

Course Manual

Sub-State Conflict

Course Catalogue Number

7324E104IY

Credits

9 EC

Entry requirements

Admission to the master Political Science, track Political Economy or track International Relations.

Compulsory knowledge

There are no formal prerequisites for the course. However, familiarity with comparative politics and research methods (namely, quantitative methods) would be helpful.

If you are unfamiliar with some concepts that will be discussed in class, do not be afraid to ask questions!

Instruction language

English

Time Periods and Locations

Academic year 2020/2021

Semester 1, Blocks 2-3

Tuesday: 9:00-12:00

Lecturer

Dr. Mike Medeiros

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Office Hours: By appointment

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Course objectives

Students will develop an:

1. in-depth knowledge of sub-state conflicts as well as the theories, concepts and sociopolitical issues that are associated with these movements.
2. ability to think critically about minority politics and deliberate on the sociopolitical factors (economic, cultural, institutional, etc.) that influence minorities' intergroup attitudes and their attachment to their country.
3. ability to synthesize important concepts and debates.
4. ability to formulate well-organized arguments, supported by scholarly evidence.

Course content

Intrastate conflicts have been prominent in the news recently, with the referendums in Catalonia, Scotland, and New Caledonia as well as the violence in Hong Kong, Cameroon, West Papua, and Nagorno-Karabakh being well-known examples. Such movements highlight tensions with majority groups and with the central governments. Yet, these movements have been forced to evolve due to increasing globalization, greater interconnections in international relations, and growing cultural diversity.

The course will present theories and concepts from comparative politics and conflict studies as a way of understanding and interpreting past and current events with regard to sub-state conflicts.

Issues of sub-state conflicts go beyond secessionism; they also touch upon questions of governance, values, and diversity. Minority politics have become an increasingly salient ‘challenge’ to the traditional nation-state. Additionally, the increasing diversity in Western societies caused by migration also underscores cultural and economic concerns that national minorities must deal with. As a result, the course will delve into the following questions:

- What is “sub-state” nationalism and how is it different from other forms of nationalism?
- How do movements for minority rights get started?
- How does the existing political process respond to or represent these voices?
- How are sub-state nationalist movements similar/different from each other?
- How do sub-state nationalist movements react to immigration?
- How can neighbouring countries and/or kin groups in foreign countries sway minorities’ relationship with their central government?
- How can the economic and political integration of countries (for example, through the European Union) influence intra-state tensions?
- Do economic crises have a positive or negative impact on secessionist movements?
- Can decentralization (for example, federalism) help address the grievances of national minorities?
- Does adopting a violent strategy pay off?

The course goes beyond case-specific knowledge by linking sub-state conflicts to various political themes and concepts.

The course will appeal to students that are interested in exploring intergroup relations, social diversity, centre-periphery dynamics and international relations.

Teaching methods/learning formats

The course will be taught in the form of an online seminar via Zoom. Please consult the “Zoom Etiquette in Online Classes” manual in Canvas.

The sessions will primarily consist of plenary discussions among the students. Therefore, students are expected to prepare for each class by 1) critically reading the assigned literature and 2) formulating questions and topics that they would like to introduce to the discussions.

Students will receive written feedback on their two assignments, their recorded presentation and their term paper.

Manner & Form of Assessment and Assessment Requirements & Criteria

Case Studies (2 x 20%); Recorded Presentation (15%); Term Paper (35 %); and Participation (10%).

The student will produce two short (4 double-spaced pages, approximately 1,200 words; excluding the bibliography) case studies of approved sub-state conflicts. The first assignment must be on a case from a developed country and be submitted by **17 November**, and the second assignment must explore a case from a developing country and be submitted by **8 December**. The student must succinctly describe the case (e.g., who is the group behind the movement, their grievances, their demands, relations with the central state and other groups in the country, the intensity of the conflict, etc.) and link it to the themes that will be discussed in this course. Each assignment must be submitted via Urkund on Canvas. No late assignments will be accepted. Further details will be provided in class.

The recorded presentation will be based on the case studies that the student will produce. The student will be expected to summarize their cases and to highlight similarities and differences between them. The presentation should be about 10 minutes. The presentation must be submitted **by 18 December** via email to m.medeiros@uva.nl. Further details will be provided in class.

The student will also produce a term paper on a topic of their choice that will be used to deepen their knowledge of the course material. It will consist of a synthesis of 12 double-spaced pages (approximately 3,600 words) of important studies on a research question based on one of the themes explored in the course. In order to get useful feedback, the student must submit via Canvas **by 24 November** an outline of their paper. The term paper must be submitted via Urkund on Canvas by 15 January. More details will be provided in class.

Finally, the student's participation will be evaluated in each session based on class presence as well as the quality of their comments and questions. It will also be assessed on feedback provided to peers' recorded presentations.

Attendance

Attendance is obligatory. A student may miss a maximum of one 3-hour session. Students who miss more classes risk de-enrolment from the class. Those who miss classes due to unforeseen circumstances should get in touch with the study advisor: Kim Ribbink.

Rules regarding Fraud and Plagiarism

The provisions of the Regulations Governing Fraud and Plagiarism for UvA Students apply in full. Access this regulation at <http://www.student.uva.nl/preventfraud-plagiarism>. Plagiarism is presenting someone else's ideas as your own. Copying, paraphrasing or translating of text needs to be referenced according to academic standards. Plagiarism will be sanctioned severely.

Literature

Extensive use will be made of online journal resources via the digital library. If not, the readings are available via Canvas.

Schedule

27 October ***Selection of Cases***

Understanding (Sub-State) Nationalism

Anderson, B. 2006. *Imagined Communities*, Chapter 3.

Keating, M. 1996. *Nations against the State*, Chapter 1.

Yavuz, M. H. 2001. "Five Stages of the Construction of Kurdish Nationalism in Turkey." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 7(3): 1-24.

Lecours, A. & J.-F. Dupré. 2020. "The Emergence and Transformation of Self-Determination Claims in Hong Kong and Catalonia: A Historical Institutional Perspective." *Ethnicities* 20(1): 3-23.

3 November

Political Parties

Giordano, B. 2000. "Italian Regionalism or 'Padanian' Nationalism – The Political Project of the Lega Nord in Italian Politics." *Political Geography* 19(4): 445-471.

Ibiricu, I.P. 2020 "Party Competition during Secession Crises in Advanced Democracies." *Regional & Federal Studies*. DOI: 10.1080/13597566.2020.1824994.

Röth, L. & A. Kaiser. 2019. "Why Accommodate Minorities Asymmetrically? A Theory of Ideological Authority Insulation." *European Journal of Political Research* 58(2): 557-581.

Álvarez Pereira, B., M. Portos, & J. Vourdas. 2018. "Waving Goodbye? The Determinants of Autonomism and Secessionism in Western Europe." *Regional Studies* 52(2): 1-15.

Guest Lecture: Ailsa Henderson (University of Edinburgh) – The Rise of Scottish Secessionism and the Impact of Brexit.

10 November

Secessionism

Sarigil, Z., & E. Karakoc. 2016. "Who Supports Secession? The Determinants of Secessionist Attitudes among Turkey's Kurds." *Nations and Nationalism* 22(2): 325-346.

Muñoz, J. & R. Tormos. 2015. "Economic Expectations and Support for Secession in Catalonia: Between Causality and Rationalization." *European Political Science Review* 7: 315-341.

Ayres, R. W. & S. Saideman. 2000. "Is Separatism as Contagious as the Common Cold or as Cancer? Testing International and Domestic Explanations." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 6(3): 91-113.

Griffiths, R. D., & L. M. Wasser. 2019. "Does Violent Secessionism Work?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 63(5): 1310-1336.

Guest Lecture: André Fazi (University of Corsica) – Corsican Nationalism: From Contention to Electoral Success.

17 November *****Deadline First Assignment*****

Economic Factors

Tadjoeddin, M. Z. 2011. "The Economic Origins of Indonesia's Secessionist Conflicts." *Civil Wars* 13(3): 312-332.

Siroky, D. S., S. Mueller, A. Fazi & M. Hechter. 2020. "Containing Nationalism: Culture, Economics and Indirect Rule in Corsica." *Comparative Political Studies*. DOI: 10.1177/0010414020957671.

Duchesne, E., M. Eagles & S. Erfle. 2003. "Constituency Homogeneity, Economic Risk and Support for Quebec Sovereignty: A Research Note." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 36(3): 643-656.

Lecours, A. & D. Béland. 2019. From Secessionism to Regionalism: The Changing Nature of Territorial Politics in Western Australia. *Regional & Federal Studies* 29(1): 25-44.

Guest Lecture: Ahmet Sözen (Eastern Mediterranean University) – Cyprus: Unfreezing a Longstanding Conflict.

24 November

*****Deadline Outline*****

Cultural Factors

Medeiros, M. 2017. "The Language of Conflict: The Relationship between Linguistic Vitality and Conflict Intensity." *Ethnicities* 17(6): 627-645.

Capoccia, G., L. Sáez & E. De Rooij. 2012. "When State Responses Fail: Religion and Secessionism in India 1952–2002." *The Journal of Politics* 74(4): 1010-1022.

Xhardez, C. 2020. "Citizenship as a Rhetorical Tool of Nation-Building: Discourse in Flanders and Quebec." *Citizenship Studies* 24(6): 804-824.

Fair, C. 2005. "Diaspora Involvement in Insurgencies: Insights from the Khalistan and Tamil Eelam Movements." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 11(1): 125-156.

Guest Lecture: Adam Holesch (Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals) – Understanding the Past, the Present, and the (Possible) Future of the Political Crisis in Catalonia.

1 December

Geopolitics

Muro, D., G. Vidal & M. C. Vlaskamp. 2020. "Does International Recognition Matter? Support for Unilateral Secession in Catalonia and Scotland." *Nations and Nationalism* 26(1): 176-196.

Noutcheva, G. 2020. "Contested Statehood and EU Actorness in Kosovo, Abkhazia and Western Sahara." *Geopolitics* 25(2): 449-471.

Dembińska, M. & F. Mérand. 2019. "The Role of International Brokers in Frozen Conflicts: The Case of Transnistria." *Asia Europe Journal* 17(1): 15-30.

Radnitz, S. 2019. "Reinterpreting the Enemy: Geopolitical Beliefs and the Attribution of Blame in the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict." *Political Geography* 70: 64-73.

Guest Lecture: Jared Wesley (University of Alberta) – The West Wants In: Western Alienation in Canada.

8 December *****Deadline Second Assignment*****

Dealing with Division

Birnir, J. K. 2007. *Ethnicity and Electoral Politics*, Chapter 6.

Palermo, F. 2020. "The Elephant in the Room: Ukraine between Decentralization and Conflict." *Ethnopolitics*. DOI: 10.1080/17449057.2020.1795473

Lacina, B. 2020. "Opposition to Ethnic Territorial Autonomy in the Indian Parliament." *Ethnopolitics*. DOI: 10.1080/17449057.2020.1734900.

Kössler, K. 2020. "Bougainville Moving Towards Independence? The Role of Autonomy for Conflict Resolution in Past and Present." *Ethnopolitics*. DOI: 10.1080/17449057.2020.1795475.

Guest Lecture: Kevork Oskanian (University of Birmingham) – Nagorno-Karabakh: History Strikes Back.

15 December

Barriers to Resolution

Caspersen, N. 2018. "Recognition, Status Quo or Reintegration: Engagement with de facto States." *Ethnopolitics* 17(4): 373-389.

Sindre, G. M. 2018. "From Secessionism to Regionalism: Intra-Organizational Change and Ideological Moderation within Armed Secessionist Movements." *Political Geography* 64: 23-32.

Ferland, B. & L. Turgeon. 2020. "Understanding Majority Attitudes toward Minority Nations in Multinational Federations: The Case of Canada." *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, 50(2), 188-212.

Manekin, D., G. Grossman & T. Mitts. 2019. "Contested Ground: Disentangling Material and Symbolic Attachment to Disputed Territory." *Political Science Research and Methods* 7(4): 679-697.

Psaltis, C. 2016. "Collective Memory, Social Representations of Intercommunal Relations, and Conflict Transformation in Divided Cyprus." *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology* 22(1): 19-27.

18 December ***** Deadline Recorded Presentation *****

15 January *****Deadline Term Paper*****