Global Social Governance/Policy

Social governance is a natural complement to economic governance and environmental governance. While there is overlap among them, global social governance cannot be subsumed under the rubric of the other two. Thus, a central challenge of global governance is to adequately address critical issues such as global health concerns, global poverty, and issues raised by global migration.

The course examines questions relating to the development of global social governance. Why have social issues, traditionally dealt with at the national scale, become part of global agendas? Who are the main actors and what are the lines of contestation around global social governance? What current political initiatives favour movement in the direction of global social governance and what are some of the obstacles? Is the regional scale be more appropriate scale for social governance? The first part of the course begins by raising the question of what is global social governance and then provides an overview of the diverse actors and scales of action. It raises questions about how social governance problems are ideationally constructed, the respective roles played and positions taken by international organisations, corporate actors, think tanks, international non-governmental organisations and transnational advocacy coalitions. The second part of the course focuses on global social governance as it operates (or not) in the areas of humanitarian aid, anti-poverty measures, care, migration, health and education.

Required readings: I have tried as much as possible to use sources that are readily accessible via the libraries’ electronic data bases. I will provide digital copies of material otherwise difficult to access.

Grading:

Seminars: 25 percent of your grade will be awarded for seminar participation. You are asked to formulate two thought-provoking questions for discussion each week that reflect an understanding of the key issues raised by the readings and your own position in relation thereto. How does the debate embedded in that week’s readings, enrich our understanding of the core concerns that run through the course?

You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the required readings. No one will be penalised for being quiet, but informed participation on a regular basis could help to raise your final grade.

Papers: You are required to write two essays. The first, worth 25% of your final grade, is a short paper (no more than 2000 words) in which you draw selectively on the readings from the one of the first three classes to reflect in general terms on contemporary debates about the scope and nature of global social governance. The paper is due 17 October.

The second essay, of no more than 6,000 words, is worth 50 percent of the final grade. It can be on any topic of your choice relevant to the course. You might want to focus on a
particular policy or issue or a key actor/set of actors. You could also choose to focus on a major recent report or set of reports pertinent to one of the issue areas covered in the course. The essay can take the form of a regular research paper, research proposal or a policy brief. The essay is due 12 December.

Short paper: 25%
Research paper: 50%
Seminar participation: 25%

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION

Week 1: Introduction (12 September)

Week 2: Defining Global Social Governance (19 September)

Deacon argues that global social policy ‘consists of two things: first it is the social policy prescriptions for national social policy...articulated by global actors such as international organisations; second, it is the emerging supranational social policies and mechanisms of global redistribution, global social regulation and global social rights.’ (Deacon, 2007:2). Levitt et al offer a different approach, based on the situation of the migrant while Fraser raises the broader question of ‘who counts’.


Bob Deacon, (2007) Global Social Policy and Governance (Sage) chapter 1


Miriam Tag (2013) ‘The cultural construction of global social policy: Theorizing formations and transformations’ Global Social Policy 13(1) 24-44


**Week 3: International Organisations and Global Social Governance** (26 September)

International organisations constitute important nodes in the transnational networks that constitute the global social governance architecture. Yet they are not all cut from the same cloth: they look at the world in different ways and they wield different instruments of governance.

**Note:** While Deacon is still the only one who provides a solid overview of the various IOs’ involvement in global social governance, it is getting rather dated. If there is a particular IO that you are interested in, it would be worth checking out its website to ‘update’ the picture provided by Deacon.

- Bob Deacon (2007) *Global Social Policy and Governance* (Sage) chapters 2-4

**Week 4: Global Social Governance: Non-State Actors** (3 October)

International organizations and nation states may play an important role in global social governance but so too do other actors such as think tanks, international non-governmental organisations, business and labour organisations and global social movements.

Week 5: Social Policy at the Regional Scale (17 October)

International organisations constituted at the regional scale also have a role in global social governance.


Anna van der Vleuten and Anouka van Eerdewijk (2014) ‘Regional governance, gender and transnationalism: A First Exploration’ in Gender Equality Norms in Regional Governance: Transnational Dynamics in Europe, South America and South Africa A van der Vleuten, A van Eerdewijk and C. Roggeband eds. Palgrave Macmillan


Week 6: Ending Poverty: CCTs, Social Transfers, Basic Income? (24 October)

- Moritz Von Gliszczynski and Lutz Leisering ‘Constructing new global models of social security: how international organisations defined the field of social cash transfers in the 2000s’ Journal of Social Policy 45(2) 325-343.


- Global Social Policy Forum on universal basic income Global Social Policy 17(1) contributions by Patricia Schulz, Anita Lacey, Moritz von Gliszczynski and Andrew Jackson


Lutz Leizering (2009) ‘Extending social security to the excluded: Are social cash transfers to the poor an appropriate way of fighting poverty in development countries?’ Global Social Policy 9(2) 246-272

Moira Nelson and Johan Sandberg (2017) ‘From perspectives to policy contingencies: Conditional cash transfers as social investments’ Global Social Policy 17(1)


Tania Murray Li (2010) ‘To make live or let die? Rural dispossession and the protection of surplus populations’ Antipode 41 (s1). 66-93


Joseph Hanlon, Armando Barrientos and David Hulme (2010) Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South Kumarian Press

Week 8: Humanitarianism (31 October)

Week 9: Care: Travelling Ideas, Travelling for Care (7 November)

Traditional conceptions of social policy focused on transfers in the form of social assistance and social insurance. Recently however, there has been a growing international recognition that care arrangements – for the very young, those with disabilities, the frail elderly – also form a critical part of social policy. Taking a global perspective, however, reveals that care is an area where social and migration politics intersect.

- Nicola Yeates, (2011) “Going Global: The Transnationalization of Care’ Development and Change 42(4) 1109-1130
- Rianne Mahon and Sonya Michel (2017) ‘Not in Focus: Migrant women caregivers as seen by the ILO and the OECD’, Gender, Migration and the Work of Care: A Multi-scalar Approach to the Pacific Rim Palgrave


**Week 10: Global Social Governance of Migration** (14 November)


Stephen Castles (2011) ‘Migration crisis and the global labour market’ *Globalizations* 8 (3) 311-324

Kathleen Newlan (2010): “Governance of international migration: Mechanisms, processes and institutions” *Global Governance* 16


**Week 10: Global Social Governance of Health** (21 November)


Adam Kamradt-Scott (2016) ‘WHO’s to blame? The WHO and the 2011 Ebola outbreak in West Africa’ *Third World Quarterly* 37(3)


John Kirton and Andrew Cooper (2009) “Innovation in Global Health Governance,” in *Innovation in Global Health Governance* A Cooper and J Kirton eds Ashgate

**Week 11: New Social Governance Architecture I: Social protection floor (28 November)**

  
Bob Deacon (20130 *Global social policy in the making: The foundations of the social protection floor* Policy Press

**Week 12: New Social Governance Architecture II The MDGs and the SDGs**

**Note:** This class is scheduled for 5 December but I will be out of the country on that date so we need to reschedule.

- Sakiko Fukuda-Parr (2016) ‘From the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals: Shifts in purpose, concept and politics of global goal setting for development’ *Gender and Development* 24(1) 43-52
- Sara Rose Taylor and Rianne Mahon (2018) ‘Gender Equality from the MDGs to the SDGs: The Struggle Continues’ draft for edited volume being compiled by Dalby, Horton and Mahon
- Deval Desai and Marieka Schomerus (2018) “‘There was a 3rd Man…’: Tales from a Social Policy Consultation on Indicators for the SDGs’ *Development and Change* 49(1) 89-115
  
Oliver Fox and Peter Stoett (2016) ‘Citizen participation in the UN Sustainable Development Goals consultation process: Toward global democratic governance?’ *Global Governance* 22 555-574

Sakiko Fukuda-Parr and David Hulme ((2011) ‘International Norm Dynamics and the “End of Poverty” and the Millennium Development Goals’ *Global Governance* 17(1)

Naila Kabeer (2015) ‘Women/MDGs: Tracking the gender politics of the MDGs. Struggles for interpretive power in the international development agenda’ *Third World Quarterly* 36(2)


Gita Sen and Avanti Mukherjee (2014) ‘No empowerment without rights; no rights without empowerment: Gender equality, the MDGs and the post-2015 Development Agenda’ Journal of Human Development and Capabilities 15(2-3)

David Hulme and James Scott (2010) ‘The political economy of the MDGs: Retrospect and Prospect for the world’s biggest promise’ New Political Economy 15(2)


One Essay option: analysis of key policy documents

You may want to do a paper on one or two documents produced perhaps by an IO (or NGO or other non-state actor) within the fields we are discussing in this course and to analyse it. We can talk about the components of such an essay but the short piece on the WB's last year's WDR by Shahra Razavi in Global Social Policy has a lot of the elements. I would also add a discussion of why one has chosen this report or this set of reports and how to analyse them (e.g. importance of distinction between exec summary and recommendations vs the text; which section of the organisation worked on the report, the knowledge networks revealed in the acknowledgements and key items in/not in the bibliography etc).

Possible Structure for papers focused on one or more key documents:

1. Introduction setting out the overall argument
2. Context (and method):
   • set the document(s) in relation to the broader set of issues it addresses within the larger field of global social ‘governance’;
   • locate the IO (or other organisation) in this field (e.g. gender and development; migration; global health);
   • explain why you chose this/these report(s)
   • say something about how to ‘read’ such documents
3. (Analytical) summary of the report
4. More in-depth (critical) discussion of key issues it deals with\
5. Conclusion

Some readings that offer insights into the ‘how to’ are Developing Partnerships (Kate Bedford, especially chapter 2); my piece on OECD, WB and the child; Deacon's piece on the social protection floor; Stone on think tanks; Wodsak and Koch on the WB’s pension reform; Peck and Theodore in Environment and Planning A (first issue 2012). ..