

A large, stylized tree with many branches and leaves, rendered in a dark green color against a lighter green background. The tree is positioned on the left side of the page, with its branches extending towards the right.

Newsletter No 3 2016

Social Movements, Collective Action and
Social Change around the World

GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the Research Committee on
Social Movements, Collective Action and
Social Change (RC 48)



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Note from the RC48 President



Dear Colleagues members of RC48

It gives us a great pleasure to present to you the first newsletter for the year 2017. Since our last newsletter, we have been very busy with the 3rd Forum meetings in Vienna, Pre-Forum meetings together with RC 47, PhD Workshop, and a joint conference with the University of Catania in December 2016. Separate reports of these activities appear in this newsletter.

The Pre-Forum joint RC 47 and RC 48 meetings took place on the 9th of July. It was a day full of presentations, talks, short expositions and socializing. The sessions were very interesting, with a variety of topics and papers. Among the participants were Margaret Abraham, Donatella della Porta, Jeff Goodwin, Markus Schulz, Chris Rootes, Colin Barker, James Jasper, Benjamin Tejerina, and of course, Geoffrey Pleyers, Breno Bringel, Lauren Langman, myself and many other social movements scholars. The presentations were followed by lively discussions on topics such as the refugees in Europe, Repression, Democracy, and Right Wing Movements etc. Of great importance was the session exposing the situation of Turkish social movements' scholars and hearing testimonies. For all this we are grateful to all the organizers and participants.

On the same day, RC48 also held a workshop for PhD Students that was well attended and the students presented theses at different stages. A separate report on the workshop will be in this newsletter. The students found the workshop very helpful, new contacts and networks were formed and they expressed the wish for another workshop sometime in the future. Indeed we are planning to have another such workshop pre the 2018 congress in Montreal.

The Forum meetings were well organized and attended. You have received the program in the last Newsletter and as we predicted, the meetings were inspirational with many new, young colleagues participating. According to the report presented by Marcus Schulz, the vice president for Research, there were over 4,000 members who registered for the conference coming from over 100 countries. Broken down to country of origin, the largest number of participants came from Germany, then from the US, UK, Japan, Italy and Austria.

During the Forum, RC48 held a business meeting. The decisions reached at the meeting were as follow:

Elections for new office bearers:

Secretary – Liana M. Daher

Newsletter Editor – Camilo Tamayo Gomez

Internet, Media – Radhika Borde and Priscila D. Carvalho

Treasurer – Benjamin Tejerina

The members have decided to raise membership fees for RC 48 to \$20 to members from Category A societies. It will remain \$10 for members from other categories and for students and retired members.

The next midterm conference will be held at the end of May 2017 in Catania. The organizing committee includes: Liana Daher, Anna Domaradzka, Camilo Tamayo Gomez, Sara Helman, James Goodman, Tova Benski and Benjamin Tejerina. The midterm conference in Catania is coming up soon. We have extended the deadline for submission of abstracts at the request of some colleagues. We encourage all of you to attend. You will find additional information in this newsletter.

Finally, we have started organizing for the 2018 Congress in Toronto. We will have two coordinators of program, Liana Maria Daher and Tova Benski. The call for session proposals will be sent in February. If you wish to propose a session please start gathering your thoughts. We will have 24 time slots, of these we reserve one for business meeting and we will have a number of joint sessions with other RCs.

I encourage all of you to consider attending the Mid-Term meetings in Catania and certainly get ready for Toronto 2018.

Yours sincerely,
Tova Benski
President RC 48.

About RC48 and ISA

The research Committee on Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change (RC48) is part of the International Sociological Association (ISA). It was founded as a Working Group in 1992, under the presidency of Prof. Bert Klandermans. In 1994 it was recognized as an ISA Research Committee.

The objective of RC48 is to foster intellectual, academic and scholarly exchanges between researchers of broadly defined social movements, collective action and social change. RC48 is currently based at the Collective Identity Research Centre (Department of Sociology 2, University of the Basque Country, Spain).

ISA was founded in 1949 under the auspices of UNESCO. With more than 5,000 members coming from 167 countries, the ISA is currently the most important international professional association in the field of sociology. Its goal is to advance sociological knowledge throughout the world, and to represent sociologists everywhere, regardless of their school of thought, scientific approaches or ideological opinion.

The on-going scientific activities of the ISA are decentralised in 55 Research Committees (RC), 3 Working Groups (WG) and 5 Thematic Groups (TG), each dealing with a well-recognized specialty in sociology. These groups bring together scholars who wish to pursue comparative research on a transnational basis and they constitute basic networks of scientific research, intellectual debate and professional exchange. Although they must fulfil certain minimum requirements, RCs have complete autonomy to operate. Each RC's governing body is the Board, formed by a President, a secretary, and a variable number of board members.

RC48 participates in the organization of both the ISA World Congresses, celebrated every 4 years since 1950 (Zurich), and the ISA Forums of Sociology, also celebrated every 4 years since 2008 (Barcelona).

In contrast to the ISA World Congress, which has a more professional and academic character, the forum's original purpose was to establish an open dialogue with colleagues doing sociology in public institutions, social movements, and civil society organizations. This means that every two years, we are involved in the organization of a world-wide event.

In between ISA World Congresses and forums, our committee organizes smaller scientific meetings called RC48 international mid-term conferences. These meetings tend to be more narrowly focused than other ISA events and, on average, they gather between 30 and 60 scholars. As a consequence, colleagues can make longer presentations, and we can hold deeper and more enriching debates.

Board Members 2014-2018

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College of Management Studies, Israel

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Lauren LANGMAN - Loyola University of Chicago, USA
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International Sociological Association

REVIEWING RC48 ACTIVITIES IN 2016

The Newsletter of the Research Committee on
Social Movements, Collective Action and
Social Change (RC48)

Reviewing RC48 activities in 2016

Special Review.

*ISA RC48 PhD Workshop on Social Movements,
Collective Action and Social Change (Vienna 2016)*



PhD student Daniel Płatek (Polish Academy of Science, Poland)



PhD student Giulia Gortanutti (University of Bochum, Germany)

First PhD workshop organized by RC48

Anna Domaradzka
PhD workshop organizer

In the run-up to the Third ISA Forum of Sociology in Vienna, our research committee organized its first PhD workshop, which brought together nine students from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Romania and UK. Our one-day meeting took place on the 9th of July at the University of Vienna. The workshop welcomed submissions by PhD students at any stage of their PhD, as well as students who completed their PhD in 2016. It was directed to doctoral students working in the area of social movements and collective action looking for an opportunity to discuss their ideas with senior colleagues and peers. In selecting participants we strove for gender balance as well as representation of different geographical regions and areas of social movements research.

The aim of the workshop was to invite international PhD students working in the field of social movements to discuss their doctoral projects in an open and helpful environment. Each of the nine participants had 20 minutes to present her/his doctoral project along with main questions they have at the current stage of their research or writing. Every pair of presenters had an assigned discussant, and each participant received personal feedback, both theoretical and methodological, from all attending senior and junior scholars. The workshop and accompanying events allowed us to discuss recent developments in the field, publication and career strategies, and provide an opportunity to network with other social movements scholars within the ISA community.

The seminar started with a welcome speech by Tova Benski and Liana Daher. The program was divided into five thematically related pairs of papers on which different faculty member would comment in detail. We invited five RC48 members to play the role of discussant for each pair of papers: Liana Daher (Italy), Benjamin Tejerina (Spain), Anna Domaradzka (Poland), Camilo Tamayo (Colombia) and Lauren Langman (USA). After discussant's comments, the floor was open for discussion, with all other participants asking questions, offering each other advice or friendly criticism. As a result, every student had the possibility to present his PhD project and discuss key questions and theoretical and methodological issues on a peer basis.

The seminar ended with a wrap up session and (for some) the informal evening meeting spanning long into a night. The next day, the participants took part in the ISA Forum. Asked about their impressions, the participating PhDs were in general happy with both the atmosphere and the chance to present their work in an environment more helpful than usual conference sessions. They also liked that projects were coming from different countries and concerned different topics, and yet the challenges faced by presenters often seemed similar. Since social movements research is still rather marginal in many sociological departments, participants appreciated the opportunity to discuss and network with people with similar interest. They also expressed interest in similar meetings in the future as well as in engaging in our research committee work in the future.

Since social movements research is still rather marginal in many sociological departments, participants appreciated the opportunity to discuss and network with people with similar interest. They also expressed interest in similar meetings in the future as well as in engaging in our research committee work.

Although we all had the feeling that 20 minutes are rarely enough to present all aspects of a PhD project, still the very possibility of discussing the work with a group of peers and senior faculty who are equally interested in social movements topics, brought a feeling of being in the right place.

In the future, we will develop the program to offer participants more opportunities to gain valuable feedback and to learn about the recent developments in the field of social movement research. The next PhD seminar will be organized before the ISA Conference in Toronto in 2018.

Impressions of PhD Workshop participants

Giulia Gortanutti, PhD student at the Institut für Soziale Bewegungen, Ruhr Universität Bochum

As a young researcher in the early stages of my PhD, it was an equally exciting and daunting task to present my proposal at the ISA RC48 PhD Workshop in Vienna. This would have been the first time for my research to be evaluated outside the familiar confines of my supervisors, hence the mixed feelings. The relaxed setting, and the participation of nine fellow PhD students (safety in numbers), eased my nervousness in seconds. Each of us had the chance to present their research in detail, discuss it with the organizers and other participants, and answer questions on particular points.

In hindsight, I cannot stress enough how much I value this experience. Aside from learning some necessary skills in presenting to a completely new audience, the feedback I received at the ISA RC48 PhD Workshop was more detailed, to the point, and useful than I could have hoped for. The organizers pointed out the good parts in my research, shed light on some weak areas I would have probably recognized too late, and opened my eyes to interesting new avenues. Some of the points raised made me feel confident about my work, while some made me worry about the feasibility of my project. However, the way the organizers led the workshop and structured the session made this experience a thoroughly challenging and exhilarating opportunity, for which I am still thankful.

Joshua Blamire, Postgraduate Researcher at School of Environmental Sciences, University of Liverpool

The ISA RC48 PhD workshop proved to be an essential component of attending my first ISA conference; in a friendly, supportive yet rigorous environment, participants were invited to present and discuss their work, and to receive (as well as provide) feedback from both peers and experts within the field of social movement studies. One particular strength was the methodological and international diversity of the participants, which showcased the breadth of work being undertaken within the field, and advanced some interesting discussions throughout the day. I left the workshop with a renewed sense of vigour and optimism about my research, and was highly encouraged about the support and feedback that I'd received! The workshop also operated as a vital informal space for networking amongst fellow researchers and, as such, I would highly recommend it to all postgraduate students, in particular those who may be attending ISA for the first time.

Eliza Coroama, PhD student at the University Paris VII Diderot and at the Excellence Centre in Image Study, University of Bucharest

My doctoral research aims to conduct an interdisciplinary investigation into activism, protest and visual culture in Romania, at the intersection of social movement studies and visual analysis. I am very glad I could take part in the RC48 PhD workshop held in Vienna on 9 July 2016, as it gave me the opportunity to meet and get to know the work of other.

PhD students studying social movements all over the globe. The workshop allowed me to present my thesis project, even at an early stage, in a safe environment where I could receive useful feedback and good guidance for my research from the organizers, who had previously read my article and provided me with a close and insightful review.

Niccolò Bertuzzi, PhD candidate at Department of Sociology and Social Research, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

The RC48 PhD workshop held last July in Vienna was a unique opportunity to present my own research in a stimulating environment and to receive precious pieces of advice from other PhD students and high-quality teachers. It was the first and last time I could discuss in such detail, and without the typical rush of a normal conference, the results of my own research with other colleagues and high-quality teachers. I will remember that day in Vienna as one of the most useful of my entire experience of the last three years. In addition to the variety and the high analytical level that characterized all the presentations and the discussions, it was a great opportunity to meet some of the best PhD students in the field of social movements studies around the world. I am still in touch with some of them and I hope that this experience will be repeated, so as to consolidate the network already created and expand it to other young researchers.

ISA RC48 PhD Workshop Programme on Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change July 9th 2016

ISA RC48 PhD Workshop Programme on Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change July 9th 2016

The venue of the PhD Workshop is S 27. Universitätsstring 1

8:50 - 9:00 a.m.	Welcome and opening of the workshop Łukasz Boruski, R48 President
Session 1	Chairs: Liana M. Daher (University of Catania), and Anna Domaradzka (Warsaw University)
9:00 - 9:20 a.m.	Tomasz Rawski Collective action emerging and evaporating. Social protests in Bosnia and Herzegovina AD 2014, University of Warsaw
9:20 - 9:30 a.m.	Discussant: Liana M. Daher , University of Catania
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Discussion
10:00 - 10:20 a.m.	Daniel Piatek Network Structure of the Extreme Right Social Movement in Poland, Polish Academy of Sciences
10:20 - 10:40 a.m.	Giulia Gortanutti Fragmented Alliances against the Colossus. Transnational Cooperation between Trade Unions and Social Movements against the TTIP, University of Bochum
10:40 - 11:00 a.m.	Discussant: Anna Domaradzka , University of Warsaw
11:00 - 11:20 a.m.	Coffee break
11:20 - 11:50 a.m.	Discussion
11:50 - 12:10 p.m.	Risa Murase The Power of Culture and Emotions in Social Movements: Comparing Anti-Nuclear Movements in 1979 Three Mile Island and 2011 Fukushima, Chuo University
12:10 - 12:40 p.m.	Eliza Corama Imagery, identity and protest. The case of the Save Roşia Montană campaign, University of Bucharest, University of Paris VII Denis Diderot
12:40 - 1:00 p.m.	Discussant: Camilo Tamayo Gómez , EAFIT University
1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Discussion

ISA RC48 PhD Workshop Programme on Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change July 9th 2016

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Lunch break
Session 2	Chairs: Liana M. Daher , University of Catania Camilo Tamayo Gómez , EAFIT University
2:30 - 2:50 p.m.	Joshua Blamire "Just Simply Not Credible"?: Exploring the Transformative Political Potentialities of Anti-Austerity Resistance in Liverpool, University of Liverpool
2:50 - 3:10 p.m.	Nicholas Pohl Continuity and change in strike activity during the recent economic crisis: A study of the Spanish case between 2000-2014, University of Lausanne
3:10-3:30 p.m.	Discussant: Benjamin Tejerina Montaña , University of the Basque Country
3:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Discussion
4:00 - 4:20 p.m.	Rune Ellefseen Dynamics of mobilization and repression: The rise and fall of the SHAC campaign, University of Oslo
4:20 - 4:40 p.m.	Rune Ellefseen Dynamics of mobilization and repression: The rise and fall of the SHAC campaign, University of Oslo
4:40 - 5:00 p.m.	Discussant: Lauren Langman , Loyola University Chicago
5:10 - 5:30 p.m.	Discussion
5:40 - 6:00 p.m.	Wrap-up and final remarks

International Sociological Association

SESSIONS REVIEWS

The Newsletter of the Research Committee on
Social Movements, Collective Action and
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Panels at the third ISA Forum, (Vienna 2016)

Session Reviews

RC48 Social Movements, Collective Actions and Social Change Panels at the third ISA Forum, (Vienna 2016)



Opening Session with Saskia Sassen, Donatella Della Porta and Maha Abdelrahman

Panel the Transnationality of Transnational Movements Organized by Helena FLAM, University of Leipzig, Germany

The session was well-attended, gathering about 30 participants. Six presentations offered original and inspiring ideas about what belongs to the category of transnational movements and how they can be studied. Perhaps the most important message was that even a single young researcher with limited financial resources can take on the complex, dynamic interlacing between social movements, states and various transnational organizations. All presentations included a historical part. One addressed the question of how changes among local and state actors can modify a transnational actor, while two other demonstrated how a local and one or more transnational actors can influence a state actor. Another presentation showed how an issue spread across borders becomes framed and projected in local terms, while a final empirical case highlighted how the local, national, regional and international actors contribute to making a local idea truly inter-continental.

An excellent presentation on Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy provided a theoretical frame which addressed also the earlier presentations when it pinpointed the shortcomings of both the world polity and coercion perspectives in IR. The session ended with many comments and questions from the audience.

Priscila Delgado de Carvalho (Federal University of Minas Gerais) presentation on “When Social Movements and States Ally: The Associations That Led to the Creation of REAF/Mercosul” provided an excellent example of the often tortuous path towards building a dialogue between the state and the civil society, enabling civil society actors to gain representations in a transnational organization. From an actor-network perspective, she discussed the complex interactions among rural labour unions, rural social movements and the Brazilian state, showing that, when a sympathetic new government pressured the responsible ministries, those sympathetic to the small farmers could create an institutional space for these in Mercosur for negotiating family farm issues. The speaker demonstrated that the interactions were conditioned by the differentiation and conflicts within and between the Brazilian state and the civil society, by the emergence of new coalitions with shared political projects and by the relevance of previous alliances among social movements and labour unions.

Yan Long (Indiana University) asked in her presentation how strong authoritarian governments respond to increasing transnational pressure and domestic activism to comply with global standards. She focused in her talk on “Governing the Post-Communist Body: Transnational Pressure, State Apparatuses, and Local Social Movements” on public health issues in China. She showed how over time the interactions between individual health officials and local advocacy groups changed the power dynamics inside health departments and eventually led community organizations to become indispensable tools in governing infectious disease.

She also discussed how the expectations and discourses of transnational NGOs create paradoxes: while the Chinese government's position is that homosexuality does not exist, Chinese officials, as the official media reported, celebrated successful AIDS containment with the representatives of a gay Chinese NGO.

Radhika Borde (Wageningen University) turned our attention to the transnational support for a local anti-extractivist movement in India in her presentation entitled, "Cosmopolitanism and soft power in the support for a social movement in India". Protesting against the destruction of a sacred mountain for the extraction of bauxite, the Niyamigiri Movement attracted some national and much international attention. Advocacy groups appealed to international soft law and called on investors to disinvest in the UK-based mining company. Both major British and Norwegian investors heeded these calls. As a consequence of the international attention, the Indian government banned the mining project.

Stephanie Limoncelli (Loyola Marymount University) studied the "The Emergence and Development of Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy Worldwide" in order to demonstrate the deficiencies of existing perspectives on the topic. While the world polity perspective correctly posits the important influence of IGOs and INGOs, it tends to underestimate the role of domestic NGOs and states in advocacy while it overstates the coherence of world cultural principles and cooperation among INGOs. The coercion perspective shows us that powerful states can work to define issues and engage in global agenda setting using political and economic influence, but it underestimates the autonomy and/or influence of states and INGOs headquartered in the global south. A more nuanced perspective would help us to better analyze the emergence and development of issue-based advocacy worldwide as well as the role of states, IGOs, and NGOs in global governance.

Mischa Dekker (EHESS) raised the issue of “Feminism and Security. The Transnational Campaign Against Street Harassment.” An activist group called Hollaback! produced a video of a woman walking on the streets showing how she is accosted by male passers-by. The online video platform, seconded by the online and person-to-person networking across borders secured the campaign attention in both global North and global South. Over the last three years, campaigning against daily harassment of women in public space in over thirty countries emerged. Dekker showed that the framing of the issue differed according to the outcomes of local battles within and between movements and municipalities. This influenced too whether implicit racism associated with the urban geography of harassment was combatted in Brooklyn, New York, Amsterdam and Paris.

Philip Altmann (Universidad Central del Ecuador) focused on “Localizing Rebellion – International Development Agencies and the Rising of the Indigenous Movement in Ecuador”. The strength of the movement was the result of a decade-long organizational fight on local and regional levels, the establishment of small-scale institutions and the slow development of a coherent and innovative discourse. Even if the main actors always were indigenous persons, international development agencies – state-funded, church-based or NGOs – had decisive influence on the process.

Session



Session The Sociology of Social Movements
As a General Sociology. Around and with Alain Touraine



Alain Touraine

Panel Homogeneous, Homologous, or Interconnected? What Constitutes Global Waves of Contention?
Organized by Nils KUMKAR and Micha FIEDLDCHUSTER (University of Leipzig)

The protests that took place around the world in the years since 2011 were quickly summed up as a new, transnational wave of contention. This wave supposedly followed after the ebbing of the last wave, which is associated with the global justice movement. The stark differences between these two ‘waves’ but also between the different protests of each respective ‘wave’ bring to the forefront questions concerning the identification of transnational waves of contention as well as the uses and misuses of the term ‘waves.’

Nara Roberta Silva (State University of Campinas) presented in her talk “The Oldness of the New and the Newness of the Old: Comparing the Occupy Wall Street Movement and the Global Justice Movement and Illustrating Their Connections” a compelling comparison of two prominent social movements of the last two decades. The Occupy movement was perceived by the activist media as a late development of the global justice movement and it raised the expectation of a potential “shift in revolutionary tactics.” Silva explored how Occupy has nonetheless gone through similar dilemmas and difficulties faced by the global justice movement. The latter’s organizing dynamics lasted in the United States because it turned its attention to domestic issues and pushed forward a movement building perspective. She maintained that the similarities between the two movements are understood through their similar tactics and organizational structure. However, she emphasized that Occupy’s dependence upon some individuals seems to have been even more intense than it has been the case of the global justice movement.

Colin Barker (Manchester Metropolitan University) and John Krinsky (City College New York) provided a theoretical reflection about the uses and misuses of the terms ‘cycles of protest’ and ‘movement waves.’ In their talk “Theorising ‘Movement Waves’ and the Making of Collective Subjects” they argued that applying these terms scholars risk thinking of them in naturalistic or mechanical terms, making their exploration and explanation more difficult.

How might we account for the range and variety of possibilities ‘waves’? The presenters drew on dialogical approaches to social movements and on theories of distributed cognition to demonstrate how one can understand why protest seems to spread and scale up at some times rather than others, and remain constrained and localized at others.

Chungse Jung (SUNY Binghamton) asked if 2011 protests had their starting point in 1989 in a presentation on “2011, the Continuation of 1989?: Measuring 2011 Protest Waves in the Global South on the World-Historical Perspective.” Analyzing the New York Times archive he found possible correlations of the protests in 2011 with four key movement clusters in history: 1) Quantitatively, the frequency and the duration of protest waves of 2011 is almost similar to the protest waves in the late 1980s but smaller and shorter than the protest waves in 1930s and 1950s; 2) The protest waves of 2011 are mostly located in the global Peripheral regions, while the protest waves of 1989 emerged in mostly the global Semi-periphery; 3) In terms of goal or opponent, there are shared similarities of protest waves between 1989 and 2011. Both express resistance for the sake of democratization, that is, “struggle against exclusion” rather than “struggle against exploitation.”

Panel

Panel Reimagining Human Rights in India

Organized by Tatsuya YAMAMOTO, Shizuoka University, Japan

This session focused on how people living in India reimagine and negotiate concepts of human rights by focusing on their everyday practices. Each presenter gave interesting talks on public litigation movements by the scavenger caste, environmental movements, and the right to information movements by peasants, struggle for the substantive citizenship by Tibetans, and the case study of a privileged everyday life of a village headman from the untouchable caste. As an organizer, I really appreciated their contributions to this session. Because of lack of time, we could not have appropriate discussion except for some comments from the floor. However, those comments seemed helpful to accelerate our project concerning the relationship between rights and laws in democratic India. Personally, I found the necessity to combine our analyses of human rights practices within everyday contexts with analyses of both codified laws and uncoded conventions. This direction should be fruitful to deepen angles of our project, and I hope our achievement based on such comments in ISA be published in the near future.

Panel Mobilization in the Social Media Worlds Organized by Tin-Yuet TING University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

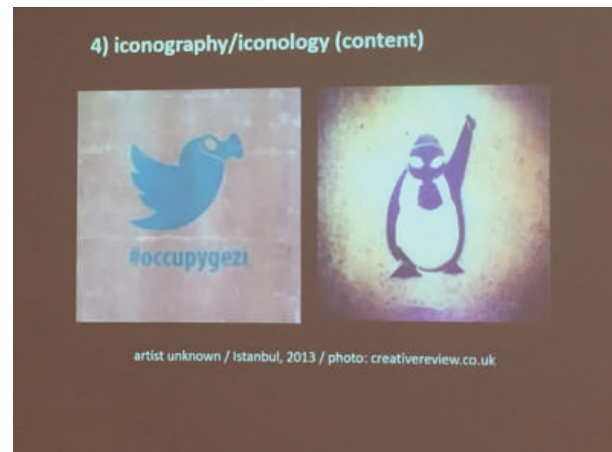
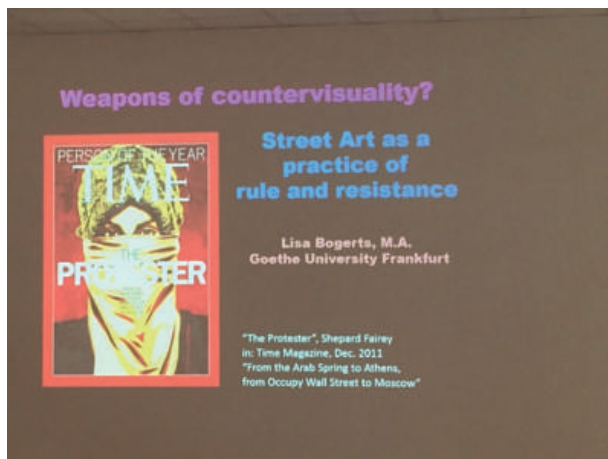
The use of digital media and information technology has been observed to create opportunities for marginalized communities and groups to advance diverse civic and political agendas. However, adopting new media technology in contentious politics requires activists to operate under different constraints and government surveillance. Our session was intended to promote discussions on this topic by focusing on the popularity of social media and exploring its implications for political development and progressive social change. Towards this end, we encouraged a holistic view of the evolving relationship between social media and recent protest movements.

It was no surprise that our session furthered the ongoing debates concerning the role of social media in contemporary social movements. Yuanyuan QU investigated how the rise of the Internet constituted the emergence of the disability movement in China, and showed how political expression in the virtual sphere may extend to organized activism over time. Yet, QU also urged us to be alert to the fact that the disability movement in China tended to develop within the frameworks set by government authorities, rather than seeking to challenge them. With the case of the women movement in Iran, Negar VAEZZADEH and Evrim YILMAZ examined how Facebook provided opportunities for open expression of social problems which were either prohibited or feared to be announced in offline public spaces. Although this activism has not yet resulted in institutional changes, they argued that Facebook offered an active network for the construction of a collective identity in advocating for Iranian womanhood.

On another front, we considered the effectiveness of social media uses for mobilization. Kota MIURA discussed the use of Twitter in the Chilean Student Movement. MIURA added to our knowledge about the relationship between social media and the classic type of social movements by revealing their time-series changes. Jared WRIGHT also analysed twitter data related to the social movement Anonymous. Blending quantitative and qualitative methods, WRIGHT illuminated some ways in which e-movement and e-mobilization tactics interacted and co-constituted contemporary social movements with the case of the Million Mask March, which represented a particularly rare moment during which Anonymous engaged in e-mobilization.

Bringing together papers on a variety of social movements across the globe, our session successfully provoked robust discussions among participants. My impression is that, while participants presented different findings and arguments for different cases and contexts, collectively we significantly enriched our understanding of the interactions between social media and social movements.

Session



Session The Occupy Protests: Visual Iconology and Image Events



Session Emotions and Social Movements

Panel

Panel Confession, Testimony and Insurgence as repertoires of contention in conflict zones: the Middle East **Organized by Sara HELMAN, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel**

The session comprised three presentations. Two of them engaged in the disclosure of “ugly presents” in Israel/Palestine. Anti-denial movements composed of women and ex-combatants (male and female) mobilize testimony and confession to disclose an ugly and contested present. A third presentation dealt with role of memorial days in the continued mobilization of Palestinians during the first Intifada. The presentations were followed by a vivid discussion on the different repertoires of contention in Israel/Palestine. The three presentations of this panel were Challenging the Israeli Occupation through Testimony and Confession: The Case of Anti-Denial Movements Machsom Watch and Breaking the Silence (Sara HELMAN, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel), Dis/Acknowledging Military Violence: Women Soldiers Testify Against the Occupation (Edna LOMSKY-FEDER, Department of Sociology and Anthropology and School of Education, Israel; Orna SASSON-LEVY, Department of Sociology and Anthropology Bar Ilan University, Israel) and The Memorial Days and the Persistence of the Movement: A Study on the Palestinian Mass Mobilization from 1987 to 1993 (Hiroyuki SUZUKI, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Japan).

Panel

Panel Beyond Stated Goals: Unanticipated and Unintended Outcomes of Social Movements **Organized by Ligia TAVERA FENOLLOSA, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Mexico**

One of the principal goals of the session was to attract papers answering to the questions:

- Is the established conceptual and methodological apparatus sufficient to analyse the unintended and unanticipated outcomes of movements?
- Do movements have their greatest effects by bringing about unintended outcomes where residues of a less democratic past persist?

Also, the panel aimed at underlining the role of the media in such a process. The four papers answered in part to the questions above. Only one paper explicitly proposed and critically approached the biographical as method to study long-term unanticipated consequences. Starting from the result and process of a concrete research design, the paper aimed at analysing strengths and weaknesses in the using the above methodological model.

The other papers analysed, in different regional spaces, both the connection between grassroots activism and ‘mainstream’ politics as the study on LGBT activism and its unintended outcomes in Spain and the analysis of the Japanese war orphans’ movement, and the responses of leaders to unexpected political events, even emotional, as shown by the presentation about the Movement for Food Sovereignty in Mexico. Finally the distributed paper had a short space of time to present the process of unintended effects of the LGBT movement in Mexico. Presentations were followed by a vivid debate stressing unanticipated and unintended outcomes as one of the main and critical issues in the today’s social movement research.

Panel

Panel Methodological Challenges in Social Movements Research Organized by Liana Maria DAHER, University of Catania, Italy

The idea inspiring the session was to underline and discuss contemporary conceptual and theoretical thinking about methods and methodological techniques in studying social movements. Of course, the session aimed also at focusing on methodological reflections about new approaches and practices both asking about theoretical and empirical grounded cases of study. The panel received a very good number of proposals. Proposals mostly focused on today's debates were very well empirically approached. It was really very difficult to choose among the very interesting topics and ideas in researching social movements. Also papers scheduled for the two RC48 Roundtables sessions had great success.

The session had five papers focused on the panel topic. They balanced well between the qualitative and quantitative approaches in social movements research. Researchers came from different regions of the world and had very different research styles, but it was possible to find common perspectives in social methods and practices.

Two principal research lines emerged from the presentations (see below the web link of the session): the tendency to bring up famous but old research data and approaches, such as the Tilly's and Tarrow's and relying on innovative statistical tools, and the idea that social movements processes can be well understood only from the inside, such as outlined by the "militant ethnography" approach. A very interesting debate emerged from the strong diversity of the presentations approaches and methods. Many comments and questions from the audience enriched the session and outlined today's perspective of social movements research. The discussion was really fruitful for all, both presenters and audience; my impression was it will be good to propose such a session again in Toronto.

Panel

Panel Social Movements As Memory Communities: Collective Remembrance Actions in Contested Contexts **Organized by Camilo TAMAYO GOMEZ, EAFIT University, Colombia** **and Anna DOMARADZKA, University of Warsaw, Poland**

The aim of this panel was to explore the role of memory as a tool of truth in contexts of armed conflict, war or in post-authoritarian societies. In order to achieve this Priska Daphi, a scholar from Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (Germany), presented the paper Remembering the 'Long 1960s': How Contemporary Left and Right-Wing Movements in Germany Relate to a Contentious Past. She argued in the session that the long 1960s mark nearly two decades of unrest, violence, and civil disobedience in East and West Germany. For this scholar, this period remains an emotive issue in the German public discourse till today, and retrospective interpretations of this period range from idealization to demonization. While the protests of the long 1960s have received much scholarly attention (particularly the protests in West Germany), analyses of memory work related to this period are largely missing – in contrast to research about its counterparts in other Western European countries such as France and Italy. The project that she presented in the panel explored how contemporary movements in Germany remember this period of protests – left movements such as the German Global Justice and Occupy movements as well as right-wing populist movements such as PEGIDA (Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the Occident), and how these contemporary movements do relate to this contentious past. The aim of Priska Daphi's research is to provide insights into present day notions of citizenship as well as into contemporary dynamics of political activism in East and West Germany.

Crystal Eddins, a PhD student at Michigan State University (USA), delivered the other presentation of this panel. Her paper investigates the influence of Africa-inspired sacred rituals on late 18th century diasporic Africans' collective consciousness and struggles for liberation before the Haitian Revolution. She argued in her presentation that Africa-inspired systems of understanding and cultural memory had a considerable influence on African Saint Domingans' self-perceptions, views about their social conditions, and approaches to collective action and mobilization. Reporting on findings from archival and secondary sources, she hypothesized that, in addition to being sacred events, Africa-inspired ritual gatherings were simultaneously free spaces wherein rebels invoked cultural practices, campaigned for liberation, and sought new mobilization recruits. The most well-known case of a ritual leader operating as a campaigner for rebellion is "Zamba" Boukman Dutty, who, in August 1791, steered both the Bwa Kayman ceremony and the mass uprisings in northern Saint Domingue.

This panel concluded that it is important to analyse how social movements are developing new narratives, strategies, symbols, and collective actions to address the relationship between symbolic power and the construction of memory regimes. This is usually based on contesting official versions of the past and power relations around the construction of collective remembrance. As a result, the category of memory (for both case studies) is highlighting the challenge taken up by particular social movements to shape collective representations and meanings of the past as a new form of socio-political action in the present.

Panel Emotions and Social Movements
Organized by Camilo TAMAYO GOMEZ, EAFIT University, Colombia;
Anna DOMARADZKA, University of Warsaw, Poland and Lauren
LANGMAN, Loyola University of Chicago, USA

The aim of this session was to focus on the emotional aspects of social movements mobilization, activism and persistence. Emotions have been absent from sociological accounts of protest and social movements for decades (mainly due to the traditional duality of emotion vs. rationality in social research).

Panel

However, during the past twenty years, the sociological study of emotions has proliferated and it has been recognized that emotions and feelings provide fundamental stances to the world, they are basic to our experiential responses to the on-going events of the everyday “life world,” and inherent to involvement with that world, relationships to others and to our very self, including social movements mobilizations, protests, and activities. In this session five papers were delivered: *Between Love and Anger: The Role of Emotions in the European Fathers' Rights Movements* by Katarzyna Wojnicka (University of Gothenburg, Sweden), *Grumblers, Malcontents, Activists. Does Ritual Complaining Lead to Political Activism?* By Maciej Kowalewski (University of Szczecin, Poland), *Emotionalization of Protest: A Case of Russia* by Ekaterina Lytkina (National Research University Higher School of Economics Laboratory for Comparative Social Research, Russia), *The Moral Economy of Indignation: From Individualized Despair to Collective Action in the Spanish Housing Crisis* by Christoph Schwarz (Philipps-University Marburg, Germany) and *Two Necessary Ingredient: Role of Emotions and Efficacy in Social Movement Participation in Hungary* by Pal Susanszky, Marton Gero, Akos Kopper (Peripato Comparative Social Dynamics Research Group, Hungary).

The presentations shared the view that emotions and affect underpin significant dimensions of collective action. They mobilize and organize new types of direct action in society. The cases presented during the session illustrated how such feelings as pain, suffering, fear, anxiety, or rage can become main motivators encouraging collective action, mobilising resources or taking advantage of political opportunities. After the five presentations, it was clear that there is a relationship between the experience of hurt and a sense of injustice; therefore we need to take into account that emotions are central to establishing dynamic socio-political identities in order to obtain political recognition in the public sphere. Emotions constitute an important source of knowledge about the social conditions of the social movements; evidencing the importance of building a democratic public sphere where emotions can be effectively expressed.

International Sociological Association

CONFERENCE REVIEW

The Newsletter of the Research Committee on
Social Movements, Collective Action and
Social Change (RC48)

Conference Review

Conference Understanding Social Conflict.
The Relationship between Sociology and History,
(Catania 2016)

Liana Daher
Conference Organizer

The Joint Conference explored the relationship between Sociology and History focusing on the social conflict issue. The main challenge concerned the search for elements of interaction and, at the same time, useful compromises in the interdisciplinary study of phenomena and common fields of research. Highlighting that social conflict is a common ground of research, the Conference aimed at providing argumentative issues to the previous challenge, and shows meaningful convergences between the two disciplines. This in order to offer innovative spaces of discourse around the theory and methodology of research, on the one hand, and some areas of yesterday and today social conflicts, on the other.

Local and international sociologists and historians, coming from different places in the world, presented very interesting papers. The opening session was almost entirely focused on social movements. The RC48 president Tova Benski opened the session, after the institutional welcome. The following session took up theory and methodology issues. The last two sessions concerned the relationship between social conflict and cosmopolitanism, social conflict and education. Such Joint Conferences are very welcome also in the future since they open up fruitful interdisciplinary debates about conflict and related issues

The conference was also supported by the Italian Sociological Association – Sociological Theory and Social Change Research Network –, the Laposs (Laboratory of Research and Analysis of the Public Policies and Services) of the University of Catania, and the Collective Action Lab of the Department of Education, University of Catania.



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FINANZIAMENTO
della
RICERCA 2014



UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL CONFLICT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIOLOGY AND HISTORY

14-15 DECEMBER 2016

DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE DELLA FORMAZIONE

VIA BIBLIOTECA 4

CATANIA

MAURICE AYMARD - RITA BICHI - TOVA BENSKI - ANGELA CARBONE - VINCENZO CICCHELLI - MARIAELENA COSTA - LIANA M. DAHER
GIOVANNA DA MOLIN - PAOLO DE NARDIS - ANTIMO FARRO - ELENA FRASCA - AUGUSTO GAMUZZA
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RC48

Social Movements, Collective
Action and Social Change



Laposs



International Sociological Association

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Newsletter of the Research Committee on
Social Movements, Collective Action and
Social Change (RC48)

From 'the Street' to Public Debate. Social Movements and the Making of Alternatives

Mid-term Conference 2017

RC48 (Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change)
Catania (Italy) May 30-31, 2017



INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE SOCIOLOGIE
ASOCIACION INTERNACIONAL DE SOCIOLOGIA

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Social movements are at the centre of struggles to re-define horizons of social imagination. They take their power from 'the street', to provoke public debate and deliberation, and force new political agendas into view. Giving voice to previously unheard actors, social movements create identities and narratives, setting plans for a new world and demanding for change in the socio-political realm. Through the mix of more or less radical collective and communicative actions social movements produce alternatives, potentially transforming social relations and the political order. In this, they enable societies around the globe to shape their futures. Whether for the better, or otherwise remains the issue to discuss.

Worldwide street protests are visible as a key vehicle for political change: civil society is revealed as intense field of conflict, for and against contending futures. Social movements are vehicles for transformation, whether in social justice and anti-austerity, environmental transformation, the gender order and migrant rights. They also offer the means of reaction, in carrying agendas for ethno-religious communalism, for nationalism and border politics, for racism and Islamophobia, including the assertion of new right-wing movements. But what drives them? Where do they gain traction, and how do they lose it? In patterning and expressing civil and public conflicts, social movements are major actors in shaping societal agendas. The 'street', as defined and occupied by the movement, is a critical site in the production of alternatives and transformations in the symbolical meaning of objects, behavioural norms and prevailing opinions. Here, movements are directly involved in the implementation of new forms of citizenship coming from the public square, and redefining social and political realms.

This RC48 mid-term conference enables social movement scholars from around the world to present their own work, and exchange ideas about the relationship between social movement mobilisations and alternative futures. It also offers a chance for networking that will extend into future academic collaborations. RC48 welcomes papers addressing the following main issues:

- (1) Conceptual and theoretical reflections concerning outcomes and/or production of alternatives by social movements and collective action;
- (2) Methodological reflections about the social movements' mobilization expected and unexpected consequences;
- (3) Empirical analysis in different settings, and comparative investigations in Western and non-Western contexts.

Proposals should be submitted in English; abstracts should not exceed 250 words and may be submitted by **January 04th** to the following addresses: rc482017@gmail.com; daher@unict.it and anna.domaradzka@gmail.com

The admitted papers will be communicated by **January 30th, 2017**.
It is planning to edit a book as an academic result of this conference.

Conference fees

Early Registration (March 30th, 2016)

ISA Member (category A): €50

Non-Member: €60

ISA Member (category B, C, student and retired): €20

Non-Member (category B, C, student and retired): €30

Late Registration

ISA Member (category A): €60

Non-Member: €70

ISA Member (category B, C, student and retired): €30

Non-Member (category B, C, student and retired): €40

(Categories A, B and C refers to the ISA countries classification)

Organising Committee:

Tova Benski, Liana M. Daher, Anna Domaradzka, James Goodman, Sara Helman, Camilo Tamayo Gómez and Benjamin Tejerina



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<http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc48.htm>



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CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS



Dear members

The platform for session proposals for XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology (July 15-21, 2018) in Toronto, Canada is now open on the Conference website:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/>

The theme of the Conference is highly relevant to our RC focusing on the most recent struggles for "a better world" that we have been witnessing around the world. Members of RC48 are invited to enter the above webpage and suggest sessions following the guidelines of the ISA. In order to enrich our scholarship we encourage submissions for sessions on all aspects of Social Movements theory and research with a particular emphasis on the recent mobilizations around the world. Each proposed session should include title, description, rationale and suggested form of the session as well as contact details. For further information about the possible form of sessions please visit the Forum website.

Deadline for submission is **March 15**. After this date, the submissions platform will close and it will not be possible to suggest additional sessions. The session coordinator in consultation with board members will decide on the session list by **April 7**.

Other important deadlines:

Abstracts submission: **April 25 – 30 September, 2017 24:00 GMT**

Abstracts selection: **October 5 – 3 November, 2017 24:00 GMT**

Notification letters: **November 30, 2017 24:00 GMT**

Additional information will be distributed as it becomes available.

Sincerely

Tova Benski

Program coordinator RC48

A large, stylized tree with many branches and leaves, rendered in a dark green color against a lighter green background. The tree is positioned on the left side of the page, with its branches extending towards the right.

Newsletter No 3 2016

Social Movements, Collective Action and
Social Change around the World

GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the Research Committee on
Social Movements, Collective Action and
Social Change (RC 48)



Design: Daniela Navarro Bohórquez
Universidad EAFIT. Medellín, Colombia