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Sociology 190, Section 4  
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Hours: Mondays 4-6 or by appointment  
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## NGOs and Global Governance

This is an unusual course. It will be more fun than the average class, and also require more work. You will collect original data from the internet, and perhaps from interviews or newspapers and other sources as well. You may also develop some job- or career-relevant skills. Each of you will build a database—originally in Excel—containing the names, web addresses, and other information about hundreds, perhaps thousands, of NGOs of a particular type: ones working on climate change, or women's rights, LGBT issues, human trafficking, or another important global issue that interests you. Then you will collect more detailed information about a smaller sub-set of those organizations, and perhaps interview people who work in one or more of those organizations. You will write a paper about the organizations you have studied. I, along with Tara Gonsalves, <[taragonsalves@berkeley.edu](mailto:taragonsalves@berkeley.edu)>, a Sociology graduate student who is helping with the course, will offer lots of advice and help along the way.

### REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Since this is a research-based seminar, it has relatively light reading. We will read a little about NGOs for background, but the main focus will be getting your research up and running. To make the course work, you must attend every session unless you are ill. [This is especially important since—because we meet on Mondays—there are only 12 regularly-scheduled meetings!!] Students will each choose a topic area, such as AIDS orphans, violence against women, climate change, gay rights, maternal health, clean water, sex trafficking, etc. and develop a comprehensive sense of the NGOs working on the problem, the funders sponsoring their activities, where they work, and their effects, if any. We will try to compare evidence across areas, regions, and perhaps types of NGOs to see what shapes NGO activities and effects. The main requirements are attending every session of the seminar and completing the class assignments on time so that the members of the seminar can all move forward together.

### Grading:

Attendance: 20%

Completing class assignments on time: 50%

Final paper: 30% 15-20pp. Due by 5 pm, Friday, May 6, in Word, to [swidler@berkeley.edu](mailto:swidler@berkeley.edu)

## Week 1 January 25 INTRODUCTION

Read or skim: Susan Watkins, Ann Swidler and Thomas Hannan. 2012. "Outsourcing Social Transformation: Development NGOs as Organizations." *Annual Review of Sociology* 38: 285-315.

### Class Assignment, Week 1:

1. Before class, look over the "Types of NGOs" list and consider what type of NGOs you might want to study.
2. In class, brainstorm about other sorts of NGOs that might not be on the list.
3. In class, brainstorm about countries you and other students may be especially interested in, as we try to compare NGOs cross-nationally.

## Week 2 February 1 DEVELOPING A DATABASE

We will meet in the D-Lab (Barrows, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, across from the West-end elevators) to start learning how to build a database. For background, read:

Stephanie Limoncelli, "What in the World Are Anti-Trafficking NGOs Doing? Findings from a Global Study," forthcoming in *Journal of Human Trafficking* 2016.

## Week 3 February 8 THINKING ABOUT THE 'AID CHAIN'

By week 3, you should have decided what type of NGO you want to study and have begun the process of building your database. Most of our class time will be spent trouble-shooting, if there are problems, and exchanging tips on how to do the research. This week's reading suggests the value of thinking about how different kinds of NGOs are funded and where they sit in the "aid chain."

Wallace, Tina with Lisa Bornstein and Jennifer Chapman. 2007. *The Aid Chain: Coercion and Commitment in Development NGOs*. Rugby, UK: Intermediate Technology Publications, pp. 1-18, and pp. 120-128.

Assignment: You should have decided what kind of NGOs you want to focus on. List, or enter into your database, at least five of them. Also look up detailed information on one NGO of the type that interests you to discuss with the class.

During the next week, even though we don't have class, work on building up your database. I will have extra office hours, for consultation.

February 15 UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY

Week 4 February 22 WHERE DO NGOs WORK?

Brass, Jennifer N. 2012. "Why Do NGOs Go Where They Go?" *World Development* 40(2):387–401

Assignment: You should have uploaded to your database all the NGOs of your type accessible in the major NGO directories, and you should have begun adding additional NGOs that you find on the web, in news sources, or through looking for "partners" of other organizations in your database.

In class, we will discuss the detailed information we want to collect about NGOs. I already have a partial list which includes the NGO's mission statement, history, the countries where it works, and its funding sources, if known. But we will also discuss other features you would like to code.

Week 5 February 29 SAVING THE WORLD: WHAT DO NGOs DO?

Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1999. "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics." *International Social Science Journal* 51(159):89-101.

Sally Engle Merry, *Human Rights and Gender Violence*, Chicago: University of Chicago press, 2006, Ch. 5, "Legal Transplants and Cultural Translation: Making Human Rights in the Vernacular," pp. 134-178.

Assignment: While continuing to add new organizations to your database, start looking for detailed information (entered in Qualtrix) for a sample of the organizations you have found. We will develop the coding categories for the detailed information together. How you sample will depend on how many organizations you have found, but you should aim to get detailed data on at least 20 organizations (obviously sampling will be very different if you have 2,000 NGOs in your larger database, versus if you have 40).

Week 6 March 7 POWER AND CONTROL IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Bebbington, Anthony. 2005. "Donor–NGO Relations and Representations of Livelihood in Nongovernmental Aid Chains." *World Development* 33(6):937–50.

Assignment: Collect detailed information on at least another 20 NGOs in your database, and start thinking about what patterns you are finding.

Week 7 March 14 HOW ARE NGOs FUNDED?

We discuss what seminar members have found about how different NGOs are funded. How might NGOs that appeal to individual donors in wealthy countries differ from those that apply for grants from large international organizations or foundations, and from those that rely on individual volunteers?

Week of March 21 SPRING BREAK

Week 8 March 28 HOW DO NGOs DIFFER ACROSS NATIONS/REGIONS?

We discuss whether and how NGOs might differ depending on the country or region in which they are headquartered, and the region in which they work. Broadly speaking, does the tradition of local community organization in different regions affect the kinds of NGOs that form, and the ways NGOs operate?

Scherz, China. 2014. *Having People, Having Heart: Charity, Sustainable Development, and Problems of Dependence in Central Uganda*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pages to be decided.

Week 9 April 4 WHAT DO NGOs DO ON THE GROUND?

Swidler, Ann and Susan Cotts Watkins. 2009. "'Teach a Man to Fish': The Sustainability Doctrine and Its Social Consequences." *World Development* 37(7):1182–96.

In class, we will begin developing questions and themes for your papers. We will discuss how to analyze the information you have collected so that you can begin outlining your papers.

Week 10 April 11 INTERVIEWS OR OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION?

By now you know a lot about the kind of NGOs that interest you. If you are interested, you may be able to interview volunteers who have traveled abroad to work in an NGO, donors who give money to an NGO, or foundations that give grants to NGOs. Doing even one interview could help you understand the "human side" of the process.

Week 11 April 18

Assignment: Preliminary outline of your paper due by Sunday at 6pm (to [swidler@berkeley.edu](mailto:swidler@berkeley.edu)) in Word, so I can make comments and suggestions. We will discuss the outlines in class.

Week 12 April 25

Assignment: Introductory paragraph and revised outline (in Word) of your paper due by Sunday at 6pm (to [swidler@berkeley.edu](mailto:swidler@berkeley.edu)). In class, we will share food and discuss your papers and what you found most exciting in your research.

FRIDAY, MAY 6, FINAL PAPERS DUE by 5pm to [swidler@berkeley.edu](mailto:swidler@berkeley.edu)