This seminar aims at presenting theories of and methods for the analysis of political participation, collective action, social movements, associations and the like. The first part of the seminar is devoted to the analysis of the main approaches to social movement and their contribution to the analysis of different forms of political participation and associative life. In the second part to methods for empirical research in the field. Each of the four sessions of the second part will focus on a research project in which a specific combination of methods were used in order to discuss characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of each methodologies the reading list includes for each session articles that present the chosen methods as well as reports from research using combination of those methods. “Raw” empirical materials (transcripts of life histories, focus groups, judicial documents, questionnaires, etc.) will be also presented during the sessions.

Participants are expected to give short presentations, when possible linking the methodological discussion with their own research projects.

**Session 1. Forms of participation: An introduction**  
(January 6, 2004)


**Session 2. Conflicts, new conflicts and political participation: between grievances and cleavages**  
(January 13, 2004)


Additional reading:

Session 3. Framing conflicts; building identities
(January 20, 2004)

Additional reading:

Session 4. Resource mobilization and the organization of political participation
(January 27, 2004)
Diani, Mario, 2004, Cities in the World: Local Civil Society and Transnational Issues in Britain, in Donatella della Porta and Sidney Tarrow (eds), Transnational Activism between the Local and the Global, Rowman and Littlefield, forthcoming.

Additional reading:

Session 5. Repertoires of political participation
(February 3, 2004)
della Porta, Donatella, 2001, Social Movements and New Challenges to Representative Democracies, in „Politique Europeéenne“, n. 4, pp. 73-103.

Additional reading:
Session 6. Shifting opportunities
(February 10, 2004)


*Additional reading:*

Session 7. The use of life histories in comparative analysis of political violence
(February 17, 2004)


*Additional reading:*

Session 8. Combining semi-structured interviews with participant observation in research on the policing of protest
(February 24, 2004)


*Additional readings:*
Donatella della Porta and Herbert Reiter (eds), *Policing Protest*, Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1998,
Session 9. Combining focus groups and survey data in research on “global activists”  
(March 9, 2004)


Donatella della Porta, 2004, *Antipolitics or Other Politics? Transnational Activists between the Global and Local Fora*, in Donatella della Porta and Sidney Tarrow (eds), Transnational Activism between the Local and the Global, Rowman and Littlefield, forthcoming

*Additional reading:*


Session 10. Combining protest events and organizational data in the study of protest cycles
(March 16, 2004)


*Additional reading:*

Rucht, Dieter (Hg.), *Protest in der Bundesrepublik*, Frankfurt, Campus verlag, 2001.