The New Handbook of Political Sociology

Political sociology is a large and expanding field with many new developments and *The New Handbook of Political Sociology* supplies the knowledge necessary to keep up with this exciting field. Written by a distinguished group of leading scholars in sociology, this volume provides a survey of this vibrant and growing field in the new millennium. The handbook presents the field in six parts: theories of political sociology, the information and knowledge explosion, the state and political parties, civil society and citizenship, the varieties of state policies, and globalization and how it affects politics. Covering all subareas of the field with both theoretical orientations and empirical studies, it directly connects scholars with current research in the field. A total reconceptualization of the first edition, the new handbook features nine additional chapters and highlights the impact of the media and big data.

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The New Handbook of Political Sociology

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To Linda Klink, my inflator, deflator, and stabilizer throughout this journey through life – TJ

To all the “party people” who have helped me put political parties back on the map, especially Manali Desai, Barry Eidlin, Johnnie Lotesta, Stephanie Mudge, Josh Pacewicz, Adam Slez, and Cihan Tuğal – CdL

To Alex Hicks, Rick Rubinson, and the late Terry Boswell, who all made me into a political sociologist – JM

To Margaret Weir, master teacher – IWM
Contents

List of Tables xi
List of Figures xii
List of Contributors xiii
Acknowledgments xxv

Introduction: New Directions in Political Sociology 1

1 THEORIES OF POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY 33

1 Power 35
Cedric de Leon and Andy Clarno

2 Conflict Theories in Political Sociology: Class, Power, Inequality, and the Historical Transition to Financialization 53
Harland Prechel and Linzi Berkowitz

3 The Promise of Field Theory for the Study of Political Institutions 79
Caleb Scoville and Neil Fligstein

4 Culture in Politics and Politics in Culture: Institutions, Practices, and Boundaries 102
Mabel Berezin, Emily Sandusky, and Thomas Davidson

5 Political Sociology and the Postcolonial Perspective 132
Julian Go

6 Gender, State, and Citizenships: Challenges and Dilemmas in Feminist Theorizing 153
Jeff Hearn and Barbara Hobson

7 Theories of Race, Ethnicity, and the Racial State 191
Joe R. Feagin and Sean Elias

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Toward the Convergence of Culture and Political Economy?: Pierre Bourdieu, Michael Mann, and Institutional Theory</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tasks for the Political Sociology of the Next Ten Years</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>“Old” Media, “New” Media, Hybrid Media, and the Changing Character of Political Participation</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The Dark and Light Sides of Big Data: How Big Data Is Transforming Political Sociology</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>States, Parties, and Expertise</td>
<td>353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Toward a Political Sociology of Demography</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>The Political Economy of the Capitalist State</td>
<td>409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>States as Institutions</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Nation-State Formation: Power and Culture</td>
<td>458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>The Political Sociology of Public Finance and the Fiscal Sociology of Politics</td>
<td>484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Politics, Institutions, and the Carceral State</td>
<td>513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>The Political Sociology of Democracy: From Measurement to Rights</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Revolutions against the State</td>
<td>564</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contents

IV CIVIL SOCIETY: THE ROOTS AND PROCESSES OF POLITICAL ACTION 593
22 The Challenges of Citizenship in Civil Society 595
   Thomas Janoski and Sara Compion
23 Social Movements 627
   James M. Jasper
24 Political Parties: From Reflection to Articulation and Beyond 646
   Johnnie Lotesta and Cedric de Leon
25 Machine Politics and Clientelism 666
   Manali Desai and Rashmi Singh
26 The Good, the Bland, and the Ugly: Volunteering, Civic Associations, and Participation in Politics 681
   Sara Compion and Thomas Janoski
27 The Politics of Economic Crisis: From Voter Retreat to the Rise of New Populisms 715
   Marco Giugni and Jasmine Lorenzini
28 The Influence of Public Opinion and Advocacy on Public Policy: Controversies and Conclusions 738
   Paul Burstein
29 Nationalism: The Modern Motive-Force 761
   Liah Greenfeld and Zeying Wu

V ESTABLISHED AND NEW STATE POLICIES AND INNOVATIONS 785
30 The Evolution of Fiscal and Monetary Policy 787
   John L. Campbell
31 Welfare State Policies and Their Effects 812
   Stephanie Moller and Tengteng Cai
32 Sexuality, Gender, and Social Policy 842
   Joya Misra and Mary Bernstein
33 Migration, Asylum, Integration, and Citizenship Policy 880
   Irene Bloemraad and Rebecca Hamlin
34 Cosmopolitanism and Political Sociology: World Citizenship, Global Governance, and Human Rights 909
   Mark Frezzo
35 War, States, and Political Sociology: Contributions and Challenges 924
   Gregory Hooks
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VI GLOBALIZATION AND NEW AND BIGGER SOURCES OF POWER AND RESISTANCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 Global Political Sociology and World-Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sakin Erin and Christopher Chase-Dunn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 Liberalizing Trade and Finance: Corporate Class Agency and the Neoliberal Era</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael C. Dreiling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 The Racial State in the Age of Racial Formation Theory and Beyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moon-Kie Jung and Yaejoon Kwon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 Democracy and Autocracy in the Age of Populism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlos de la Torre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Transnational Social Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tables

3.1 Existing field theoretical research on environmental politics  page 88
8.1 Comparing economic, military, knowledge, and political power in Bourdieu, Mann, and Jessop  221
22.1 Four types of citizenship rights  607
22.2 Citizens by action and value involvement  608
26.1 Evaluation of seven types of organized participatory practices in a democratic civic sphere  692
26.2 Average intra-party democratic processes index for countries and parties  698
31.1 Component of welfare state policy portfolios and income inequality, 2013–2015  817
31.2 Relative poverty rates by family structure, 2010  826
31.3 Relative poverty rates by immigrant status, 2010  828
37.1 Founding corporate executive members of the Emergency Committee for American Trade, 1967  983
Figures

8.1 The relationship of materialist/political economy, and cultural/ideological theories in political sociology page 217
21.1 The organizational themes of revolution reviews 567
21.2 The schemas of revolution studies 569
21.3 Schemas of revolution and consensual findings 579
21.4 The dissensual frontiers of revolution studies 580
26.1 The process of volunteering and political participation in the civic sphere 702
30.1 Stagflation in the United States 790
30.2 Economic prosperity and taxation in the OECD, 2014 797
30.3 Household debt in the United States 800
30.4 Economic growth in the United States and Eurozone 804
30.5 Unemployment in the United States and Eurozone 805
31.1 Degree of redistribution and Gini Index pre- and posttaxes and transfers, circa 2010 814
35.1a Persons of concern, 1953–2018 (millions) 940
35.1b Persons of concern: Selected categories, 2003–2018 (millions) 940
36.1 Trade globalization (imports/GDP) 1820–2017 958
36.2 Territorial sizes (square megameters) of largest polities in Europe and East Asia, 1500 BCE–2010 CE 959
36.3 Waves of colonization and decolonization, 1415–1995 CE 960
36.4 Shares of world GDP (PPP), 1820–2006 CE 963
37.1 World exports of goods and services, 1970–2016 (Constant 2010 US$) 977
37.2 Overlapping networks of ECAT members in the Business Roundtable and Executive Branch Trade Advisory Committees, 1998 988
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Management. He is a former editor of Research in Political Sociology. His publications include Big Business and the State (2000) and articles in the American Sociological Review, British Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Social Problems, and elsewhere.

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Acknowledgments

The first Handbook of Political Sociology started out as a project in the Section on Political Sociology of the American Sociological Association (ASA). A section session organized by Thomas Janoski asked whether political sociology was in crisis. Opinions on the question varied but were hugely generative. Then Thomas Janoski, Robert Alford, Alexander Hicks, and Mildred Schwartz edited The Handbook of Political Sociology (2005). The New Handbook started with the Cambridge politics editor Robert Dressen suggesting that Janoski assemble a team to edit a new handbook as a follow-up to the successful first edition. Perhaps in this edition, Dressen added, the focus could be on new voices and directions with well-known senior scholars contributing heft in certain areas. Without Robert’s suggestion, this volume might never have been written. In a number of informal ways, The New Handbook was also developed when Isaac Martin and Thomas Janoski were chairs, and Cedric de Leon was secretary-treasurer of the ASA Political Sociology Section. The eventual result is 110 scholars contributing to the writing and reviewing of this New Handbook of Political Sociology.

While the first handbook was unique in the field of political sociology, by 2017 there were other handbooks or companions on politics or political sociology. In contrast to these other works, which tend to be descriptions of areas of inquiry within political sociology, The New Handbook asks authors to present their own angle on the field (i.e., their evaluation of where the field is and should be going). The chapters thus have an edge to them that chapters in other handbooks do not typically have. The Handbook of Political Sociology (2005) had 32 chapters that were 18 to 24 pages long with references at the end of the book, making them appear shorter than they actually were. The intent of each chapter was to cover developments in the field sometimes going back to the classics. The New Handbook has 41 chapters (more than the two previous handbooks and companions) but maintains the longer chapters of about 20 to
30 pages. Authors appraise developments in their fields from 2000 onward, making only passing allusions to the canon. As such, the New Handbook is somewhat of a complementary addition to the first venture.

In terms of the division of labor in The New Handbook, Thomas Janoski covered Part I and Part II; Isaac Martin managed Part III; Cedric de Leon handled Part IV; and Joya Misra covered Part V. However, there was considerable overlap in duties concerning many chapters, especially in Part VI, and coeditors did not handle their own chapters. Joya Misra set up the timetable for authors and reviewers on Google Drive, which turned out to be extremely useful. We would like to thank Stephanie Mudge, who was an initial coeditor and recruited the authors of a number of chapters, but had to drop out early due to other demands.

We thank each of the authors of the chapters in The New Handbook for their expertise and willingness to contribute. For some chapters it was not always easy to get important scholars to take time out of their research schedules. Each chapter was reviewed by two scholars familiar with the area, and this helped to improve many of the chapters. We would especially like to thank the following uncompensated reviewers for their hard work:

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Acknowledgments

xxvi

One may view the field of edited reference books as being composed of handbooks (chapters with 20 to 25 pages), companions (shorter chapters of 9–13 pages), encyclopedias (entries with 4–6 pages), and dictionaries (1–2 pages). The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology (2012) by Edwin Amenta, Kate Nash, and Alan Scott has 42 much shorter chapters of 9 to 13 pages, and a relatively short reference section. The Handbook of Politics: State and Society in Global Perspective (2010) by sociologists Kevin Leicht and J. Craig Jenkins has 34 chapters with articles 18 to 27 pages long. Although chapter length may vary, we think that one needs at least 20 pages to adequately cover a topic. In 2018 while we were getting ready to submit our manuscript, William Outhwaite and Stephen Turner edited The Sage Handbook of Political Sociology with 63 chapters in two volumes. While there is some overlap with four authors, the Sage Handbook is much more oriented toward the library reference market and social or normative theory. This New Handbook, after the initial theory section, is more directed toward empirical research.
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