GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTALISM AND LOCAL POLITICS
Transnational Advocacy Networks in Brazil, Ecuador, and India
MARIA GUADALUPE MOOG RODRIGUES

Examines the internal politics of transnational environmental advocacy networks.

What is the role played by local organizations in transnational environmental advocacy networks? Global Environmentalism and Local Politics revisits this question by looking at transnational environmental activism in Brazil, Ecuador, and India. Rodrigues investigates the internal politics of these networks, focusing on their internal balance of power, choice of strategies, and distribution of resources among members at the international, national, and local levels. Contrary to existing assumptions, local organizations, rather than international or national non-governmental organizations, are the key players in these networks, while at the same time mere participation in transnational advocacy efforts does not necessarily lead to the empowerment of local organizations. Participation may, for example, impose unanticipated political and technical burdens, and despite their overarching common goal of environmental preservation, network members may have different understandings of what environmentally sustainable development is and how it can be best achieved.

“Rodrigues shows that participation of local groups in transnational activism does not always lead to their empowerment and can even threaten their material and physical safety.” — Jill M. Belsky, University of Montana

Maria Guadalupe Moog Rodrigues is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the College of the Holy Cross.

A volume in the SUNY series in Global Environmental Policy
Uday Desai, editor

WHAT MOVES MAN
The Realist Theory of International Relations and Its Judgment of Human Nature
ANNETTE FREYBERG-INAN

A critical look at the image of human nature that underlies the realist theory of international relations.

The realist theory of international relations is based on a particularly gloomy set of assumptions about universal human motives. Believing people to be essentially asocial, selfish, and untrustworthy, realism counsels a politics of distrust and competition in the international arena. What Moves Man subjects realism to a broad and deep critique. Freyberg-Inan argues, first, that realist psychology is incomplete and suffers from a pessimistic bias. Second, she explains how this bias systematically undermines both realist scholarship and efforts to promote international cooperation and peace. Third, she argues that realism’s bias has a tendency to function as a self-fulfilling prophecy: it nurtures and promotes the very behaviors it assumes predominate human nature. Freyberg-Inan concludes by suggesting how a broader and more complex view of human motivation would deliver more complete explanations of international behavior, reduce the risk of bias, and better promote practical progress in the conduct of international affairs.

“This is the best treatment of realism I have seen from an interdisciplinary standpoint. It borrows from philosophy, psychology, history, and elsewhere to provide a comprehensive assessment of realism as an interpretation of human nature and international relations.” — Patrick James, author of International Relations and Scientific Progress: Structural Realism Reconsidered

Annette Freyberg-Inan is the Civic Education Project Visiting Faculty Fellow at the University of Bucharest.

A volume in the SUNY series in Global Politics
James N. Rosenau, editor
COPING IN POLITICS WITH INDETERMINATE NORMS
A Theory of Enlightened Localism
BENJAMIN GREGG

Argues that social equity and legal justice are possible even in the absence of universal political norms.

Are social equity, political fairness, and legal justice possible within a liberal political order, even if norms are indeterminate? The modern world is distinguished by both its complexity and the absence of a single theory, principle, or tradition with the authority to constrain us. Coping in Politics with Indeterminate Norms demonstrates that while moral validity is relative rather than absolute, and cultural meanings local rather than universal, social integration and democratic politics are still attainable goals. Gregg fashions a theory that combines proceduralism with pragmatism—an “enlightened localism”—that adjudicates among competing normative commitments and interpretations using local criteria in the absence of universal standards. The theory is applied to three empirical domains: social criticism, public policy, and law and morality.

“Gregg shows that while proceduralism and relativism are tempting responses to normative indeterminacy, they are inadequate. His own position uniquely joins diverse disciplinary approaches to show that a pragmatic, enlightened localism need not mean parochialism, narrow-mindedness, and the like. Tightly argued and often provocative, his position makes perfect sense.” — Dick Howard, author of The Specter of Democracy

Benjamin Gregg is Associate Professor of Government at The University of Texas at Austin and the author of Thick Moralities, Thin Politics: Social Integration Across Communities of Belief.

A volume in the SUNY series in Political Theory: Contemporary Issues
Philip Green, editor
and
A volume in the SUNY series in Radical Social and Political Theory
Roger S. Gottlieb, editor

EX UNO PLURA
State Constitutions and Their Political Cultures
JAMES T. MCHUGH

Explores the foundations of various state constitutional traditions.

State constitutions have become increasingly important in light of recent trends in jurisprudence that favor decentralizing the American federal system. Ex Uno Plura uses a political culture approach to explore eight state constitutional traditions. McHugh argues that state jurisprudence is not merely a reflection of the process, values, and decisions found at the federal level, especially through the influence of the Fourteenth Amendment. A close examination of separate state constitutions, including their origins, sociopolitical cultures, and jurisprudence, reveals historically, culturally, and philosophically unique characteristics, each of which will contribute to the ongoing debate concerning American judicial federalism. The states included are Alaska, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming.

“I particularly liked the interesting details about state constitutional development. McHugh obviously spent a great amount of time investigating the cultural and ideological circumstances native to these particular states, and it shows with rich and descriptive detail.” — Laura Langer, author of Judicial Review in State Supreme Courts: A Comparative Study

James T. McHugh is Associate Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Legal Studies Program at Roosevelt University. He is the author of Comparative Constitutional Traditions, The Essential Concept of Law, and the coauthor (with James S. Pacy) of Diplomats Without a Country: Baltic Diplomacy, International Law, and the Cold War.

A volume in the SUNY series in American Constitutionalism
Robert J. Spitzer, editor