Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU

Course: Civil Society and NGOs in the Neo Liberal Era

Level and status: 4 credit points BA seminar

Prior requirements: None

Lecturer: Dr. Nitza Berkovitch

Taught: 2008/2009, 2009/10

Course description: The course will focus on the causes and implications of recently emerging phenomenon of the expansion and proliferation of civil society associations and non-governmental organizations. It will examine the effects of the transforming relations among business sector, the state and civil society on the potential for collective social action and social change. In the first semester we will get acquainted with the main concepts: neoliberalism, social movements, civil society and global civil society and NGOization of civil society. In the second semester we will discuss specific issues: donors/NGOs nexus, civil society and the welfare state, civil society and human rights organizations, civil society and corporations. Toward the end of the course we will explore the possibilities for social change in Israel.

Course requirements: students are required to be present in class meetings and read the required readings. The main assignment is writing a seminar paper based on empirical study designed and performed by the student on a topic of his/her choosing. Before they submit the final paper they have to: 1. Get approval for the topic. 2. Submit a short research proposal (1-2 pages long). 3. Present in class preliminary results and tentative conclusions.

Grade: 10% participation in class discussions
10% research proposal and class presentation
80% final paper

Course schedule and reading list:

Fall Semester:
David Harvey. 2005. "The Neoliberal State." In **A Brief History of Neoliberalism.** Oxford University Press. Pp. 64-86.

Dani Filc. 2004." Israel model 2000: Neo liberal Post Fordism" in **The Power of Property: Israeli Society in the Global Age**, edited by U. Ram and D. Filc, pp. 34-56. (Hebrew)

Ben Eliezer, Uri. 2006. "Civil Society" in **In/Equality**, edited by Ram and Berkovitch, pp. 173-180

Della Porta D. and M. Diani 1999 **Social Movements: An introduction**, Oxford: Blackwell, Chapter 1: "The study of Social Movements: Collective Behaviour, Rational Actions, Protests and New Conflicts," pp. 1-28.

Tilly, Charles and Sidney Tarrow. 2007. **Contentious Politics**, London: Paradigm Publishers. Chapter 1: "Making Claims", pp. 1-24

Silliman, Jael. 1999. Expanding Civil Society: Shrinking Political Spaces - the Case of Women's Nongovernmental Organizations. **Social Politics**. 6(1): 23-53.

Taylor Lucy. 1999 "Globalization and Civil Society: Continuities, Ambiguities and Realities in Latin America," **Indiana Journal of Global Legal Issues** 7(1),

Kamat, Sangeeta (2004): "The privatization of public interest: theorizing NGO discourse in a neoliberal era", **Review of International Political Economy** 11(1) February 2004, pp. 155–176.

Hanna Herzog. 2008. Re/visioning the Women's Movement in Israel. **Citizenship Studies**. 12(3):265-282.

Spring Semester

Berkovitch, Nitza and Neve Gordon. 2008. "The Political Economy of Transnational Regimes: The Case of Human Rights." **International Studies Quarterly**, 52(4):881-904.

Sari Hanafi and Linda Tabar. 2005. "Donor Agenda Setting: Three Case Studies: Women, Human Rights and Health." In: **The Emergence of a Palestinian Globalized Elite: Donors, International Organizations and Local NGOs.** Institute of Jerusalem Studies.

Bode, Ingo. 2006. “Disorganized Welfare Mixes: Voluntary Agencies and New Governance Regimes in Western Europe.” **Journal of European Social Policy**, 16(4): 346-359.

Brysk, Alison. 1993. From Above and Below: Social Movements, the International System, and Human Rights in Argentina. **Comparative Political Studies**, 26(3): 259-285.

Shamir, Ronen. 2004a. "The De-Radicalization of Corporate Social Responsibility". **Critical Sociology**, 30(3): 669-689.

www.corpwatch.org history and mission, annual reports, research tools

www.midot.org.il

Sa'ar, Amalia. 2006. "A Business of Your Own": Evaluation Research of a Micro-Enterprise Project By Economic Empowerment for Women. Submitted to the **National Security Institute Research & Planning Administration,** Division for Service Development. *(Hebrew).*

Ilani, Ayelet. 2005 (May). **Growth from Another Direction: Mapping Strategies for Community and Economic Development and Observing the Process of the Growth of Israel's Social Economy** Research Report submitted to the New Israel Fund and Shatil. *(Hebrew).*

Rankin, Katharine N. (2001) 'Governing Development: Neoliberalism, Microcredit, and 'Rational Economic Woman'**, Economy and Society**, 30:1, 18 – 37
Shany Pays. 2005. "Conclusion: The Difficult Road to Socio-Political Change." In: **Palestinian NGOs in Israel: The Politics of Civil Society**. Tauris Academic Studies. Pp. 224-237.

Ben-Eliezer, Uri. 1999. ''Is Civil Society Emerging in Israel? Politics and Identity in the New Associations.''
Israeli Sociology 2 (1): 51–98.

Herzog, Hanna. 2006. "Between the Lawn and the Gravel Path: Women, Politics and Civil Society". **Democratic Culture**, 10: 191-214.

Yacobi H, 2007, "The NGOization of Space: Dilemmas of Social Change, Planning Policy, and the Israeli Public Sphere" **Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 25**(4) 745 – 758.

Gordon, Neve. 2005. "Human Rights and Social Space: The Power of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel," *Israeli Sociology*, 7(1): 23-44.

Haya Shalom. "The Story of ClaF: The Community of Lesbian Feminist." In: **Sappho in the Holy Land: Lesbian Existence and Dilemmas in Contemporary Israel**, edited by Chava. Frankfort-Nachmias and Erella Shadmi, pp. 39-63.

Additional Readings

Jean Cohen and Andrew Arato. 1992. "Social Movements and Civil Society." In: **Civil Society and Political Theory**. MIT Press.

Keck M. and K. Sikkink 1998. "Human Rights Advocacy Networks in Latin America." In: **Activists beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics,** Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 79-120.

Bartley, Tim. 2007. "How Foundations Shape Social Movements: the Construction of an Organizational Field and the Rise of Forest Certification." **Social Problems** 54(3): 229-255.

Berkovitch, Nitza and Sara Helman. 2004. "Global Social Movements" (the Women's Movement and the Gay and Lesbian Movement) in: **The Blackwell's Companion to Gender Studies**. Edited by P. Essed, et.al. Oxford, UK: Blackwell. Pp. 266-278.

Anthony Giddens. 2008. **The Third Way: The Renewal of Social Democracy**. Cambridge, Eng. : Polity Press

Zygmunt Bauman. 2000**. Liquid Modernity**. Polity Press.

Cooley, Alexander, and James Ron. 2002. “The NGO Scramble: Organizational Insecurity and the Political Economy of Transnational Action.” **International Security** 27(1):5-39

Henderson, Sarah L. 2002. "Selling Civil Society: Western Aid and the Nongovernmental Organization Sector in Russia". **Comparative Political Studies**, 35(2): 139-167.

Hulme, David and Michael Edwards (eds.). 1997. ***NGOs, States and Donors: Too Close for Comfort?***. New York: St. Martin's Press

Habib, Adam and Rupert Taylor. 1999. “South Africa: Anti-Apartheid NGOs in Transition”. **Voluntas**, 10: 73-93.