Methodological Practices in Social Movement Research
Donatella della Porta

Spring term workshop (20 credits)

April 15-18 2013
Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana

To register please contact Adele Battistini (Adele.Battistini@eui.eu)

The encounters will be based on draft chapters of a Cosmos book on methodological practices in social movement research. The volume aims at introducing main methods of data collection and data analysis as they have been used in research on social movements. The specificity of the course is in its emphasis on the how-to-do-it (rather than, e.g., on review of existing research using specific methods). Each author is in fact invited to write on a method s/he is very familiar with, having used its extensively in his/her own work. Each chapter presents specific discussions on each steps of research using a certain method: from research design to data collection and the use of the information. In this, dilemmas and choices are presented, and illustrated (mainly with materials from the author’s own research).

Each session will be introduced by each chapter’s contributor and discussed by one or more researchers. All researchers who attend the workshop will be asked to read and comment the chapters (that will be distributed by the end of March) focusing on the potential use of each specific method for his/her research. They will be asked to write short positional papers, to be discussed during the sessions.

Syllabus

Day 1: April 15, 2013

Session 1: 9:30-10:00
Approaches and methodologies: A pluralist perspective, by Donatella della Porta, EUI

Session 2: 10:00-12:30
Field work, by Stefan Malthaner (Cosmos, EUI)
Participant observation, by Philip Balsinger (Cosmos, EUI) and Alexandre Lambelet (Sciences Po, Paris)

Session 3: 14:00-15:30pm
Comparative-historical research, by Daniel Ritter (Cosmos and University of Stockholm)

Day 2: April 16, 2013

Session 4: 10:00-13:00
In-depth interviews, by Donatella della Porta (Cosmos, EUI)
Life histories, by Donatella della Porta (Cosmos-EUI)
Focus groups, by Donatella della Porta (Cosmos-EUI)

Session 5: 14:00-16:30
Archival research, by Lorenzo Bosi and Herbert Reiter (Cosmos-EUI)
Frame analysis, discourse analysis and the like, by Lasse Lindekiilde (Cosmos and Aarhus University)

Day 3: April 17, 2013

Session 6: 10-12:30
Surveys, by Massimiliano Andretta (Cosmos and Università di Pisa)
Protest events analysis, by Swen Hutter (Cosmos and EUI)

Session 7: 14-16:30
On-line research, by Lorenzo Mosca (Cosmos and Università Roma 3)
Working with images, by Nicole Dorr (Cosmos and Mount Holyoke College)
Day 4 April 18.

Session 8: 10-12:30

_Grounded Theory_, by Alice Mattoni (Cosmos, EUI)

_Qualitative Comparative Analysis_, by Claudius Wagemann (Cosmos and Frankfurt Universitaet)

Session 9: 14:00-16:30

_Network analysis_, by Manuela Caiani (Cosmos and Universidad Carlo III, Madrid)

_Ethical issues_, by Stefania Milan (Cosmos and University of Toronto)

Methodological practices in social movement research

Edited by Donatella della Porta


Social movement studies have grown enormously in the last few decades, spreading from sociology and political science to other fields of knowledge, as varied as geography, history, anthropology, psychology, economics, law and others. With the growing interest in the field, there has been also an increasing need for methodological guidance for empirical research. This volume aims at addressing this need by introducing main methods of data collection and data analysis as they have been used in past research on social movements.

The specificity of the volume vis-a-vis other existing ones is the emphasis on the how-to-do-it (rather than, e.g., on review of existing research using specific methods). Each author has been in fact invited to write on a method s/he is very familiar with, having used it extensively in his/her own work. And each chapter presents specific discussions on each steps of research using a certain method: from research design to data collection and the use of the information. In this, dilemmas and choices are presented, and illustrated (mainly with
materials from the author’s own research). With slight adaptation to the different characteristics of the method, the outline used for each chapter includes:

1. Introduction: definition of the method and short review of its use in social movement studies;
2. Research design: theoretical implications, conceptualization and case selection;
3. Implementing the research (method): main dilemmas in data collections;
4. How to use the data: analysing and presenting the data;
5. Conclusion.

While recognizing that the distinction between research designs, methods of data collection and methods of data analysis is not always neat, the volume will start with chapters that speak more to the general design, followed by those mainly focusing on data collection and then those which include more reflections on data analysis.

In order to improve the didactical quality of the volume, we plan to use the complete volume draft in two teaching enterprises. Authors are all members of the Centre on Social Movement Studies-COSMOS at the European University Institute in Florence which is directed by Donatella della Porta and gathers about 30 PhD students and 12 post-doctoral Fellows in residence, plus about as many former PhD students and post-doctoral fellows. First, the draft chapters will be presented at this community during a seminar organized in April 2013. Second, in September, improved drafts will be then used for teaching an ECPR-Cosmos Summer School at the EUI.

2. Contents

A contents list with a short paragraph describing each chapter.

*Chapter 1. Methodological pluralism in social movement studies (Donatella della Porta, Cosmos and EUI)*

This chapter introduces to main methodological trends in social movement studies. It suggests that some of its main characteristics as a field of knowledge favoured the development of methodological pluralism, with a dialogue between different epistemological approaches and frequent triangulations of methods. The chapter then introduces the structure of the book, defining the main methodological steps in the research design that will be addressed in the presentation of each methods.

*Chapter 2. Comparative-historical research, by Daniel Ritter (Cosmos and University of Stockholm)*
This chapter discusses the use of comparative historical analysis (CHA) in the study of social movements and revolutions. The chapter begins with a brief introduction to the method by discussing its origins, its logic, as well as its compatibility with the objectives of social movement and revolution research. The second part of the chapter provides the reader with a practical guide to “doing comparative historical analysis” by highlighting five main steps in the research process: 1) the formulation of a puzzle, 2) identification of useful data, 3) the “mining” of that data, 4) data analysis, and 5) the writing process. The section also emphasizes the use of modern technology in the research process. Rather than providing a blueprint for comparative historical work, the chapter is meant to inspire others to think creatively about CHA and devise their own research strategies.

Chapter 3. *The potentials of grounded theory in the study of social movements*, by Alice Mattoni (Cosmos, EUI)

Grounded theory is an encompassing research strategy that is widely used in the social sciences, but still disregarded in social movement studies where it received scarce if any attention. The chapter starts from empirical research based on grounded theory to illustrate its potentials for scholars interested in studying grassroots contentious politics. In particular, it shows that two foundational traits of grounded theory - the attention to meanings produced by social actors paired with systematic and comparative coding procedures – render this research strategy suitable for empirical investigations on perceptions, identities, emotions and, more in general, cultural dimensions of social movements. The chapter first briefly presents some general traits of grounded theory, including the use of sensitizing concepts and the features characterizing the constructivist approach to this research strategy. It will then discuss data collection and data analysis in grounded theory, casting light on the peculiar coding procedures that characterize this research strategy. Conclusions summarize the main features of grounded theory to clarify in which cases this research strategy can be fruitfully employed to investigate social movements.

Chapter 4. *Qualitative Comparative Analysis*, by Claudius Wagemann (Cosmos and Frankfurt Universitaet)

This chapter deals with Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) which has been established as an important addition to the methodological repertoire of the social sciences over the last 25 years. The chapter departs from the observation that QCA can be understood both as a research design in the set-theoretic tradition and as a technique which is built on Boolean and
fuzzy algebra. QCA is placed then in the general debate on comparative research designs, discussing in details what is comparative about it; what is analytical; and what is qualitative. It is illustrated how researchers can derive statements on the sufficiency and necessity of conditions, and how QCA also informs about the rather sophisticated causal patterns of INUS and SUIN conditions. This is linked to a discussion about the equifinal, conjunctural and asymmetric character of causality in QCA. The chapter also includes a presentation of the various steps needed in a QCA, namely calibration, the analysis of necessary conditions, the conversion of data matrices into truth tables, the assessment of sufficiency through the parameter of consistency, and the minimization of truth tables. Special attention is paid to the phenomenon of Limited Diversity. Finally, some studies from Social Movement Studies or adjacent fields are introduced, in order to show the applicability of the approach.

Chapter 5. Participant observation, by Philip Balsinger (Cosmos, EUI) and Alexandre Lambelet (Sciences Po, Paris)

A growing number of scholars use participant observation when studying movements. Through active participation, researchers attempt to gain insights into mobilization processes as they take place, and understand activism from within. This chapter aims at presenting this method and offering a practical guide to doing participant observation in social movements. An introductory section asks how participant observation has been used in social movement studies, defines the method and situates it historically. We then guide the reader through the different stages of a typical research using participant observation – “preparation of observation”, “when on the field”, and “analysing observations” – and discuss the main methodological issues that arise, using examples from our own work and from ethnographic studies analysing movements. This leads us to treat issues like multi-sited ethnography, how to get in contact with the field, what roles to play, reflexivity and the interaction with activists, what to observe, how to learn from participating, note taking, or generalization. Overall, the chapter focuses on discussing the numerous methodological choices and problems researchers typically encounter when doing participant research in social movements.

Chapter 6. Field work, by Stefan Malthaner (Cosmos, EUI)

Field work is of fundamental importance for much research on social movements. These chapter will address main choices and dilemma by focusing on most difficult settings for field works. While many settings can be “hostile” environments for social science research, violent
conflicts and authoritarian regimes pose particular challenges for field research. As a result of political polarization and the breakdown of trustful social relationships, high levels of surveillance and control by government agents or non-state armed groups, or because of insecurity and unpredictability in violence-ridden contexts, researchers may face problems in negotiating access, difficult field relations, and threats to the security of their respondents and themselves. In addition to ethical issues, these obstacles raise questions of bias, sampling, and the validity of results obtained. Instead of considering field-research in the context of violent conflict and authoritarian regimes merely in terms of its shortcomings, this chapter seeks to emphasize that access-negotiations constitute an analytical resource, that different settings offer opportunities as well as obstacles and restrictions, and lists some practical recommendations for applying methods and dealings with moral dilemmas and matters of security.

Chapter 7. Methods of Historical Approaches in Social Movements Research, by Lorenzo Bosi and Herbert Reiter (Cosmos-EUI)

Historical data have been very often used in social movement research. However, methodological reflections are rare. In this chapter we address the following interrelated research questions concerning historical approaches in social movement research: What kind of specific difficulties are social movement scholars bound to encounter when using historical materials? How do social movement scholars use and interpret such materials? What can social movement scholars learn from specifically historiographical approaches? Answers to these questions can be useful to both students and scholars interested in using data on past protest. We will survey different kinds of data collection and investigation, taking up current debates on archival sources, printed source (including newspapers), oral history, etc.. In the discussion of these issues we will draw on our empirical work on contentious politics in Germany, Italy and Northern Ireland, in particular the history of the First of May since 1890, the civil rights movement, and political violence between the 1960s and 1980s.

Chapter 8. In-depth interviews, by Donatella della Porta (Cosmos, EUI)

We can define the in-depth interview as a technique or procedure used to collect data. By allowing us to gather the reflections of the interviewee, interviews constitute a fundamental tool for generating empirical knowledge through asking people to talk about certain themes. Interviews have and continue to constitute a fundamental research method in the social
Interviews are indeed a particular type of conversation: structured and guided by the researcher with a view to stimulating certain information. Among both qualitative and quantitative methods, interviews are the most widely used technique for gathering information of different types. In social movement studies, the relative scarcity of systematic collections of documents or reliable databases gives in-depth interviews even more importance. Normally, in-depth interviews are to be preferred, especially where the researcher is aiming to make a detailed description attention is paid to the process and interest taken in the interpretations interviewees give of the process itself. Non only in-depth interviews provide information on (and from) the rank-and-file activists, on which little other source is available, but they are of fundamental importance for the study of motives, belief and attitudes as well as identities and emotions of movement activists. The chapter addresses methodological issues in the different steps of a research design based on in-depth interviews, with attention to the specific challenges of research in social movements.

Chapter 9. *Life histories*, by Donatella della Porta (Cosmos, EUI)

Life histories are a particular type of in-depth interview, in which a subject tells his/her history. While self-biographies, memoirs or diaries are written for various purposes, life histories are collected, usually through life-history interviews, for the specific purpose of the research. If life histories are widespread in research on deviance, youth, family, they are less used in political sociology and political science. Also rare has been research based on life histories in social movement studies, even if with valuable exceptions, especially in the analysis of militants of underground organizations. Their use is however very promising especially for those who are interested in the ways in which historical events and individual life are intertwined, as well as in the activists’ construction of external reality. The chapter discusses the different phases of the research, and the main dilemmas in each of them, when using life histories: from theories and concepts, to the research outline, the selection of the interviewees, the relations between interviewer and interviewee during the interview itself, and the analysis of the empirical results.

Chapter 10. *Focus groups*, by Donatella della Porta (Cosmos, EUI)

Focus groups are discussions within a small group, moderated by a researcher, and oriented to obtain information on a specific topic. A moderator facilitates the discussion by presenting the main focus of the research, and then stimulating the debate, trying to involve all the participants and to cover some main topics. Developed by Paul Lazarsfeld in the Bureau of
Applied Research of Columbia University in the 1940s, from the 1950s to the 1990s, focus groups were mainly used in applied research (especially for commercial or electoral purposes). Often triangulated with surveys, focus groups have recently re-emerged in qualitative social sciences, social movement studies being no exception. Differently to in-depth interviews, in focus groups participants do not have to respond individually to a series of question formulated by the researcher, but are instead called on to discuss and confront each other collectively—as a group—on the theme that forms the object of the investigation. These characteristics of focus groups are reflected in some of their prerogatives. Based on a modality of discussion among equals, focus groups allow us to recreate—almost as in an experiment—conditions similar to those considered as belonging to normal paths of opinion formation. The same can be said of attention to interaction, which allows the researcher to observe the transformations of individual opinions, but also their integration into a more collective vision. The chapter discusses the different methodological challenges when using group interviews in social movement studies, starting from theorization and moving then to the preparation of the outline, the selection of participants, the conduction of the interview, and the analysis of the transcriptions.

Chapter 11. Surveying social movements’ activists, by Massimiliano Andretta (Cosmos and Università di Pisa)

About 15 years passed since some scholars argued that a “strange lacuna” in social movements studies was over: activists’ characteristics and motivations began to be empirically investigated instead of being assumed from social movements goals and identities thanks to the use of survey during protest events. Originally thought as a methodological device to capture the degree of overlap between the ideological themes of the movement and the individual beliefs of demonstrators, the survey was since then been used for a larger number of research questions concerning individuals getting involved in collective actions, becoming an established methodology. This chapter aims at summarizing the most relevant contributions that such studies have given to social movement literature. If “theory bashing” was considered a problem to be overcome in this literature, the survey has been an important tool to empirically test different theories by both comparing and combining their relative strength. At the same time, the same methodology applied in social movement studies poses peculiar problems that are normally (or supposedly) absent in other domains (namely population’s surveys). The chapter will summarize the different devices used by scholars to (try to) overcome such problems and underline those problems that
remain to be solved.

Chapter 12. Protest events analysis and its off-springs, by Swen Hutter (Cosmos and EUI)

Protest event analysis (PEA), as a form of quantitative content analysis, has become a key method of social movement research during the last decades. In contrast to most other methods presented in this volume, PEA is a key methodological innovation that emerged within the social movement field and has more recently been adapted and refined to study other research topics. This chapter starts by briefly summarizing four generations of PEA research: the history ranges from the initiators in the 1960s to the latest generation that has shifted from protest events to alternative coding units by either covering a broader set of units (e.g., political claims) or by disentangling single events. While this part highlights the wide range of questions that can be addressed by PEA and its offspring, the main part of the chapter is devoted to the ‘how to do’ questions: moving from data collection to data analysis. Amongst others, it discusses the main questions faced by any scholar who wants to conduct a PEA when it comes to the coding unit, the sampling unit, and the coding process. Overall, the chapter underscores that PEA is (still) a very powerful and flexible tool for social research. However, every scholar needs to make fundamental decisions that are based on both research interests and more pragmatic considerations.

Chapter 13. Social Network Analysis, by Manuela Caiani (Cosmos and Universidad Carlo III, Madrid)

Social network analysis has been considered as particularly interesting for the study of social movements, which are networks whose formal characteristics have been referred to in the development of theories of collective behavior. Indeed, network analysis enables the researcher to emphasize the meso level of social analysis, filling the gap between structure and agency, and connecting the micro and macro dimensions of social movements. This chapter aims at illustrating this method and offering empirical examples on how to apply social network analysis in social movement research. In the introduction it will give an overview of the theoretical background of SNA, discussing the main characteristics, as well as the advantages and challenges of this approach. In the second section, the issues of the research design and conceptualization when adopting SNA will be discussed alongside the differences between social network data and the ‘conventional’ sociological data. In the third section the main dilemmas in the sampling and data collection will be addressed. Finally,
section 4 and 5 will draw on a research on the multi-organizational field of the extreme right to network, to show empirically how to study it at a macro level, discussing the structural properties of the whole network; at a micro level, demonstrating the characteristics and relational resources of single groups or organizations (nodes); and at a meso level focusing on subgroups of nodes and their coalitional dynamics within the network.

Chapter 14. Discourse and Frame Analysis: In-depth Analysis of Qualitative Data in Social Movement Research, by Lasse Lindekilde (Cosmos and Aarhus University)

Formulated initially as a theoretical critique of the dominant resource mobilization perspective, scholars of social movements began in the early 1980s to pay attention to the cognitive mechanisms by which grievances are interpreted, and consensus around the goals of political activism is constructed and mobilized. New and more linguistic, cognitive and discourse sensitive methodological approaches to the study of social movements developed. These approaches to the in-depth study of qualitative data in the area of social movement studies will be the focus of this chapter. More specifically, the chapter will present discourse and frame analyses, as two closely related techniques based on similar ontological and epistemological assumptions, but which can serve different purposes in the tool kit of social movement scholars. The chapter will provide a consecutive comparison of and introduction to the two approaches. Thus, the chapter will offer a road map to the development and implementation of research designs using the two techniques, including discussion of definitions and aims of the methods, conceptualization and theoretical implications, sampling and data collection, and extensive examples of data analysis and data presentation.

Chapter 15. On-line research, by Lorenzo Mosca (Cosmos and Università Roma Tre)

Despite the growing role of new media in mobilizing protest and even changing its logic, the reflection on online methods for studying activism, protest and social movements has been quite limited until now. Although a few recent books address, at least partially, the topic, the most recent handbooks on social movement studies do not take into account the issue of online methods per se. The chapter thus aims to fill this gap in the literature. While social movement studies have not devoted enough attention to online methods, there are plenty of publications in the social sciences that provide useful insights when reflecting on online methods for studying social movements. Some of them focus on specific techniques (i.e. digital ethnography) while others address both quantitative and qualitative online methods. In presenting them, this chapter will cover the following issues: (a) discussing methodological
problems related to archiving online data; (b) outlining an overall picture on online methods for researching social movements; providing a specific focus on (c) online survey and (d) digital ethnography.

Chapter 16. Working with images, by Nicole Doerr (Cosmos and Mount Holyoke College)
Visual analysis has become a field of growing attention attracting a generation of students interested in the visual dimension of protest in the context of globalized societies, internet communication, social media and repeating waves of transnational diffusion. Social movements have always worked with symbols and visual posters or signs. However, most social movement scholars focused on text-based concepts, methods, and materials without considering images as an ‘independent variable’ structuring the dynamics of political conflict and its framing in public discourse. To fill this empirical gap, this chapter presents an interdisciplinary body of methods of visual analysis, to explore the actors and strategies behind visual mobilization, their constraints, cultural resources, and impact of symbolic struggles in broader media arenas and individual participation.

Chapter 17. The ethics of social movement research, by Stefania Milan (Cosmos and University of Toronto)
In 1845, Karl Marx argued that “The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point, however, is to change it.” At the dawn of the 21st century, his verdict is still valid for students of social movements, who face a constant tension between objectivity and subjectivity, detachment and full participation. With the progressive institutionalisation of social movement research, scholars have increasingly (and rightly so) concentrated on theory development, partially at the expense of a fruitful connection with their research subjects. As a result, “movement theorists often speak to themselves (…) the field often produces work that is distant from, and irrelevant to, the very struggle it purports to examine. The consequence is an artificial divide between the practice of social change and the study of such efforts” (Croteau et al. 2005: xii-xiii). This chapter addresses the ethics of studying social movements. It reflects on the costs and benefits of the “artificial divide” Croteau and colleagues spoke about, and addresses the methodological and epistemological consequences of ethical choices in social movement research. It explores the tension between “research about” (social groups, processes, events) and “research with” (i.e., in collaboration with) the subjects under study. It investigates the differences in organizational cultures that might
hinder collaboration, and suggests how to overcome them. It illustrates the potential risks research can expose social movement activists to, and how to avoid harming individuals and groups. Finally, it addresses the ethno-methodologist concern with “take[ing] them [the findings] back to the field” (Adler et al. 1986: 371).


We believe this book can have a broad market in all courses on social movement studies at advanced under-graduate, but also Master and PhD levels. As methods used in research on social movements have also been adopted and adapted in neighborhood fields, we also believe that the volume could be used in courses in political sociology, political participation, comparative politics, civil society, NGOs. Besides academic courses, the book should prove useful for researchers, practitioners, social movement activists that want to engage in empirical research.

Given the transnational quality of the team of authors, we aim to cover the Anglo-American market, but also to go beyond it, by addressing methodological contributions also in French, German, Spanish and Italian.

In doing this, this volume can provide an important complement to other successful Blackwell enterprises on social movement studies: Social Movements: An Introduction, by Donatella della Porta and Mario Diani, the Blackwell Companion on Social Movement Studies, edited by Davis Snow, Hanspeter Kriesi and Sarah Soule, and the Encyclopedia of Political and Social Movements, edited by David Snow, Donatella della Porta, Bert Klandermans and Doug McAdam.

4. Competing titles

There are only two volumes on the market that focus on methodological issues in social movement studies.

if it played an important role at the time, the volume is outdated now. Moreover, coming for a conference, the coverage of methods was selective.

A second, more recent volume is B. Klandermans and S. Staggenborg (eds), *Methods of Social Movement Research*, Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 2002. The volume has played a very useful function in introducing state of the art discussion on the use of various methods in research on social movements. Not only, however, it starts to need updating, but is also did not directly addressed the how-to-do purpose we put at the center of our contribution.

No in-depth discussion of methodological practices is provided in the mentioned Blackwell publications on social movement studies: *Social Movements: An Introduction*, by Donatella della Porta and Mario Diani, and the *Blackwell Companion on Social Movement Studies*, edited by Davis Snow, Hanspeter Kriesi and Sarah Soule, barely address methods. In the *Encyclopedia of Political and Social Movements*, edited by David Snow, Donatella della Porta, Bert Klandermans and Doug McAdam, only short entries cover some of the methods presented here.

5. Other relevant information

- Your timetable: what stage are you at now, and when do you hope to complete the manuscript? I am submitting now the proposal, plus nine draft chapters. We plan to have a first full draft by end of March 2013; a first round of revisions ready by August 2013, and a manuscript ready by January 2014.
- How long is the final manuscript likely to be? (i.e. number of words) about 120 000
- How many line diagrams and photographs will there be? About 12
- Will there be any unusual text features, such as colour or fold-outs? NO

6. About the author(s)/editor(s). Please provide some brief information about yourself and your co-authors, where appropriate, including any details of previous publications.

Editor

*Donatella Della Porta* is professor of sociology in the Department of Political and Social
Sciences at the European University Institute and professor of political science at the Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane (on leave of absence). At the EUI, she has launched COSMOS (Consortium on Social Movement Studies). She is now starting a major ERC project Mobilizing for Democracy, on civil society participation in democratization processes in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. She is co-editor of the European Political Science Reviews (ECPR-Cambridge University Press. In 2011, she was the recipient of the Mattei Dogan Prize for distinguished achievements in the field of political sociology. directed the Demos project, devoted to the analysis of conceptions and practices of democracy in social movements in six European countries. Her main fields of research are social movements, the policing of public order, participatory democracy and political corruption. Among her very recent publications are: Clandestine Political Violence (Cambridge University Press, 2013); Can Democracy be Saved? (Polity, 2013); Encyclopedia of political and social movements (ed. with D. Snow, B. Klanderman and D. McAdam, Blackwell 2013), Mobilizing on the Extreme Right (with M. Caiani and C. Wagemann), Oxford University Press, 2012; Meeting Democracy (ed. With D. Rucht), Cambridge University Press, 2012; The Hidden Order of Corruption (with A. Vannucci), Ashgate 2012; Los movimientos sociales (with M. Diani), Madrid, CIS, 2011; Democrazie, Il Mulino, 2011; L’intervista qualitativa, Laterza 2011; (with M. Caiani), Social Movements and Europeanization, Oxford University Press, 2009; (ed.) Another Europe, Routledge, 2009; (ed.) Democracy in Social Movements, Palgrave, 2009; Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences (with M. Keating), Cambridge University Press; (with Gianni Piazza), Voices from the Valley; Voices from the Streat Berghan, 2008; The Global Justice Movement, Paradigm, 2007; (with M. Andretta, L. Mosca and H. Reiter), Globalization from Below, The University of Minnesota Press; (with A. Peterson and H. Reiter), The policing transnational protest, Ashgate 2006; (with M. Diani), Social Movements: an introduction, 2nd edition, Blackwell, 2006; (with S. Tarrow), Transnational Protest and Global Activism, Rowman and Littlefield, 2005.

Contributors

Massimiliano Andretta is assistant professor at the University of Pisa, where he teaches Political Science, Comparative Politics, Political Communication, Political Participation and Social Movements and International Relations. He has participated in several national and international research projects. Among his publications are "Power and arguments in global justice movement settings", in D. della Porta and D. Rucht (eds.), Meeting Democracy. Power and Deliberation in Global Justice Movements (Cambridge University Press); with

Lorenzo Bosi is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Social Movement Studies (COSMOS) at the European University Institute. He received his Ph.D. in politics from Queen’s University, Belfast, in 2005 and is the past recipient of the ECRC (University of Kent), Jean Monnet and Marie Curie (EUI) post-doctorate fellowships. His research interests include social movements and political violence. He has published in several journals, including Mobilization, Qualitative Sociology, Research in Social Movement, Conflict and Change, Historical Sociology, The Sixties, Social Science History, and Critique International. He is co-editor of Dynamics of Radicalization (Ashgate, forthcoming) with Stefan Malthaner and Chares Demetriou; and co-author of Relational Dynamics and Processes of Radicalization (Oxford University Press) with Eitan Alimi and Chares Demetriou.

Manuela Caiani is Assistant Professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) of Vienna (on leave) and Marie Curie fellow at the University Rey Juan Carlos of Madrid on a project on ‘Disengagement from Terrorism’. She received her PhD in Political Sciences from the University of Florence in 2006 with a dissertation on the Europeanization of the Public Discourse in Italy. She has worked on several comparative projects on collective action and Europeanization and on right wing extremism. Her main research interests concern social movements and collective action, right wing extremism in Europe and the USA, Europeanization and the public sphere, political participation and the Internet. Among her publications: L’Europeizzazione degli attori domestici: policy networks, mobilitazione e frames sull’Europa, Bonanno Editore, Roma, 2011, Mobilizing on the Extreme Right, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2012 (with Donatella della Porta and Claudius Wagemann), and The Dark Side of the Web: Extreme Right Organizations and the Internet, Ashgate, forthcoming 2013.

Nicole Doerr teaches transnational social movements and organizations as Assistant
Professor of International Relations at Mount Holyoke College. After having completed her dissertation with Donatella della Porta at the EUI, she did research at the University of California Irvine, at Harvard Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, and at Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin. She was also a Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at the Free University of Berlin. In her book project *Democracy in Translation*, she explores how global justice activists, local community organizers, unionists, and immigrant rights’ groups work together across boundaries of language, race, class, and gender. In most political theories, indeed, linguistic difference and cultural boundaries are treated as obstacles to democracy. Doerr shows to the contrary how linguistic difference and misunderstandings become a starting point for a democratic politics of translation that fosters more inclusive and effective decision making and strengthens survival of heterogeneous groups. Based on an empirical comparison of multilingual and monolingual deliberation in the United States, in South Africa, and across Europe, Doerr’s work accounts for the impact of political translation, and identifies the conditions of its success or failure in transnational, national and local arenas. Doerr’s work has been published in Mobilization (2008), Globalizations (2011), Feminist Review (2007), Social Movement Studies (2009), Journal of International Women’s Studies (2007), European Foreign Affairs Review (2007), Partecipazione e Conflitto (2010), Berliner Debatte Initial (2005), and European Political Science Review (2012). She is co-chairing the European Sociological Association Research Network on Social Movements.

**Swen Hutter** is Max Weber Research Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence, as well as a researcher and reader in Comparative Politics, University of Munich. He studied political science at the Universities of Zurich and Växjö (Sweden) and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Munich (2011). His dissertation involves a comparative study of protest politics in six West European countries and won the best dissertation price of the Munich University Society. So far, his work has appeared in the Austrian Journal of Political Science, the Swiss Political Science Review and West European Politics. Furthermore, Swen Hutter co-authored a book with Hanspeter Kriesi et al. on *Political Conflict in Western Europe* (Cambridge University Press) and his revised dissertation entitled *New Cleavages and Protest Politics in Western Europe* is forthcoming with University of Minnesota Press.

**Alexandre Lambelet** is currently Visiting Scholar at the Centre d’études européennes of Sciences Po Paris with a fellowship for advanced researchers from the Swiss National Science Foundation. He holds a PhD from the University of Lausanne and Paris 1 and has
been a post-doc at the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy of the Florida State University. His main topics of research are social movements and interest groups and he has worked on old age interest groups, and now on philanthropic organizations. Using ethnography in his own research, he has organized several workshops on this method and is co-editor of the online review ethnographiques.org.


Stefan Malthaner is currently a Marie Curie Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence. He studied political science, sociology, and international law at the universities of Augsburg and Bonn, and received a PhD in sociology from the University of Augsburg. He was a member of the Research-Group Micropolitics of Armed Groups at Humboldt University, Berlin, Fellow of the ZiF Research Group “Control of Violence”, worked as researcher at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence (IKG) at the University of Bielefeld, and was a Max Weber Fellow at the EUI. His research focuses on political violence and militant movements from a comparative perspective. This includes
insurgent violence, terrorism, and civil war, but also state violence and mechanisms of control. He is particularly interested in the role of relationships and interaction-patterns in processes of radicalization and violent conflict, with a special emphasis on the relationship between militant groups and their constituencies. Past research projects included a comparative analysis of the militant Islamist movements al-Jamaa al-Islamiyya and al-Jihad (Egypt), and Hizbullah (Lebanon), and a study on the “Sauerland Cell” and the Salafist movement in Germany. Main publications: Mobilizing the Faithful - The Relationship between Militant Islamist Groups and their Constituencies (Frankfurt/New York: Campus 2011); Control of Violence (Ed.), with Wilhelm Heitmeyer, Heinz-Gerhard Haupt, and Andrea Kirschner (New York: Springer 2011); Radikale Milieus - Das soziale Umfeld terroristischer Gruppen (Ed.), with Peter Waldmann (Frankfurt: Campus 2012).

Alice Mattoni is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Social Movement Studies (COSMOS) at the European University Institute. Before joining COSMOS, she has been a Postdoctoral Associate Fellow in the Department of Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh. She obtained her Master of Research and PhD in Political and Social Sciences at the European University Institute. She is co-convener of the standing group Participation and Mobilization of the European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) and co-editor of Interface. A Journal for and about Social Movements. Amongst her recent publications are Advances in the Visual Analysis of Social Movements (Emerald 2013) co-edited with Nicole Doerr and Simon Teune; Mediation and Protest Movements (Intellect 2013) co-edited with Bart Cammaerts and Patrick McCurdy; Media Practices and Protest Politics. How Precarious Workers Mobilise (Ashgate, 2012).

Stefania Milan is Assistant Professor at the Department of Communication and Information Sciences at Tilburg University, the Netherlands. She is also a member of The Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto, and an associate at the Center for Media and Communication Studies, Central European University. She is curious about social movements, emancipatory communication practices, the interplay between technologies and society, the politics of code, and digital research methods. Stefania received her PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the European University Institute in 2009. She is the author of Wiring Social Movements (Palgrave, 2013), and co-author of Media/Society (Sage, 2011), and of a number of peer-reviewed articles. She regularly consults with NGOs and public administrations, including the Italian Ministry of Education, University, and Research. She is also a journalist and
member of the UK National Union of Journalists.

**Lorenzo Mosca** is Cosmos Research Fellow and Assistant Professor at the University of Roma Tre. During the past years he has been involved in several national and European research projects such as “Europub.Com - The Transformation of Political Mobilisation and Communication in European Public Spheres” (FP5), “Demos - Democracy in Europe and the Mobilization of Society” (FP6), “Younex - Youth, unemployment, and exclusion in Europe” (FP7). His research interests are mostly focused on political communication, online politics, political participation and social movements. He has been among the promoters of the ECPR Standing group on Forms of Participation (nowadays Participation and Mobilization). During the past years, he has coordinated the sections on “Participation and Social Movements” and on “Political Communication” of the Italian Political Science Association and has been among the founding members of the Italian Journal Partecipazione e Conflitto. Since 2009 he coordinates the research group on “Politica Online e Nuovi Media” based at the Istituto Carlo Cattaneo of Bologna, focusing most of its activities on online electoral campaigns in Italy. Recent research includes “Subterranean politics” in Italy; diffusion processes within anti-austerity movements in Italy; the online dimension of local Italian elections between 2010 and 2012; the five-star movement.


**Daniel Ritter** received his PhD in sociology from the University of Texas at Austin in May 2010 after completing his dissertation, “Why the Iranian Revolution was Nonviolent: Internationalized Social Change and the Iron Cage of Liberalism,” under the guidance of Mounira Charrad and Lester Kurtz. He spent the 2010/11 and 2011/12 academic years at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, first as a Max Weber Fellow and then as a research fellow on Professor della Porta’s “Mobilizing for Democracy” project. Since August
2012 he is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Sociology at Stockholm University. His main research interests are in nonviolent revolutions and social movements, political sociology, and comparative historical methods. He is currently writing a book on nonviolent revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa titled States and Nonviolent Revolutions (forthcoming, Oxford University Press).

Claudius Wagemann is full professor for qualitative social science methods at the Goethe University, Frankfurt. Before, he had been working at the Istituto italiano di scienze umane (SUM) in Florence, at the European University Institute and at the study abroad program of New York University. Among others, he has published a textbook on QCA and set-theoretic methods (with Carsten Q. Schneider; Cambridge University Press), and books about the radicalization of the extreme right (with Manuela Caiani and Donatella della Porta; Oxford University Press) and on Private Interest Governance (Routledge), next to other books in German, several peer reviewed articles and book chapters on social science methodology, interest groups, political parties and extremism.