

Cohesion, Fragmentation, and Power: The Role of Inadvertent Robust Action

by Mizruchi Mark (University of Michigan)

9 May 2018
15.00-16.30
REC- B2.08

Political scientists, political sociologists, and social movement theorists broadly accept that a unified group will have more chance on success than a group that experiences internal divisions or fragmentation. Similarly, it is assumed that elites experience disproportionately high benefits in comparison to the larger population in societies with a relatively unified elites. Mark Mizruchi from the University of Michigan criticizes these claims. In the mid-twentieth century, large American corporations exhibited a relatively high level of unity but the economic benefits flowing to these elites were at historic lows. In more recent years, American big business has become increasingly fragmented, yet the economic benefits that these elites receive have reached historic highs. The average American's standard of living has meanwhile stagnated. Mizruchi introduces the concept of *inadvertent robust action* to explain how a relatively fragmented, disorganized elite can reap benefits that exceed those that its more unified counterparts experienced in an earlier era.

Location:

Roeterseilandcampus REC- B2.08
Nieuwe Achtergracht 166

Registration

The event is free and no registration is needed.

Organizers

The event is organized by the CORPNET research group (AISSR) and Amsterdam Centre for Inequality Studies (AMCIS)

About Mark Mizruchi



Photo: University
of Michigan

Mark Mizruchi is a Professor of Sociology, Organizational Studies, and Management and Organizations at the University of Michigan. His research focuses on the economic and political behavior of large American corporations as well as the methods of social network analysis. Mizruchi's current project is a study of the changing nature of the American corporate elite, from the period immediately after World War II to the present. His latest book is "The Fracturing of the American Corporate Elite" (2013).