Sociology and Social Anthropology

Winter Term 2024

**Social Movements**

SOCL 5373 (2 credits)

Instructor: Jean-Louis Fabiani

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Social Movements have been from the start a central object of the social sciences: how do people behave collectively? How do they coordinate? What are the costs of a mobilization? What are the tools used (gatherings, voice, violence and so on) Who gets involved, and who does not? What triggers a movement, what makes it fail? How are movements remembered and replicated in other settings?

The first attempts to understand collective behavior developed in the area of crowd psychology, at the beginning of the 20th century: explaining the protesting behavior of the dominated classes was the goal of a rather conservative discourse that aimed to avoid disruptive attitudes. Gustave Lebon's rather pseudo-scientific attempts were a case in point: collective action was identified as a form of panic or of madness. Later on, more sympathetic approaches appeared, since social movements were considered as an excellent illustration of a democratic state. Recently, globalization has brought about new objects of contention but also the internationalization of protests. Mobilizations in the post-socialist countries and the "Arab Springs" are characterized by new forms of claims and new forms of action. For many social scientists, their study demands a new theoretical and methodological equipment.

The field of social movements has been an innovative place for new concepts and new methods: "resource mobilization theory", "repertoire of action" and "eventful sociology" are good examples. Right now, this area of study hosts the most intense, and perhaps the most exciting debates in the social sciences. Ideas are cross-fertilized by the interdisciplinary dialogue between, sociology, psychology, political science and history.

This course has two aims: 1) providing the student with precise accounts of social movements, associating an ethnographic eye with formal reasoning and 2) reassessing the theoretical efforts to come up with a unified view of social movements. The historical and theoretical dimension of the issue will be central, but the active participation of the students will allow to analyze case studies with precision: in some cases, the examples will be brought in by the students.

We live in a "movement society" as David Meyer and Sidney Tarrow once said. The new social media and the electronic age have changed the ways of association and communication dramatically. The course is also an exercise in democratic thinking.

**Learning outcomes**

A transdisciplinary assessment of a central question in the social sciences

Combining history, political science and sociology to build an integrative explanatory frame

Comparing traditional social movements with new forms of mobilization and association

Identifying the emerging forms of social protest and the consequences of the use of social media

Writing a research paper based on fresh material and student's initiative

Contributing to the education of an active citizen in a participatory democracy

**Working load and evaluation**

20 hours in class and about 30 hours in reading and writing papers. Active participation required in class (every absence must be justified)

Evaluation:

1. Oral presentation of one of the texts in the reading list 12,5%

2. Written account of the oral presentation (cc. 300 words) or powerpoint 12,5%

3. Mid-term exam, take home, Week 6 (two questions out of three proposed, 1000 words total) 25%

4. Final paper: research paper, take home ( due one week after the end of class, 3000 words) 50%

**Course outline :**

**Week 1**

**Introduction**

Social Movements, Collective Action and Mobilization: An Introduction

(Instructor)

**Week 2**

**Theoretical perspectives 1**

DONATELLA DELLA PORTA AND MARIO DIANI, *SOCIAL* *MOVEMENTS*

*AN INTRODUCTION,* London, Blackwell, 1999, Ch. 1 and 2.

**Week 3**

**Theoretical perspectives 2**

Neil Fligstein and Doug McAdam. 2011. “Toward a General Theory of Strategic Action Fields.”  *SociologicalTheory*29. 1-26.

Aldon Morris « [SOCIAL MOVEMENT THEORY: LESSONS FROM THE SOCIOLOGY OF W. E. B. DU BOIS »](https://mobilizationjournal.org/doi/abs/10.17813/1086-671X-24-2-125)  *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*   
June 2019, Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 125-136

**Week 4**

**Historical Perspectives**

Thompson, E.P. The moral economy of the English crowd in the Eighteenthcentury, *Past&Present*, No. 50 (Feb., 1971), pp. 76-136

Sewell Jr, William "Political Events as Structural Transformations: InventingRevolutionat the Bastille," *Theory and Society* 25 (1996): 841-81

**Week 5**

**Repertoires of action and performance**

Tilly, Charles. 2003. “Social Movements as Historically Specific Clusters of Political Performances,” *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 38:1-30.

Tilly, Charles *Contentious Performances*, Cambridge (UK), Cambridge UniversityPress, 2008, ch 1 an 2

**Week 6**

**From Class to New Social Movements**

Mason David Solidarity as a New Social Movement, *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 104, No. 1 (Spring, 1989), pp. 41-58

Nelson A. Pichardo, New Social Movements: A Critical Review, *AnnualReview of Sociology*, Vol. 23: 411-430, 1997

Claudio Sopranzetti, “Owners of the Map: Mobility and Mobilization among Motorcycle Taxi Drivers in Bangkok”, *City & Society*, 2014, Vol. 26, Issue 1, pp. 120–143

**Week 7**

Mobilization

John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald, The EnduringVitality of the Resource MobilizationTheory of Social Movements in Jonathan H. Turner (ed.), *Handbook of SociologicalTheory*, 2001, p.533-65

Benford, Robert D. and David A. Snow. 2000. “Framing Processes and Social Movements: An Overview and Assessment Micromobilization, and Movement Participation.” *American Review of Sociology,* 26: 611-639.

**Week 8**

**Transnational Protest**

Tarrow, Sidney *The new Transnational Activism*, Cambridge (UK), Cambridge UniversityPress, Part 1, 2, 3

Emilio Lehoucq and Sidney Tarrow

THE RISE OF A TRANSNATIONAL MOVEMENT TO PROTECT PRIVACY 2020 *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 25(2):161-184

**Week 9**

**New media, new protests**

Garces, Chris **"**People'sMic and democratic charisma: Occupy Wall Street'sfrontierassemblies", [*Focaal*](http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/berghahn/focaal;jsessionid=4misuf3hpdpqc.alice), Volume 2013, Number 66, Summer2013 , pp. 88-102(15)

 Tufekci, Z., & Wilson, C. (2012). Social Media and the Decision to Participate in PoliticalProtest:.Observations FromTahrir Square. *Journal of Communication*, 62(2), 363–379.

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| Deena Abul-Fottouh and Tina Fetner (*2018*) SOLIDARITY OR SCHISM: IDEOLOGICAL CONGRUENCE AND THE TWITTER NETWORKS OF EGYPTIAN ACTIVISTS. *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*: March 2018, Vol. 23, No. 1, pp. 23-44. |  |

**Week 10**

**Post-colonial and post-socialist social movements**

Laurence Cox, Alf Gunvald Nilsen, Geoffrey Pleyers

*Social movement thinking beyond the core: theories and research in post- colonial and post-socialist societies*(*Interface* volume 9 number 2, 20171 – 36)

Simin Fadaee

*Bringing in the South: towards a global paradigm for social movement studies*

( *Interface* volume 9 number 2, 2017: 45 – 60)

Agnes Gagyi

*What it takes to compare non-core movements: a world-systems perspective. Two cases from contemporary East Central European movements* (.*Interface* volume 9 number 2, 2017 : 61 – 82)

**Week 11**

**Environmental movements**

Brulle, Robert J. 1996 « Environmental Discourse and Social Movement Organization : A Historical and Rhetorical Perspective on the Development of US Environmental Organization”, *Sociological Inquiry*, 66 : 58-83.

Haluza-Delay Randolph “A Theory of Practice for Social Movements: Environmentalism and Ecological Habitus” *Mobilization. An International Quarterly*, Vol 13 (2) 205-218.

Week 12

**Gender and Race**

Heather McKee Hurwitz Heather McKee Hurwitz (*2019*) GENDER AND RACE IN THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT: RELATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND DISCRIMINATORY RESISTANCE. *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*: June 2019, Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 157-176.

Zakiya Luna, Sujatha Jesudason, and Mimi E. Kim TURNING TOWARD INTERSECTIONALITY IN SOCIAL MOVEMENT RESEARCH, 2020 *Mobilization: An International Journal* 25(4):435-440

Hajar Yazdiha AN INTERSECTIONAL THEORY OF STRATEGIC DECISIONS: MUSLIM AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS AND THE DILEMMAS OF POLICING, 2020 *Mobilization: An International Journal* 25(4):475-492