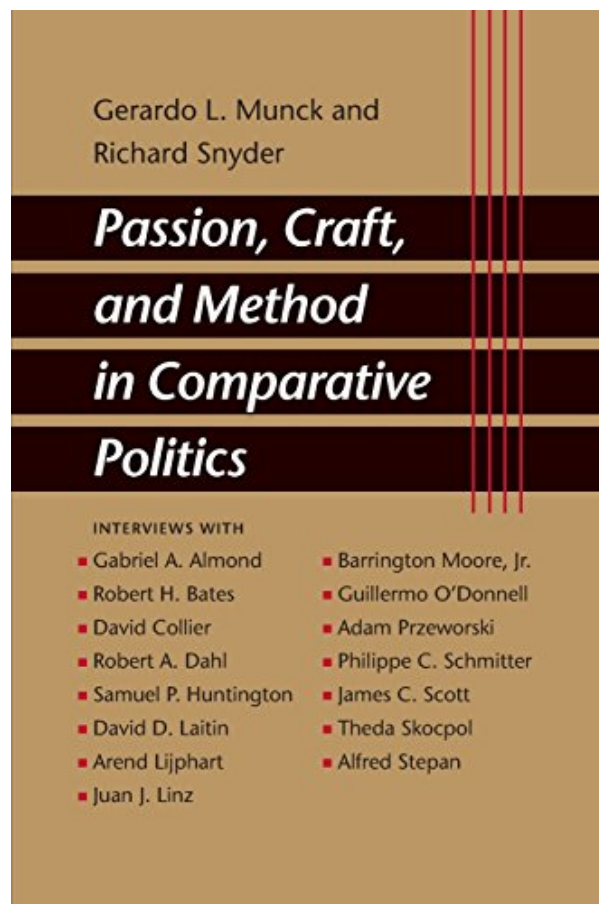


PASSION, CRAFT, AND METHOD IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS BY GERARDO L. MUNCK, RICHARD SNYDER



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Gerardo L. Munck and
Richard Snyder

*Passion, Craft,
and Method
in Comparative
Politics*

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- Robert A. Dahl
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- David D. Laitin
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Review

An intellectual tour of the discipline of comparative politics with some of its most creative pioneers and contemporary practitioners. The carefully organized interviews offer surprising perspectives about our eclectic and evolving field, and remind us of why we became scholars of comparative politics in the first place.

(Edward Gibson, Northwestern University)

This fascinating history of comparative politics offers a panoramic view of major debates and of trends in theoretical and methodological approaches over the second half of the 20th century. It brings the field to life by letting scholars who shaped it sketch their own intellectual biographies. Reading it is a truly enriching and enjoyable experience for any comparativist.

(Evelyne Huber, University of North Carolina)

This book fills a huge void in the profession of political science. Through a series of fifteen carefully prepared and referenced, wide-ranging, and often captivating interviews with many of the most influential scholars of comparative politics, we gain a priceless perspective on the growth of the discipline and the craft of research and theory building. In their intelligent and probing interviews (and very valuable introductory chapters), Munck and Snyder go a long way toward correcting our crippling deficit in professional memory, while revealing the life histories, moral convictions, intellectual passions, and divergent theoretical and methodological approaches that have shaped and advanced comparative politics in the last half-century. This book should be read by everyone who is preparing for, or thinking about, a career in political science, no matter the field.

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(Nelson W. Polsby, University of California, Berkeley)

To show how great works that have shaped our understanding of politics and society are rooted in individual lives is a wonderful project. Munck and Snyder are the best of guides. Thoroughly informed about the scholarship, they explore the personal side with deftness, tact, and imagination. The result is a series of lively and revealing intellectual portraits.

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In the first collection of interviews with the most prominent scholars in comparative politics since World War II, Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder trace key developments in the field during the twentieth century.

Organized around a broad set of themes—intellectual formation and training; major works and ideas; the craft and tools of research; colleagues, collaborators, and students; and the past and future of comparative politics—these in-depth interviews offer unique and candid reflections that bring the research process to life and shed light on the human dimension of scholarship.

Giving voice to scholars who practice their craft in different ways yet share a passion for knowledge about global politics, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics* offers a wealth of insights into contemporary debates about the state of knowledge in comparative politics and the future of the field.

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Excellent! Must-read for budding political scientists...

By U. Chandra

This is the missing link in graduate education today! Ph.D students go through the professionalization rituals nowadays without any passion for politics or scholarship. There's no sense of history either. This book corrects that anomaly to a great extent. It should be required reading for every graduate student in political science, not just comparativists.

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This book has kept me grounded...

By itulip

This book was a required text in my Pro Seminar on Comparative Politics in graduate school. I have to say that it really does add a human element to what seems to often be very flat personalities in the field. It's easy to just assume that some of the greatest scholars in one's field have always been amazing at what they do, and if anything have encountered few issues in graduate school. This book really does a great job of bringing some reality to one's perspective when reading the texts by many of these scholars. Sometimes you find yourself thrown back by how humble scholars can be, and at times you may find that they are very clearly quite sure of themselves. Either way, it's a great narrative and a useful companion to any graduate course that survey's the field of comparative politics. I recommend this book to Graduate Students in Political Science with out any reservations. I wish there were more of these for other fields in Political Science as well! Even if you don't need this book as a required reading for a class, it really is WORTH buying to read on your own or alongside your class readings (even selectively). Thank you Gerardo L. Munck!

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Interviews only

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I was expecting more tables, information, like real articles or readings for Academic purposes.

However, there are only interviews with great great scholars.

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