NETWORKS
and
POLICY PROCESSES

An annotated bibliography on Networks and Policy Processes in International Development completed for the Networks Study

Representatives from seven national debt coalitions: Angola, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, namely, Jubilee 2000 Angola, Kenya Debt Relief Network, Malawi Economic Justice Network, Mozambique Debt Group, Rwanda Debt Group, Tanzania Debt Network and Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD), met in order to take the first step in creating a more cohesive and coordinated Forum and Network for advocating policy change on the debt crisis, not only in their respective countries, but also at the level of the sub-region and the entire African continent. This resource can be found at: http://www.afrodad.org/archive/ECSA%20Joint%20Programming%20Report.pdf


This volume studies major instances of netwar that have occurred over the past several years and finds, among other things, that netwar works very well. Whether the protagonists are civil-society activists or ‘uncivil-society’ criminals and terrorists, their netwars have generally been successful. In part, the success of netwar may be explained by its very novelty - much as earlier periods of innovation in military affairs have seen new practices triumphant until an appropriate response is discovered. But there is more at work here: the network form of organisation has re-enlivened old forms of licit and illicit activity, posing serious challenges to those mainly the militaries, constabularies, and governing officials of nation states - whose duty is to cope with the threats this new generation of largely non-state actors poses.


Strengthening the capacity of Southern non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to build alliances, coalitions, networks, North South partnerships, and intersectoral partnerships was selected during the founding conference of the International Forum on Capacity Building (IFCB, Brussels 1998: 11) as one of five priority areas for new capacity-building initiatives. Subsequently, a process for identifying ‘lessons learned’ from best practices was coordinated, with a specific focus on civil society alliances, coalitions, and networks (CAN). From 1999 to 2001, nine examples were selected by NGOs on the IFCB steering committee and then documented by national case writers. This report presents a synthesis of ‘lessons learned’ across the cases and suggests some of their implications for capacity-building.


This article breaks from the dominant theoretical paradigms that link the efficient institutionalization of democracy with historically created social capital. Drawing on the approach put forward by Jonathan Fox and Douglas Chalmers, the author explores the possibilities for civic involvement and the creation of a social capital stock under less than democratic conditions. The approach is applied to the question of environment protection in the Republic of Cyprus.


This article examines the role of social capital in solid waste management in southern Asia. Two case studies are presented, and the effects of using social capital to mobilise the community to provide for solid waste management are described. The two cases take place in Bangalore India and Faisalabad, Pakistan. In both cases extensive horizontal networks were used in an attempt to
mobilise community resources to develop adequate solid waste management programs. In both cases the use of social capital has failed to yield increases in equity among various segment of the communities.

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<td>Poor people's organisations embody a particular and important form of structural social capital. However, the nature of these organisations varies greatly: by scale, by role, by effectiveness and by degree of inclusiveness and exclusiveness. This diversity cautions against any tendency to talk generically and romantically about organisations of the rural poor. Federated forms of organisation that bridge some of these differences are therefore of particular interest. This paper reports on a study comparing such federations across sites in the Andes of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. The study discusses a methodology for assessing the different dimensions of social capital embodied in these organisations. It also presents findings that show that: i) the strength and quality of these different dimensions of social capital varies considerably among different organisations; ii) the ability to build links among member organisations and with external actors are each critical for organisational effectiveness; and iii) organisations with strong social capital have, inter alia, contributed to more inclusive forms of municipal governance, helped build local negotiating capacity and linkages with product and input markets, and in some cases fostered cultural revitalisation. Importantly, the study also concludes that federations constitute an important form of social capital that, given moderately favourable policy contexts, can be induced by long-term, knowledge-intensive - though not necessarily costly - forms of external intervention. This resource can be found at: <a href="http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTSOCIALCAPITAL/Resources/Social-Capital-Initiative-Working-Paper-Series/SCI-WPS-19.pdf">http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTSOCIALCAPITAL/Resources/Social-Capital-Initiative-Working-Paper-Series/SCI-WPS-19.pdf</a>. Last accessed 4/8/2009</td>
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<td>This paper aims to build on debates relating to pluralism and institutions, in particular those linked to social capital, sustainability and rural peoples' organisations. It first discusses the linkages between social capital, institutional pluralism and frameworks for sustainable development; it then asks more specifically what role rural peoples' organisations in particular might play in fostering sustainable resource use and poverty alleviation within such pluralistic environments. The paper then presents cases of rural people's organisations (RPOs) activities in rural development and forest management, and considers strategies through which the role of such organisations might be strengthened within an institutionally plural environment.</td>
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<td>This study focuses on two networks, namely, the 'Alliance in the Alps' and the 'Austrian Climate Alliance' (the Austrian national organisation within the European network 'Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples/Alianza del Clima'). The development of both networks can be interpreted primarily as a reaction to a specific dilemma of sustainable development. Thus, these networks can be said to be problem oriented. At present, both networks are in growth phase, with their respective memberships increasing slowly but steadily. From country to country, however, development varies: in some countries, for instance, a fair amount of municipalities are network members; in other countries only very few communities are networked. Both organisations boast successful network structures. The Austrian Climate Alliance, for instance, has a national and regional secretariat.</td>
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This paper identifies an 'ongoing transition to a broader notion of networked governance involving not only governments and international organisations but also businesses and nongovernmental organisations'. This transition is taking place in the context of a broader phenomenon that has emerged over the past decade. In response to a wide range of contemporary challenges (such as: protecting the environment; fighting diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS; implementing labour standards and combating corruption), participants from civil society, business, international organisations, and national governments are joining forces in an innovative form of governance: Global Public Policy Networks (GPPNs).This resource can be found at: http://www.brookings.edu/press/review/spring2003/benner.htm. Last accessed 4/8/2009 |
A review conducted by the International Development Research Centre into the effectiveness of its own investments in development policy research networks. |
This thesis presents a novel consideration of ways in which interaction between NGOs collaborating internationally is significant. It explores the different functions international NGO networks exist to perform, and the ways in which these challenge established understandings of the role of non-governmental actors in global governance. Attention is also given to the distinctions between issue-specific networks, established to enhance collaboration in particular policy areas, and broader networks which attempt to transcend these divisions. Problems and tensions which can arise within international NGO networks are also addressed. |
For any research to be able to feed into policy-making processes the findings, besides being scientifically sound, need to be communicated and accepted in networks where policy-makers are not only members, but also there is the 'factor of trust and respect' between them. In fact, networks have played important role in strengthening JFM in the country, by bringing the voice of the marginalised closer to the decision-making and policy levels. This resource can be found at: http://www.gdnet.org/rapnet/research/studies/case_studies/Case_Study_38_Full.html |
A 'Babylonian' variety of policy network concepts and applications can be found in the literature. Neither is there a common understanding of what a policy networks actually is, nor has it been agreed upon whether policy networks constitute a mere metaphor, a method, an analytical tool or a proper theory. The aim of this paper is to review the state of the art in the field of policy networks and to explore their usefulness in studying European policy-making and European governance. It is argued that policy networks are more than an analytical tool box for studying these phenomena. What is so special then about policy networks? They constitute arenas for non-strategic, communicative action providing solutions for collective action problems and accounting for more efficient and legitimate policy-making. Yet, a theoretically ambitious policy network approach has to, first, show that policy networks do not only exist but are relevant for policy process and policy outcome, and second, tackle the problem of the ambiguity of policy networks, which can do both enhance and reduce the efficiency and legitimacy of policy-making. This resource can be found at: |
This article provides a framework for analysing social movements and explaining how collective action can be sustained through networks. Drawing on current relational views of place and space, I offer a spatialised conception of social networks that critically synthesises network theory, research on social movements, and the literature on the spatial dimensions of collective action. I examine the historic and contemporary network geographies of a group of human rights activists in Argentina (the Madres de Plaza de Mayo) and explain the duration of their activism over a period of more than two decades with regard to the concept of geographic flexibility. To be specific, first I show how, through the practice of place-based collective rituals, activists have maintained network cohesion and social proximity despite physical distance. Second, I examine how the construction of strategic networks that have operated at a variety of spatial scales has allowed the Madres to access resources that are important for sustaining mobilisation strategies. Finally, I discuss how the symbolic depiction of places has been used as a tool to build and sustain network connections among different groups. I conclude by arguing that these three dimensions of the Madres’ activism account for their successful development of geographically flexible networks, and that the concept of geographic flexibility provides a useful template for studies of the duration and continuity of collective action.

The creation of knowledge systems requires input from both researchers and activists. Furthermore, in an increasingly globalised world, there is a need to draw on the experiences of both Northern and Southern actors. However, cultural and methodological differences between both activists and researchers, and also between North and South, mean that in practice it is challenging to develop integrated knowledge systems that combine these various elements in a constructive manner.

This article concerns bridging organisations and their role in creating networks of horizontal and vertical linkages among organisations in order to improve the sustainability of development projects. Brown begins by discussing the role of network formation, horizontal and vertical linkages, and institutional factors in improving project sustainability.

This paper seeks to make sense of the impact of globalisation on non-profit, non-governmental organisations. The authors argue that globalisation processes have contributed to the rising numbers and influence of NGOs in many countries, and particularly in the international arena. Brown et al. describe the new force at Seattle of 1,300 NGOs in shaping global governance in a highly visible manner. They question whether this blossoming is coincident with globalisation or whether the processes of globalisation themselves stimulate these new forms of organisation. Similarly, their impact on globalisation, or on the extent to which citizen interests are met, is not yet clear.

As the idea of globalisation emerges as a key concept in social sciences in the twenty-first century,
understanding how external forces and phenomena shape the politics of nation-states and communities is imperative. This volume calls attention to 'transboundary formations' - intersections of cross-border, national and local forces that produce, destroy or transform local order and political authority, significantly impacting on ordinary people's lives. It analyses the intervention of external forces in political life, both deepening and broadening the concept of international 'intervention' and the complex contexts within which it unfolds. While transboundary formations can emerge anywhere, they have a particular salience in sub-Saharan Africa where the limits to state power make them especially pervasive and consequential. Including conceptual contributions and theoretically informed case studies, the volume considers global-local connections, taking a fresh perspective on contemporary Africa's political constraints and possibilities, with important implications for other parts of the world.

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<td>In The Rise of the Network Society, the first book of this much-vaulted trilogy, sociologist Manuel Castells argues that power in the 21st century will rest in the hands not of governments, corporations or even NGOs, but rather, within the amorphous virtual networks that have developed as a result of advances in information technology. He uses the phrase 'space of flows' to depict a global environment where the significance of physical location has given way to a new emphasis on timeless, placeless 'flows'. Hence, for Castells, the Network Society 'is made up of networks of production, power and experience, which construct a culture of virtuality in the global flows that transcend time and space'. It follows that the role of national government should become less relevant and that, instead, there should be an increasingly apparent dichotomy between on the one hand global-level networks, and on the other hand, the individual's perception of identity.</td>
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<td>INGOs are devoting more energy to policy influence work without knowing much about what makes a campaign effective. Based on research conducted by the New Economics Foundation, and focusing on case studies of child labour in India and the promotion of breast feeding in Ghana,</td>
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<td>This paper reviews central issues concerning the use of networks in the field of international development. Formal networks today have become a preferred organisational form for cooperation on a range of issues, and there are many advantages to a networked structure - not least the network's capacity to challenge and change unequal power relations. The authors therefore begin by stating that: 'If we are to find our way to counteracting the negative effects of economic liberalisation and globalisation, especially on the marginal and under-represented on the world stage, we need a greater understanding of how to build and sustain powerful networks based on the values of dignity in development for all.' This resource can be found at: <a href="http://ucl.ac.uk/dpu/publications/working%20papers%20pdf/WP121%20final.pdf">http://ucl.ac.uk/dpu/publications/working%20papers%20pdf/WP121%20final.pdf</a>. Last accessed 4/8/2009</td>
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<td>This book looks at what civil society organisations can achieve and the barriers they face, when they break through national boundaries and out of sectoral moulds to work with others in global networks. Civil society organisations work mostly at national or local levels, but new global organisations and networks are emerging at a rapidly increasing rate. The case studies presented in this book, written by researchers who specialise in civil society, focus on such initiatives, showing</td>
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how, in an era of globalisation, action at the transnational level can yield impressive results -
especially when it comes to influencing and changing government policies and public attitudes.

Clark, J. (2003) How global change affects civil society' Part II in Worlds apart: civil society and the
battle for ethical globalization. West Hartford, CT, USA: Kumarian Press.

In this book, John Clark presents the findings of the London School of Economics' Centre for Civil
Society after several years of research in the field of globalisation and civil society. The result is a
simple and authoritative description of the challenges faced by CSOs at the beginning of the 21st
century. Part II - in particular, Chapter 6 - addresses the question of how CSOs might use networks to
redress the 'democracy deficit' associated with globalisation. The underlying argument is that if CSOs
are to be successful in influencing pro-poor policy, then they must make the shift from competition
to cooperation - and networking is highly relevant to this task.


Globalisation has more than one face. Global cultural and economic forces, particularly through the
dynamics of huge corporations, shape the picture from above, but a new global consciousness,
through the activities of social movements, is emerging from below. While states remain important
power containers, the development of these global social movements demonstrates that we are
entering a post-national phase, with political action becoming more unconventional, open,
participatory, direct and focused. The book provides a very broad and systematic analysis of social
movements in a globalising world, integrating case material from a range of fields. Human rights,
women's, peace, labour, religious and green movements are all discussed.

University Press.

Combining principles of individual rational choice with a sociological conception of collective action,
James Coleman recasts social theory in a bold new way. The result is a landmark in sociological
theory, capable of describing both stability and change in social systems.

development. How to manage a successful knowledge network. Manitoba, Canada: International
Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)/Linkages/IISDnet.

Guide written for practitioners who are working with different models of individual and institutional
knowledge collaboration. It aims to capture the details of network operations and management:
what it really takes to help knowledge networks achieve their potential.


This text examines the extent to which a network approach should inform research on collective
action. Leading social movement researchers systematically map out and assess the contribution of
social network approaches to their field of enquiry in light of broader theoretical perspective. By
exploring how networks affect individual contributions to collective action in both democratic and
non-democratic organisations, and how patterns of inter-organisational linkages affect the
circulation of resources within and between movements, the authors show how network concepts
improve our grasp of the relationship between social movements and elites and of the dynamics of
the political processes.

for analysing the global economy. Global Networks 1(2), 99-123.

A vast and continually expanding literature on economic globalisation continues to generate a
miasma of conflicting viewpoints and alternative discourses. This article argues that any understanding of the global economy must be sensitive to four considerations: i) conceptual categories and labels carry with them the discursive power to shape material processes; ii) multiple scales of analysis must be incorporated in recognition of the contemporary 'relativisation of scale'; iii) no single institutional or organisational locus of analysis should be privileged; and iv) extrapolations from specific case studies and instances must be treated with caution, but this should not preclude the option of discussing the global economy, and power relations within it, as a structural whole. This paper advocates a network methodology as a potential framework to incorporate these concerns. Such a methodology requires us to identify actors in networks, their ongoing relations and the structural outcomes of these relations. Networks thus become the foundational unit of analysis for our understanding of the global economy, rather than individuals, firms or nation states. In presenting this argument we critically examine two examples of network methodology that have been used to provide frameworks for analysing the global economy: global commodity chains and actor-network theory. We suggest that, while they fall short of fulfilling the promise of a network methodology in some respects, they do provide indications of the utility of such a methodology as a basis for understanding the global economy.


This chapter addresses the question: 'Who speaks for the peasant and farmer, and through what political processes are such claims to legitimacy established or contested?' Edelman charts the history of regional and transnational peasant networks in their struggle to influence high-level policy in their favour. He points out that although such networks in fact predate modern technology, they have nevertheless mushroomed over the past two decades in response to the 'worldwide farm crisis'. This resource can be found at: http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/global/yearbook03chapters.htm. Last accessed 4/8/2009


'Civil society,' 'network,' and 'social movement' are imprecise, frequently contested terms. Many social scientific discussions of collective action are characterised by considerable slippage in the use of these and other, similar concepts. To a large extent, this reflects the emergence of new, hybrid organisational forms, as contemporary social movements network with one another, form coalitions, and seek to establish claims to constitute part of national and global civil society. While this paper indicates that it may be heuristically helpful to refine distinctions between these categories, it argues that it is probably more useful to integrate insights from the too often separate streams of scholarship that focus respectively on civil society, networks, and social movements. This resource can be found at: http://136.142.158.105/Lasa2003/EdelmanMarc.pdf


Is civil society the driving force of progressive politics? Are global institutions ready to open up to meaningful non-state participation in their deliberations? Can transnational networks of social activists challenge the Washington Consensus that market liberalisation and Western democracy are a one-size-fits-all development model?


This paper is a donor-oriented impact report, describing how the Economy and Environment Program for South-East Asia (EEPSEA) has succeeded in using a network approach to build the
Hence, movements in Pakistan, moral and political, are increasingly vexing. This resource can be found at: http://web.idrc.ca/uploads/user-S/10305406510ir9300.pdf. Last accessed 4/8/2009


This paper proposes that transnational development research networks, such as NETREED (Network for Research and Evaluation on Education and Development), offer a solution to the problem of the under-representation of research in the policy process. The author focuses on education research in Pakistan, describing a dilemma: on the one hand, there is little capacity for domestically led research; but on the other hand, foreign researchers are perceived as either threatening or unqualified, and are thus ignored. This resource can be found at: http://www.netreed.uio.no/articles/Papers_final/farah.pdf. Last accessed 4/8/2009


The rapid growth in transnational advocacy groups has led some scholars to foresee the emergence of a global civil society. This book provides a useful overview of the activities and potential significance of these non-governmental policy networks. Case histories explore the activities of prominent transnational movements focused on such issues as corruption, human rights, land mines, and sustainable development. The book finds that these groups' impact varies dramatically with their influence on policy agendas, hinging primarily on their ability to marshal information and moral authority. Florini resists the view that these groups are merely extensions of domestic policy movements within the rich democracies; even though they are rarely truly global, many of them do extend beyond the West. But she gives only passing treatment to the book's most important and vexing question: how transnational civil society might ultimately help provide global governance. Nor does she satisfactorily explain how disparate groups aggregate into transnational civil society. But she does make clear that existing international institutions, organised around governments and state sovereignty, will increasingly be pressed to make room at the table for these new entities.


Within the context of the classic 'bridges and bonds' analytical methodology, the authors survey all-female voluntary organisations in comparison to gender-neutral organisations in order to establish whether gender has an effect on the bridges/bonds phenomenon. They find a significant difference between the two types of organisation - which leads them to question the meaning of the terms 'bridging' and 'collaborating'.


In this book, esteemed British sociologist, Anthony Giddens, first laid out his theory of 'structuration'. A prolific writer, his theories have since been expounded in many volumes, and a broad range of scholars have in turn applied his abstract methodologies to their specific fields. Hence, structuration exists as an underlying strain of theory in the study of policy networks.
Bellanet was created in 1995, as an International Secretariat housed IDRC, by a consortium of international agencies that recognised the need for better coordination and collaboration within the development community. Bellanet has learned that people and processes, not technology, were the key to successful collaboration and the effective use of ICTs within the development context. From Bellanet's early beginnings, it learned that technologies should be simple, accessible, and based on open technical standards. This resource can be found at:  
The argument asserts that our acquaintances (weak ties) are less likely to be socially involved with one another than are our close friends (strong ties). Thus the set of people made up of any individual and his or her acquaintances comprises a low density network (one in which many of the possible relational lines are absent) whereas the set consisting of the same individual and his or her close friends will be densely knit (many of the possible lines are present). |
Frequently, informal networks are as important in linking research and policy, and effecting policy change, as formal structures. Informal networks may take the form of advocacy coalitions, or friendly relationships between researchers and decision-makers. Haas adds an important point to this list by introducing the concept of 'epistemic community'. An epistemic community consists of colleagues who share a similar approach, or a similar position on an issue. They maintain contact with each other across their various locations and fields, thus creating valuable channels for information flow. These informal fora can be used to discuss and pass on alternative perspectives on current issues, and if the network comprises prominent and respected individuals, pronouncements from these can force policy-makers to engage with an issue. The conclusion is that such an epistemic community provides a potent means of circumventing tedious public bureaucracies or the normal chain of command, and it is also a counter-balance to the conservatism of policy networks. |
How have information and information and communications technology affected the way civil society organisations behave, in their relationships with each other and with major multilateral organisations? This book of case studies 'examines...the principle goals, programmes, aspects of governance and working methods of selected major NGOs and civil society coalitions'. It examines 'the relationship of civil society and intergovernmental institutions and, in one case, civil society and a national government.' The cases touch many of the most well known and, frequently, controversial themes of contemporary civil society organisations (CSO). Among the international NGOs under the microscope are Amnesty International, Oxfam and Médecins Sans Frontieres. The international struggles against land-mines and for the International Criminal Court are profiled, and the specific challenges confronting South-North NGO relationships are opened up. |
This book deals with a variety of issues surrounding unions, democracy and the reconstruction of public services. In particular, the book deals with an exploration of trade union strategies under different sets of conditions, evaluating the role that trade unions need to play in making public services work for the poor, and issues of deepening democracy and redistributing incomes. |

Among the major challenges faced by community-based organisations working in HIV/AIDS throughout the world are dwindling resources and rising expectations. In effect, we are expected to do more with less. Networking, by individuals and organisations at all levels - local, national, regional, and international - is one of the ways we are learning to operate more strategically. This is a powerful testament of our commitment to building solidarity and uniting in common cause. From this spirit of solidarity, and in response to hundreds of requests for practical assistance to establishing and maintaining networking approaches, ICASO decided to produce this guide. The guide is, essentially, a tool to enable individuals and organisations to improve their ability to build and sustain a successful networking approach. This resource can be found at: http://www.icaso.org/publications/NetworkingGuide_EN.pdf. Last accessed 4/8/2009


Civil society networks are recognised almost universally as essential promoters of democratisation. What makes a coalition of civil society organisations (CSOs) effective? What role should international NGOs play in fostering alliances of local CSOs? Should local networks pursue international advocacy? A report from the International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC) highlights lessons learned by emerging CSO coalitions in Malawi. The experience of alliances campaigning around issues of education, economic justice and land reform is used to draw out implications for other developing countries where groups of civil society activists are similarly working to promote participation, transparency and democracy.


GDN has identified the following three key factors that are crucial to understanding the linkages between research and policy, 1. Scientific determinacy, 2. Political determinacy, 3. Extent of trust between users and researchers.

Case study of the African energy policy research network (AFREPREN)

GDN has identified the following three key factors that are crucial to understanding the linkages between research and policy:

- Scientific determinacy;
- Political determinacy;
- Extent of trust between users and researchers.

With respect to scientific determinacy and as mentioned earlier, the documented evidence of AFREPREN’s impact on policy is available but is far from conclusive. The evaluation reports underline that difficulty of measuring impact and identifying conclusively a causal link between AFREPREN research and policy changes. The available documentation, however, is indicative of some level of impact.

The available evidence is stronger on political determinacy. The active participation of senior decision-makers in the identification of research themes and in actually undertaking the research work provides very concrete evidence that policy-makers are in some way ‘commissioning’ AFREPREN research work and are therefore more likely to use its results.

The extent of trust between users and researchers is particularly strong within AFREPREN primarily due to the involvement of users (policy-makers) in research work. In addition, the longevity of AFREPREN (from 1987 to-date) has strengthened its credibility with decision-makers in the region and provided the time for researchers to cultivate and establish relationships of trust with key decision-makers in the region’s energy sector. The level of trust that AFREPREN has engendered is demonstrated by numerous cases where AFREPREN researchers have been able to secure
confidential documents that are not available in the public domain


Networks and networking have come to be significant ways of organising and taking action by people and groups active in influencing complex social, economic and political forces that shape lives and society. It is the search for measurement of networking that led to this book. This book's aim is to provide a greater understanding of the nature of networks and networking; to share experiences of networks and networking organisations in planning, monitoring and evaluation; examine problems, challenges, practices and successes; lessons and guidelines to strengthen the PME in networks and networking organisations; and, promote greater understanding and cooperation between funding agencies, networks and networking organisations that they support. This resource can be found at: http://www.wfsnews.org/book2.html. Last accessed 4/8/2009


Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink examine a type of pressure group that has been largely ignored by political analysts: networks of activists that coalesce and operate across national frontiers. The targets of these networks may be international organisations or the policies of particular states. Historical examples of such transborder alliances include anti-slavery and woman suffrage campaigns. In the past two decades, transnational activism has had a significant impact in human rights, especially in Latin America, and advocacy networks have strongly influenced environmental politics as well. The authors also examine the emergence of an international campaign around violence against women. The conventions of the nation-state have shaped our contemporary understanding of the process and politics of social movements. Keck and Sikkink sketch for the first time the dynamics of emergence, strategies, and impact of activists from different nationalities working together on particular issues. This eagerly awaited work will alter the way scholars conceptualise the making of international society and the practice of international politics.


The aim of this paper is to demonstrate the scope and limitations of global governance through civil society self-organisation. The case of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), which is now deemed a success, has been selected to demonstrate this phenomenon at work. What is involved here is a globally distributed environmental label for the certification of sustainably managed forests. The FSC shows how a private civil society regime can be implemented, how its implementation can be controlled and how violations can be sanctioned. It may be stated that the case of the Forest Stewardship Council is a form of global governance without nation-state involvement that can be viewed as a complete alternative to global governance through nation states. The rapid spread of the FSC system was enhanced by the dynamic combination of civil society self-organisation with market mechanisms. Moreover, the FSC system fills a gap that arose from the political failure at the level of international regimes. However, it has become clear that national forest protection standards are needed for the FSC system to function smoothly. The FSC system cannot replace national legislation and its implementation by an effective administration. The fact that the FSC not only can rely on its own internal means of sanction (i.e. withdrawal of certification), but also can resort to boycotts as a potential external instrument of sanction is undoubtedly a key factor behind the success of the FSC. However, the analysis also shows the limits of global governance through
self-organisation: as no nation state has the norm-setting monopoly, the FSC system competes with other certification systems in many countries throughout the world. This resource can be found at: http://skylla.wz-berlin.de/pdf/2004/v04-102.pdf. Last accessed 4/8/2009


From the earliest campaign against Augusto Pinochet's repressive practices to the recent massive demonstrations against the World Trade Organization, transnational collective action involving non-governmental organisations has been restructuring politics and changing the world. Ranging from Santiago to Seattle and covering over twenty-five years of transnational advocacy, the essays in Restructuring World Politics offer a clear, richly nuanced picture of this process and its far-reaching implications in an increasingly globalised political economy. The book brings together scholars, activists, and policy-makers to show how such advocacy addresses-and reshapes-key issues in the areas of labour, human rights, gender justice, democratization, and sustainable development throughout the world.


This article deals broadly with the idea of policy networks as an opportunity for public policy-making. It starts by explaining the move away from an anti-statist approach to an increasing recognition of the need for government involvement. It is, however, also clear that government cannot reclaim its post-war welfare state position as the central governing authority in society. These observations necessitate reflection upon the relation between government and society. In social science this reflection has contributed to the rise of a new idea which is becoming increasingly popular: the concept of policy networks.


This study from the University of the West Indies for CTA, aims to develop a networking strategy geared towards improving access to relevant information by regional agricultural policy stakeholders in the CARIFORUM/CARICOM countries of the Caribbean. This resource can be found at: http://www.eldis.org/fulltext/CTAStudyReportFinalMay20031.pdf. Last accessed 4/8/2009


Korten notes that the small size and limited financial resources of most NGOs make them unlikely challengers of economic and political systems sustained by prevailing interests of big government and big business. Voluntary associations are, however, coalescing smaller NGOs through evolving networks that lack identifiable structures, but create new institutional realities with value driven action and through broadly shared social visions. They can influence bureaucracies, and using electronic communication, rapidly mobilise significant political forces on a global scale. The process often depends on one or more individuals or organisations assuming strategic and catalytic roles. This can be done by even small organisations with very limited resources, if they are able forge alliances, network and communicate.


This paper explores the process of policy-making in the transition countries of Central and Eastern
Europe by examining the role of the Soros Network in relation to the protection of Roma rights. The paper argues that in the transition economies, many policy fields are still considerably undeveloped and in need of conceptually sound, efficient and consistent public policies. These areas include health care, education, reform of the judiciary and law enforcement mechanisms, policies relating to vulnerable groups of the population, including different national or ethnic minorities, woman, and mentally disabled. However the experience, expertise for research, definition, implementation, and monitoring of appropriate policies are often not available to the policy-makers. In these sensitive sectors the activity of state actors has come to be complemented by other actors, most notably the international community and the non-governmental sector. This resource can be found at: http://www.gdnet.org/rapnet/pdf/Rio%20Paper%20-%20final.doc

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<td>This edited volume brings together some of the central figures within Actor Network Theory; Michel Callon, Bruno Latour, John Law with authors from other theoretical perspectives; Kevin Hetherington, Annemarie Moll, Marilyn Strathern, and Helen Verran. Actor Network Theory was one of the major theoretical perspectives that emerged within social theory in the 1990s. Taking a lead from post-structuralist thinking, ANT is concerned with finding new ways to configure two of the central oppositions which have dominated social theory for centuries; that of 'subject' and 'object'; 'structure' and 'agency'. Broadly speaking, ANT argues that the complexity of contemporary organisation forms such as networks mean that the binary oppositions of 'subject' and 'object'; 'structure' and 'agency' no longer hold. Instead, actors negotiate the social world where power is not possessed by individuals, nor by institutions, but is constructed by the relations between these things. Here, we see the influence of thinkers such as Foucault on ANT. This theoretical lens is used to examine a range of social spaces; from laughter in Nigerian classrooms, to Western financial markets, to art galleries and museums. The book tracks how ANT has become a central force within sociology and technoscience studies, anthropology, economics, feminism, geography, philosophy and organisational studies.</td>
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<td>In less than seven years, the Huairou Commission has gone from an informal, loose coalition representing an international spectrum into a global network, reaching upwards of 11,000bn grassroots women's groups. Up until 1995, women, especially from the grassroots, were locked out of discussions at the global level. They had to rely on intermediaries within formal government delegations and or within the women's movement to make their voices heard. As good as those relationships might have been, the existence of the Huairou Commission has resulted in deeper collaborations and provided a platform that grassroots women's groups can call their own. As intersecting shifts changed within the UN and in its relation to NGOs, the Huairou Commission emerged as a unique opportunity, offering a forum in which ideas are exchanged, projects jointly undertaken, and policies crafted. This resource can be found at: <a href="http://www.huairou.org/assets/download/Case_of_Huairou.pdf">http://www.huairou.org/assets/download/Case_of_Huairou.pdf</a>. Last accessed 4/8/2009</td>
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<td>A study of the various civil society, governmental and hybrid networks working in Brazil since 1990</td>
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to implement the ECA, defined as: ‘a process of change in the way children and adolescents were seen by law and society as a whole’. The article begins by presenting the context and implications of the emergence of the ECA in Brazil. There follows a brief literature review on social and electronic networks. The authors then summarise the outcomes of an action-research carried out in 2001-02 with local networks. In the first stage, two virtual workshops were conducted with representatives of all the 17 existent networks. In the second stage, these representatives acted as research partners handling questionnaires to all of their affiliated organisations, in a universe of 2,159 public and private institutions.

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<th>Lin, N. (2001) Building a network theory of social capital. In N. Lin, K. Cook and R. Burt (Eds.) Social capital: theory and research, 3-30. New York, USA: Aldine de Gruyter.</th>
<th>Recently, social capital has become one of the most important concepts in the social sciences. It is now necessary to define it, review it, identify controversies and debates, consider critical issues, and propose conceptual and research strategies in building a theory.</th>
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<td>Lipnack, J. and J. Stamps (1994) The age of the network. Vermont, USA: Oliver Wight Publications.</td>
<td>The Age of the Network offers leaders, managers, and teams a new, practical view of how to think about their companies and reinvent them without losing the value and knowledge that’s embedded in their current organisation. Lipnack and Stamps contend that only truly ‘networked’ organisations can move beyond mere survival to consistent success. Based on proven concepts developed by the authors and employed in organisations such as Hyatt Hotels and Malcolm Baldrige award winner Eastman Chemical, The Age of the Network reveals how today’s leaders can create organisations and teams that are defined by speed, agility, and a web of interconnected relationships.</td>
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<td>Loewenson, R. (2003) Civil society influence on global health policy, Annotated Bibliography for WHO/TARSC.</td>
<td>CSOs have become increasingly influential in global policy processes. The UN draws information and expertise from CSOs and increasingly integrates CSO inputs and collaboration in UN processes. In relation to global health policy, CSOs have intervened around trade agreements; drug prices and treatment access; tobacco control; patient rights; promotion of breastfeeding and control of infant formula; rights of people with HIV/AIDS, and primary health care. Civil society visibility and influence in health policy has grown, with the growth in capacity and increasingly widely connected networks of civil society, supported by an expansion in access to information and increased concerted action. This resource can be found at: <a href="http://www.tarsc.org/WHOCSI/globalhealth.php">http://www.tarsc.org/WHOCSI/globalhealth.php</a>. Last accessed 4/8/2009</td>
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<td>Lundin, B. and F. Soderbaum (2002) Blocking human potential: how formal policies block the informal sector in the Maputo corridor. In Ngai-Ling Sum and M. Perkmann (Eds.) Globalization, regionalization and the building of cross-border region. Basingstoke, UK: Macmillan.</td>
<td>This paper focuses on one of the most interesting cross-border regions in Africa, the so-called Maputo corridor. For more than a century, the Maputo corridor has been an informal cross-border micro-region, constructed by millions of migrants, extensive informal trading as well as dense socio-ethnic interactions. Since the mid-1990s there is a formal project, officially known as the Maputo Development Corridor (MDC), which seeks to reconstruct and revitalise this rather informal cross-border relationship, which effectively has existed for more than a century. This resource can be found at: <a href="http://www.cris.unu.edu/sbook.175.0.html?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=53&amp;cHash=1439d1a85e">http://www.cris.unu.edu/sbook.175.0.html?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=53&amp;cHash=1439d1a85e</a>. Last accessed 4/8/2009</td>
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<td>International non-government organisations (INGOs) are increasingly regarded as important in their capacity to influence global policy on development issues such as poverty alleviation, sustainable development, and human rights. This has been possible through their simultaneous attachment to local places and cultures on the one hand, and their critical engagement with global institutions on the other. With recent advances in information and communication technologies, an increasingly connected INGO community is finding considerable scope for networking and information sharing at multiple levels.</td>
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<td>From the Internet to Al Qaeda, the teetering electricity grid to old school ties, we live in a world of networks. A profoundly disruptive shift has occurred in our societies, making networks the most important organisational form of our time and reshaping the activities of families, governments and businesses. This collection of essays tries to understand the patterns and impacts of networks, their potential for organisation and decision-making, and how they make possible new forms of coordination and collective action. It looks at important lessons from the study of networks and addresses some of the critical questions that our 'network society' presents: from the distribution of power and inequality to the future of civic participation and the impact of new technologies. This resource can be found at: <a href="http://www.demos.co.uk/publications/networks">http://www.demos.co.uk/publications/networks</a>. Last accessed 4/8/2009.</td>
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<th>Nanavaty, R. (1994) We can, we will: women's empowerment and DWRCA programme. SEWA Academy.</th>
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<td>This paper presents the experience of SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association), an Indian female labourers' civil society network, in facilitating the implementation of the DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas), a government-directed poverty alleviation programme. This resource can be found at: <a href="http://www.sewaresearch.org/pdf/researches/we_can_we_will.pdf">http://www.sewaresearch.org/pdf/researches/we_can_we_will.pdf</a>. Last accessed 4/8/2009.</td>
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<td>Institutional innovations are beginning to emerge in different parts of the world that promise to give voice and representation to poor people. This paper offers examples of such innovations from very different fields, drawing out the common features and the lessons that should guide the design of new mechanisms, and suggesting actions to close the large gap between the local and global level.</td>
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<td>Nelson and Farrington identify two types of networks: information exchange networks (IEN), and organisations with a networking function (ONF). IENs usually have a flatter structure than ONFs, as IENs tend to share information through mutual communication, increasingly via the Internet. ONFs have a more centralised structure and therefore more often provide one-way information services such as CD ROMs and databases. There are also large variations within each of these two types of networks, and Nelson and Farrington give several illustrations of this. For example, networks can function in a hub-and-spoke formation, where various members have multiple objectives, thus requiring an element of centralisation in order to coordinate these different interests. Alternatively, the rim-effect network relies much less on a central institution, and instead the members profit from...</td>
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the opportunity of linking up with each other. The book concludes that there are some tensions inherent in networking which are important to address. The three tensions identified are leadership versus responsiveness, degree of formalisation, and defining boundaries.


African civil society organisations have begun slowly to appropriate the Internet. Some of them have experienced on line mobilisation and publishing. What are the challenges they meet in disseminating information through Internet? What is the contribution of 'social tech organisations' in these online activities? What audience is reached with what impact? Do African civil society organisations on line activities effectively influence a global audience?

O'Brien, R. (2002) Global civil society networks online: Zapatistas, the MAI and landmines. Paper from Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, Civil Societies Online. Toronto, Canada: University of Toronto.

This paper provides some background into the research literature concerning social change activism as it has been influenced by the new online communications technologies. It briefly reviews CMC and CSCW; community networks and virtual communities; online governance and the public sphere; and Internet activism. This is followed by an elucidation of networking, the fundamental concept underlying the collaborations of civil society. This resource can be found at: http://www.web.net/~robrien/papers/civsocnets.html. Last accessed 4/8/2009


Ottaway presents an evaluation of the UN Global Compact, which was launched in 1999 to bring big business, labour, civil society and government together to deal with contentious issues of human and workers rights, environment etc. In this the UN used corporatism to complement representative and participatory democracy.


The public policy literature has recently emphasised the importance of 'networks' in the policy process and has also argued that the new dynamics of policy networks are redefining contemporary forms of governance. Surprisingly, this literature has largely ignored the Internet as an exemplar of these new network forms and new governance practices. This paper tries to bring these two areas of research together. It reviews the policy literature to establish the point that the network concept is increasingly central to contemporary discussions. It then provides an overview of what various authors have identified as the key characteristics of the Internet and the networks that operate through it. The paper concludes with several suggestions for further research on virtual policy networks. This resource can be found at: http://www.isoc.org/inet97/proceedings/G7/G7_1.HTM. Last accessed 4/8/2009


The concept of global governance denotes a fundamental change in the steering mechanisms employed by governments and international organisations as well as in the relation between public and private interests in the provision of global public goods. Next to public-private partnerships and public policy networks, private governance institutions, involving civil society organisations and business actors, enter the centre stage of global governance research within the wider context of
international relations theory. This resource can be found at: http://www.glogov.org


Communications initiatives in the Bolivian PRS have worked towards building constructive links between very diverse groups with fragile relationships. The Bolivian government as a whole has long-term problems with clientelism and corruption, and an acrimonious relationship with a very vocal and internally divided civil society sector. Steps towards bridging these gaps through the PRS process have been made in three ways: First, consultation processes and participative monitoring at the relatively stable and coherent level of municipalities were undertaken. Secondly, an independent consultation on the PRSP was conducted by the Catholic Church - an organisation which cuts across disparate civil society groups - and run in parallel to the government-led National Dialogue. Finally, think tanks, such as ILDIS, have worked to mediate between government and the general public by promoting more informed and constructive debate. Steps are also being taken within the donor community to develop closer collaboration among themselves, with DFID leading a new network of bilateral donors. The links between donors and other stakeholders however have room for improvement: there have been calls for donors to capitalise on the success of the Bolivian think tank sector, and invest in research and analysis which can promote a better match between donor expectations of government, and its practical capacities.


This article reviews the use of the concept of social capital in recent literature and presents examples from the Latin American context. The origins and evolution of the concept - in particular its transformation from an individual trait to a characteristic of communities - are described. The authors note that there are problems with the definition of social capital and that the ability to secure resources is often confused with the resources themselves. Negative aspects of social capital are often excluded from research and literature, and motivations are not addressed. The 'stock' of social capital needs to be understood as different from the effect of social capital. The understanding of social capital as both an asset of individuals, as well as of communities or nations leads to further confusion.


CEPR is organised very differently from most other 'think-tanks'. The Centre administers centrally a 'pure' network - no research is done at the London headquarters of CEPR, where a staff of 28 deals entirely with the development, funding and administration of research and related activities (publications, meetings). Researchers are based in their home institutions: universities, research institutes, central bank research departments, and international organisations. Thus CEPR is not a 'think-tank' at all: rather, it is a 'think-net', an 'invisible college' or 'multiversity'. We believe that one of our main achievements has been to create an active, functioning community of dispersed individual researchers throughout Europe, who collaborate through CEPR in research activities and dissemination. In that process, we have also convinced a large group of first-class economists that applied economics leading to policy analysis can be just as important as theory, and it too can enhance professional stature. This resource can be found at: http://www.cepr.org/aboutcepr/CEPR/CEPR_think.pdf. Last accessed 4/8/2009.


Provan and Milward start with the question: Do networks for community-based, publicly funded health services deliver what they promise? How do we evaluate network effectiveness? In principle,
community-based networks would seem to be logical mechanisms for providing public services that cannot or should not be centralised. Community-based networks in the health sector typically bring together a collection of programmes and services that span a range of cooperating but autonomous (frequently private or non-governmental) organisations. However, there is still a lack of comparative network data, and the authors state that in practice it is premature to conclude that networks are effective mechanisms for addressing complex policy problems. They then propose a framework for network evaluation that focuses on three different levels of analysis: community, network and organisational participant level.


Why do some democratic governments succeed and others fail? In a book that has received attention from policy-makers and civic activists in America and around the world, Robert Putnam and his collaborators offer empirical evidence for the importance of 'civic community' in developing successful institutions. Their focus is on a unique experiment begun in 1970 when Italy created new governments for each of its regions. After spending two decades analysing the efficacy of these governments in such fields as agriculture, housing, and health services, they reveal patterns of associationism, trust, and cooperation that facilitate good governance and economic prosperity.


Focusing on the processes of making and sustaining transnational political ties between actors, international actors and states, this paper reviews recent work from a number of disciplines on globalisation and politics, and outlines an agenda for future research. Rather than seeing transnational political linkages merely as forerunners to the loss of local sovereignty, the paper argues for a wider conceptualisation of transnational connections, embedded within processes of state formation in Latin America. Using a variety of examples, it is argued that transnational networks are associated with a wide range of meanings and a variety of responses by diverse actors. Drawing on recent work in political science, post-structuralism and anthropology, it is suggested that geographical concepts - related to scale, process and networks - offer a means through which to analyse and 'map out' these transnational political processes.


In this article I focus on a subaltern approach to knowledge networks by examining the process of setting up such a network, the South Asia Research Network (SARN) on Gender, Law and Governance. I reflect on the construction of discourses about 'knowledge' and 'knowledge-makers' and the issues of access that emerge as a result of these discourses and practices. I outline three aspects of a 'politics of network(s)-ing': the politics of process; the politics of outcome; and the politics of framing. I conclude that the borders of which we need to be aware are not just national borders but also borders of power. Knowledge networks are politically heterogenous and for subaltern networks to have sustainable organisations as well as critical politics they need to be self-reflective and deliberative.


Global Public Policy Networks (GPPNs) have risen to prominence recently thanks to the twin modern-day developments of liberalisation and technological revolution. The combination of these two developments has resulted in 'governance gaps' within the international system. Specifically, these 'governance gaps' are identified as an 'operational gap' (inability to deal with complexity) and a 'participatory gap' (a large-scale democratic deficit). GPPNs set out to plug these gaps. This

The problem of structural inequality seems to occur fairly often in cooperation projects involving Western (‘Northern’) NGOs and their local partners in Third World countries. The aim of this paper is to discuss the relevance of this issue to regional NGO cooperation in the Baltic Sea area. Given the initial inequality between NGOs from the Western and from the Eastern countries of the region - not only in terms of material resources but also of know-how and experience - it is interesting to see whether the dynamics of their cooperation tends to reduce or to further reinforce this inequality. After all, for the development of a regional civil society in the Baltic Sea area it is important not only that cooperation between non-profit groups takes place, but also that it is based on mutual trust and reciprocity.


With the growing importance of civil society actors engaged in advocacy beyond the state, there is a critical need for systematic theorization of transnational civil society that synthesises the ongoing scholarly research and goes beyond to take fuller account of the theoretical perspectives and practical experiences of researchers and practitioners around the world.


Riles’ perspective is that of both international lawyer and anthropologist. In this meticulous study of feminist NGOs in the South Pacific preparing for the 1995 ‘Beijing Conference’, she sets out to cast fresh light on structures that were previously overlooked as mundane fact.


The chapter starts off by describing the way in which the development arena has moved from practices referred to as serial monogamy to more complex and polygamous behaviours. With more cooperation between aid agencies, a shift can be seen from aid-based to rules-based development. Attention is turned more towards defining sector-wide programmes and macro level change. In inter-organisational terms, this might be described as a move from interaction generated by operational needs, to attempts to build more enduring relationships. There are major challenges in place trying to make sense of the underlying politics of the notion of cooperation, with focus on the real conflicts of interest and agenda which persist in all areas, and how these are managed.


This article aims at raising the discussion on the challenge faced by organisations that keep social action partnerships. It also introduces the Instrument for Monitoring Cross-Sector Alliances, a tool developed from the research named ‘Strategic Cross-Sector Alliances for Social Action’.

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The information revolution is leading to the rise of network forms of organisation, whereby small, previously isolated groups can communicate, link up, and conduct coordinated joint actions as never before. This, in turn, is leading to a new mode of conflict - 'netwar' - in which the protagonists depend on using network forms of organisation, doctrine, strategy, and technology. Many actors across the spectrum of conflict - from terrorists, guerrillas, and criminals who pose security threats to social activists who do not - are developing netwar designs and capabilities. This resource can be found at: http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR994/. Last accessed 4/8/2009.


This paper contends that communications technologies facilitated the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. These technologies allowed ICBL members to disseminate research widely and, in most cases, publicise information quickly to influence state policies toward banning landmines. Furthermore, these technologies allowed the ICBL to communicate and coordinate among themselves and with the governments, media and public in a quickly and cost effective manner. Finally, these technologies reduce coalitional building costs, especially among Southern NGOs, and allow for information collection and dissemination over the issue of security - an area once monopolised by states. This paper concludes that the ICBL's effective application and utilisation of communications technologies provides a model for future NGO coalitional building and strategies toward working with or against state interest.


Social action groups play an important role in the non-profit sector through their advocacy for marginalised communities and through their opposition to hegemonic interests of governments and big business. Successful collective action involves both risk and interdependence, making trust between participants essential. Increasingly, social activists are turning to computer-mediated communication to support their work (Deibert 2000; Diani 2000).


This chapter examines the link between research and policy in terms of an 'advocacy coalition’ framework, which aims to take into account the importance of various coalitions between certain policy-makers, influential actors and pressure groups. The coalitions form on the basis of shared beliefs and values, as actors/institutions who share a similar perspective forge relationships with each other. Advocacy coalitions therefore consist of various different actors, including different government agencies, associations, civil society organisations, think tanks, academics, media institutions, and prominent individuals.


This paper analyses the role of the Hemispheric Social Alliance network in its efforts to build a transnational coalition between labour unions, social movements, indigenous, environmental and citizen organisations throughout the Americas to oppose the establishment of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The prospects of hemispheric solidarity cannot be assumed in face of such heterogeneity of social actors. Drawing from social constructivism and the theory of structuration, the paper will propose a methodological approach to the study of transnational collective action in
the Americas by stressing the political value of building discourse coalitions and embedding collective expectations. Defying the official meanings of the FTAA project, the Hemispheric Social Alliance has been articulating a counterhegemonic critique to neo-liberal approaches to development in the Western Hemisphere.


This IFCB case study charts the recent history of the civil society networks and coalitions that developed in Sri Lanka in response to the need for free and fair elections. It describes the transition from an 'alliance' of human rights groups to a more formal 'coalition'. The networks were successful in raising the issue of election monitoring into the national consciousness. This resource can be found at: http://www.ifcb-ngo.org/publications/docs/Can-sl.doc


Smith suggests various ways to distinguish between different policy networks. The first distinction is based on the theory that policy networks can be arranged along a continuum from a policy community to an issue network. At the policy community end one would find networks that were well defined, with formal membership and frequent interaction among the members. At the issue network end of the continuum, one would find a large and loosely defined network of various people, with fluctuating levels of activity and interaction.


The overall aim of this desk study is to contribute to a better understanding of regional research networks (RRNs) in international development cooperation, with special emphasis on those in Africa. The terms of reference specifies three overall objectives: i) a general review of literature on the concept of research networks and the support to research networks in developing and industrialised countries; ii) an inventory and analysis of different types of RRNs in international development cooperation, accompanied by an assessment of the frequency with which networks of different kinds figure in international development cooperation; and iii) preliminary analysis of Sida-funded RRNs in terms of the typology devised. This resource can be found at: http://www.sida.se/sida/jsp/sida.jsp?d=118&a=2361&searchWords=understanding%20regional%20research%20networks%20in%20Africa. Last accessed 4/8/2009


This paper looks at how environmental online communication (EOC) could move beyond an emphasis on information to focus on knowledge (and to management of such knowledge) that can be instrumental in achieving the goals of more equitable and sustainable natural resource management. This resource can be found at: http://www.cbnrm.net/pdf/soeftestad__007_eoc.pdf. Last accessed 4/8/2009


From a management studies perspective, Stacey draws on chaos theory (transported from the physical sciences to social science issues) to discuss the possibilities of moving away from 'equilibria' models of organisation to models that focus on nonlinear networks. He argues that the 'nonlinearity' of networks - e.g. the spontaneous relations formed between people, the irregular sharing of information, the informal learning processes that occur through interaction, etc. - is precisely what
makes networks such valuable sites for innovation. In formal institutions, the networks that form often function as 'shadow organisations' that creatively interpret and modify official strategies. More importantly, the informal networks continuously generate new and alternative strategies. Those unofficial strategies that survive and are picked up by various actors through the informal channels and networks will normally after a time become institutionalised, thus making them official. This reinforces the control of the formal management and provides some stability. However, new unofficial ideas and responses will already be forming. Stacey argues that this constant interaction between stable organisational elements and unstable informal networks is vital if an organisation wishes to succeed.


Networks are increasingly important, whether local, national or international. People talk about networks in development agencies, in research, in businesses and in many professional fields. For some people, networking seems just another jargon term. But many organisations now recognise networking as a valuable means to share information, further common objectives and make best use of limited resources.


This edited volume addresses the issue of whether and how networks can be effective in promoting research-based policy-making. In their introductory chapter, the editors conclude that although there are significant grounds for scepticism over the potential of networks, at the same time, there are equally grounds for optimism: 'Networks can play an important part in helping to create a policy process that is research rich, inclusive, and accountable - at least in theory. Even so, the virtues of networks are not straightforward. We find that access can be unequal, transactions costs high, and sustainability problematic. This is true even of well-funded and well-meaning initiatives like those taken by the World Bank. There is a way forward, but it requires development agencies and actors to think in new ways about knowledge management.'


This short paper provides a brief overview over issues related to think tank networks. Think tank networks are different from public policy networks in that think tank networks are usually made up of organisations with more or less the same interests and fundamental views. In this respect they are similar to epistemic communities. Think tank networks are typically characterised by webs of relatively stable relationships and informal interactions based on these relations. They are also generally non-hierarchical, and attempt to pool and share resources in a mutual manner.


This paper looks at how to catalyse a broader trend of appropriation and strategic use of networked technologies within civil society. The ability of civil society organisations to control their own communications, and even their relationships and networks, is intimately intertwined with the question of appropriating networked technologies. The issue of appropriation (using networked technologies strategically, politically, creatively) is amongst the most pressing that civil society faces in the information society.

This paper offers an introduction to analysis of the policy process. It identifies and describes theoretical approaches in political science, sociology, anthropology, international relations and management. This resource can be found at: http://wwwodi.org.uk/publications/working_papers/wp118.pdf. Last accessed 4/8/2009.


Unlike political or economic institutions, social movements have an elusive power, but one that is no less real. From the French and American revolutions through the democratic and workers' movements of the nineteenth century to the totalitarian movements of today, movements exercise a fleeting but powerful influence on politics and society. This study surveys the history of the social movement, puts forward a theory of collective action to explain its surges and declines, and offers an interpretation of the power of movement that emphasises its effects on personal lives, policy reforms and political culture. While covering cultural, organisational and personal sources of movements' power, the book emphasises the rise and fall of social movements as part of political struggle and as the outcome of changes in political opportunity structure.


This booklet offers simple and practical advice to organisations seeking to enter into cross-sectoral 'partnership' agreements with other organisations in the field of international development. It presents basic diagrammatic representations of various models of partnership relationship, and also suggests a chronological process for conducting a working partnership. In this context, the author positions networks as "formal" partnership arrangements, describing the network as: 'A communications arrangement linking people who are engaged in similar activities.'


The transnational indigenous peoples’ movement (TIPM) can convey important political leverage to local indigenous movements. Yet this study exposes a more problematic impact: the political authority gained by funding organisations who interpolate TIPM norms into new discourses regarding indigeneity, and deploy that discourse in local ethnic contests. In El Salvador the TIPM has encouraged the state to recognise the indigenous communities and has opened a political wedge for indigenous activism. Yet TIPM-inspired programmes by the European Union and UNESCO to support indigenous activism paradoxically weakened the Salvadorean movement by aggravating outside impressions that Salvadorean indigenous communities are 'not truly Indian'.


Uganda Debt Network is an advocacy and lobbying coalition of NGOs, institutions and individuals formed in 1996. The network was formed as a result of civil society concerns that Uganda's debt burden had reached unsustainable levels, which had adverse implications for social economic development of the country. UDN now has a membership of over 100 NGOs, institutions and individuals. This resource can be found at: http://www.udn.or.ug/index.html.


This international symposium was co-organised between UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme and the International Social Science Council's (ISSC) Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP). It took place in the context of the 24th
to effect collectively. Youth].

Second, the Internet energise each other in their co-evolutionary development in China. The Internet facilitates civil society activities by offering new possibilities for citizen participation [in the context of a non-democratic government]. Civil society facilitates the development of the Internet by providing the necessary social basis - citizens and citizen groups - for communication and interaction. These arguments are illustrated with an analysis of the discourse in Qiangguo Luntan [Strengthening the Nation Forum] and an ethnographic study of Huaxia Zhiqing [Chinese Educated Youth].

Much of our experience with innovative approaches to governance at the international level involves natural resources and the environment. Whereas the Cold War bred an intense concern with the preservation of existing institutions, the emerging environmental agenda has prompted an awareness of the need for new arrangements to achieve sustainable human/environment relations. Especially notable is the growth of specific regimes to deal with matters such as endangered plants and animals, migratory species, airborne pollutants, marine pollution, hazardous wastes, ozone depletion, and climate change. Non-state actors have made particularly striking advances in the creation and maintenance of these environmental regimes.