

CriticalMassBulletin

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**Please send all your ideas,
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Message from the Chair: The Activation and Mobilization of a Social Movements Class

*Rob Benford
CBSM Section Chair
Department of Sociology
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Recent calls for making sociology relevant to various publics have generated animated discussions among sociologists.¹ I must confess that while I was aware of the general case Michael Burawoy and others were making for returning our discipline's knowledge to those from whom it was derived, I never took the time to dive into the public sociology literature. Semester after semester, though, a gnawing sense that there was a disjuncture between classroom foci and the world out there grew.

It seemed that the largest disconnect between understanding a field and developing skills to apply that knowledge occurred in my upper level social movements course. Students completing the course could identify, compare, and critically assess various social movement concepts, theories, and research. But I remained unconvinced that by semester's end they could organize lunch, let alone a social movement. This gap becomes all the more problematic when we consider the current state of affairs. Clearly, our dying planet, troubled nation, and neglected communities need talented and trained activists to lead effective movements for progressive social change movements.

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Deadline for the Spring 2009 Issue of Critical Mass Bulletin: April 15

Chair's Message—Continued

So this semester I took the plunge into public sociology. I decided to shift the focus of my fall social movements course from one of preparing students to become the next generation of movement scholars to preparing them to become the next generation of community activists.² This transformation was realized by fashioning an active learning environment in which students could develop community organizing and activist skills.

Following a three week long process during which the students completed individual and group assignments and discussed and debated the relative merits of organizing a movement to ameliorate various specific local and global injustices, the class elected to organize a renters' rights movement. Calling themselves TAPT (Tenants Are People Too), the class spent the next couple of weeks gathering and analyzing data regarding the history of other renters' rights movements, local renters' experiences, city, county, and state laws pertaining to the landlord/tenant relationship, and redress mechanisms available to renters. The class designed and administered a survey of tenants and analyzed approximately 250 completed surveys. Drawing on their research as well as assigned activist handbooks³, students developed movement goals, a mission statement, strategies, tactics, and publicity materials. The students then publicly launched their movement using a variety of print and electronic media and organized a series of educational, recruitment, and direct action events focusing on educating, assisting, and empowering renters in the region.

The results have been impressive thus far. The class goals have been realized beyond expectations. Take-home exams, assignments, and occasional mini lectures ensured that students mastered basic social movement concepts and theories. They've also gained hands-on experience in all facets of organizing a social movement. They've been empowered and learned valuable lessons about civil

society. They've learned how to work more effectively with others. They've honed their communication skills and exercised their sociological imaginations. And perhaps most significantly, students established a sustainable social movement organization, one that will carry on after the class is over.⁴

Notes

1. See, for example, *Social Problems* (February 2004), *Social Forces* (June 2004), *Critical Sociology* (Summer 2005), *American Sociologist* (Fall/Winter 2005), *British Journal of Sociology* (September 2005), *Socio Economic Review* (2007; 5:2), and *Contemporary Sociology* (November 2008).

2. It's sometimes easier to plunge into unfamiliar waters with others. At last April's Midwest Sociological Association meetings in St. Louis Dan Cress indicated that he was planning to design a similar course at Western State College. We agreed to compare notes and to present our results together at next year's MSS meetings in Des Moines.

3. No sociology texts were used in the course. Required readings included: Saul D. Alinsky's (1971) *Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals* (New York: Vintage Books); Paul Rogat Loeb's (2004) *The Impossible Will Take A While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope In a Time of Fear* (New York: Basic Books); Rinku Sen's (2003) *Stir It Up: Lessons in Community Organizing and Advocacy* (San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass); and Randy Shaw's (2001) *The Activist's Handbook*, Second Edition (Berkeley & Los Angeles: University of California Press).

4. The course syllabus is available online at: <http://www.siu.edu/~socio/documents/Soc424F08rb.pdf>. For class assignments and other comments or questions contact me at: rbenford@siu.edu.

Teaching a Class?

Do you teach a class in collective behavior and/or social movements at either the undergraduate or graduate level? Do you have insights, readings, activities, active learning techniques, or service learning opportunities that have worked especially well in your class?

Would you like to share this with the rest of the CBSM section? If so, submit them by April 15 to cbsmnews@gmail.com for inclusion in the spring 2009 issue of *Critical Mass*.

Teaching Corner: Resources for Teaching CBSM

A new syllabi set and teaching resource guide for teaching about social movements has been created. It is available from the ASA bookstore as an e-book or as a printed book. To purchase, visit the ASA bookstore Syllabi Set page at <http://www.e-noah.net/asa/asashoponlineservice/productslist.aspx?CategoryID=ASASS&selection=10>

The volume contains 20 syllabi for undergraduate and graduate courses as well as a selection of instructional aids for use in courses. It has a particular focus on historical and global perspectives, among other social movement topics.

Reference:

Wood, Lesley, Paul D. Almeida and Benita Roth. 2008. *Teaching Social Movements: A Collection of Syllabi, Assignments and Other Resources*. Washington D.C.: American Sociological Association.

Editor's Note

Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur
Rhode Island College

This issue of *Critical Mass* is a first on two levels. It is the first issue since the CBSM council voted in summer 2008 to distribute *Critical Mass* electronically, and is the first issue for which I am serving as editor.

The decision to distribute *Critical Mass* electronically is intended to—and undoubtedly will—save the Section a considerable sum of money. It will also have an environmental impact: my rough analysis suggests that each issue of *Critical Mass* took about 20 reams of paper to print, plus envelopes and transportation costs, accounting to roughly an entire tree for each issue. Electronic publication increases editorial flexibility as well, giving us the

freedom to have as many pages as we can fill with submissions without worrying about printing costs or layout issues. There are of course some section members who cannot receive things electronically, and the Section officers have committed to making *Critical Mass* available to them through the regular mail so that no one is left out as we navigate this transition.

Since it is my first issue, I did want to take some space to introduce myself. I am in my first year as an assistant professor of sociology at Rhode Island College; I earned my Ph.D. at New York University with a dissertation focusing on curricular change in higher education institutions and the dynamics of social movements within organizations. I am lucky enough to be working this year with an assistant editor, Rita Stephan, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas at Austin who works on women's rights activism in Lebanon. We want to thank last year's CBSM publications committee, Lesley Wood, Benita Roth, and Paul Almeida, for selecting us to edit *Critical Mass*, as well as the past editors, Lori Baralt and Aaron McCright, for helping us make a smooth transition as well as for their years of dedicated service.

We hope that you, the readers of *Critical Mass*, will feel free and encouraged to provide your suggestions, comments, and submissions. We'd like to build on Lori and Aaron's efforts to expand the focus on teaching collective behavior and social movements as well as to continue being a resource for reviews of CBSM scholarship and coverage of noteworthy activists. In particular, we'd like to especially encourage graduate students to submit to *Critical Mass*. The submission deadline for the Spring issue is April 15th, but early submissions are welcome, and prospective authors are also welcome to write to suggest article topics. We can always be reached at cbsmnews@gmail.com.

I am writing this Editor's Note on November 6th, 2008, and so I suppose it would be appropriate to mention here this week's other first—the election of Barack Obama to the Presidency. I imagine there are quite a number of us who have taken a deep breath this week for the first time in a while, and I am looking forward to CBSM analyses of the campaign's

unprecedented organizing strategies. Many of us who are classroom teachers of undergraduates have found them uncommonly interested in politics this time around. For instance, my research methods students designed a survey instrument and an interview guide primarily focusing on electoral politics and other political issues and were excited for the chance to see what their friends and family thought. Let's hope that an Obama presidency motivates our students to stay excited by politics for a while so that we have time to capitalize on that excitement in the classroom.

The timing of this issue almost simultaneously with the election means that we were not able to focus either on the build-up to the election or on post-facto analysis. Instead, we have several other interesting pieces. Lesley Wood has contributed an article detailing a number of worthwhile online resources for those interested in activist theorizing. Devyani Prabhat writes about cause lawyering among those representing suspected terrorists. Inside, you'll also find announcements of the 2008 CBSM section awards, calls for papers and award submissions, a discussion of the CBSM mentoring program, and details of recent publications. Enjoy this issue, and we'll talk again in the spring, after Obama's inauguration and the beginning of a new semester.

CBSM Section Awards

2008 CBSM Outstanding Article Award

*Rhys Williams
University of Cincinnati*

Winner: Lee, Caroline W. 2007. "Is There a Place for Private Conversation in Public Dialogue? Comparing Stakeholder Assessments of Informal Communication in Collaborative Regional Planning." American Journal of Sociology, 113:1, 41-96.

This article engages theoretically the democratic potential of formal deliberation and participatory processes, and whether that potential is seen to be enhanced or threatened by informal processes of communication. These assessments are powerfully shaped by local political culture, including assumptions about transparency and rationality, and

the dynamics of participatory democracy itself. So, is informal communication an engagement strategy that reinforces privilege, or a micro-context for a culture of participation that defuses potential conflict and thus facilitated participation? The data come from interviews and ethnographic observation of two regional planning processes and answer that question both 'yes' and 'no.'

This work examines important dynamics of collective action and their connections to local political culture – all grounded in theories of deliberative democracy. The article is theoretically provocative and empirically rich, and pushes the work of our subfield in ways a little different from many other social movement studies. The theoretical advance also involved a direct engagement with ideas of power and inequality.

Committee members were: Rhys H. Williams, chair, Elizabeth Armstrong, Belinda Robnett-Olsen, and Nancy Whittier. The committee read 17 both self- and other-nominated articles. In its deliberations, it did delineate a group of four finalists. At the suggestion of section members at the CBSM section members at the business meeting in Boston, we list below the other finalists. The committee congratulates these authors for fine pieces of sociology, as well as to the award recipient, Professor Caroline Lee.

Finalists:

Delia Baldassarri and Mario Diani, "The Integrative Power of Civic Networks." *American Journal of Sociology*, 113:3 (November 2007): 735-80.

Sandra R. Levitsky. "Niche Activism: Constructing a Unified Movement Identity in a Heterogeneous Organizational Field." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*, 12:3 (September 2007): 271-86.

Holly J. McCammon, Courtney Sanders Muse, Harmony D. Newman, Teresa M. Terrell. "Movement Framing and Discursive Opportunity Structures: The Political Successes of the U.S. Women's Jury Movements." *American Sociological Review*, 72:5 (October 2007): 725-749.

The Charles Tilly Award for Best Book in Collective Behavior and Social Movements

Holly McCammon
Vanderbilt University

The Charles Tilly Award for Best Book in Collective Behavior and Social Movements Committee (Mary Bernstein, Jennifer Earl, Herb Haines, and Holly McCammon) would like to share its short list of award nominees with you. Although the committee could present only one award (also listed below), there were so many excellent books this year, the committee felt it would be useful to members to have knowledge of its short list.

Winner of the 2008 Charles Tilly Award for Best Book in the 2008 Charles Tilly Award for Best Book in Collective Behavior and Social Movements:
Protest Politics in Germany: Movements on the Left and Right Since the 1960s, Roger Karapin

Finalists:

Waves of Protest: Popular Struggle in El Salvador, 1925-2005, Paul D. Almeida

Unraveling the Garment Industry: Transnational Organizing and Women's Work, Ethel C. Brooks

Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt, Ching Kwan Lee

Disrupting Science: Social Movements, American Scientists, and the Politics of the Military, 1945-1975, Kelly Moore

Patriots, Politics and the Oklahoma City Bombing, Stuart A. Wright

Bearing Witness Against Sin: The Evangelical Birth of the American Social Movement, Michael P. Young

2008 Outstanding Student Paper Award

Rob Benford
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Committee:

Nella Van Dyke, Dani Voss, Jackie Smith, and Rob Benford served on the committee. The committee read and rated eighteen excellent papers written by student members of the section.

Winner:

Rachel V. Kutz-Flamenbaum, State University of New York at Stony Brook, "Strategic Dilemmas in Organizational Frame Selection and Audience Frame Preference in Women's Peace Organizing."

Finalists:

Paul Y. Chang, Stanford University, "Unintended Consequences of Repression; Alliance Formation in South Korea's Democracy Movement (1970-1979)"

Elizabeth Cherry, University of Georgia, "Deconstructing Symbolic Boundaries: Cultural Strategies of New Social Movements"

Kyoung-Hee Yu, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "Linking Movement to Organization: Movement Careers in the Justice for Janitors"

CBSM Mentoring Program

From the 2008-2009 CBSM Mentoring Program Committee: Matthew Archibald, Elizabeth Borland, David Cunningham, and Annulla Linders

Given the positive response received from participants in past versions of the CBSM Mentoring Program, we are pleased to announce that the section will once again offer the program during the 2008-2009 academic year. In essence, the program serves as a "matchmaking service," pairing assistant professors with more senior colleagues who can provide advice and support during the early years of the mentee's career. This year, we also hope to add a

second “tier” to the program, pairing junior or recently-tenured faculty with ABD students.

While strong mentorship can give a new faculty member an invaluable boost at a crucial moment, finding a good mentor (or mentee) on one’s own is no small feat. Often, the best mentorships span institutional boundaries, because assistant professors are often (rightfully) reluctant to voice concerns and insecurities to senior colleagues who will eventually have to evaluate their junior colleague’s performance. But identifying a like-minded mentor or mentee at another institution can be a daunting task.

The CBSM Mentoring Program is designed to address this issue by pairing mentors and mentees across institutional boundaries. While each mentor-mentee relationship will develop its own trajectory, common topics of conversation include: formulating job market and publishing strategies; managing teaching and service loads; navigating departmental and university politics; dealing with work/family conflicts; etc. Mentors also sometimes alert mentees to opportunities for funding, employment, or professional recognition.

Mentoring relationships carry rewards for the mentor as well as for the mentee. Mentors enjoy the satisfaction of nurturing a junior colleague, repaying the mentoring that they themselves likely received in the past. Equally important, mentors and mentees often build enduring collegial relationships that last well beyond the mentee’s junior faculty years. And mentorship benefits the larger scholarly enterprise, too, creating webs of informal communication and mutual support that knit us together into a more robust and cohesive community.

We hope that you will consider participating in the Mentoring Program, either now or in the future. Please keep an eye on your email inbox for instructions on how to sign up as a mentor or a mentee, and feel free to direct any inquiries to committee member David Cunningham at dcunning@brandeis.edu. As another of this year’s committee members (and a past CBSM mentee) said, “I think that this program is one of the really wonderful things that the section does for members, and brag to friends in other sections about it!” Given

the relatively small commitment required, the Mentoring Program has the potential to really make a difference to young scholars and, through their development, to the vitality of the section as a whole.

Activist Theorizing: Resources for Teaching, Research, and Political Work

*Lesley Wood
York University*

Social movement scholars are sometimes criticized for being out of touch with contemporary activist theorizing. In the interests of highlighting some publications that might be useful to your teaching, research, and political work, I’ve compiled a selected list of a few that do internal movement analysis. The political approaches, and level of abstraction vary, but each offers insight into how some contemporary activists are strategizing, engaging and theorizing. While some are online only, others offer subscriptions to individuals and libraries.

The Commoner. An online journal published yearly since 2001. The Commoner describes itself as about “about living in a world in which the doing is separated from the deed, in which this separation is extended in an increasing numbers of spheres of life, in which the revolt about this separation is ubiquitous.” Rooted in the UK, and coming from the theoretical perspective of autonomous Marxism. The most recent issue, included articles by Nick Dyer-Witford on “Species-Being and the New Commonism: Notes on an Interrupted Cycle of Struggles,” and Silvia Federici’s “Witch-Hunting, Globalization, and Feminist Solidarity in Africa Today.”

<http://www.commoner.org.uk>

Journal of Aesthetics and Protest. Describing itself as a “weirdo thinktank” whose physical address is in Los Angeles, JOAAP has just released their sixth print issue. A project of activists who are engaged in creative protest, the newest one includes responses to their survey of anti-war activists, reportage and

analysis of a diverse set of projects including community arts, immigrant rights, community gardening, gay and lesbian politics of play, and prison work. There is an online version as well, but its content is limited.

<http://www.journalofaestheticsandprotest.org/>

Left Turn: Notes from the Global Intifada. A bimonthly print publication rooted within a network of mostly US based activists within the anti-capitalist, radical feminist, anti-racist and anti-imperialist movements. Left Turn explains, “Through our publication, Left Turn Magazine, our website and other forums, we seek to create spaces for our various movements to reflect and strategize. The magazine serves as a resource to grassroots movements by reporting on and analyzing local and global struggles for justice. It is an all volunteer publication written by activists for activists.” A recent thematic issue, for example, covered both organizational and strategic questions about organizing against the prison industrial complex and information relevant to those campaigns.

<http://www.leftturn.org/>

Rolling Thunder. A biannual print journal produced by the US based anarchist Crimethinc Workers Collective that covers “passionate living and creative resistance in all the forms they take: from consensus process to streetfighting, from workplace struggles to graffiti art, from gender mutiny to subversive humor. Each issue runs the gamut from on-the-spot reporting, strategic analysis, and instructional guides to poetry, comics, and games.” The most recent issue includes a critical analysis of the animal rights campaign, Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty, a discussion of movement sustainability, and reportage on Swedish anarchists, and student movements in Colombia.

<http://www.crimethinc.com/rt/>

Shelterforce. Launched as a ‘how-to’ guide for housing activists in 1975, the journal “has been a primary forum for organizers, activists, and advocates in the affordable-housing and neighborhood revitalization movements.” Produced by the National Housing Institute, recent pieces

include discussions of recent campaigns like “Homeless Revolution: An organization of homeless New Yorkers rallied residents of Harlem and Manhattan to stand up and take notice of the city’s long-standing practice of warehousing vacant properties” (Fall 2007, #151) and “Building for the Future: Using a regional initiative to bolster local capacity and support” (Spring 2007, #149)

<http://www.nhi.org/online/issues/organizing.html>

Shift Magazine. An online magazine rooted in the UK. Recent articles included reflections on why Indymedia UK is losing support, discussions of the ‘meaning’ of anti-capitalism, a reflection of 1968 and discussions of recent and upcoming actions.

<http://www.shiftmag.co.uk/index.html>

Turbulence. A journal/newspaper whose editorial staff “hope will become an ongoing space in which to think through, debate and articulate the political, social, economic and cultural theories of our movements, as well as the networks of diverse practices and alternatives that surround them.” Launched in 2006 by a collective that organizes in both Europe and North America, Turbulence is often distributed at mass protests, social forums and other activist events. The first issue highlighted different movement theorizing on ‘What would it mean to win?’ and the recent issue features articles on strategies and thoughts about “The Future”. Copies of the publication are also available for download online.

<http://turbulence.org.uk/>

Upping the Anti. A journal of “theory and action” which provides a space to address and discuss unresolved questions and dynamics within the anti-capitalist, anti-oppression, and anti-imperialist politics of today’s radical left. Published three times a year from Toronto, UTA includes interviews, roundtable discussions and analysis on movements in Canada and beyond. The recent seventh issue includes roundtable discussions with Labor activists for Palestine, and another with migrant rights organizers, discussions of sex worker organizing, black power movements in Canada, labor Zionism, Environmental justice movements and more.

<http://uppingtheanti.org/>

Voices of Resistance from Occupied London.

Describing itself as an Occasional Anarchist Journal of Theory and Action from the Capital of Capital, this online journal includes interviews, manifestos, and anarchist and Foucauldian analysis from writers like Zygmunt Bauman. There are pieces like Food Not Bombs! An illustrated story, as well as reflections on the current state of various projects, movements and locations.

<http://occupiedlondon.org/intro>

Recent Publications

Arthur, Mikaila Mariel Lemonik. 2008. "Social Movements in Organizations." *Sociology Compass* 2(3): 1014-30.

Bagguley, Paul and Yasmin Hussain. 2008. *Riotous Citizens: Ethnic Conflict in Multicultural Britain*. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate.

Bob, Cliff. 2008. *The International Struggle for Human Rights*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. [Human Rights series].

Coy, Patrick G., ed. 2008. *Research in Social Movements, Conflict, and Change*, Volume 28. [Sections include "Coalition Dynamics in Social Movements," "Strategic Alliances and Decision Making in Social Movements," and "Political Opportunities and Political Inequalities"].

Coy, Patrick G., Lynne M. Woehrle, and Gregory M. Maney. 2008. "Discursive Legacies: The U.S. Peace Movement and 'Support the Troops.'" *Social Problems*, 55(2): 161-89.

Coy, Patrick G., Lynne M. Woehrle, and Gregory M. Maney. 2008. "A Typology of Oppositional Knowledge: Democracy and the U.S. Peace Movement." *Sociological Research Online* 13(4).

<http://www.socresonline.org.uk/13/4/3.html>

Coy, Patrick G., Gregory M. Maney and Lynne M. Woehrle. 2008. "Blessing War and Blessing Peace: Religious Discourses in the U.S. During Major Conflict Periods, 1990-2005," pp. 13-50 in *Pushing the Boundaries: New Frontiers in Conflict Resolution and Collaboration*, Volume 29 of *Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change*, Rosemary O'Leary, Catherine Gerrard, and Rachel Fleishman, eds, Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing.

Fetner, Tina. 2008. *How the Religious Right Shaped Lesbian and Gay Activism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. [Volume 31 of the "Social Movements, Protest, and Contention" series].

Fukase-Indergaard, Fumiko. 2008. "Religious Nationalism and the Making of the Modern Japanese State." *Theory and Society* 37 (4): 343-74.

Ghaziani, Amin. 2008. *The Dividends of Dissent: How Conflict and Culture Work in Lesbian and Gay Marches on Washington*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Gillham, Patrick F. 2008. "Participation in the Environmental Movement: Analysis of the European Community." *International Sociology* 23 (1): 67-93.

Gillham, Patrick F. and John Noakes. 2007. "More Than a March in a Circle: Transgressive Protests and the Limits of Negotiated Management." *Mobilization* 12(4): 341-357.

Hart, Randle J. 2008. "Practicing Birchism in Unsettled Times: The Assumption and Limits of Idiocultural Coherence in Framing Theory." *Social Movement Studies* 7(2): 121-47.

Jacques, Peter J., Riley E. Dunlap, and Mark Freeman. 2008. "The Organization of Denial: Conservative Think Tanks and Environmental Skepticism." *Environmental Politics* 17: 349-85.

Krinsky, John. 2008. *Free Labor: Workfare and the Contested Language of Neoliberalism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Krinsky, John, ed. 2007. Special Issue: "Constructing Workers." *Qualitative Sociology* 30(4).

McCright, Aaron M., and Riley E. Dunlap. 2008. "The Nature and Social Bases of Progressive Social Movement Ideology: Examining Public Opinion Toward Social Movements." *The Sociological Quarterly* 49(4): 827-50.

Moghadam, Valentine M. 2008. *Globalization & Social movements: Islamism, Feminism, and the Global Justice Movement*. Lanham, MD: Roman and Littlefield.

Nepstad, Sharon Erickson. 2008. *Religion and War Resistance in the Plowshares Movement*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Reger, Jo, Daniel J. Myers, and Rachel L. Einwohner, eds. 2008. *Identity Work in Social Movements*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. [Contributors include Mary Bernstein, Kim Dugan, Betsy Kaminski, Susan Munkres, Kevin Neuhouser, Benita Roth, Silke Roth, Todd Schroer, Verta Taylor, and Jane Ward].

Simi, Pete and Robert Futrell. 2009. "Negotiating White Power Activist Stigma." *Social Problems* 56:1.

Van Delinder, Jean. 2007. *Struggles Before Brown: Early Civil Rights Protests and Their Significance Today*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers.

Walker, Edward T., Andrew W. Martin and John D. McCarthy. 2008. "Confronting the State, the Corporation, and the Academy: The Influence of Institutional Targets on Social Movement Repertoires." *American Journal of Sociology* 114(1): 35-76.

Walker, Edward T. 2008. "Contingent Pathways from Joiner to Activist: The Indirect Effect of Participation in Voluntary Associations on Civic Engagement." *Sociological Forum* 23(1): 116-43.

Walker, Edward T. 2009. "Privatizing Participation: Civic Change and the Organizational Dynamics of Grassroots Lobbying Firms." *American Sociological Review* 74(1).

Research Spotlight: Activist Lawyering for Terrorism Suspects

Devyani Prabhat
New York University

Studies in social movement literature identify how lawyers de-radicalize activism (McCann and Silverstein 1998; Handler 1978, Milner 1986; Rosenberg 1991). Being overly dependent on the implementation of court orders, lawyers tend to slow down the momentum of movements. Literature on framing and the recent writings on cause lawyering, however, point towards the positive contributions lawyers make to movements (Felstiner, Abel and Sarat 1980-81; Lynn Jones 2006). But there are times when lawyers not only participate in a movement but also nurture and sustain it as its chief protagonists.

An example of such activism is lawyering on behalf of Guantanamo detainees and other terrorism suspects where lawyers have closely collaborated with various social movement organizations. After 9/11/2001 lawyers have been on the frontline by filing habeas petitions for detainees, exerting the right to counsel and other procedural safeguards, challenging the military tribunals in Guantanamo on grounds of rule of law considerations, and agitating against torture of suspects and detainees while demanding respect for their basic human rights and dignity. Success has come to these lawyers with recent victories in the Guantanamo detention challenge cases (e.g., the Boumediene Case, the Uighur case). These high profile cases and actions have however involved extra-ordinary challenges, personal costs and sacrifices including fear for the personal safety of lawyers. Lawyers at New York City's Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) received scores of death threats and hate mail because of their representation of Guantanamo detainees.

The reasons for such extreme reactions are many. The very nature of criminal defense work is one. Although technically a person is considered innocent until adjudged guilty, most people seem to presume

any accused or suspect is guilty from the very beginning. Representing such a person is considered morally repugnant. A criminal defense lawyer becomes the voice of the client to the outside world especially if the client is in detention or in jail. S/he is automatically considered guilty by association.

Terrorism, particularly, is an offence that arouses strong emotions. Patriotism, distrust, unease and disgust as well as racism and xenophobia are amongst the range of emotions terrorism charges evoke. Since terrorism threatens the very existence (physical or political) of the state, it evokes deep hatred and fear. The lawyer is the easy target of these reactions. We must not forget Patrick Finucane and Rosemary Nelson, who were prominent lawyers in Northern Ireland, both killed because of their defense work on behalf of ‘terrorists’ (Boyle, Hadden, Hillyard 1975).

To dispel doubts about their personal convictions, some lawyers emphasize the neutrality concept. In Northern Ireland, for example, barristers would point out the ‘hired gun’ rule; a “hired gun” acts (fires) for anyone who pays the money. Whereas the nature of advocacy on behalf of clients by lawyers entails partisan presentation of cases, the selection of which client to represent is independent of personal beliefs. Lawyers would accept a case for anybody who first hires them. The hope is this rule would allow a lawyer to do her/his job without fear of repercussion. Some criminal lawyers however clearly identify themselves as ‘cause lawyers’. They emphasize that they would be selective of whom they represent (for example, in the context of criminal defense, perhaps never represent white collar criminals if they generally represent indigent clients) (Etienne 2005). As the volumes on cause lawyering edited by Sarat and Scheingold point out, these lawyers connect law and morality in their work (1998, 2001, 2005, 2006).

Facing greater ire is a potential consequence of self-identification as cause lawyers. A politically active progressive lawyer who represents a terrorism suspect and proclaims herself a cause lawyer could be mistakenly presumed to share the ‘cause’ of her client. The risks to such a lawyer’s personal safety are much greater. Faced with such a dilemma, some cause lawyers clarify that their cause is different.

They are committed to preserving vital rule of law requirements such as a fair adversarial system for everyone. They consider zealous representations of their clients, no matter how unpopular these clients, their duty. Legal ethical canons require such zealous representation. But this is not the activist lawyering of the 1960s when very often lawyers were in complete agreement with the radical views and visions of their clients.

Distancing themselves from the substantive ideas of the accused in these cases is not always enough. Because most of these cases have been brought about after changing several criminal law provisions (such as by the USA Patriot Act) or by creating exceptional legal scenarios (e.g. Guantanamo as a legal blackhole: where the state claims no constitutional rights or safeguards are applicable) defense lawyers usually have to challenge the very rules of the game before taking up any substantive grounds for arguments (Abel, 2007). Added to this are challenges created because of confidentiality requirements put forth on grounds of security concerns. The defense is often not entitled to view the entire evidence available to the prosecution. The shroud of secrecy over the proceedings makes it impossible for the public to know the facts. All these leaves it upon the lawyer to first question every procedural rule, every action taken by the state, and every restriction of liberty of their clients. They may have to present their client not as a foreign, exotic ‘enemy’ but as a friendless, mistreated (or tortured) human being. In these cases not many options are available. Unpopular clients such as these do not galvanize many people into movement like action on their behalf. Working under these constraints, lawyers find themselves the key actors in a human rights movement.

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Calls for Papers/Submissions

Call for Papers: Spring 2009 Critical Mass

The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2009 *Critical Mass* is April 15, 2009. We are interested in announcements of publications, dissertations completed, positions available, calls for papers, and other news, as well as submissions that could fit into one of the following categories:

- Reviews of recent or classic books relevant to CBSM (please contact cbasmnews@gmail.com well in advance of the submission deadline if you would like to be forwarded a review copy of a recent book).
- Discussions of teaching CBSM-related courses or topics, including profiles of classroom activities and reviews of teaching resources or course texts aimed at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.
- Profiles of activists and organizations.
- Review articles about recent trends in CBSM scholarship.
- Interviews with noteworthy CBSM scholars.

Please send queries or contributions to cbasmnews@gmail.com. All contributions must be received by April 15th, 2009; early submissions are welcome.

Anarchism, Labor Unions, and Working People

The social and political philosophy of anarchism has had a long history with labor movements and unions since the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution. This relationship has continued and persisted throughout the 20th Century—in one form or another—to today. *Working USA: The Journal of Labor and Society* is soliciting submissions for a special issue on anarchism, labor unions, and working people. Submissions may be contemporary or historical in nature, may be case studies or more theoretical pieces, and may range over any geographical space (including any international cultural, country, or regional focus).

Possible topics for submission may include:

- *Anarchist organizing with unions
- *Working class anarchism
- *Post-left anarchism
- *Revolutionary syndicalism / Anarcho-syndicalism
- *Anarchism's relationship towards both the economy and the environment
- *Anarchism and work

Proposals are welcome and are due by December 1, 2008. Manuscript submissions are due February 1, 2009. Essays should be within the range of 4,000 to 7,000 words in length, although editors will consider shorter or longer manuscripts on a case by case basis. Articles may also be published in a forthcoming edited volume. Please send all proposals and manuscript submissions electronically to special issue editors: Immanuel Ness (iness@brooklyn.cuny.edu) and Dana Williams (dw2@uakron.edu).

Working USA: The Journal of Labor and Society is a cross-disciplinary, quarterly, peer-reviewed journal that examines labor and working class issues throughout the world, and is published by Wiley-Blackwell Publishing. Website:

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=1089-7011>

Comparative Sociology

Comparative Sociology (www.brill.nl/coso) is a quarterly international scholarly journal published by Brill of Leiden, Netherlands dedicated to advancing

comparative sociological analyses of societies and cultures, institutions and organizations, groups and collectivities, networks and interactions. In addition, book-length manuscripts may also be submitted to the related book series, *International Studies in Sociology and Social Anthropology* (www.brill.nl/issa). Two issues of the journal each year are devoted to “special topics,” and six topics currently open for submissions (through July 2009) are:

- Democratic Quality and Social Democracy
- Constitutional Courts Cross-Nationally
- Institutional Design
- Bourdieu on Professions
- Public Realm Ascent v. Field Autonomy Ascent
- Enlightened Localism (edited by Benjamin Gregg)

Consult the Website for descriptions of each.

Editor-in-Chief is David Sciulli, Professor of Sociology, Texas A&M University, and Columbia University Ph.D. in Political Science (compsoc@tamu.edu). Submissions are welcome not only from sociologists but also political scientists, legal scholars, economists, anthropologists and others. Indeed, the journal and book series are particularly keen to receive works of comparative political sociology and comparative legal sociology. All submissions are peer-reviewed and (initial) decisions are typically made within less than three months.

Global Studies Association

The Global Studies Association-North America invites all scholars, activists interested in social movements to participate in the next meeting to be held at Florida Atlantic University next May. See www.net4dem.org/mayglobal for more information.

Further, if anyone wants to attend the next World Social Forum, we have a delegation going to Belem, we will have a panel on scholarship and activism. For information contact Lauren Langman (Llang944@aol.com).

Research in Social Movements, Conflict, and Change

Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change, an annual peer-reviewed volume published by Emerald Group Publishing/JAI Press, encourages submissions for Volume 30 of the series. This volume will be non-thematic: submissions appropriate to any of the three broad foci reflected in the series title will be considered.

Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change (RSMCC) is a fully peer-reviewed series of original research that has been published annually for over 30 years. We continue to publish the work of many of the leading scholars in social movements, social change, and peace and conflict studies. Although RSMCC enjoys a wide library subscription base for the book versions, all volumes are now published both in book form and are also available online through subscribing libraries. This ensures wider distribution and easier access to your scholarship while maintaining the book series at the same time.

To be considered for inclusion in Volume 30, papers must arrive by February 1, 2009. Earlier submissions are especially welcomed. Send submissions as a WORD document attached to an email to Patrick Coy, RSMCC editor, at pcoy@kent.edu. Remove all self-references (in text and in bibliography) save for on the title page, which should include full contact information for all authors. Include the paper's title and the abstract on the first page of the text itself. For initial submissions, any standard social science in-text citation and bibliographic system is acceptable.

Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research (INGRoup): Using Research to Advance the Understanding of Group Behavior, Dynamics, and Outcomes

Call for Papers
Fourth Annual Conference
July 16-18, 2009
Crowne Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Submission Deadline: Friday, January 23, 2009 (10 p.m. EST)

Scholars who study groups and teams are scattered across many disciplines, such as communication, education, history, information systems, nursing, organizational behavior, philosophy, psychology, political science, public health, and sociology. The Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research (INGRoup) was created to provide a place for scholars to:

1. Promote communication about group research across fields and nations;
2. Advance understanding about group dynamics through research;
3. Advance theory and methods for understanding groups; and
4. Promote interdisciplinary research.

An on-line system will be made available from December 1, 2008 to January 23, 2009 to facilitate submission of: papers (extended abstracts and completed papers) and symposia. Full submission details and additional information can be found at www.ingroup.info.

Call for Nominations for CBSM Section Office

The CBSM Nominations Committee asks that you consider nominating yourself or willing CBSM members as possible candidates for the following CBSM offices:

- Chair Elect
- 2 Council members
- 1 Nominations Committee member
- 1 Workshop Committee member
- 1 Publications Committee member

Please feel free to make nominations for any or all of these offices. Send your nominations (including self-nominations) to Jo Reger (reger@oakland.edu) by **November 14, 2008**.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: John D. McCarty Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Scholarship of Social Movements and Collective Behavior

The Center for the Study of Social Movements and Social Change at the University of Notre Dame invites nominations for the second annual John D. McCarthy Award for Lifetime Achievement in the

Scholarship of Social Movements and Collective Behavior.

The award honors scholars who have made “outstanding contributions to the scholarly literature concerned with social movements, protest, collective violence, riots, and other kind of collective behavior over the course of his or her career. The recipient will be a person who has made major contributions not only through his or her own research, but also through teaching and mentoring other, more junior, scholars as they have developed their own research and scholarly identities.”

The award is named for John D. McCarthy, professor of sociology at the Pennsylvania State University and the inaugural award was presented to Dr. McCarthy at a ceremony last May at the University of Notre Dame.

The award recipient will be selected in the fall of 2008, and will receive the award in the spring of 2009. In addition to the award, the selected recipient will deliver a public lecture at Notre Dame and have the opportunity to consult with faculty and graduate students about their ongoing research projects.

Please send the names of nominees, along with a brief paragraph supporting the nomination, no later than November 30, 2008 to: Jackie Smith, Associate Professor of Sociology and Peace Studies and Director of the Center for the Study of Social Movements and Social Change at the University of Notre Dame (jsmith40@nd.edu).

2009 ASA Section Activities

The section day for CBSM will be Saturday, August 8th, with two sections scheduled for Sunday, August 9th. The Call for Papers for the ASA meetings is currently available online; submissions will be accepted beginning December 1st and must be submitted by 3:00 pm EST on January 14.

Section Sessions for the 2009 ASA meetings in San Francisco are as follows:

1. Changing Structures: Diachronic Perspectives to Movement Coalitions and Campaigns

Organizers: Mario Diani, University of Trento, and Doug McAdam, Stanford University

2. Contentious Politics, Political Opportunities, and Framing Processes in Repressive Settings

Organizers: Eitan Y. Almi, The Hebrew University, and Paul Almeida, Texas A&M University

3. Social Movements, Culture, and Art

Organizers: Jo Reger, Oakland University, and Judith Taylor, University of Toronto

4. Roundtable Session

Organizer: Rachel L. Einwohner, Purdue University

Other sessions with themes related to collective behavior and social movements that are not directly sponsored by the Section

include:

Collective Behavior, organized by Clark McPhail, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Social Movements, organized by David S. Meyer, University of California Irvine

Labor/Labor Movements, organized by Rachel Sherman, New School of Social Research

The Workers United? Bridging Ethnic, Gender, and Racial Divides in the Labor Movement, organized by Angie K. Beeman, University of Connecticut, and Héctor L. Delgado, University of La Verne

The online submission system for ASA 2009 opens on December 1, 2008. To access the submission system or to view the call for papers, visit <http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/meetings/2009> call for papers



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John McCarthy, Pennsylvania State University

In our recent conference, I don't think there was a single paper that didn't reference a piece published in *Mobilization*. At this point, the field of contentious politics-social movement studies is inconceivable without *Mobilization*. That's no small accomplishment in just over a decade.

Kevin O'Brien, University of California Berkeley

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