

Marcus Monroe

Annotated Bibliography

Curtis, James E., Douglas Baer, and Edward G. Grabb. 2001. "Nations of Joiners: Explaining Voluntary Association Membership in Democratic Societies." *American Sociological Review* 66, 783-805

The American Sociological Review is the flagship journal of the American Sociological Association (ASA) founded in 1936. James E. Curtis is Professor of Sociology at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. His research has dealt with various aspects of Canadian society. Douglas E. Baer is Associate Professor and Chair at the University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. His research produced the book, *Political Sociology: Canadian Perspectives* (Oxford University Press, 2002) and Edward G. Grabb. Edward G. Grabb is Professor of Sociology at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada and his research focuses primarily on comparisons of the values and behaviors of Canadians and Americans, as well as on international variations in social participation. Levels of voluntary association membership for 33 democratic countries are compared using data from surveys of nationally representative samples of adults from the 1990s. The key concepts throughout the article are based on examining the effects of economic development, religious tradition, political type, and democratic history on the government and volunteer mobilization. The linear models produced give keen insight into volunteer rates and its' relationship to the characteristics of each nation surveyed. These factors that are examined give clear predictors of voluntary association membership and contribute significantly to the discussion of NGOs and civil society.

DeMars, W.E. (2001). Hazardous partnership: NGOs and United States intelligence in small wars. *International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence* 14, 193-222

The International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence is dedicated to the advancement of the academic discipline of intelligence studies. Dr. William E. DeMars is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Government at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana. He previously taught in the Department of Political Science at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. The article focuses on the relationships between NGOs and intelligence agencies. The key concepts of the article references the issues the two face such as transparency questions, operational questions, and international links between societal and political actors. Hundreds of international NGOs, taken cumulatively, embody a global network of information and capacity for action, even if streams of information are unpredictable and action is rarely coordinated. Hence, the two groups have experienced a convergence of attention toward analyzing the causal linkages between war and humanitarian crisis. Demars views the government's uses of cheap policy options (NGOs) during humanitarian disasters as having negative effects on the country in which the NGO operates. By examining the ways in which government privatizes humanitarian aid efforts, this article takes a fresh take on NGO and governmental relationships.

Hanafi, S. (2004). The role of NGOs: Scream if you want to be heard. *Palestine-Israel Journal of Politics, Economics & Culture* 11 (2), 25-30.

The Palestine-Israel Journal is a non-profit organization, founded in 1994 and provides background material and in-depth analysis of various aspects of the conflict from the

perspective of both sides. Dr. Sari Hanafi is the Director of SHAML, the Palestinian Diaspora and Refugee Center. He has published a number of books on Palestinian refugees, relationships between the Diaspora and the center, returnees and Palestinian and international NGOs. The article looks into the role NGOs in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the Middle East. The author's point of view stems from the dominance organizations in the World Conference Against Racism in Durban. The key concepts area a balance between international NGOs and regional NGOs and the establishment of new language for the victims in policies. The author posits that conspiracies of silence among larger actors within global civil society aids in reducing the ability of these NGOs to voice opinions and set agendas. This article takes an interesting stance by not just insisting on the inclusion NGO actors, but pushing for the inclusion of actors who are also victims within the issue at hand.

Landolt, L.K. (2007). USAID, population control, and NGO-led democratization in Egypt: The fate of the ICPD Programme of Action. *Democratization* 14 (4), 706-722.

Laura K. Landolt is currently Assistant Professor and Coordinator of International Studies at Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia, USA. The journal maintains that it encourages debate on the many aspects of democratization that are of interest to policy-makers, administrators and journalists, aid and development personnel, as well as to all those involved in education. Landolt argues to understand what kind of democracy the US public agencies and NGOs are promoting. The literature utilizes interviews with NGO, USAID, and UN representatives, gathered in Egypt in 2001, to describe the fate of Egyptian women's advocacy NGOs seeking to implement the pro-democracy platform of action of the 1994 UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The paper makes key insights into global civil society interactions and whether external factors are negatively affecting NGOs and the desired mission. Also, the article raises intelligent questions about NGOs unconsciously supporting state control.

Neal, R. (2008). The importance of the state: Political dimensions of a nonprofit network in Oaxaca, Mexico. *Nonprofit & Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. 37 (3), 492-511.

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly (NVSQ) maintains that it exists as a cutting-edge research, discussion, and analysis of the field and leads its readers to understanding the impact the nonprofit sector has on society. Rachael Neal is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Arizona, where she teaches undergraduate courses in political sociology and racial and ethnic relations. Her current research interests include exploring the relationships among nonprofit and for-profit organizations, especially those pertaining to government contracts. The article deals around the subject matter of a network of nonprofit nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, and other social and political actors in Oaxaca, Mexico. Neal seeks to uncover NGOs connection to government authorities. Key concepts in the paper relate to the social origins theory and the impact of having a dense network of NGOs.

Oppenheimer, M. (2006). Science and environmental policy: The role of nongovernmental organizations. *Social Research* 73 (3), 881-890.

Social Research maintains that it has matured into one of the oldest and most influential journals in the United States and typically focuses on themes that are explicitly drawn from the social sciences (such as "Civil Society" or "Prospects for Democracy"). Michael Oppenheimer is the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs in the Woodrow Wilson School and the Department of Geosciences at Princeton

University. He is also Director of the Program in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy (STEP) at the Woodrow Wilson School and Faculty Associate of the Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences Program, Princeton Environmental Institute, and the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies. He is also a Visiting Professor of Law at NYU School of Law. The article discusses the functions of nongovernmental organizations (NGO) in the link between science and policy in the U.S. The author remarks that the relationship between science and government has worsened and definitely needs to be fixed. Science needs to be inclusive rather than exclusionary, when dealing with environmental problems and the culture of NGOs inherently insists on transparency. They provide balance in the transformation of scientific information into policy. The author rests upon the notion that NGO's help create policy examination of new problems and have shown an ability to convert a scientific question into a policy issue with great effectiveness.

Sanyal, P. (2006). Capacity building through partnership: Intermediary nongovernmental organizations as local and global actors. *Nonprofit & Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 35 (1), 66-82.

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly (NVSQ) maintains that it exists as a cutting-edge research, discussion, and analysis of the field and leads its readers to understanding the impact the nonprofit sector has on society. Paromita Sanyal is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at Harvard University. Her research interest lies in the organizational issues surrounding nonprofit organizations and gender and development issues. She has conducted research on microfinance programs in developing countries and examining the impact of women's participation in such groups on their agency and social capital. The paper deals with the strengthening of local NGOs through capacity building. A key concepts introduced is the organization's ability to establish the "bridging ties" between civil society groups and organizations and the institutional structures at the national and global. In other words, the paper visualizes the problem as having been one of negotiating between local imperatives and global structures. This article builds on the concepts of global civil society and examines several constituencies the links between local and global issues. The largest revelation comes in the form of what the author calls a "plural form" organization that can lead to governance efficiency.

Schofer, E. & Fourcade-Gourinchas, M. (2001). The structural contexts of civic engagement: Voluntary association membership in comparative perspective. *American Sociological Review* 66 (6), 806-828.

The American Sociological Review is the flagship journal of the American Sociological Association (ASA) founded in 1936. Evan Schofer is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Minnesota, and is currently a National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation postdoctoral fellow. Marion Fourcade-Gourinchas is a lecturer in sociology at Princeton University and a Post-doctoral Fellow at the Institute of French Studies, New York University. Her main interests lie in the comparative-historical study of political and economic cultures. His cross-national research examines education, civic engagement and social movements from a macro/institutionalist perspective. This paper addresses the matter of association membership among citizens and how this varies among nations. The authors posit that a distinction between statist and nonstatist societies as well as a distinction between corporate versus noncorporate societies. The paper uses data from the 1991 World Values Survey and the models create reveal

individual and nation factors on association membership. This research lends direction the social origins theory and creates new points of view on subject matter identifying the Anglo-American trends in association as the pattern that voluntary association membership has begun to follow.

Scholte, J. (2006). Civil Society and Democratically Accountable Global Governance. *Government and Opposition* 39 (2), 211-233.

Jan Aart Scholte is Professor in PAIS and Professorial Research Fellow in the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR) at the University of Warwick. He also holds a part-time appointment as Centennial Professor in the Centre for the Study of Global Governance at the London School of Economics. Scholte research focuses on questions of governing a more global world, with particular emphasis on democracy in this context, alter-globalisation movements, the regulation of global finance, global production of good governance norms, corporate social responsibility, and intersections between international political economy and political theory. The paper asserts that civil society organizations have forced global actors to become more accountable for their initiatives and policymaking. The main key concept in the paper rests upon the increasing transparency of global governance, monitoring global policies, rectifying harms pertaining to regulatory bodies, and advancing the creation of accountability mechanisms.

Stoker, G. (2002). Governance as Theory: Five Propositions. *International Social Science Journal*, 50 (155), 17-28.

The International Social Science Journal asserts that it bridges social science communities across disciplines and continents with a view to sharing information and debate with the widest possible audience. Gerry Stoker is Professor of Politics and Governance at the University of Southampton, UK. He is the director of the Centre for Citizenship and Democracy in Southampton. Stoker's research deals with issues of governance in complex settings, political disenchantment in western democracies, citizen empowerment and strategies for encouraging civic behavior among citizens. The paper works toward establishing governance perspective among other theories. The author admits that it does not have the foundation and tradition of other theories such as causal analysis, but it creates an opportunity to provide a framework understanding the ever-changing processes in governance. In as much, the author's key points revolve around five (5) propositions that aid in uncovering various aspects of governance that should be considered. This manner of analysis is slightly different from the other readings in that there are clear propositions and resists the urge to simply produce a list of statements that can be proven or discredited.

VanDeth, J.W. (2000). Interesting but irrelevant: Social capital and the saliency of politics in Western Europe. *European Journal of Political Research*, 37 (2), 115-147.

The European Journal of Political Research maintains that it specializes in articles articulating theoretical and comparative perspectives in political science, and welcomes both quantitative and qualitative approaches. EJPR also publishes short research notes outlining ongoing research in more specific areas of research. Jan W. Van Deth University of Mannheim, Chair for Political Science and International Comparative Social Research, and Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, Mannheim, Germany. Van Deth views the development of resources and social capital as being directly related to modern democracies. The author provides concepts that ultimately

view increased social capital as being synonymous with higher political involvement. These concepts are supported by evidence available for Western European countries in 1990 and 1998 that involves several predictors such as education, household income, and social trust. This article builds on the notion of collecting surveys from nations and includes more specific predictors and examines various aspects of political interest and saliency of politics.

Woodward, B.K. (2006). Global civil society and international law in global governance: Some contemporary issues. *International Community Law Review* 8 (2-3), 247-355.

International Community Law Review asserts that its implications of various traditions of international law, as well as more current perceived hegemonic trends, for the idea of an international community. Barbara Krupa Woodward is a licensed lawyer and PhD candidate that investigates the concepts of global governance, global civil society, and international law-making in international legal discourse and theory. The author examines global governance in regards to international law. This gives an interesting perspective on governance by allowing the reader to understand the influence of political science and regulatory functions in the transnational domain. The key concepts examined are the modern interpretations of what civil society, NGOs, and civil society organizations are. The integration of international law perspectives in the NGO gives this reading a different aspect than the other literature reviewed.

Synthesis

1) What are the areas of agreement or similarity (similar concerns, issues, conclusions or findings) among the authors whose work you reviewed?

Essentially, many of the readings shared the viewpoint of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) becoming links between various local and international actors in civil society. Civil society in effect clearly takes the position macro and micro, government and private. William E. Demars, in *Hazardous Partnership*, clearly argues for this organizational interconnectedness. Demars argues that “the global humanitarian network includes thousands of organizations that have evolved historically in five distinct sectors, addressing human rights, refugee and migration, relief and development, victims of war, and conflict resolution.” Rachael Neal similarly argues that “a variety of NGO-government interactions exist” then relates this finding to *social origins theory* which becomes another similar concern amongst the articles. Neal alludes to the proliferation of NGO connections in civil society as being fundamentally governed by the academic notion “that nonprofit organizations both shape and are shaped by their social and political environments.” Furthermore, the author notes that by analyzing the theory, one can find the clustering of countries into four regime types: social democratic, liberal, corporatist, and statist. Though none of the author’s explicitly states the theory in their writings, several of them support this viewpoint through their arguments. In, *The Structural Contexts of Civic Engagement*, Evan Schofer agrees with Neal’s writings on social origins theory by concluding through data surveys that *statism* has a “deterrent effect” on civic involvement and corporateness “encourages membership in associations.” Sari Hanafi, in *The Role of NGOs*, alludes to *statist state* when he speaks of a need for balance in the volatile interactions in civil society when dealing with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as well as Jan Van Deth when he alludes to *liberal state* when making note of “the levels of social capital and subjective political interest [being] positively correlated.”

Moreover, the issue of social capital becomes another avenue of similarity when analyzing the readings. For instance, James Curtis, in *Nation of Joiners*, suggests that economic development is associated with greater voluntarism because of the high levels of social capital...that are relatively more common in economically prosperous societies or regions.” This assertion, in essence, leads to a very clear understanding of the reasons behind the ability to induce citizen involvement in politics. Financial stability and democratic elements in society, as mentioned above, can lead to a positive gain in social capital which is also suggested by Schofer in his writings and data analysis. If citizens did not have an interest in the political system, there would obviously be no need to discuss the efficacy of NGOs since there would be no common knowledge of the opportunities to defend our wellbeing.

Another key similarity is the discussion of governance in NGOs in certain articles. In *Civil Society*, Jan Scholte describes current accountability devices as being “weak” and as a result NGOs are poised to aid increasing “democratic accountability.” Scholte went on to reference Trade unions involvement in “global labour standards” and health groups urging for more “effective global arrangements” in respect of global diseases such as AIDS. Still, as B.K. Woodward notes in *Global Civil Society and International Law*, global governance is merely a result of increasing globalization. This increase allows NGOs and other intermediary actors in the system to gain some semblance of control. Moreover, in *Governance as Theory*, Gerry Stoker argues that though the term may be difficult to define, it is ultimately interested in “ordered rule and collective action.” The most influential synopsis of understanding may have been given by the Commission on Global Governance in its report, *Our Global Neighbourhood* in 1995, as follows:

Governance is the sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs. It is a continuing process through which conflicting or diverse interests may be accommodated and co-operative action may be taken. It includes formal institutions and regimes empowered to enforce compliance, as well as informal arrangements that people and institutions either have agreed to or perceive to be in their interest.

. . . At the global level, governance has been viewed primarily as intergovernmental relationships, but it must now be understood as also involving . . . [NGOs], citizens’ movements, multinational corporations and the global capital market....(p.1)

This issue of NGOs involvement in governance easily leads to another common concern which is that of NGOs influence on setting the agenda. Essentially, no author makes an argument against the empirical basis for the concept. Laura Landolt, in *USAID, Population Control, and NGO-Led Democratization in Egypt*, argues for this point by alluding to the decentralization of government, as follows:

US democracy-promotion activities assert that USAID and allied international organizations and NGOs began in the 1980s to promote polyarchy, or superficially democratic systems that channel expressions of public frustration with structural adjustment, while facilitating continued elite dominance. (p.707)

Whether having negative or positive effects, NGOs continually have a hand in politics by not only focusing on accountability, but become great assets in identifying policy and scientific concerns. In *Science and Environmental Policy*, Michael Oppenheimer notes that NGOs have the effective ability to convert questions into issues the general public can find relevant.

2) What are the areas of disagreement and/or tentative conclusions? What remains unclear, unanswered, or in need of further research?

Though there are many areas of concern and agreements made amongst the literature, there are some areas of research that needs to be examined. NGOs continually become more involved in politics and matters of military conflict. Though Demars article sought to examine this scenario, more research must examine the intermediary relationships between NGOs and government intelligence agencies in the global society. Equally important, the role of NGOs in politics could benefit from further study into NGOs being treated as “implementers” instead of equal partners in policymaking processes. Typically, the research cast the NGO participation in policymaking in a positive, but Landolt and Oppenheimer see a need to focus not only on success stories, but also on government’s disregarding civil actors.

Moreover, issues pertaining to social capital can benefit from more clear conclusions. Social capital was shown to be directly correlated to a country’s political system and economic development. Still, the paradoxical issue of social capital on one hand aiding democracy and on the other hand reducing the efficacy of politics could stand to be examined further by more authors. In essence, there is an implicit need for empirical evidence on the relationship between social capital and political involvement. This directly links to Paromita Sanyal’s call for more conceptual linkages between “governance-related issues of intermediary NGOs and social movement organizations” in the *Capacity Building through Partnership* article. Another important avenue for examination, mentioned by Woodward, in these governance-related issues is the UN advocating for engagement with a range of actors but referring to these entities, which are business representatives, parliamentarians, local authorities and indigenous people, as “constituencies.” This leads one to question whether NGOs may be confused with profit driven motives and civil society concerns and whether the level of participation will be reduced to the proliferation of business involvement in global civil society.

3) How does the literature you reviewed **extend upon and contrast with** the major themes, issues, perspectives and/or concepts presented in the required readings?

In the required readings, one of the major points made by L.M. Salamon in *The Nonprofit Sector and Democracy*, involves the argument that NGOs can exist as a prerequisite, impediment, or simply be irrelevant to the democratic process. Many of the writings, as alluded to in the beginning of this synthesis are prerequisites to democracy. The literature reinforces and enhances the notion that NGOs are consistently integral to and benefit from democratic structures in society. Schofer and Neal go beyond the simple idea of civil society paradigm and delve into social origins theory by examining elements such as corporateness and statism. By examining the theory, the literature aids the required readings in examining the causes of association membership.

Additionally, M.I. Franklin, in *NGOs and the "Information Society"*, conveys the issue of *Scriptural Economies* and the need for monitoring key words in policymaking. Also, the matter of using faith-based institutions to design and implement public policy is described in *Mixing God's Work and the Public Business* as an important aspect of setting the agenda. The literature expounds on this issue of setting the agenda by also analyzing the difficulty of civic engagement such as Hanafi’s research into NGO involvement in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Hanafi research argued for the need for new language for the “victims beyond the legal-bureaucratic

standard” as well as stating a need to better understand complex scenarios and balance civil actor’s participation when setting agendas.

Besides those key points, the literature also aided in understanding the politics of participation in David Walker’s *When Participation Meets Empowerment*. Walker posits that “participation has recently come under fire for being co-opted and mainstreamed by governmental and nongovernmental agencies.” The reading sheds light on the conflicts that can occur between “empowered” indigenous groups and outside parties with seemingly kind-hearted, government funded agendas. Authors such as Landolt develop this notion further by stating “NGOs’ vulnerability to external influence resulting from lack of financial resources and grassroots support” leaves them open and susceptible to external manipulation. This, in turn, can lead to inefficient and unproductive activities that are directly related to the NGOs mission.

4) What are **your** summary conclusions about the topic that emerged from your review of the literature? This is **not** a statement of your opinions on the topic, but rather a set of conclusions that you draw *based on the literature that you reviewed*.

In conclusion, the NGO domain exists as a decentralized and viable network that depends on collaborations. Social origins theory can be used to identify regime types when discussing nonprofit sectors and relationship with national and state entities. The set of characteristics associated with social democratic, liberal, corporatist, and statist types assist in understanding how civil societies operate and tracking trends in association memberships. More specifically, political characteristics (democracy), economic development, and civic engagement are concomitantly linked when understanding NGOs and voluntary involvement. Equally important, governance and accountability (social trust) are essential to said economic development and democracy. If NGOs and civil society as a whole allow primary actors to narrow the ability of tertiary and intermediary role players to have input in setting the agenda, social trust will be lost and civil society organizations will become gradually less effective at opposing major players.