

SOCIOLOGY OF THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

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Attendance is compulsory and students' participation will be encouraged. Depending on the number of students, the group may be divided into two different subgroups for practical purposes. All my presentations in class (power point) plus the bibliography can be found in "CAMPUS VIRTUAL". There you will also find a) the (general/introductory) compulsory readings to be discussed in class for each unit (20% of the mark); and b) the (specific/case-oriented) readings assigned to particular students (these readings, and/or essays to be discussed with me, make up 60% of the mark). The remaining 20% will be decided in a final test.

Introduction: How to Approach the Subject?

1. What is and what is not a Social Movement?

Differences between Civil Society Actors: Movements, Interest Groups and Parties. Main Concepts.

2. Main Approaches and Theories: Introducing the Classical Models.

3. The Recruitment Process: Becoming an Activist

Reasons to Join, Stay on and Drop out. The Freedom Summer Project.

4. Framings and Emotions

Culture and Social Constructivism. Cognitive Liberation.

5. Modern Approaches: the Resource Mobilization Theory

6. What Rationality?

(Weak) Rationality in the Social Sciences. The Collective Action Paradox.

7. Modern Approaches: The Political Process Theory

Collective Action in Democratic Contexts: Policing protest. Collective Action in Non-democratic Contexts: Risks and Repression.

8. Dynamics of Contention (DOC). The Attempt at a Global Synthesis

9. The Consequences of Social Movements

What do they achieve (if they achieve Anything at all)? Intended and Unintended Consequences, Backlashes. How to study the Political Outcomes.

If time available

More Social Movements: Women and Feminists; Gays and Lesbians; Pacifists and Environmentalists; Violent and Awkward Movements; and more...

Future Trends: More or Less Mobilization? Europeanization, Transnationalization of the Protest?

ORAL PRESENTATIONS (GUIDELINES)

- 1) Power point or any other similar format.
- 2) Written text, not exceeding 5 pp (pictures, tables, or graphics not included), on which the ppt is based will be delivered on the same day of the presentation.
 - Critical reading and analysis (not summary) of two academic articles.
 - Time: 20' (not counting the subsequent debate).
 - Dissect the texts: What are the objectives? Are there clear and reasonable hypotheses or is it merely descriptive and/or comparative? Is the general argument well connected with the empirical evidence? What kind of evidence is provided, qualitative, quantitative, both...? Do the conclusions disappoint the expectations generated, answer the questions? Have I learned something new and interesting? What?
 - Combine theoretical arguments with empirical evidence (the usage of additional evidence, whenever needed and suitable, is recommended: websites, leaflets, propaganda and electoral results, political speeches, number of demonstrations, survey data, membership rates...); relatively easy to find on the Internet.
 - Identify transversal arguments; those that are most relevant and common to the two articles will be grouped together.
 - As a consequence of "transversality", the presentation will "mess" the order followed by the authors.
 - Only the relevant evidence (graphs, tables...) for the arguments will be presented; no copy-paste but edited material; the evidence based on statistical techniques will be properly interpreted.
 - Finally, questions will be introduced in order to generate a debate. This debate will not deal with opinions, but with the arguments, theoretical material and empirical evidence provided.