Global governance is no longer the preserve of states and international organizations (IOs). Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and civil society actors (CSO) have expanded their influence and inputs into the making and implementation of global policy and through the delivery of essential public goods that governments and IOs are unable or unwilling to provide. Through advocacy, protest and policy advice, as contractors for service delivery, standard-setters, and monitors or enforcers of domestic and international laws, NGOs have become increasingly influential actors in global politics. Their voice and action increases pluralism, but also raises questions of effectiveness, accountability and legitimacy. The first 4 weeks of the course will examine theories and practices of transnational activism and reflect on different types of influence-seeking; from agenda-setting and ‘inside’ lobbying to mass protest, strategic litigation, and direct action. Weeks 5 and 6 will focus on the impact of transnational activism in two domains of global politics; human rights and the environment. The final week looks at current opportunities and challenges posed by new social media and information technologies and by the rise of right-wing populism.

In addition to the readings listed below students are strongly encouraged to visit organizational websites of NGOs and CSOs to learn about current initiatives and campaigns.

I. The Rise of Transnational Politics - Thinking Theoretically about Transnational Actors in World Politics


Further Reading:


II. Who Speaks for Global Civil Society? Power and Agenda-Setting Among NGOs


Further Reading:


III. Changing the World through Regulation and Standard-Setting


Further Reading:


IV. Taking the Gloves Off – Direct Action, Mass Protest, Strategic Litigation


Further Reading


V. Transnational Politics of Human Rights


Further Reading:


VI. Protecting the Global Environment: An International Public Good?


Further Reading

Protest for a future: Composition, mobilization and motives of the participants in Fridays For Future climate protests on 15 March, 2019 in 13 European cities. Edited by Mattias Wahlström, Piotr Kocyba, Michiel De Vydt and Joost de Moor. 
https://eprints.keele.ac.uk/6536/1/Protest%20for%20a%20future_GCS%2015.03.19_Descriptive%20Report-2.pdf


VII. New Challenges and Opportunities: New Technologies; the Rise of Right Wing Politics and Staying in Business


Recommended


