

**UCLA
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 289A:
ETHNIC IDENTITY AND POLITICS**

**Winter 2023
Haines Hall A78
Mondays, 2-4:50pm**

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Ethnic identity is a workhorse variable in political science, and one that deeply shapes the research agendas of scholars in American Politics, Comparative Politics, and other subfields in our discipline. Yet despite the importance of ethnic identity to political science research, the conversations between subfields about this core concept hardly happen—if they happen at all. We think this is a mistake, and one we hope to begin rectifying by bringing us together in a quarter-long conversation about core topics, insights, and theories concerning the relationship between ethnic identity and politics. To this end, our seminar will ask participants to consider what an ethnic identity actually is, how we should best measure it, and how to better isolate when it does—and does not—matter for politics. The seminar will also expose participants to traditional areas of research on ethnic identity and politics, such as work on intergroup contact, the importance of context, and the issues of prejudice and discrimination, as well as rapidly developing areas of scholarship, including those examining the political implications of multiple identities and the impact of ethnic diversity on a variety of social and political outcomes. The ultimate goals of this seminar, then, are to teach participants some essentials about ethnic identity and politics; bring participants up to speed on emerging trends in this research area; put perspectives on these topics from Comparative Politics, American Politics, and REP into dialogue with one another; and encourage participants to theorize about this phenomenon in ways that can generalize across varied research settings.

REQUIREMENTS

There are three course requirements. First, students are required to attend all class meetings, having read and thought about the assigned materials for the week, and ready to participate actively in class discussions.

Second, all students are required to work collectively to prepare a 10 to 15-page research design memo that identifies a research question related to the issues discussed in the course and outlines a research strategy that addresses that question. The planned research design should strive to test the proposed question in the most parsimonious way possible. Students will work together during the week of February 20 (when we will not meet because of Presidents' Day) to begin developing

ideas for the project. The first draft of the collective memo will be due at 5pm on Friday, February 24 (the end of week seven of the course).

The instructors will provide written comments on this first memo, and the students will work collectively to revise the memo over the course of the rest of the quarter. The final version of the memo, which should incorporate the feedback received from the instructors, is due at 5pm on Friday, March 17. We will then meet as a class on Monday, March 20 to discuss implementing the project described in the final memo as a joint research study, with the plan of ultimately publishing the results as a multi-author paper that will include all students and the instructors. Grading for this assignment will be done based on performance/contribution assessments provided by each student for all the other students.

Third, all students will complete a take-home final exam. The exam will be distributed at 5pm on March 20 and will be due at 5pm on Thursday, March 23. The exam is open-note and open-book.

The weight accorded these three requirements is as follows: participation in seminar discussions (30%), contribution to joint research project (30%), and final exam (40%).

READINGS

The readings for each week are extensive. They were selected because they are considered classic, because they develop useful analytical concepts, because they engage in important theoretical debates, or because they represent particularly good examples of recent social science research on a week's topic. In keeping with the seminar's integrative objectives, the readings come roughly equally from the American Politics/REP and the Comparative Politics literatures.

Copies of all seminar readings have been posted to the course website with the exception of Ryan Enos's *The Space Between Us*, which we read so much of that it makes sense for you to purchase it. This book is readily available in paperback from Amazon.com and other online booksellers.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

January 9: What is identity?

Fearon, James D. 1999. "What is Identity (As We Now Use the Word)?" Working Paper.

Tajfel, Henri, and John C. Turner. 1979. "An Integrative Theory of Intergroup Conflict." In W.G. Austin and S. Worchel, eds., *The Social Psychology of Intergroup Relations*. Brooks Cole.

Chandra, Kanchan. 2012. "What is Ethnic Identity? A Minimalist Definition." In Kanchan Chandra, ed. *Constructivist Theories of Ethnic Politics*. Oxford University Press: ch 2.

Brubaker, Rogers. 2016. "The Dolezal Affair: Race, Gender, and the Micropolitics of Identity." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 39(3): 414-448.

De Maio, Jennifer and Daniel N. Posner. In Press. "Terms Matter: The Use of 'Tribe' in African Studies." In Jennifer De Maio, Suzanne Scheld and Tom Spencer-Walters, eds. *Re-Membering Africa: Critical Dimensions of African Studies*. Lexington Books.

January 16: MLK DAY; NO CLASS

January 23: Contact

Enos, Ryan D. 2017. *The Space Between Us: Social Geography and Politics*. Cambridge University Press: chs. 1-6.

Goldenberg, Amit, Joseph M. Abruzzo, Zi Huang, Jonas Schöne, David Bailey, Robb Willer, Eran Halperin, and James J. Gross. Forthcoming. "Homophily and Acrophily as Drivers of Political Segregation." *Nature Human Behavior*.

Paluck, Elizabeth Levy, Seth A. Green, Donald P. Green. Forthcoming. "The Contact Hypothesis Re-Evaluated." *Behavioral Public Policy*.

Corno, Lucia, Eliana La Ferrara, and Justine Burns. 2022. "Interaction, Stereotypes, and Performance: Evidence from South Africa." *American Economic Review* 112(12): 3848-3875.

January 30: Beyond Singular Identities: Multi-dimensionality and Mixing

Posner, Daniel N. "When and Why Do Some Social Cleavages Become Politically Salient Rather Than Others?" 2017. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 40(12): 2001-2019.

Pérez, Efrén O. 2022. *Diversity's Child: People of Color and the Politics of Identity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pages 1-32; 92-122.

Hickel, Flavio, Rudy Alamillo, Kassra AR Oskooii, and Loren Collingwood. 2020. "The Role of Identity Prioritization: Why Some Latinx Support Restrictionist Immigration Policies and Candidates." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 84(4): 860-891.

Adida, Claire L., Nathan Combes, Adeline Lo, and Alex Verink. 2016. "The Spousal Bump: Do Cross-Ethnic Marriages Increase Political Support in Multiethnic Democracies?" *Comparative Political Studies* (49(5): 635-661.

February 6: Context

Tavits, Margit, and Efrén O. Pérez. 2019. "Language Influences Mass Opinion Toward Gender and LGBT Equality." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116(34): 16781-16786.

Posner, Daniel N. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98(4): 529-545.

Eifert, Benn, Edward Miguel and Daniel N. Posner. 2010. "Political Competition and Ethnic Identification in Africa." *American Journal of Political Science* 54(2): 495-510.

Chin, Jason C., Gustavo A. Mártir Luna, and Efrén O. Pérez. 2022. "Motivating Collective Action in Diverse Groups: Person of Color Identity, Prototypicality Perceptions, and Environmental Attitudes." *Social Psychological and Personality Science*. OnlineFirst.

Barrie, Christopher. 2021. "Sect, Nation, and Identity after the Fall of Mosul: Evidence from a Natural Experiment." *American Journal of Sociology* 127(3): 695-738.

February 13: Identity creation/reification/redefinition

Agadjanian, Alexander, and Dean Lacy. "Changing Votes, Changing Identities? Racial Fluidity and Vote Switching in the 2012-2016 US Presidential Elections." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 85(3): 737-752.

McNamee, Lachlan. 2020. "Colonial Legacies and Comparative Racial Identification in the Americas." *American Journal of Sociology* 126(2): 318-353.

Lieberman, Evan S. and Prernah Singh. 2017. "Census Enumeration and Group Conflict: A Global Analysis of the Consequences of Counting." *World Politics* 69(1): 1-53.

Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity." *International Organization* 54(4): 845-877.

Abascal, Maria. 2020. "Contraction as a Response to Group Threat: Demographic Decline and Whites' Classification of People Who are Ambiguously White." *American Sociological Review* 85(2): 298-322.

Anastopoulou, Rossi. 2019. "Why Apple Pie Isn't So American After All." *Slate*, 30 October.

February 20: PRESIDENTS' DAY; NO CLASS

February 27: Intergroup Conflict and Cooperation

Zou, Linda X, and Sapna Cheryan. 2017. "Two Axes of Subordination: A New Model of Racial Position." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 112(5): 696-717.

Cortland, Clarissa I., Maureen A. Craig, Jenessa R. Shapiro, Jennifer A. Richeson, Rebecca Neel, and Noah J. Goldstein. 2017. "Solidarity Through Shared Disadvantage: Highlighting Shared Experiences of Discrimination Improves Relations Between Stigmatized Groups." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 113(4): 547-567.

Pérez, Efrén O., Bianca V. Vicuña, Alisson Ramos, Kevin Phan, Mariella Solano, and Eric Tillet. 2022. "Bridging the Gaps Between Us: Explaining When and Why People of Color Express Political Views." *Political Behavior*. OnLine First

Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 1996. "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation." *American Political Science Review* 90(4): 715-735.

Craig, Maureen A., Hui Bai, Michelle M. Lee. 2022. "Stereotypes About Political Attitudes and Coalitions Among US Racial Groups: Implications for Strategic Political Decision-Making." *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

March 6: Diversity

Alesina, Alberto, Arnaud Devleeschauwer, William Easterly, Sergio Kurlat, and Romain Wacziarg. 2003. "Fractionalization." *Journal of Economic Growth* 8: 155-194.

Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner, and Jeremy Weinstein. 2007. "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *American Political Science Review* 101(4): 709-725.

Algan, Yann, Camille Hemet, and David D. Laitin. 2016. "The Social Effects of Ethnic Diversity at the Local Level: A Natural Experiment with Exogenous Residential Allocation." *Journal of Political Economy* 124(3): 696-733.

Schaub, Max. 2017. "Second-Order Ethnic Diversity: The Spatial Pattern of Diversity, Competition and Cooperation in Africa." *Political Geography* 59: 103-116.

Abascal, Maria and Delia Baldassarri. 2015. "Love Thy Neighbor? Ethnoracial Diversity and Trust Reexamined." *American Journal of Sociology* 121(3): 722-782.

March 13: Prejudice and discrimination

Hedegaard, Morten Storling and Jean-Robert Tyran. 2018. "The Price of Prejudice." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 10(1): 40-63.

Pérez, Efrén, Crystal Robertson, Bianca Vicuña. 2022. "Prejudice When Climbing Up or When Falling Down? Why Some People of Color Express Anti-Black Racism." *American Political Science Review* FirstView.

Michelitch, Kristin. 2015. "Does Electoral Competition Exacerbate Interethnic or Interpartisan Economic Discrimination? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Market Price Bargaining." *American Political Science Review* 109(1): 43-61.

Lupu, Noam, and Leonid Peisakhin. 2017. "The Legacy of Political Violence across Generations." *American Journal of Political Science* 61(4): 836-851.

Shayo, Moses and Asaf Zussman. "Conflict and the Persistence of Ethnic Bias." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 9(4):137-165.

March 20: Work on joint project