Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainabilities
Spring 2018

Individual Assignment
'Analysis of Actors and Strategies'

« Major social movements eventually fade into the landscape not because they have diminished but because they have become part of our perceptions and experience »

– Freda Adler, 1975

This assignment is particularly connected to the following course goals:
- give an account of, and be able to evaluate, the strategies, room to manoeuvre and limitations of different societal actors in striving toward a sustainable society;
- be able to discuss individual/actors' perspectives compared to structural/system perspectives on cultural change;
- have reflected on his/her own role in the causes and solutions of issues of sustainable development.

Stretching over the entirety of the course, this assignment is split up into two parts, one of which will be handed in halfway through. In the second part you are then asked at the end of the course to reflect on the first part of the assignment, based on the learning in the sessions since the first hand in, in particular the 'Actors in Action' assignment.

It is essential that you engage actively with the literature, weekly missions, and guests throughout the course in order to be able to gain a holistic view of different actors and strategies, which is an essential part of this assignment.

Instructions

Part 1: due Sunday, April 1st, 23.59

- For each guest visiting the course you are asked to research a news article or actor relating to the focus of the week and share with other students on a Padlet (see weekly mission instructions). This collection of information shall form the basis of the first part of this assignment. Pick two different actors from different Padlets. Please note that you must reference the week and contributor to the Padlets for your chosen

actors.

At least one of them must be from your own contributions to the Padlets but you may also choose one contributed by a fellow student. Also, pick one of the weekly readings focusing on the theory of change.

Introduce both your chosen actors and then contrast how they are contributing to social change, particularly in relation to the chosen literature on change.

Based on this initial analysis, evaluate how the employed change strategies complement, contradict and/or support each other. What potential does each actor, or both in combination and eventually with other societal actors, have to create positive and lasting change? In this regard, also highlight possible limitations the actors face with regards to structural/system perspectives on cultural change.

Peer Review

This first part of the assignment is subject to a **peer review**. On Sunday, April 1st, you will both submit your assignment on Studentportalen, as well as to your assigned reviewer (list will be made available shortly before hand in). We encourage you to hand in a finished draft, but it must be of at least 1200 words in length (excluding references) by the time of this first submission. You then have until Friday, April 6th, to submit your peer review. The final hand in will be on Sunday, April 15th.

The purpose of the peer-review is to give feedback that helps the author to improve the paper before the final submission. Keep in mind that giving good feedback is a time-consuming process, as it includes reading the paper more than once and reflecting on several questions as outlined below. However, good feedback does not only help the author, but also yourself, as you will need to critically reflect on good academic writing.

The review should focus on the success of the author to stay within the instructional parameters outlined above, and the overall academic quality of the article. These questions can help you with that task:

- **Completeness**. Has the author followed the instructions and fulfilled the objectives as laid out by the assignment?[1] Are any of the central and relevant views/perspectives/standpoints in the literature left out of the paper? Is there a lack of relevant and credible references to the literature in the paper?
- **Clarity / Precision.** Is the paper comprehensible, well structured, easy to follow and written at a sufficiently high academic level?
- **Argumentation.** Is there a clear line of argumentation? Are the arguments relevant and presented in a concise and coherent way?
- **Academic.** Are arguments and proposals anchored in scientific and analytical sources?
- **References.** Are references used properly and consistently throughout the paper?

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[1] This also includes the formal requirements, such as sufficient references, paper length, spacing, etc.

A note on giving feedback: a very unfortunate tendency when giving feedback is to only focus on the aspects of a paper that can be improved. Remember that commenting on the strengths of a paper is equally useful to the writer (perhaps even more) in understanding which elements to keep and which to continue working on.

The feedback needs to include comments on particular parts of the articles (or even phrases) but also include an overall comment in the end of the article, in the length of at least 300 words. You need to express your opinions about things you consider good, would improve, keep, but also take away. Keep in mind, feedback should never be directed to the person writing it (ad hominem) but directed to the text. Furthermore, the author should not take feedback as a personal offense but see it as an opportunity to improve his or her skills. The review is expected to take at least one hour, and is a mandatory part of the process. When the peer-review process is finished, send the reviewed version back to its author, and submit it in on Studentportalen.

Part 2: due Sunday, June 3rd, 23.59

During the second part of the course, you have the opportunity to continue to reflect on and critically analyse your earlier perceptions on social change. In this part you are expected to provide a critique of how well your first part has evaluated the strategies, scope and limitations of the individual social actors and movements that you chose to analyse. You are also expected to reflect upon how actors can work either with or against existing structures and societal paradigms, what are advantages and disadvantages of the two approaches? This reflection should include insights drawn from the 'Actors in Action' group report and role play, but also connect to theoretical aspect from the course book and articles, particular those focusing on change theory. Also you should take into account the feedback you received from the course coordinators on your first part.

Requirements

- Follow the instructions above and make sure to respond to all questions
- use the required amount of references (see below) in Harvard Referencing Style
- Word limit:
    - Part 1: 1800 words (+/- 200 words), for draft: minimum 1200 words; excluding references
    - Part 2: 1000 words (+/- 100 words)
- Size: 12. Spacing: 1.5. Margins: 25mm, any readable font
- Write your name on top of every page in the header
- Name the file in the following way: firstname.lastname1 (ex.: john.galt1.doc) and firstname.lastname2 respectively
- Upload the files on Studentportalen under the Assignment Hand In section
- **Deadline Draft: Sunday, April 1st, 23.59**
- **Deadline Peer Review: Friday, April 6th, 23.59**
- **Final Deadline Part 1: Sunday, April 15th, 23.59**
- **Final Deadline Part 2: Sunday, June 3rd, 23.59**

References

Part 1: Reference to…

- … course book *Ways of Social Change*
- … at least one theory of change from the course literature
- … the chosen actors (articles from the Padlet)
- … at least 3 additional sources from the course or external literature

Part 2: Reference to…

- … course book *Ways of Social Change*
- … at least one additional theory of change from the course literature
- … at least 2 additional sources from the course or external literature

In this assignment, you will be including your own ideas and opinions, and referencing ideas,

opinions and research published by other people. Be sure to make very clear to the when you refer to other people's opinions or research or voicing your own.

You can find the grading criteria on the course website. You will receive one grade reflecting your work on both Part 1 and Part 2 of the assignment. This will also be your grade for the course in total.