SO3250 Social Movements
Hilary term 2014

The second half of the module focuses on social movements, examining them on the macro, meso and micro levels. We look at the broader context of social movements and whether they are best characterized as challenges to the status quo or a means of institutionalizing and channeling any such challenges. We study how social movements work and what they achieve. We also look at why people get involved and stay involved in movements dedicated to social change. There is a strong practical element to the course, with visiting speakers from social movements in Ireland discussing their own movement activities.

Learning Objectives:

Students successfully completing the module should be able to

- Discuss key theoretical questions relating to social movements and a ‘politics from below’: framing, recruitment, mobilisation, institutionalisation, and identity in movements
- Apply this theoretical understanding to the practices of social movements in Ireland and elsewhere

Lectures & Tutorial Times

Two lectures and one tutorial per week.

Lectures

Tuesday: 5pm Maxwell 5. Hamilton Building.

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Tutorials

Tuesday 13:00 Room: AP4.03 (Aras an Phiarsaigh)

Thursday 12:00 Room: AP4.03 (Aras an Phiarsaigh)

Thursday 16:00 Room 3 (2-4 College Green)

Friday 10.00 Room: 3074 (Arts Building)[NOTE ROOM CHANGE FROM LAST TERM]
Recommended Texts/ Key Reading:


Assignment:

The assignment counts for 40% of the mark for this part of the module (20% of your overall mark) and is due on April 10. It is a 4000 word group project where each group hands in a report on a movement, either contemporary or historical, that they have decided to research. There are three people in each group, and groups should decide by the third week which movement they wish to research. The project consists of two parts which will be given equal weighting.

Part A: Describe and analyse the movement that you have chosen. Describe its history, activities and purpose. Analyse the movement under one or two of the following headings: repertoires of contention, relationship with power, organisational forms, issues of identity.

Part B: Produce and justify an item of public material for the group. The item can be either a leaflet, or a lobbying letter, or a webpage. As well as producing the item, justify why you have produced it in the way you have – what framing strategies you use, which publics you were seeking to appeal to etc

Penalties for late submission: Without an authorised extension, the mark given will be lowered by one grade

The end of year examination counts for 60% of this part of the module (30% of the overall mark. It is a 2-hour end-of-year examination.

Tutorials

Tutorials are every week from the second term. In the first few tutorials you will form your project groups, and discuss selected readings and case studies. From Week 4, each project group will present the social movement they have researched. Attendance at tutorials is compulsory.
Course plan and reading list. Social Movements 2014

**Week 1**

**Class 1. January 14.  Introduction.**

What is a social movement and what do social movements do? This class discusses the basics of social movements, explains how the module is structured, and talks about the assignments.

**Readings**

**Obligatory**


**Recommended**


**Class 2. January 16.  Thinking about social movements.**

How have social movements been theorized in the past and what are the main ways of thinking about them? This class looks at the Northern Ireland civil rights movement and beyond as a case study.

**Readings**

**Obligatory**


**Recommended**


Documentary: *The Battle of the Bogside* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbsEC0fDEA
Chapter 1: Social Movement as politics


**Week 2**


Concerned Parents Against Drugs was a working class Dublin movement against drug pushers. This class looks at excerpts from the documentary ‘The Meeting Room’ and discusses how CPAD organised and the problems it faced.

**Readings**

*Obligatory*


*Recommended*


**Class 4. January 28. Taking opportunities and mobilizing resources.**

Movements have been studied as rational actors mobilizing resources and taking advantage of wider political opportunities to achieve their goals. This class examines and critiques Resource Mobilisation and Political Process Theories as ways of understanding social movements.

**Readings**
Obligatory

Recommended


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**Week 3**

**Class 5. January 28**  
**Building a movement.**

How and why do people come together, build and join a social movement. This class looks at the growth of movements and issues around mobilizing and recruiting people.

**Readings**

**Obligatory**

**Recommended**


Guest speaker from the ‘Shell to Sea’ campaign.

Readings

Obligatory
Shell To Sea campaign website: http://www.shelltosea.com

Recommended
Film The Pipe (2010)

Film Those who Dance (2007) Available on youtube)


Week 4


All social movements forward and develop both individual and collective identities. What role do identities play for movements and why do movements try to foster a sense of collective identity for participants? What are the problems that identity movements face?

Readings

Obligatory


**Recommended**


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**Class 8. February 7. Case Study: ‘Another world is possible’**

The class will watch excerpts from ‘Kilometer zero, Genoa red zone’ documentary, and discuss the anti/alter-globalization movement

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**Readings**

**Obligatory**


**Recommended**


A Hidden History of Social Centres In Ireland. Saturday April 05, 2008

[http://www.indymedia.ie/article/87044](http://www.indymedia.ie/article/87044)

Radio Interview about Seomra Spraoi.


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**Week 5**

**NO CLASS ON FEBRUARY 11**

**Class 9. February 13. How do movements try to make their points**
What do movements say, and why do they say what they say? This class will look at how movements try and convince the public to support them, and people to join them. We will look at framing strategies, the role of narratives, and how movements build discursive repertoires.

Readings

Obligatory

Recommended
Polletta, Francesca. 1998. ""It was like a fever ..." narrative and identity in social protest." Social Problems 45:137-159.


Week 6:

Class 10. February 18. Movement activities

What do movements do, and why do they do what they do? Why do some movements organise protest marches and sit-ins, while others concentrate on lobbying TDs, or on violent activities. This class looks at the repertoires of contention that various movements use, and why they use them.

Readings

Obligatory
Recommended


Class 11. February 20. Case Study: ‘Keep your rosaries off our ovaries’.

Guest speaker from the pro-choice movement.

Readings

Obligatory

Recommended


Week 7  READING WEEK

Week 8

Class 12. March 4 Organising the movement

How do movements and groups organise internally. How do different groups within the same movement get on and what happens when they don’t get on and when there are splits. This class looks at the effects that different organisational forms have on movement outcomes and aims.
Solidarity movements, whether international solidarity groups (e.g. Palestine solidarity) or anti-racism groups involving the majority population, face a specific set of issues. How do such groups organise transnationally and how do they relate to the object of solidarity. Do such groups work with those who they are in solidarity with, or do they merely speak for them, treating these others as objects of charity?

Readings

**Obligatory**


**Recommended**

Alsaafin, Linah 2012 How obsession with "nonviolence" harms the Palestinian cause *The Electronic Intifada* 10 July 2012 [http://electronicintifada.net/content/how-obsession-nonviolence-harms-palestinian-cause/11482](http://electronicintifada.net/content/how-obsession-nonviolence-harms-palestinian-cause/11482) (Also comments after the article)

Week 9


Guest Speaker on anti-racism in Ireland

Readings

Obligatory


Recommended

Lentin, Ronit. ”‘There is no movement” A brief history of migrant-led activism in Ireland in In Migrant Activism and Integration from Below in Ireland . edited by R. Lentin and E. Moreo. London: Palgrave Macmillan.


What has been the effect of media and social media on movement organisation, aims, and outcomes. Social movements have customarily seen the media as a double edged sword – capable of broadcasting their message, but also of distorting the movement and the message. Also what has been the effect of digital media on movements. This class examines claims that vary from those who claim the Arab Spring was a ‘twitter revolution’ to those who claim that social media is killing social movements.

Readings

Obligatory


Recommended


**Week 10**

**Class 16. March 18. Repression and Co-optation**

All movements need to deal with the state, which in turn seeks to bring movements under its control by either repressing or coopting them. How does repression work and how do movements cope with it. Also how do movements cope with pressures to moderate their demands – is the choice between NGOisation and irrelevance?

**Readings**

*Obligatory*


*Recommended*


[http://eprints.nuim.ie/2474/1/final_chapter.pdf](http://eprints.nuim.ie/2474/1/final_chapter.pdf)


Eamonn Crudden. 2002 *Irishvidheads in Genoa.*

[http://issuu.com/irishleftreview/docs/irishvidheadsgenoa_eamonncrudden/1?e=0](http://issuu.com/irishleftreview/docs/irishvidheadsgenoa_eamonncrudden/1?e=0) (Background to the making of ‘Berlusconi’s mousetrap’)


**Class 17 March 20. Case Study: "Bring the war home!"

The Weather Underground or the Weathermen were an underground revolutionary party in late ‘60s US whose slogan was to "Bring the war home!" This class looks at excerpts from the documentary ‘The Weather Underground’.  

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12
Readings

Obligatory

Recommended
Aust, Stefan. The Baader-Meinhof Complex (also Baader-Meinhof: the inside story of the RAF)

Film: The Baader-Meinhof Complex. 2008,

Week 11

Class 18. March 25.  What effects do movements have?

This class examines the role of movements and their long term effects. It looks at the biographical effects of social movements on participants and asks whether movements ever do what they set out to do, and change the world.

Readings

Obligatory

Recommended

Giugni, Marco. 1998. 'Was It Worth the Effort? The Outcomes and Consequences of Social Movements', *Annual Review of Sociology*, 24


Class 19. March 27  Case Study: ‘Don’t Register! Don’t Pay!’

A guest speaker from CAWHT – the Campaign against Household and Water Taxes

Readings
Obligatory
Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward. 1977. 'The Structuring of Protest', in Poor People’s Movements: Why They Succeed, How They Fail Vintage Books

Recommended


Week 12.

Class 20. April 1 Movements and the re-cognition of reality

This class examines knowledge production about and by movements. It looks at how movements produce knowledge and what knowledge they produce. It also asks how we can research movements, and what role academic knowledge about movements plays.

Readings

Obligatory

Recommended


Class 21. April 3. Recap

This final class will recap the main issues raised in the course and discuss the essays and assignments.