Syllabus

This is a survey of major topics in the sociology of social movements. We begin with a relatively recent statement of the now-common "political process" approach to movements by two of its leading advocates, the late Charles Tilly and Sidney Tarrow. There follows a week on "cultural" alternatives -- new social movement theory, field theories -- some of which have been partly assimilated into the intellectual status quo. Most of the seminar is then devoted to specific topics and debates in the field, such as the role of collective identity and of networks in mobilization, how organization matters in social movements, and influences on social movement outcomes. I try to combine theory and case studies each week and to offer a mix of qualitative, historical, and quantitative methods. We end with a consideration of the impact of digital technologies on activism (week 9) and a more open-ended discussion of how ideas and literature about social movements can get put to use in our own research.

The required and the recommended readings together serve as a good starting point for a sociology field exam in social movements. If you do an exam in this area (with me or anyone else), you'll want to adapt the reading list according to your particular interests within the field (e.g., reading more in the area of social movements and collective identity, or applying general social movement theories to some case study that you are working on for a future article).

Requirements

1. Each week, from week 2 through week 9, half the class should email a discussion question to all seminar members (we'll work out the alternating halves at our first meeting). These should be sent no later than 11 pm the night before seminar. They can be critical questions about the reading ("McAdam emphasizes the importance of social networks for recruitment into protest movements, but don't individual actors also select the networks they belong to?"), or questions about the applicability of some argument in the reading to a social movement that you know ("Melluci's contrast between rational actor and collective identity approaches to social movements underestimates the extent to which activists are highly instrumental in framing movement identities, as you can see in the recent campaign for same sex marriage"). A few sentences will do.

2. Every student should do, or continue to do, some background reading on a movement of their own choice. The reading in this field can be relentlessly theoretical. It becomes both clearer and more useful when connected to particular cases. During seminar I will make use of movements I know fairly well (e.g., the labor movement, the civil rights movement, and food movements); you should do the same. At our last meeting, everyone will have about 10 minutes for discussing how course themes connect to your particular case.

3. A paper of journal article length (no more than 30 pages, including notes and references) connecting some theoretical issue in the literature to a particular social movement (you could use the theory to interpret the case or the case to critique the theory); OR, if you plan to do a field exam in social movements, you can read more widely and do an annotated bibliography for a substantial (to be negotiated) reading list. If you are from a department with other requirements that would make some third alternative more useful, let's talk. This is due by 5 pm on Wednesday of finals week.
Readings

Most of the readings are available online. Two exceptions are books by Polletta and by Bennett and Segerberg. They are used late enough in the quarter that you can order them online. There are also a few excerpts from books that I scanned and made available for download.

Schedule

I. Theoretical Approaches to the Field of Social Movements

Week 1: Introduction to Seminar

I'll give you a brief survey of the history of the field, including the standard narrative of the bad old days (protest as irrational collective action) giving way to more sympathetic alternatives (protest as rational collective action by disadvantaged people) and then to calls to bring culture and emotions back in. If you'd like a quick overview, you can find one in ch. 2 of Staggenborg's *Social Movements* ([http://socioweb.ucsd.edu/~jhaydu/staggenborg.pdf](http://socioweb.ucsd.edu/~jhaydu/staggenborg.pdf)). We'll also look ahead to the more specialized topics covered in the seminar. And I'll hope to hear from you about the particular interests (topics, such as collective identity, or cases, such as environmentalism) that you bring to the course.

For a taste of the older "collective behavior" approaches:

G. LeBon, *The Crowd*
H. Blumer, "Outline of Collective Behavior," in *Principles of Sociology*
R. Turner and L. Killian, *Collective Behavior*
N. Smelser, *Theory of Collective Behavior*
C. McPhail, *The Myth of the Madding Crowd*

And for the standard critique and early alternatives,


Week 2: Social Movements as "Contentious Politics"

Required:

C. Tilly and S. Tarrow, *Contentious Politics*. 1st or 2nd edition. The 2nd can be read online through the library. If you have the 1st edition, you can skip ch. 7 and 8; if you read the 2nd edition, the optional chapters are 4, 8, and 9. This is a relatively recent update of the contentious politics perspective.

Recommended:

Resource Mobilization

M. Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action*
A. Oberschall, *Social Conflict and Social Movements*

J. McCarthy and M. Zald (ed.), *The Dynamics of Social Movements*


**Political Process Approach**

C. Tilly, *From Mobilization to Revolution*

C. Tilly, *Contentious Performances*


D. McAdam, J. McCarthy, and M. Zald (eds.), *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements*

J. Jenkins and B. Klandermans (eds.), *The Politics of Social Protest: Comparative Perspectives On States and Social Movements*


D. McAdam, S. Tarrow, and C. Tilly, *Dynamics of Contention*


J. Goodwin and J. Jasper (eds.), *Contention in Context: Political Opportunities and the Emergence of Protest*

**Week 3: Critiques and Alternatives: "New Social Movements," Culture, and Fields**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**

**Critical Assessments of Political Process Approach**


R. Aminzade and D. McAdam, "Emotions and Contentious Politics," in *Silence and Voice in the Study of Contentious Politics*

Symposium on Dynamics of Contention in Mobilization 8, no. 1 (February 2003)


II. Major Issues

Week 4: Getting Started: Mobilization and Identity

Required:


Recommended:

S. Stryker, T. Owens, R. White (ed.), Self, Identity, and Social Movements
J. Mansbridge and A. Morris (eds.), Oppositional Consciousness
K. Blee, Inside Organized Racism
J. Reger, D. Myers, and R. Einwohner (eds.) Identity Work in Social Movements
E. S. Effler, Laughing Saints and Righteous Heroes: Emotional Rhythms in Social Movement Groups
K. Blee, Democracy in the Making
A. McGarry and J. Jasper (ed.), The Identity Dilemma: Social Movements and Collective Identity

Week 5: Meaning Works: Framing and Narrative in Social Movements

Required:
F. Polletta, It Was Like a Fever: Storytelling in Protest and Politics, ch. 1-3, 5-7

Recommended:
---, "Master Frames and Cycles of Protest" in Frontiers in Social Movement Theory, pp. 133-155
Mobilization 5 (2000), Zald on ideologically structured action (with replies); Oliver and Johnston on ideology and frames (with replies)
W. Gamson, Talking Politics
M Ferree et al., Shaping Abortion Discourse
F. Polletta and M. Kai Ho, "Frames and Their Consequences," in The Oxford Handbook of Contextual Political Analysis, pp. 187-209
S. Tarrow, The Language of Contention: Revolutions in Words, 1688--2012

Week 6: What's the Process? Social Movement Organization

Required:

Recommended:

R. Michels, *Political Parties: A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Modern Democracy*
F. Piven and R. Cloward, *Poor People's Movements*
A. Morris, *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement*
E. Clemens and D. Minkoff, "Beyond the Iron Law: Rethinking the Place of Organizations in Social Movement Research," in *Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*
C. Tilly and S. Tarrow, *Contentious Politics*
F. Polletta, *Freedom is an Endless Meeting: Democracy in Social Movements*
G. Davis, D. McAdam, R. Scott, and M. Zald (eds.), *Social Movement and Organizational Theory*

**Week 7: How to Wage Protest? Strategy in Social Movements**

Required:

G. Maney, ed. *Strategies for Social Change*, the chapters
   D. Meyer and S. Staggenborg, "Thinking about Strategy" and
   J. Jasper, "Choice Points, Emotional Batteries, and Other Ways to Find Strategic Agency at the Microlevel"

(The Manley anthology and Traugott book are both available online through jstors)

Recommended:

S. Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals*
W. Gamson, *The Strategy of Social Protest*
C. Payne, *I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle*
J. Jasper, *Getting Your Way: Strategic Dilemmas in the Real World*
I. Martin, *Rich People's Movements: Grassroots Campaigns to Untax the Rich*
E. Walker, *Grassroots for Hire: Public Affairs Consultants in American Democracy*
G. Maney, ed. *Strategies for Social Change*

**Week 8: Recipes for Success: Explaining Movement Outcomes**

Required:


Recommended:

M. Giugni, D. McAdam, C. Tilly (eds.), *How Social Movements Matter*

K. Andrews, *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: The Mississippi Civil Rights Movement and Its Legacy*


A. Binder, *Contentious Curricula : Afrocentrism And Creationism In American Public Schools*


http://yapdatabase-ypnetwork.net/ summary of research articles on outcomes, esp. of youth activism


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**Week 9: Digital Networks, Personal Politics, and the New, New Social Movements**

Required:


L. Bennett and A. Segerberg, *The Logic of Connective Action*. This gets awfully repetitive. I suggest skipping ch. 4-5

Recommended:

Networks, analog and digital

R. Gould, *Insurgent Identities*

M. Diani and D. McAdam (ed.), *Social Movements and Networks*


A. Mische, *Partisan Publics: Communication and Contention across Brazilian Youth Activist Networks*


M. Castells, *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age*


N. Crossley and J. Krinsky, *Social Networks and Social Movements: Contentious Connections*

M. Diani, *The Cement of Civil Society: Studying Networks in Localities*

J. Earl and D. A. Rohlinger, *Social Movements and Media*

A special case: Transnational networks and activism

M. Keck and K. Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*


D. Della Porta and S. Tarrow (eds.), *Transnational Protest and Global Activism*, S. Tarrow, *The New Transnational Advocacy*


J. Smith, *Social Movements for Global Democracy*

Lifestyle Politics and Political Consumerism


*The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 644 (2012), introduction by Shah (pp. 6-18) and articles by Bennett (pp. 20-39), Micheletti (88–120), Graziano (pp. 121-133), Willis (pp. 160-190) and Gotlieb (pp. 207-219)


C. Heldman, *Protest Politics in the Marketplace: Consumer Activism in the Corporate Age*


**Week 10: Putting it all to use. How will/might you use this in your own research?**

Each of us gets 10 minutes to make a pitch for how some idea(s) from this course can get used -- applied, tested, contested -- in research of their own. Ideally, use just 5 minutes for the pitch and leave 5 for the rest of us to raise questions and make suggestions.
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**Some useful surveys and compilations**

D. Snow, S. Soule, and H. Kriesi (eds.), *Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*
S. Buechler, *Social Movements in Advanced Capitalism*
C. Roggeband and B. Klandermans (eds.), *Handbook of Social Movements Across Disciplines*
G. Chesters and I. Welsh, *Social Movements: The Key Concepts*
C. Barker, L. Cox, J. Krinsky, and A. Gunvald (eds.), *Marxism and Social Movements*
J. Jasper, *A Cultural Introduction to Social Movements*

**Journals that mainly publish social movements stuff**

*Mobilization*
*Research in Social Movements, Conflicts, and Change*
*Social Movement Studies*
*Interface*
*Contention*

**Methods of Social Movement Research**

B. Klandermans and S. Staggenborg (ed.), *Methods in Social Movement Research*
H. Johnston, "A Methodology for Frame Analysis" in Johnston and Klandermans, *Social Movements and Culture*
M. Diani and R. Eyerman (ed.), *Studying Collective Action*

**General-purpose websites**

The ASA's Collective Behavior and Social Movements section website:  http://cbsm-asa.org/

Notre Dame (home of *Mobilization*) "Mobilizing Ideas" site: http://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com/

Beautiful Trouble (how to get a movement going, with lots of teaching-related modules): http://beautifultrouble.org/all-modules/
Online Data Collections

https://web.stanford.edu/group/collectiveaction/cgi-bin/drupal/ (U.S., 1960s-80s)
http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/7412 (cross-national, 1815-1973)
http://krieger.jhu.edu/arrighi/research/socialprotest/ (in-progress, global unrest events, 1851-)

Local San Diego Hubs (some more, some less movement-y)

Activist San Diego, http://www.activistsandiego.org/
Center for Policy Initiatives, http://www.onlinecpi.org/
Indivisible San Diego, https://sdindivisible.com/
Alliance San Diego, https://www.alliancesd.org/