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Special Issue

Protest, Extremism and Political Radicalization

Call for papers

In contemporary democracies, protest feeds on the difficulties currently facing political representation and is expressed within the framework of direct rather than representative democracy. The increase in protest-based attitudes and behaviours observed in many countries around the world (especially among younger generations) is undoubtedly related to the current climate of widespread mistrust in the institutionalized and representative mediation of politics. Since the beginning of the 1980s, a number of studies in political science have reported the gradual rise of more critical forms of citizenship to the detriment of institutional forms of civic and political participation. On the one hand, critical citizenship has gathered strength as the relationship between ordinary citizens and politics has become more individualised and, on the other, as traditional party allegiances have weakened (Hirschman, 1970, Inglehart, 1977, Norris, 1999). This more demanding and protest-based political culture, has led to greater familiarity with a protest-based repertoire of opinions and/or actions, and an enhanced tendency towards extremism and radicalization, particularly among younger generations.

The thresholds between legal and illegal forms of demonstration and/or collective mobilization are not easy to define. All research on what might be termed "civil disobedience" stresses the tenuous nature of the border zone in which the transition to radicalization takes place. Young people today become politicised in a climate where new connections between conventional and unconventional politics are manifold. The borders to radicalization have also become more porous, including at the voting polls. Protest voting and an inclination towards extremist parties is more prevalent among younger than older generations.

Violence is used as a subversive force and has an impact if not on the political system, at the very least on the social system. Some violent protest is explicitly based on political ideologies. However, new forms of violence have also emerged and have given rise to contrasting interpretations depending on whether they are labelled as political or not. For some, they stem from a logic of rebellion rather than from actual political issues in a context where "incivility" and deviance from the norm are on the rise. Others believe that, while they are outside the framework of institutionalized politics, they nonetheless originate in the actors' political conscience.

This special issue of *Youth and Globalization* (to be launched in 2020) will compile empirical studies on the expanding protest framework for political involvement among younger generations. Contributors are invited to present elements taken from the most relevant “new” repertoire of political expression and action that they have encountered. They are also encouraged to question the diverse elements of the repertoire regarding their democratic legitimacy. Last but not least, this special issue will also contribute to a rethinking of the framework within which the process of political socialization occurs from one generation to the next.

About the Journal

Youth and Globalization invites contributions from scholars and advanced researchers that promote dialog in a way that resonates with academics, practitioners, policy-makers, and students as well as the general reader. The journal publishes peer-reviewed articles (8000-9000 words), book reviews (up to 1200 words), and interviews/conversations (not to exceed 2500 words).

Paper’s proposal deadline (abstract and title): September 15th 2019

Paper’s submission deadline: January 15th 2020

Amended version’s deadline: July 15th 2020

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