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International Sociological Association

GRASSROOTS

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



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Social Movements in Times of Austerity (Donatella della Porta)
by Lauren Langman

Dear colleagues

We are pleased to issue this first part of our 2016 newsletter. This part presents a short report of the activities that were organized by RC48 in collaboration with other RCs and with the CBSM section of the ASA. In the second part of this newsletter you can find a call for participation in a PhD. Workshop that was issued by RC 48 and is planned as part of our pre-Forum activities for Vienna. In the third part we present a list of 2015 publications by members of RC48. The ideas behind this list are threefold: First the goal of circulating the information of the newest publications in the field. Accordingly, the section of publications by members of RC48 is followed by a list of recently published books considered to be of special interest to scholars in our field. Both lists were supplied by members of our RC in response to a special call distributed by the president. Second, we felt that this is a means to give visibility to work by members of RC48. Even though ICT provides ample means of visibility, we publish in many different venues (journals, books, edited book, online messages, etc.) and it is almost impossible to reach some of the interesting work in the field. Third, it seems to us as a useful way to encourage collaboration among RC members by increasing awareness to the interests of our members. The last section of this newsletter consists of a review of the book: *Social Movements in Times of Austerity*, written by our colleague Lauren Langman.

Meanwhile, the preparations for the Vienna Forum meetings are advancing. We have received over 200 abstracts for 15 time slots and this presented a problem because we could accommodate less than half of the submissions.

Note from the RC48 President

We applied for two additional time slots which received and we organized five round tables in each time slot. This way we could accept additional papers. The program at the moment consists of two round table sessions, five joint sessions with other RCs and 10 ordinary RC48 sessions. The time scheduling of these sessions is being completed this week.

The second half of this newsletter will be issued in two weeks' time when we have the timetable organized and our call for abstracts for a pre/post Forum meetings that we would like to organize for our members in order to accommodate abstracts that we could not include in the general ISA forum because of lack of space. We are currently working on the call and its scheduling. So the second half of the newsletter will deal with the Vienna Forum and our future plans and calls for contributions.

We encourage all of you to participate in the Vienna 2016 meetings and those of you who got their papers accepted either for presentation or circulation, please register before April 15 if you want to appear in the program.

We wish all of you a great 2016 and hope to see you in Vienna.

Tova Benski, President of ISA RC48

February, 2016

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. The RC48 is currently based at the **Collective Identity Research Center** (Department of Sociology 2, University of the Basque Country, Spain).

The 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 fulfill 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 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 go hold deeper and more enriching debates.

Board Members 2014-2018

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Tova Benski
College of Management Studies (Israel)

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Universität Leipzig (Germany)

Benjamín Tejerina
University of the Basque Country (Spain)

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Tova Benski



PhD. In Sociology received from the University of Glasgow, Scotland. Currently Emerita senior lecture at the College of Management Academic Studies (COLMAN). During her long career she acted as the dean for Student affairs and as the Chair of the School for Behavioral Sciences at COLMAN. She acted on various Government educational boards and committees and chaired the committee of teaching Sociology in High Schools in Israel. She also served on the Board of the Israeli Sociological Society and acted on various committees. She has been active in the ISA since 1990, and served as member of board of RC48 since 1994, first as secretary treasurer and later as president of RC 48 (2002-2006). She currently holds the position of president of RC 48 for the second time.

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Her main project throughout the years was focused on Women's Peace Activism in Israel from various angles: Gendered political activity; emotions; the body; control of protest, etc. Since 2011 she has been working in collaboration with RC 48 members on the protests of 2011 onwards.

Some of her more recent publications:

Benski, T., Langman, L., Perugorria, I., & Tejerina, B. (Guest Eds.). (2013). *Current Sociology*, 61(4). special issue monograph entitled: From Indignation to Occupation: A new wave of global mobilization.

Benski, T., & Fisher, E. (Eds.). (2013). *The Internet and Emotions*. New York, N.Y.: Routledge.

Benski, T., & Katz, R. (2013). Women's peace activism in Israel and the reversal of the hegemonic Holocaust discourse in Israel. In Seeberg, M. L., Levine, I., & Lenz, C., Kopperud, O. (Eds.). *Active Memory: Public and Private Perspectives* (pp. 93-112). UK: Ashgate.

Benski, T., & Langman, L. (2013). The effects of affects: Democratic social movements and their visions. *Current Sociology Special Issue Monograph Series*, 61(4), 525-540.

Benski, T., Tejerina, B., Perrugoria, I., & Langman, L. (2013). From the streets and squares to social movement studies: What have we learned? *Current Sociology Special Issue Monograph series*, 61(4), 541-561.

Tejerina, B., Perrugoria, I., Benski, T., & Langman, L. (2013). From indignation to occupation: A new wave of global mobilization. *Current Sociology Special Issue Monograph Series*, 61(4), 377-392.

Resh, N., & Benski, T. (2012). Women meet soldiers: An ambivalent encounter. *Journal of Research in Peace, Gender and Development*, 2(13), 293-303.

Benski, T. (2012). Women's body as a live political message: The individual and collective body in the vigils of women in black in Israel. *RELACES - Latin American Journal of Studies on Bodies, Emotions and Society*, 10(4), 11-23.

Benski, T. (2011). Emotion maps of participation in protest: The case of women in black against the occupation in Israel. *Research in Social Movements, Conflict and Change*, 31, 3-34.

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Liana M. Daher



Associate Professor in Sociology, Department of Education, University of Catania. Research interests: theoretical, epistemological and methodological approaches to social movements and collective behavior; cultural and unanticipated consequences; women' movements and associations; youth' collective actions; migrations, migrant children and young (migrants' second generation associations and movements, citizenship, and separated children).

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Participation, both as principal investigator and member, to several national and European research projects. Member of the Scientific Committee of the Laboratory of Experimental Design and Analysis of Public Policies and Services to the Person (Laposs) of the University of Catania and co-editor of the series *Disembedding. Times and spaces of radical modernity* (Aracne Editore, Rome).

Main recent works:

Second Generation immigrants in Catania (Sicily): Prejudice and Relationships with Institutions (Cirsdig 2010).

“From Memory to Legacies. Cultural Outcomes, Success and Failures of the Feminism Movement in Sicily” (Routledge 2013).

Second Generation Immigrants on the Borders: A Bridge Generation between two *Leisure World*” (Cambridge Scholars Publishing 2013).

“Membership in Social Groups and Contexts” (FrancoAngeli 2014).

“Local Integration Processes: Exploring Experiences and Dilemmas” (FrancoAngeli, forthcoming).

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Anna Domaradzka



Assistant Professor and Associate Director for Research at Robert B. Zajonc Institute for Social Studies, University of Warsaw. Her main research interests concern the issues of civil society, social movements and local activism in urban areas in their social and spatial context. She studies the development of urban movements and women movement in connection with quality of life in urban space and social policy changes. Anna also specializes in intersectional and international comparative research and evaluation in the areas of gender sociology and sociology of education and works as an expert and senior researcher in several international projects concerning civil society and welfare state issues, gender equality in public and private sphere, as well as higher education and life-long learning.

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Recent projects she's engaged in are World Values Survey, Welfare Innovations at the Local Level in Favour of Cohesion (WILCO, <http://www.wilcoproject.eu>) and Gender Equality at the University (GENDEQU, <http://grape.uw.edu.pl/gendequ/>). She's a member of International Sociological Association (RC48, RC21, RC32) and European Sociological Association (RN14, RN25, RN37) as well as International Society of Third Sector Research (ISTR) and European Urban Research Association (EURA).

Selected publications in English

Changing the Rules of the Game: Impact of the Urban Movement on the Public Administration Practices, in: M. Freise, F. Paulsen, A. Walter (eds.) *Civil Society and Innovative Public Administration* (Nomos Publishers, forthcoming).

Mapping Civil Society in Poland, in: A. Domaradzka, E. Markus, M. Pospisil, B. Strecansky, M. Szabo, *25 Years After – Mapping Civil Society in the Visegrád Four* (Maecenata Institute, forthcoming).

Data sources and literature on civil society in Poland, in: A. Domaradzka, E. Markus, M. Pospisil, B. Strecansky, M. Szabo, *Civil Society in the 'Visegrád Four'. Data and Literature in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia* (Maecenata Institute, 2014).

Filling the Gaps? The Role of Civil Society on the Individual Level: The Case of Polish Women's Organizations, in: M. Freise, M. Pyykkönen, E. Vaidelyte (eds) *A Panacea for all Seasons? Civil Society and Governance in Europe* (Nomos Publishers 2010).

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Camilo Tamayo Gómez



Camilo Tamayo Gómez is a researcher of the Centre for Research in the Social Sciences (CRISS) at the University of Huddersfield (UK), Researcher and Lecturer at EAFIT University (Colombia) and an Associate Expert of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the Latin American Regional Centre. The work that he has been developing in recent years focuses on the relationship between citizenship, social movements, human rights and communicative citizenship from a socio-political perspective. His recent research explores how social movements of victims of the Colombian armed conflict have been using different communicative citizenship actions to claim human rights in local and regional public spheres; and how these actions have been affecting constructions of political and cultural memory, dimensions of social recognition, and degrees of solidarity and power in Colombia.

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Camilo is a member of the British Sociological Association (BSA) and he is affiliated to the BSA 'Sociology of Rights' Study Group.

His recent publications

Tamayo, C. (2014). Transnational and Communicative Citizenship in Contemporary Times: Political Actions of Social Movements of Burma and Iran. In: García, C y Valencia, J (Eds.) *Social Movements and Internet*. Bogotá: Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, pp. 167 – 189.

Gifford, C and Tamayo, C. (2014). *Citizenship Education across Europe: The Expert's View. The European CiCe Network and the European Centre for Research on Identity and Citizenship*. London: The European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme.

Tamayo, C and Bonilla, J. (2013). *Mass Media, Journalism and Armed Conflict. The research agenda of the mass media coverage of the Colombian Armed Conflict, 2002-2012*. Bogotá and Cartagena: New Iberoamerican Journalism Foundation (FNPI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Tamayo, C. (2012). 'The instrumentalization of the communicative citizenship field in the context of armed conflict: The case of the Association of Organized Women of Eastern Antioquia in Colombia'. In: Cunningham, P and Fretwell, N (eds.). *Creating Communities: Local, National and Global*. London: CiCe, pp. 755 – 767.

Tamayo, C. (2012). Communicative Citizenship, Preliminary Approaches. *Signo y Pensamiento*, No 60, June, pp 106 - 129.

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Benjamín Tejerina



Benjamín Tejerina. PhD in Sociology (1990). Currently Professor of Sociology at the University of the Basque Country, Spain, and Director of the Collective Identity Research Centre. Visiting Scholar at the University of Reno (Nevada, 1990), University of Cambridge (UK, 1992), the University of California in San Diego (USA, 1993-1994), the European University Institute of Florence (Italy, 2005), CADIS, Paris (France, 2010, 2013 and 2015) and Sapienza, Università di Roma (Italy, 2011).

Publications:

The Spanish Indignados and Israel's Social Justice Movement: The Role of Political Cleavages in Two Large-scale Protests (2016).

Synchronizing identities: Crafting the space of mobilization in the Spanish 15M (2014).

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Politics of the encounter: Cognition, emotions, and networks in the Spanish 15M (2013).

From indignation to occupation: A new wave of global mobilization (2013).

From the streets and squares to social movement studies: What have we learned? (2013).

Global movements, national grievances: Mobilizing for 'Real Democracy' and social justice (2013).

Continuities and discontinuities in recent social mobilizations. From new social movements to the alter-global mobilizations and the 15M (2012).

From social to political. New forms of mobilizations and democratization (2012).

La sociedad imaginada. Movimientos sociales y cambio cultural en España (2010).

The logic of the alterglobal movement (2010)

Research interests

Collective action and social movements, sociology of language, ethnolinguistic movements, collective identity, social conflict, transformations in the work's culture, sociological theory, sociology of youth.

Member of the ISA since 1990, Secretary of the RC48 Collective action, social movements and social change (2002-05), President (2006-14). Member of the Executive Committee of the International Sociological Association (2010-2014). Member of the Basque Sociological Association, Spanish Sociological Federation and European Sociological Association.

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Lauren Langman



Lauren Langman is a professor of sociology at Loyola University of Chicago. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago from the Committee on Human Development and received psychoanalytic training at the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis. He has long worked in the tradition of the Frankfurt School of Critical Theory, especially relationships between culture, identity, politics/political movements and the psychosocial in a global world. He was a co-founder of the Global Studies Association-North America. He is the past President of Alienation Research and Theory, Research Committee 36, of the International Sociological Association as well as past president of the Marxist section of the American sociological Association. He was the current Illinois director for Midwest Sociological Society, on the board of the Globalization and Transnational studies of the American sociological Association. He served a 5 year term on the editorial board of *Sociological Theory*, and remains on boards of *Current Perspectives in Social Theory* and *Critical Sociology*.

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Recent publications include a number of articles and book chapters rooted in the Frankfurt school of critical theory dealing with the social psychology of nationalism, national character, globalization and alienation, identity, hegemony, global justice movements, Islamic fundamentalism, and the body.

His most recent books include:

Trauma Promise and Millennium: The Evolution of Alienation, Rowman and Littlefield with Devorah Kalekin, *Mind*, and *Exploitation: Alienation and its Limits of Body*. Sage: Current Sociology Monograph and *Alienation and Carnival*, Routledge, edited with Jerome Braun.

His latest book is on American Character, God, Guns, Gold and Glory. His forthcoming book, *The Carnivalization of America*, looks at the role of the alienation of youth and their embrace of transgressive life styles, identities and moments of popular culture. His next book is on *Identity and Hegemony*, examines the processes by which hegemony becomes an internalized ideology and generally serves to reproduce "willing assent" to domination – but not always and indeed the capacity for agency, despite the colonization of consciousness and manipulation of desire, when confronted by crises of legitimacy, can foster counter hegemonic mobilizations.

He is also working on a book with Tova Benski on recent social justice movements, *Mobilizing for Dignity*.

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Marcos Ancelovici



Marcos Ancelovici holds a PhD in Political Science from MIT and is a Professor in the Department of Sociology at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). His research has been funded by, among others, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada and the Fonds de recherche du Québec-Société et culture (FRQSC), and has won several awards, including the 2008 Georges Lavau Dissertation Award and the 2013 Frank L. Wilson est Paper Award, both from the American Political Science Association (APSA). In 2009-2010, Ancelovici was a Global Scholar at the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR). He works on social movements and contentious politics, labor politics, and the sociology of Pierre Bourdieu. Since 2012, he has been studying anti-austerity protests, with a particular focus on the struggle against house evictions in Spain. He recently completed an edited volume on street protests in the age of austerity.

Meet some of the RC48 Board Members

Ercüment Çelik



Ercüment Çelik is Board Member of ISA Research Committees on Labor Movements (RC44) and Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change (RC48). He was affiliated to the Institute for Sociology and Global Studies Programme at the University of Freiburg, Germany as postdoctoral researcher and lecturer (2009-2015) and was recently awarded a research fellowship by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. He is author of *Street Traders: A Bridge between Trade Unions and Social Movements in Contemporary South Africa* (2010), and co-editor of *Global Knowledge Production in the Social Sciences: Made in Circulation* (2014).

Helena Flam



Helena Flam gained her Fil. Kand. in Sweden and her PhD at Columbia University in NYC. Since 1993 she has been professor of sociology at the University of Leipzig. She edited *States and Anti-Nuclear Movements* (1994) and *Pink, Purple, Green - on social movements in Central Europe before and after 1990*. She pioneered research into the role of emotions in social movements (see 'The Emotional "Man"' in *International Sociology* in 1990 and *"Emotions and Social Movements"* (2005, co-edited). Her recent focus is on transnational phenomena, including social movements.



International Sociological Association

ACTIVITIES OF RC48 IN 2015

The Newsletter of the Research Committee on
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Activities of RC48 in 2015

In 2015 RC48 took part in three initiatives and held midterm conferences and sessions.

A. Pre-ASA Meetings Conference

During the 20-21 August 2015 RC 48 in collaboration with the CBSM section of the ISA and held a pre-ASA meetings conference. We held three most interesting sessions with participation of members of RC 48 members from seven countries-three continents.

The program of the RC48 sessions appears below.

→ Thursday, August 20: 11:00-12:30

Post-2010 Global Moments of Protest

Special session co-sponsored by Research Committee 48 of the ISA I

Organizer: Tova Benski, Colman

Moderator/chair: Lauren Langman, Loyola University-Chicago

-Tova Benski, The College of Management, Israel,
and Lauren Langman, Loyola, University-Chicago

“The Quest for Dignity – the Emotional Core of the post 2010
Mobilizations”

- Keith Mann, Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee

“Labor as Social Movement in the Current Cycle of Protest”

- Carl Ratner, Institute for Cultural Research & Education, Trinidad, Ca.

“Populist vs. Socialist political philosophy for social movements”

Activities of RC48 in 2015

→ Friday, August 21: 10:45-12:15.

Global Justice, Transnational Activism, and Power

Special session co-sponsored by Research Committee 48 of the ISA II

Organizer: Tova Benski, Bar-Ilan University

Moderator/Chair: Tova Benski, Colman.

-Manjeet Kumar Chaturvedi, Banaras Hindu University
“Social Movement – A Passage to Power?”

- Jackie Smith, University of Pittsburgh
“Networks, Privilege, and Exclusion in Contemporary Global Justice Activism”.

→ Friday, August 21: 15:00-16:30

New Trajectories, Possibilities and Risks in Different Geographical Zones

Special session co-sponsored by Research Committee 48 of the ISA III

Organizer: Tova Benski, Bar-Ilan University

Moderator/Chair: Sahu Dipti Ranjan, University of Lucknow

- Emil Albert Sobottka. Brazilian Sociological Society
“Where do the Current Mobilizations Lead to?”

- Carlos Rafael Rea Rodríguez & Gustavo Galicia Araujo
“The Costs of AYOTZINAPA: Possibilities and Risks for Social Movements in Mexico”.

- Gayatri Bhattacharyya, University of Calcutta, India
“The New Trajectory of Movements and Struggles against Injustice”.

B. Third Bi-Annual Conference of the Global Network on Critical Studies of Global Capitalism

In September the presidents of RC36, RC47 and RC48 organized a special plenary at the Third Bi-Annual conference of the Global Network on Critical Studies of Global Capitalism, in Prague, Czech Republic (September 26- 27, 2015). The theme of the conference was: **Social Movements and Conflicts in the Global Era**. The conference was hosted by the Centre of Global Studies in Prague (CGS), and co-organized by the Global Studies Association of North America (GSA NA) and Global Studies Association UK.

The plenary was focused on the most recent mobilizations and the papers that were presented stirred up most lively discussions. The plenary outline:

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS vs NEO LIBERAL CAPITALISM PANEL

1. Social Mobilization and Dignity

Tova Benski, Professor of Social Sciences, Coleman Institute, Tel Aviv, Israel, president of RC 48 social movements and collective behavior of the International Sociological Association.

2. From Legitimation Crises to Movements to Power

Lauren Langman, Professor of Sociology, Loyola University of Chicago, board member of RC 48, founding member and board member of Globalization Research Section of International Sociological Association, board member Global Studies Association.

3. Alter Globalization

Geoffrey Pleyers, FNRS-Université de Louvain, President. RC 47 social classes and social movements, International Sociological Association.

C. Conference about most recent Mobilizations in Central and Eastern Europe

Tova Benski, the president of RC 48 represented the RC at a regional conference organized by RC47 on May 11-12, 2015 at the University of Bucharest. The conference focused on the most recent mobilizations in Central and Eastern Europe and resulted in a book published by the University of Bucharest: *Social Movements In Central And Eastern Europe*.

The book can be reached on the following link: <http://bit.ly/1PAP6vr>



International Sociological Association

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Newsletter of the Research Committee on
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From 'the Street' to Public Debate: Social Movements and the Making of Alternatives

Call for Contributions

The Vienna ISA focuses on 'struggles for a better world', to investigate what 'closes and opens the horizons of social imaginaries'. Social movements are at the centre of these struggles and often re-define these horizons. 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 loose 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.

IPre-ISA Forum Conference 2016 Vienna July 9th

This pre-ISA 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.

The pre-ISA Conference welcome papers addressing the following main issues:

- Conceptual and theoretical thinking about the outcomes and/or production of alternatives by social movements and collective action.
- Methodological reflections about the social movements' mobilization expected and unexpected results.
- Empirical analysis in different settings, and comparative investigations in Western and non-Western contexts.

The pre-ISA Conference on Social Movements is scheduled in Vienna, Austria, on July 9, 2016.

Proposals should be submitted in English; abstracts should not exceed 250 words and may be submitted by **April 1st, 2016** to the following addresses: daher@unict.it and anna.domaradzka@gmail.com.

The admitted papers will be communicated by April 20, 2016.

Organising Committee:

Tova Benski
Liana M. Daher
Anna Domaradzka
James Goodman
Lauren Langman
Camilo Tamayo Gómez

ISA RC48 Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change

Call for papers

This year, for the first time our RC decided to organize a PhD workshop for students working in the area of social movements and collective action. The aim of the ISA RC48 PhD Workshop is to invite international PhD students working in the field of social movements to discuss their doctoral projects in an open and helpful environment. Each participant will have the opportunity to present her/his doctoral project in a stimulating international setting and receive theoretical and methodological feedback from both senior and junior scholars as well other students. The Workshop will 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 workshop welcomed submissions by PhD students at any stage of their PhD, as well as students who complete their PhD in 2016. The participants must be/become an ISA RC48 member before the Workshop.

The Scientific Committee, following a peer-review process, will select participants on the basis of scientific excellence of the proposals. A fair balance between different regions and areas of social movements research will also be considered. Following the January 15th deadline we received 23 proposals, from which approx. 12 will be selected. The workshop will take place on July 10th, 2016 in Vienna, just before the opening of the ISA Forum.

All selected participants will be required to submit a full paper (no more than 8,000 words) in word format by May 15th to the workshop organizers. This is essential in order to make sure that participants get the most of this workshop; papers will be circulated in advance and allocated to the discussants. Exception will be made for early stage doctoral students, from whom only short paper is required (no more than 3,000 words). We plan to publish the best full papers in a book format.

Workshop organisers:

Liana M. Daher (daher@unict.it),

Anna Domaradzka (anna.domaradzka@gmail.com),

Camilo Tamayo Gómez (Camilo.TamayoGmez@hud.ac.uk)



International Sociological Association

PUBLICATIONS

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

Books

- Ancelovici Marcos, Pascale Dufour, and Héloïse Nez (eds.) (2016). *Street Politics in the Age of Austerity: From the Indignados to Occupy*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. (will be published in April).
- Cremin, Colin (2015). *Totallled: Salvaging the Future from the Wreckage of Capitalism*. London:Pluto Press.
- Duyvendak Jan Willem and James M. Jasper, (eds.) (2015). *Breaking Down the State*. Amsterdam University Press.
- Gohn, Maria da Glória (2015). *Manifestações de Junho de 2013 no Brasil e Praças dos Indignados no Mundo*. Petrópolis, Ed Vozes. ,2a Edição.
- Gohn, Maria da Glória (2015). *Educação Não Formal no Campo das Artes*. São Paulo, Ed Cortes. 1a edição.
- Gohn, Maria da Glória (2016). *Conselhos Gestores e Participação Sociopolítica* . S.Paulo, Cortez, (2016),-9a edição.
- Gohn, Maria da Glória (2016). *Educação Não Formal e o Educador Social*- São Paulo, Cortez Ed. 2016, 5a edição.
- Grasso, M. T. (Forthcoming 2016). *Generations, Political Participation and Social Change in Western Europe*. London: Routledge.
- Jasper, James M. (2015). *Protest: A Cultural Introduction to Social Movements*. Polity.

Publications by RC48 members 2015

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- Arzil Bacal: link to the work "Universidad y Movimientos Sociales" written for Spanish teachers and co-edited by Vicente Manzano and Arzil Bacal. Spanish with an english abstract. <http://bit.ly/1KY8oFA>
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International Sociological Association

LAST YEAR RECOMMENDED BOOKS

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

Books that were published during the last year, recommended by our members

- Bosi, Lorenzo, Marco Giugni, and Katrin Uba (eds.). 2016. *The Consequences of Social Movements*. Cambridge UP.
- della Porta, Donatella and Mario Diani (eds.). 2015. *The Oxford Handbook of Social Movements*, OUP.
- della Porta, Donatella. 2015. *Social Movements in Times of Austerity*,
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- Jacobsson, Kerstin (ed) (2015). *Urban Grassroots Movements in Central and Eastern Europe*. Farnham: Ashgate.
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International Sociological Association

BOOK REVIEW

Social Movements in Times of Austerity
Donatella della Porta

Review by Lauren Langman,
Department of sociology, Loyola University Chicago

Book review

Social Movements in Times of Austerity, Donatella della Porta, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2015

Review by Lauren Langman, Department of sociology, Loyola University Chicago

What were the major world historical indeed transformative social movements of the 20th century? Surely the Russian revolution, the rise of fascism in Europe followed by the Chinese revolution. What do these movements have in common? Economic crises and social discontent! But in the latter part of the 20th century, SM scholars focused on various ban the bomb mobilizations, antiwar movements, civil rights movements, feminism, gay rights, etc. Little noticed by many social movement scholars, as a reaction to globalization, there was a great deal of social mobilization that followed the Bhopal tragedy in India—clearly a case of corporate malfeasance and indifferent to the safety of workers and nearby residents, the EZLN, Zapatistas and growing global justice movements – symbolized by the World Social Forum. While some few social movement scholars studied these movements for many, they remained under the radar. While surely each of these mobilizations differed, the common denominator was the role of the economic system and its many consequences ranging from inequality and impoverishment of the masses, and the corruption of political elites. But it wasn't until Arab spring, southern Europe Indignados and occupy Wall Street movements erupted in 2011 that social movement scholars began to attend to the economic factors. As many readers may be aware, the volume of *Current Sociology* (July 2013; 61, 4) that was devoted to these movements, edited by Tova, Benjamin, Ignacia and myself pointed out that the key factor precipitating all of these movements was the conditions of the economy more specifically the contradictions of neoliberal globalization that meant the growing wealth of the financial sector and growing unemployment if not underemployment in the population in general, especially for the younger workers, and perhaps most acutely for young college graduates. Moreover privatization often meant the loss of jobs, retrenchments of social benefits meant that life became more difficult for vast majorities of people while the wealth and indeed indifference of the elites became more and more evident. The important point that we attempted to make, while surely not original, was the powerful role of economic factors fostering social mobilizations. But we also noted that these movements were not the classical Marxist mobilizations of workers and peasants against capitalism typically lead progressive Unionists if not party cadres.

Book review

Nevertheless, it became evident to a number of social movement scholars was the importance of the economic factors specifically the role of capitalism. Indeed, there have been a number of Marxist scholars, primarily historians, political economists and activists, for example the Manchester group of Barker and Cox, but for various reasons their work has had little impact in sociological SMS research.

We should be very thankful for the recent publication of Donatella della Porta's book on austerity and social movements. While I will not attempt to offer a book review as such, I would like to highlight some of the main points and encourage colleagues to read the book and take heed of her arguments. The basic argument she makes might be said, "bringing capitalism back in." Her primary focus is of course the aftermath of the global crisis, in which the primary solution embraced by the elites, especially the Troika (the European Commission (EC), the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). was austerity, reduction of the number of government workers, reductions of benefits, and the privatization of various goods and services ranging from providing water to collecting refuse.

Although her focus is primarily on European social movements, for which she has a good deal of support of evidence, while her focus more theoretical, the implications are for broader. Consider only today, the Carnival that calls itself electoral politics in my country, the USA is being rocked by an authoritarian Carnival barker promises of restoration of an earlier time of white supremacy and greater affluence – while a grandfatherly socialist attacks the bankers and billionaires who actually run the United States. Meanwhile, there are growing protests against austerity in Russia as well as Tunisia in other places. Thus her work and analysis has considerable implications for social movement research across the globe.

In her initial chapters, she reiterates the importance of social classes. She is not necessarily a Marxist, has become abundantly clear that while the history of all societies may or may not be a history of class conflict, surely by considering the actors in these various social movements one cannot help but note the importance of social class. This is perhaps especially the case among the growing numbers of the precariat, that now consists of millions with insecure jobs, housing and [little or no] social entitlements.

Book review

They have no occupational identity, and do not belong to any occupational community with a long-established social memory giving an anchor of ethical norms. Being urged to be 'flexible' and 'employable', they act opportunistically. They are denizens, not citizens, in that they have fewer rights than citizens. There are three 'varieties' of precariat, all detached from old political democracy and unable to relate to twentieth-century industrial democracy or economic democracy. The first variety consists of those drifting from working-class backgrounds into precariousness, the second consists of those emerging from a schooling system over-credentialed for the flexi-job life on offer, and the third are migrants and others, such as the criminalized, in a status denying them the full rights of citizens. Each has a distinctive view on life and society.

The precariat today consists of millions of workers, including segments of skilled workers without steady jobs, typically working for short term periods, consultancies etc. without an occupational identity or membership in any enduring work or occupational based ties or links to work or community organizations that grants recognition, provides social attachments, or maintains any kind of normative values. It is without attachment to any fixed workplace. It has no political party to advance let alone defend its interests. As Standing puts it, they are "denizens, not citizens, in that they have fewer rights than citizens". According to Standing, lacking any solidarity and cohesion or organizational membership makes them dangerous.

Thus, for many younger workers entering the job markets incomes have declined while the availability of work itself has become problematic. The precariate today includes a large number highly (over) educated as well as the poor who can no longer even look forward to poorly paid albeit steady work.

As della Porta makes quite clear, the precariat, a group without either occupational or political attachments, has been especially hard-hit by the economic conditions, especially in some of the southern European countries where perhaps half of the young are unable to find work, let alone the kinds of secure jobs that promise benefits and promotions. As does become evident these can be dangerous classes. Although not part of her analysis, in many of the European countries, the anti-Islam, anti-immigration sentiments are fueled by the anger of certain sectors of the precariate who may be inclined toward right-wing if not indeed neo-fascist movements.

Book review

It was also interesting gratifying for us to note, as being the authors of the Current Sociology volume, that della Porta did note, and incorporate our discussion of the relevance of legitimization crises. This of course rests on Habermas classical book on the topic which points out that crises and contradictions at the level of the system, especially the economic, political, and cultural systems, migrate to the level of the life world and motivation identity. Habermas pointed out that the cultural crisis, whether or not consumer capitalism offered people a sense of meaning, have led to some of the various bohemian, hippie and/or dropout movements of the 60s and 70s, the drugs and sex and rock 'n roll crowd that a few of us may remember but our comments might be TMI. In our work, we suggested the various mobilizations from Arab Spring to Occupy, and perhaps the cottage cheese mobilizations in Israel, were not simple reactions to economic factors, but also revoke the social psychological primarily assaults to identity and a sense of indignation. Tova and I have been emphasizing the salience of dignity, and how economic crises, together with greedy and/or inefficient governments unable or unwilling to tackle the economic, have thwarted the likelihood of people achieving a sense of dignity.

Della Porta devotes her final chapter the importance of bringing capitalism back into social movement research and the extent to which these mobilizations seek political democracy as well as economic democracy. While seeking economic redress, most of these movements do differ significantly from classical socialist movements seeking to transform the society. Rather they seek more equitable distributions of wealth and governments that represent the people not the economic elites whose interests shape the Troika. It is abundantly clear the progressive social movements in Greece and Spain, responses to austerity, targeted the troika and its embrace of neoliberalism as the basis of their protest and mobilizations that ultimately led to the formation of political parties Syriza and Podemos. To cite her:

In sum, social movements active against neoliberalism are embedded in a crisis of legitimacy that takes the particular form of a lack of responsibility toward citizens demands they stigmatize the power of big corporations and unaccountable international organizations with the related loss of national government sovereignty. What is more, they held responsible those governments and the political class at large for what they consider abduction of democracy.

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However, rather than developing antidemocratic attitudes, they claimed that representative democracy has been corrupted by the collusion of economic and political power, calling for participatory democracy in general return to public concern with the common goods. Given the extremely low trust in existing representative institutions, these movements have address requests to the state, but also experimented with alternative models of participatory and deliberative democracy. *Acampadas* (occupations) became the places to prefigure new forms of democracy . (p. 217)

While della Porta's book is oriented to current social movement scholars primarily in sociology, political science and perhaps economics, her book is not simply an attempt to encourage academic research to consider the role of neoliberal capitalism, especially austerity programs administered by undemocratic governments, but as she notes, the economic conditions of today, have been fostering mobilizations of the left, as well as mobilizations of the right in which such parties such as as the National Front, UKIP or New Dawn, are growing and becoming increasingly nasty in Europe, especially some of the right-wing mobilizations against Moslem migrants in which some of the fringe elements of the right have openly displayed Nazi and neo-Nazi symbols, salutes etc.

While her concern is primarily the austerity movements in Europe, let me note that the same problem is taking place in the United States where one legacy of the Occupy movement is the current campaign of Bernie Sanders and openly socialist candidate who is rallying large numbers of the young and not so young against the establishment candidate Hillary Clinton. Similarly, as a legacy of the Tea Party, a consequence of an economic crisis followed by the election of an African American President, the leading candidates for the Republican ticket, at least at the moment, are the highly authoritarian right-wingers, reality TV star Donald Trump, and a reactionary, evangelical Ted Cruz. If either of them become the next president, heaven help us! And I'll find another planet to live on.

To be sure, her book is a very rich analysis of the relationship of capitalism, austerity movements and social mobilizations and should be read by most scholars of social movements. While the above have been more commentary than an in-depth book review, it should be evident that this is an important book to not only inspire research more sensitive to political economy, but to encourage many of us, to ourselves become more active in progressive social movements.

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