Reading Tips and Study Questions: For Session Eleven

Required reading:

1. Pp.35-53 in Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom* (NY: Anchor, 1999).

2. Balakrishnan Rajagopal, *International Law from Below: Development, Social Movements and Third World Resistance* (2003), chapter 8.

3. pp.225-229, 271-308 only in *PPD*, Chapter 6 (Planning as social mobilization).

4. Pp.1-11 only in Xavier de Souza Briggs, "Organizing stakeholders, building movement, setting the agenda," The Community Problem-Solving Project @ MIT (2003).
http://web.mit.edu/cpsproject/images/artsci_organizing_tool_web_0603.pdf

Tips and questions

1. **Sen** suggests that both the means and ends of development are to be thought of in terms of 'freedom'. If development is about cultural change, then what role do you see for universal categories, such as 'freedom,' in that change?

2. Is economic development about cultural change? If so, how and who should bring this about? Do you agree with **Rajagopal** that social movements enact a form of cultural politics that are in fact quite distinctive from the universal normative projects of development or human rights? How can planners engage in international economic development without enacting a 'cultural politics'?

3. Who are "radical planners," according to **Friedmann**? What do they do, what skills do they require, and what dilemmas of strategy and practice do they face?

4. What dilemmas does **Briggs** highlight through his focus on practical, strategic problems of mobilization ("organizing")? In what primary ways is organizing misunderstood or "malpracticed"?

Further reading (for reference, not required): See next page.

For a look at **the politics of mega-projects, nonprofit and business roles, etc. in the U.S.**:

Alan Altshuler and David Luberoff, *Mega-Projects: The Changing Politics of Urban Public Investment* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2004).

What parallels are evident between the politics of public investment in U.S. cities, as analyzed by **Altshuler and Luberoff**, and the increasingly global politics of infrastructure projects in developing countries, as analyzed by Khagram, Rajagopal, and others we read in the Narmada case? Does the growth of business influence in recent years necessarily threaten popular mobilization?