

International Policy Entrepreneurs and Networks in Education
Professor Gita Steiner-Khamsi

ITSF4094, Fall 2005
Wednesdays, 5-7

(Instructor's approval needed to enroll.)

Syllabus

The seminar uses theories and methods of social network analysis for analyzing regional and global policy networks. Besides reading and discussing sociological texts and policy study literature, we will conduct collaborative empirical analyses of policy networks. Willingness to conduct empirical research (content and reference analyses) is condition for participating in this seminar.

The seminar addresses students with a concentration in international education policy studies, and will focus on the role of international organizations in advancing specific "best practices" (community-based education, grants for schools program, child-friendly schools, etc.) or school reforms (e.g., standards movement, outcomes-based education, decentralization of governance, etc.).

Reading:

Gladwell, M. 2002. *The tipping point. How little things can make a big difference*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.

Watts, D. 2003. *Six degrees. The science of a connected age*. New York: Norton & Co.

Mintrom, M., and S. Vergari 1998. Policy networks and innovation diffusion: The case of state education reforms. *The Journal of Political Science* 41(3), 738-770.

Granovetter, M. S. 1983. The strength of weak ties: A network theory revisited. *Sociological Theory* 1, 201-233.

Additional reading will be gathered and presented by students in class.

Grading Policy:

1. Literature Review (15 pages): 30% of the grade – due: October 19
2. Technical Report on Empirical Network Analysis (15 pages): 25% of the grade – Nov. 9
3. Research Paper on Empirical Network Analysis (15 pages): 25% -- due: December 7
4. Active participation in class (presentations): 20% of the grade

Program:

September 14:

Watts 2003, chapter 1

Ideas for empirical studies

September 21:

Watts 2003, chapters 2-3

Ideas for empirical studies

September 28:

Watts 2003, chapters TBA

Formation of research teams & ideas for further reading

October 5:

Gladwell 2002, chapters 1-2

Formation of research teams & report on additional literature search (*1 page bibliography*)

October 12:

Gladwell 2002, chapters TBA

Preparation of research design

October 19:

Granovetter 1983, Mintrom & Vergari 1998

Report on research design

Literature review is due

October 26:

Session on network software programs

November 2:

Student reading TBA

Work in research teams

November 9:

Student reading TBA

Work in research team

Technical report on empirical network analysis is due

November 16:

Student Reading TBA

Work in research team

November 23 – Thanksgiving break

November 30:

Presentation of empirical studies

December 7:
Presentation of empirical studies
Technical report on empirical network analysis is due

December 14:
Ideas for publishing, further research and collaboration

Please note that guidelines for preparing the assignments will be distributed in class. The two journal articles are posted on ClassWeb, and the two required books are available for purchase at the TC bookstore.

To enroll in this class, please contact Professor Gita Steiner-Khamsi, gs174@columbia.edu by September 12, 2005. Please state your specific research interest as it relates to this seminar.

My walk-in *office hours* (no appointments necessary) are:

Tuesdays, 4 - 5 (last meeting at 4:45)

Wednesdays, 2 - 4 (last meeting at 3:45)

The office is located in 364/366 Grace Dodge Hall.

Please do not use the scheduled appointments unless you would like to discuss your dissertation.