

Power & Everyday Politics

Type and reader: Reading seminar held by Jozef Zelinka, doctoral candidate.

Course description: If we assume, that »power [authors emphasis] is the core concept that unifies the study of politics« (Haugaard/Ryan, 2012: 9) than, undoubtedly, one must raise the question, how to deal with that? On one side, there are several concepts of power that have been emerging all along crucial political and historical events in order to explain them. But, on the other side, as the understanding of the ›political‹ has changed rapidly in recent times (cf. Warren, 1997; Bröckling/Feustel, 2012), so has the notion of the ›power‹. And indeed, the realm of the political encompasses our daily lives more than ever and, consequently, urges the study of power relations that operate within everyday politics. The course, therefore, aims to cover the gap between political theories of power and everyday practices of power. Even if »power is a word the meaning of which we do not understand« (Leo Tolstoy, War and Peace), it is nevertheless an ongoing political issue to problematize its origins and mechanisms.

Course objectives: By completing the course students will be able:

- to explain the core principles and assumptions of contemporary political theories of power;
- to problematize the notion of everyday politics and deconstruct its power dimension;
- to further investigate quotidian power-politics nexuses.

Time and place: Monday 4-6 p.m.; Scharnhorststraße 100.124

Preconditions: (i) Completing of the basic course »Introduction to the Political Theory«, or of other thematically related course;

(ii) English skills (B2/C1 levels of CEFR);

(iii) Willingness and Engagement.

Evaluation: Academic essay on chosen topic (4000-5000 words) with preferred submission date.

Sample reading list:

- Gaventa, J. (2003): *Power after Lukes: An overview of theories of power since Lukes and their application to development*. Unpublished paper. Participation Group, IDS. Sussex.
- Sadan, E. (1997): *Empowerment and Community Planning: Theory and Practice of People-Focused Social Solutions*. Hakibbutz Hameuchad. Tel Aviv. pp. 33-71
- Tria Kerkvliet, B.J. (2009) Everyday politics in peasant societies (and ours). In: *The Journal of Peasant Studies*. Vol. 36, No. 1, pp. 227-243
- Turner, J.C. (2005): Explaining the nature of power: A three-process theory. In: *European Journal of Social Psychology*. Vol. 35, pp. 1-22
- Wood, B.E. (2012): Crafted within liminal spaces: Young people's everyday politics. In: *Political Geography*, Vol. 31, pp. 337-346