the same: the privileging and reproduction of more acceptable modes of doing political work at the expense of the development of more progressive or innovative social change organizations.

This seminar will examine the dilemmas of social movement philanthropy in conjunction with a research project on the characteristics of the foundations that provide resources for social change and the organizations that are the recipients of foundation grants. The purpose is to introduce students to key social science debates about the consequences of foundation support for contemporary social movements and to provide the opportunity for independent research experience. The primary focus will be on civil rights, women's, gay and lesbian, environmental and conservative organizations. Topics include: the role of foundations in American social and political life; the importance of resources for social movement development; foundation funding as social control or proactive support; the dilemmas of progressive funding; the role of foundations in supporting the new conservative movement; and the consequences of seeking alternative sources of support.

The seminar is organized along two tracks. Most sessions will involve some combination of assigned readings on, and seminar-style discussion of, academic approaches to philanthropy and more practical methodological issues. Seminar participants will be assigned to independent research groups that will be responsible for collecting data on

specific social movement areas, working with a master list of funders and grant recipients derived from The Foundation Center grants data base. In the final weeks of the semester, research groups will present their findings and be required to submit a final research report that includes an extended bibliography of research related to their movement area. Individual participants will also be required to write a narrative essay on their research experience.

Course Requirements

Active course participation:	20% of final grade
Final group presentation:	30%
Group Research Report:	30% (Due Dec 14 th)
<u>Narrative essay (5-7pp):</u>	<u>20% (Due Dec 14th)</u>
Total:	100%

Required Readings

The following books have been ordered for purchase at Labyrinth Books (536 West 112th St) and put on library reserve:

- Alexandra Chasin, *Selling Out: The Gay and Lesbian Movement Goes to Market* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2001)
Susan Ostrander, *Money for Change: Social Movement Philanthropy at the Haymarket People's Fund* (Temple University Press, 1995)

There is also a reader of additional materials, which can be purchased at TBA and (hopefully) accessed on-line.

Note on the organization of the syllabus: Substantive topics are indicated by **bolded text** and methodological topics and exercises are indicated by *italicized text*.

COURSE SCHEDULE

7 Sept **Course & Project Overview**

Debra Minkoff and Jon Agnone, "The "Seeding" of Social Movements?: The Consequences of Foundation Funding for Developing Movement Infrastructures." (To be distributed in class)

14 Sept **The Role of Foundations in American Social & Political Life**

David C. Hammack, "Foundations in the American Polity," in Ellen Lagemann, ed., Philanthropic Foundations: New Scholarship, New Possibilities (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999), pp. 43-68.

Kenneth Prewitt, "Foundations as Mirrors of Public Culture." American Behavioral Scientist 42,6(1999): 977-986.

William Diaz, "The Behavior of Foundations in an Organizational Frame: A Case Study." Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly 25,4(1996): 453-469.

Coding Data from Documentary Sources

Earl Babbie, The Basics of Social Research. 2nd ed. (Wadsworth, 2005), chs. 4-5.

21 Sept **Resource Mobilization and Social Movements**

John McCarthy and Mayer Zald "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory." American Journal of Sociology 82(1977):1212-1241.

Alice O'Connor, "The Ford Foundation and Philanthropic Activism in the 1960s," in Ellen Lagemann, ed. Philanthropic Foundations: New Scholarship, New Possibilities

J. Craig Jenkins, "Channeling Social Protest: Foundation Patronage of Contemporary Social Movements." in W. Powell and E. Clemens, eds., Private Action and the Public Good, edited by (Yale University Press, 1998), pp. 206-16.

Assignment of research groups/movement areas; sample coding.

28 Sept **Social Control or Good Intentions**

Herbert Haines, "Black Radicalization and the Funding of Civil Rights." Social Problems 32 (1984):31-43.

J. Craig Jenkins and Craig M. Eckert, "Channeling Black Insurgency: Elite Patronage and Professional Social Movement Organizations in the Development of the Black Movement." American Sociological Review 51(1986):812-829.

Deborah McCarthy, "Environmental Just Grantmaking: Elites and Activists Collaborate to Transform Philanthropy." Sociological Inquiry 74,2(2004): 250-270.

Discussion of coding problems (locating data, inter-coder reliability)

5 Oct **(Trying to) Do the Right Thing**

Susan Ostrander, Money for Change: Social Movement Philanthropy at the Haymarket People's Fund (Temple University Press, 1995).

Ira Silver, "Buying an Activist Identity: Reproducing Class through Social Movement Philanthropy" Sociological Perspectives 41,2(1998): 303-21.

12 Oct **Dilemmas of Progressive Philanthropy: Practitioner Viewpoints**
(Speakers TBA)

19 Oct *Summarizing and Presenting Data*

Daniel Chamblis and Russell Schutt, Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation (Sage, 2003). Chs. 9-10.

26 Oct **Funding the New Conservative Movement**

Mark A. Smith, "Intellectual Resources and Outlets among Conservatives and Liberals." Draft chapter manuscript, 2005.

Michael Allen, "Elite Social Movement Organizations and the State: The Rise of the Conservative Policy-Planning Network." Research in Politics and Society 4(1992): 87-109.

Jason DeParle, "Goals Reached, Donor on Right Closes Up Shop." New York Times, May 29, 2005 (www.nytimes.com/2005/05/29/politics/)

Data collection completed!

2 Nov **If not Foundations...**

Alexandra Chasin, Selling Out: The Gay and Lesbian Movement Goes to Market (St. Martin's Press, 2001)

Start preparing presentations

9 Nov *Final group advising on presentations*

16 Nov *Group Presentations*

23 Nov *Group Presentations*

30 Nov *Group Presentations*

7 Dec **The Promise and Limits of Social Movement Philanthropy**

Peter Dreier, "Social Justice Philanthropy: Can We Get More Bang for the Buck?" Social Policy 33,1(2002): 27-33.

Comparing Results across Movements

14 Dec RESEARCH REPORTS AND ESSAYS DUE

Papers must be turned in to my office (332D Milbank) no later than 5:00p.m. to receive credit (no exceptions!).