



Protest Media Ecologies Communicative Affordances for Social Change in the Digital Era

Scuola Normale Superiore, Istituto di Scienze Umane e Sociali, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy
20-21 April 2017

Conveners: Sandra Jeppesen, Lakehead University; Alice Mattoni, Scuola Normale Superiore; Emiliano Treré, Scuola Normale Superiore

Workshop description and objectives

This two-day workshop is organized in the framework of the research project *Protest Media Ecologies: Communicative Affordances for Social Change in the Digital Era* at Lakehead University (Canada) and Scuola Normale Superiore (Italy), funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Development Grant. Our investigation focused on activists media practices in the framework of anti-austerity movements in three Southern European countries - Greece, Italy and Spain.

With this workshop we aim at sharing the knowledge produced through our research with other scholars that focus on topics related to the use of media in the context of mobilizations. We want to engage with the research of people working in the same field, to learn about your projects and findings, and together create research synergies that will deepen our understanding and theoretical considerations of protest media ecologies in Europe and beyond.

In our project, we have gathered and analyzed about 60 interviews with activists, journalists and other social movement media practitioners in the three countries. In particular, the workshop revolves around five main themes that emerged as relevant from our analysis: (1) social movement cultures and activist media practices; (2) technologies of resistance in the algorithmic society; (3) social media platforms and the organization of protest (4) smartphones and other mobile devices in protest settings; (5) alternative journalism, citizen media and protest practices.

The workshop is also part of and supported by the research project *PiCME - Political Participation in Complex Media Environments* at Scuola Normale Superiore, funded by a Scientific Independence for Young Scholar Grant of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research. Comparing Greece, Italy and Spain, PiCME investigations connect media infrastructures, media imaginations and media practices as the three explanatory processes that sustain political participation and social movements.

Workshop programme at a glance

Wednesday April 19th

19:30-21:30

Welcome dinner * for paper givers only

Restaurant Antico Ristoro dei Cambi, Via S.Onofrio, 1R, 50123 Firenze

Thursday April 20th

10:00-10:30

Welcome and Coffee

10:30-11:30

Opening Framework by Sandra Jeppesen, Alice Mattoni and Emiliano Treré

11:30-13:00

Panel 1 - Social movement cultures and protest communication practices

Chair: Alice Mattoni

Representation and Power: Creating Anti-Racist Media in Protest Movements

Sharmeen Khan, Media Action Research Group, Upping the Anti: A Journal of Theory and Action

Bearing Witness and the logic of Celebrity in the Struggle over Canada's Oil/Tar Sands

Patrick McCurdy, University of Ottawa

The digital as an instrumental and rhetorical device in Spanish social mobilization culture

Víctor Sampedro, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos – Madrid

Lunch break

14:30-16:00

Panel 2 - Web 2.0 platforms and political mobilization

Chair: Emiliano Treré

Communication as organisation? Social media in the experience of the Italian anti-austerity mobilisations

Lorenzo Zamponi, Scuola Normale Superiore

Digital media and temporal agency of Nuit Debout

Anastasia Kavada, Westminster University

From the 15M to NuitDebout: Media activism in different mobilisation cultures

Emma Avilés, X Net - Barcelona

Coffee break

16:30-17:30

Emerging themes/open themed discussion

Friday April 21st

9:30-11:00

Panel 3 - Mobile media, protest and global mobility

Chair: Sandra Jeppensen

Fast Activism: Global Justice Organizing in the Age of Hyper-Media

Kamilla Petrick, Lakehead University

Supporting Digital Rights Advocacy: Exploring Communication Access for Refugees

Kate Coyer, Central European University

Civic tech as activism: The role of transnational communities for data-driven governance

Kersti Wissenbach, University of Amsterdam

Coffee break

11:30-13:00

Panel 4 - Alternative journalism, citizen media and protest practices

Chair: Patrick McCurdy

Protest Media Practices: Solidarity & Direct Action Journalism in Autonomous Media

Sandra Jeppesen, Lakehead University

Protest media ecologies in Spain. Practices, scenarios and research

Alejandro Barranquero, Carlos III University, Madrid

Dead movement walking (and biting): The strategic use of old Facebook pages for new campaigns – The case of the Italian referenda in 2011 and 2016

Lorenzo Coretti, The American University of Rome

Lunch break

14:30-16:00

Panel 5 - Technologies of resistance: algorithms, surveillance & datafication

Chair: Anastasia Kavada

Social Media and Protest in Algorithmic Society

Jakob Svensson, Uppsala University

Amid repression and resistance: algorithmic power and digital politics

Emiliano Treré, Scuola Normale Superiore

Information, Communication, Digitization, and Datafication: Four Analytical Stages in Researching Social Movements and Media

Alice Mattoni and Elena Pavan, Scuola Normale Superiore

Coffee break

16:30-17:30

Wrap-up discussion, closing & next steps

Abstracts

Bearing Witness and the logic of Celebrity in the Struggle over Canada's Oil/Tar Sands **Patrick McCurdy, University of Ottawa**

Referred to as “oil sands” by industry proponents and “tar sands” protestors, this chapter examines how environmental movements against bitumen development have set out to navigate a media saturated political environment and secure both visibility and legitimacy for their claims. The chapter’s empirical material is based on analysis of 96 96 acts of political contestation pertaining to Alberta’s bitumen between January 2007 and January 2016. Drawing on della Porta and Diani’s (2006) concept of activist logics, the chapter charts the use of “bearing witness” as a media-orientated and media conscious protest strategy used by environmental groups to contest the bitumen sands. However, the chapter also documents the wide use of celebrities in tar sands protests including celebrity interventions and celebrity site visits. Specific attention is paid to the anti-tar sands actions of celebrities Neve Campbell, Neil Young, James Cameron and Leonardo DiCaprio. The chapter concludes by arguing that “the logic of celebrity” must be acknowledge as a fourth activist logic which underwrites, orient, facilitates and constraints political action.

The digital as an instrumental and rhetorical device in Spanish social mobilization culture **Víctor Sampedro, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos**

Intense use of Internet has been a key tool for organization, decision making and electoral communication of the new Italian and Spanish political parties, Podemos and 5 Stelle. Both organizations also share a hyperbolic narrative of the Web with their allied social activists and movements. Internet based politics is conceived as intrinsically democratic, enhancing transparency and base participation. Although these similarities, the Internet seems to have played a more important role in recent Spanish politics and mobilizations, both as an instrumental and a rhetorical device. Tentative and non exclusionary explanations of the two nations disparities may take into account a historical perspective and differences of partisan, media and social practices.

(1) The Indignados express a political culture and a repertoire of activist media practices which are the result of previous cycles of internet based mobilizations.

(2) First the 15M and then Podemos express a new consensus of public opinion which is the most widespread, lasting and cross-sectional of the Occupy Movements. This conflictive consensus not only confronts the “casta” of professional politics but also the informative and political system inherited from the Transition. Anti-austerity protest appears blended in Spain with a profound institutional crisis.

(3) A hybrid political communication strategy gained more importance in the Spanish social movement and new party, trying to create synergies between online and offline media, self-managed and privately owned media. This is parallel to the blend of online and offline politics in Podemos and the local administrations run by the new party and its allies. The comparison between the Italian and Spanish digital public spheres may sustain some theoretical arguments. The Internet political importance may depend on (1) its historical use for challenging consensual politics, (2) expressing new public opinion consensuses and (3) its combined use with offline and conventional media.

Communication as organisation? Social media in the experience of the Italian anti-austerity mobilisations

Lorenzo Zamponi - Scuola Normale Superiore

The wave of protest related to the global financial crisis in Italy can be roughly divided into three phases. The first phase coincides basically with the student mobilisation of 2008, the so-called Onda Anomala (“Anomalous Wave”), in which the slogan “Noi la crisi non la paghiamo” (“We won’t pay for the crisis”), explicitly linked the university struggle with the master frame of the financial crisis. The second phase is situated between 2010-2011 and was protagonised by what an activist I interviewed defined “the anti-Berlusconi social front”: building on the experience of the Onda Anomala, Italian students filled the squares again in 2010, mobilising against a university reform, but developing an anti-austerity discourse aimed at involving larger parts of Italian society, with a spillover effect that transformed student protest into a complex and broad movement, including social centres, the steelworkers’ union FIOM and the committees for the re-publicisation of water, kept together by a shared anti-austerity and anti-neoliberal discourse. The third phase, from 2012 on, was characterised by a very articulated and fragmented social movement landscape, in which different social actors were significantly contentious in their one field of action but have rarely managed to participate in joint protest events. Based on my experience of activism in this events and processes, I aim at reconstructing the role of social media in the different stages of the Italian anti-austerity mobilisations, from the predominance of blogs and the appearance of Facebook during the “Anomalous Wave”, through the explosion of Twitter in 2011, to the establishment of the social media as the primary space of communication in the social movement sphere, focusing in particular on the interaction between communication and organisation.

Digital media and temporal agency of Nuit Debout

Anastasia Kavada, University of Westminster

Based on interviews with Nuit Debout activists and participant observation on Place de la Republique, this paper discusses the movement’s rhythms, speeds, and processes of liveness and the ways in which they contribute to its ‘temporal agency’. Adapting Sewell’s (2005) notion of spatial agency, one could conceptualize temporal agency as the ways in which temporal constraints are turned to advantage in political and social struggles, as well as the ways in which such struggles can restructure the meanings, uses, and strategic valence of time. Nuit Debout exercised temporal agency by modulating the speed of communication on different spaces. Firstly, it adapted to the quick rhythm of social media to raise awareness about Nuit Debout and ensure that movement was covered by the mainstream media. Secondly, it created a slow process of physical gatherings and decision-making in an effort to re-embed practices of civic participation in people’s everyday lives in the city. Rather than continuously occupying public space, activists met on the square between 5 -12 pm every day, with the open general assembly serving as the central point in the movement’s temporal structure. Thirdly, the movement installed a responsive and always-on system of organizing based on instantaneous communication on Telegram, that allowed the movement to coordinate without a permanent physical base. Nuit Debout’s temporal agency was also exercised in its efforts to produce an eventful temporality, through the continuous creation of digitally live-mediated events that would synchronise activity on different platforms and that could, potentially, bring structural changes by appealing to a broader audience.

From the 15M to NuitDebout: Media activism in different mobilisation cultures

Emma Avilés, Xnet, 15M and NuitDebout

My intervention will explore the international dynamics of post 2010 movements in Europe and their new technopolitical forms of organising and communicating; understanding technopolitics

as the tactical and strategic use of digital tools for organisation, communication and collective action for empowerment, justice and social transformation. Over the last years, movements in Europe have been exchanging collective knowledge, skills and practices, producing different experiences I will touch on through the cases of the 15M movement, the pan-European Troika Party project and NuitDebout, also exploring the tensions between different political cultures and how this influences their use of media-activism. The 15M (Indignados) is a native digital movement that has changed the objectives and ways of fighting for the social transformation. What has been learnt from the Net has been extrapolated to all spaces of struggle, producing a new form of social activism that is deeply transforming Spanish politics and society. It has put an end of the univocity of economic and political powers' messages, while breaking-up with the current political system, proposing and building an alternative one over the years. Through the comparison between experiences, I will try to outline the differences between French and Spanish movements and their media-activism practices and philosophy.

Fast Activism: Global Justice Organizing in the Age of Hyper-Media

Kamilla Petrick, Lakehead University

During the past two decades, much has been written about the emancipatory potential of new, participatory protest media. The Internet and other transnational communication technologies are rightly said to have allowed social justice activists around the world to coordinate campaigns and mobilize support within weeks, sometimes even days, without ever gathering in one location. While recognizing the instrumental value held by new media for “networked” social movements, this paper aims to highlight the “dark side of the digital” by illuminating the grave yet largely neglected role that digital media technologies play in shaping how human beings conceptualize and organize time, and the consequences of culturally predominant temporal norms and relations for patterns of collective action. Drawing upon an interdisciplinary theoretical framework combining scholarship on time and temporality, the Toronto school of communication, and critical political economy, I argue that in the context of capitalism, accelerating media of communication serve to promote deep-seated changes in social consciousness, foreshortening the hegemonic time horizon and contributing to a general sense of speed-up. Social movements are hardly immune from these changes, thus patterns of activist engagement are increasingly reactive, prioritizing short-termist forms of mobilization that may inspire, but often fail to translate into the sort of sustained, “committed” organizing arguably required to effect profound social transformation. On the basis of qualitative data obtained from seventy semi-structured interviews with global justice activists in Canada, I contend that as a result of the short-termism characteristic of capitalist “high-speed” culture, the temporal practices and collective capacities of movement activists related to the past, that is collective memory, to the future, that is long-term strategic planning, and to duration, that is building sustainable social movement infrastructure, have become relatively marginalized – and require urgent revitalization.

Civic tech as activism: The role of transnational communities for data-driven governance

Kersti Ruth Wissenbach, University of Amsterdam

New modes of engagement with data and technology have emerged over the last half-decade, which go under the label of ‘civic technology’ (or ‘civic tech’). Individuals and groups take advantage of the availability of data and related software to directly engage and intervene in governance processes. An example is the community around the freedom of information request tool Alaveteli, which supports citizens willing to exert power over under-performing institutions in currently twenty-five countries. At its core stands the potential of technologies and

data at civil society's disposal to better execute their civic role within the democratic realm. However, the civic tech scene spans from activist groups to international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and the business start-up scene. Civic tech activism is characterised by the collective building, utilization, and localization of tools to enable direct and inclusive citizen engagement in the most diverse socio-political contexts. A community expanding through such collective engagement enables context-relevant tactics catering for local communication means and cultures that enable civic-driven calls for government accountability. This is particularly relevant in less democratic countries. This presentation will discuss how the action repertoires and collective identity dynamics of civic tech activism can create significant different power dynamics for opening up civil society space than other actors utilizing data and technology for governance processes. It will compare the potentials of civic tech activism with INGOs using technology for short-term interventions and tech start-ups selling open data platform software to governments that might or might not use those platforms to share politically relevant information with their citizens.

Protest Media Practices: Solidarity & Direct Action Journalism in Autonomous Media
Sandra Jeppesen, Lakehead University Orillia

The Media Action Research Group (MARG) engages in co-research with autonomous media activists to better understand their specific media practices. While many contemporary protest media studies focus on social media and new technologies, our work also interrogates the role media activists play in shifting mediascapes through innovative journalism practices. We conducted 'radical media mixers' or workshops across Canada in 2014-15 with 90 participants to discuss contemporary challenges and successes. In thinking through alternative media practices, participants identified a contradictory logic between mainstream and alternative journalism, with media activists sometimes caught in the middle. Leaving technologies and social media aside, activists focused on relationship building with interviewees, including notions of consent, transparency, accountability, and co-creation of knowledge, identifying two distinct approaches to alternative journalism. In the first—direct action journalism—media activists are journalists rooted within protest movements, reporting from the perspective of social justice commitments internal to the movement. In the second—solidarity journalism—media activists work as allies to support and report across movements in solidarity with marginalized groups, supporting journalists among them. These two practices, while divergent in their organizational dimensions, are based on the premise of forefront organizing and reporting: those most affected by an issue should be leading the movements and the journalism that is reporting on them. We also find that the commitments of alternative journalists are similar to the research-activist commitments of MARG, and reflect briefly on insights these findings offer to a meta-analysis of activist-research methodologies.

Protest media ecologies in Spain. Practices, scenarios and research
Alejandro Barranquero, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Analyzing the current political and media context in Spain is a major challenge. From 2011 onwards, the 15-M movement has led to an increasing discredit of traditional parties and economic powers, and ever since processes of political scrutiny have consolidated through a wide range of citizen initiatives, including community media, cyberactivist tactics and other alternative platforms (Feenstra et al. 2016). Along with the destruction of many initiatives and employments, more than 450 media outlets have been created since the beginning of the crisis in 2008, destabilizing the traditional balance of forces and evidencing new methods to ensure financial sustainability and political independence (Casero-Ripollés, 2015). Furthermore, Spain

represents a laboratory for hacktivist and technopolitical practices which is transforming the ways in which social movements organize and create synergies to coordinate collective action (Toret, 2013). This presentation will provide an insight into the current of state of communication for social change in Spain from both theory and practice. On the one hand, we will present a set of theoretical frameworks and empirical works which are attempting to interpret the new media scenario, although their results have not transcended the Spanish context. On the other hand, examples of new initiatives will be displayed as a way to evidence the complexity and diversity of Spanish protest media ecologies. The reflections will be also supported on evidences derived from the action-research group I am currently coordinating: Research Network in Community, Alternative and Participatory Communication - RICCAP (www.riccap.org).

Dead movement walking (and biting): The strategic use of old Facebook pages for new campaigns – The case of the Italian referenda in 2011 and 2016

Lorenzo Coretti, The American University of Rome

In December 2016, the Italian population has been called to vote for a series of major changes to its political system. These reforms would have affected a third of the Italian constitution, effectively overhauling the principle of symmetric bicameralism and providing stronger decision-making power in the hands of the government. However, on Sunday 4 December 2016, 59.11% of voters voted against the reform, consequently pushing the Italian PM Matteo Renzi out of office. Similarly, the outcome of a referendum in June 2011 on public water and immunity paved the way to the decline of Berlusconi's political power. Drawing on a 7-year longitudinal study and the framework of networked movement lifecycle (Coretti, 2014), this paper assesses the role played by the Facebook Page 'Il Popolo Viola' ('Purple People') in the referenda of 2011 and 2016. Peculiarly, the page was the main mobilizing platform of the anti-Berlusconi protest between 2009 and 2011, but reached the highest peaks of interaction only after the demise of the movement and in conjunction with the referenda, contributing to the defeat of Berlusconi in 2011 and of Renzi in 2016. Based on a triangulation of both qualitative and quantitative methods, the study explores the amplification effect taking place through the revival of old social movement Facebook Pages, previously operative around past campaigns, alongside new ones specifically opened for the referenda; finally, drawing on the concepts of networked power, switching (Castells, 2009) and choreography of protest (Gerbaudo, 2011), the paper explores the role of leadership in networked campaigns, beyond coordination and towards spill-over effects.

Social Media and Protest in Algorithmic Society

Jakob Svensson, Uppsala University and Malmö University

Thinking within the field of social media and communication has recently taken an "algorithmic turn". Studies have for example revealed how algorithmically generated news feeds containing our acquaintances' actions and opinions influence the issues on our agenda and how these issues are framed, which in turn influences our decisions and preferences. As such algorithms are important for protest movements. Twitters trending algorithm has for example been studied in relation to the Occupy protests. This presentation will discuss social media and protest out of a definition of the algorithmic situation as a process seeking problem-solving, involving both humans and technology. Algorithms in themselves are technologies of automated calculation / filtering / weighing (mining) of data (that may or may not be biased) in a big-data environment. Given its technological design of automatic calculation, there is often an assumption that algorithmic output is unbiased and free from subjectivity. This belief has been critiqued, and rightly so, as the problems themselves, as well as the algorithms, are formulated by humans. As

such they embody social norms, values, imaginations, perceptions, rules, processes and are encoded with human intentions that may or may not be fulfilled. Based on the above understanding of algorithms, I approach algorithmic society as defined by its problems and problem formulations. In the presentation I will reflect on the role/ use of social media in protest movements in such a society. I will exemplify these reflections out of a study of middle-class protest to save a local bathhouse.

Amid repression and resistance: algorithmic power and digital politics

Emiliano Treré, Scuola Normale Superiore

Discourses on algorithms are increasingly populating the media and pervading public conversations. As Gillespie (2016) has pointed out, the term appears in recent scholarship not only as a noun but also increasingly as an adjective, in relation to issues of identity, culture, ideology, accountability, governance, imaginary and regulation. In this paper, I focus on the changes that algorithmic power is bringing to the realm of politics and the transformations of digital activism. The article begins by addressing algorithms as ecologies of people, machine and procedures that have social and political implications. Then, it provides a brief outline on the significance of algorithms in the realm of digital politics. Afterward, it focuses on two diverse conceptions and manifestations of algorithmic power in politics (algorithm as propaganda/repression and algorithm as appropriation/ resistance) that emerge from the explorations of two case studies. The first case study is an examination of the contemporary Mexican scenario where institutions and parties have massively deployed algorithmic strategies for propagandistic and repressive purposes. The second case is an investigation of the digital media practices of the *Indignados* that reveals how Spanish activists used their knowledge of the Twitter algorithm to maximize their visibility, drive the protest narratives, and infiltrate the mainstream media agenda. Lessons on the achievements and challenges of algorithmic power in digital politics are outlined in the conclusions, along with suggestions for future lines of research.

Information, Communication, Digitization, and Datafication: Four Analytical Stages in Researching Social Movements and Media

Alice Mattoni and Elena Pavan, Scuola Normale Superiore

In this paper, we make a claim for considering current discussions on big data and their relevance for collective political participation as the latest stage of a broader theoretical and methodological reflection on the fluid interplay between social movement and media. Certainly, the widespread adoption of digital media as tools for protest and activism during critical junctures – such as the Arab Springs or the severe economic crisis in Europe and all over the world – has prompted a highly interdisciplinary reflection on how increased communication possibilities entwine with the organizational and the symbolic dimensions of social movements. Moreover, new avenues of research have opened that consider media practices as forms of resistance in their own right, focus on communication governance, privacy, and technology-related rights as contested issues, and use digital data as a primary resource to understand the social and the political spheres. Thus, current research endeavors often rise up to the challenges posed by the complexities of the contemporary hybrid mediascape, developing sophisticated approaches to map the present of collective endeavors at the finest grain and with a special look of anticipating the future. However, ongoing research in this

domain is seldom carried out in connection with longer-term reflections on the role of media within contentious politics – both as a factor affecting the development and the unfolding of collective dynamics and as a topic of mobilization in its own right. Such disconnection, in turn, does not allow researchers to take advantage of lessons learned in the past through the adoption of critical theoretical and methodological approaches towards media. Moreover, it strengthens the communication reductionism that is typical of collective action studies for which media are either neutral background factors or, conversely, the causative mechanism of collective participation, and for which investigations are limited to single platforms and at a limited point in time. In order to overcome this situation, we propose to adopt a longitudinal and sociotechnical approach to reflect on the nexus between social movements and media along four main analytical stages, each of which represents an ideal-typical convergence of media affordances, movement strategies, and epistemological research orientations: information, centered on the interplay between traditional mass-media and social movements; communication, focused on the adoption of networked communication to organize and strategize collectively; digitization, which looks at the progressive growth of digital forms of contention and activism; and datafication, in which movements resist and, at the same time, leverage the digital turn of our contemporary societies. While each of this analytical stage has been produced looking at specific temporalities, we argue that they co-exist today, in which grassroots politics have to confront the deep mediatization of current societies.

Authors bios (in order of appearance)

Patrick McCurdy's research draws from media and communication, journalism as well as social movement studies to study media as a site and source of social struggle and contestation. His most recent project Mediatoil (www.mediatoil.ca) studied the evolution of oil/tar sands advertising and campaigning from 1970 to present day. In August 2016 the project won first in prize in Compute Canada/SSHRC's national competition: The Human Dimensions Open Data Challenge. Patrick is the co-author of *Protest Camps* and the co-editor of three books *Protest Camps in International Context: Spaces, Infrastructures and Media of Resistance* (Policy Press 2017), *Beyond WikiLeaks: Implications for the Future of Communications, Journalism and Society* (Palgrave 2013) and *Mediation and Protest Movements* (Intellect 2013).

Victor Sampedro teaches Political Communication at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid. His interests are democratic theory of public sphere, social movements impact on policy and media agendas, internet based politics and social mobilizations. He founded the Masters Program in Digital Communication, Culture and Citizenship www.cccd.es and most of his work is available at www.victorsampedro.com His last academic stays have been at the Shorenstein Center on the Media, Politics and Public Policy (Harvard Kennedy School) and COSMOS (SNS-Firenze)

Lorenzo Zamponi is a research fellow at the Centre on Social Movement Studies of the Scuola Normale Superiore in Florence. He holds a Ph.D. in Political and Social Sciences from the European University Institute. He has published peer-reviewed articles in international journals on anti-austerity mobilisations in Italy, in which he participated as an activist of the *Rete della Conoscenza*, the largest student network in the country.

Anastasia Kavada is Senior Lecturer in the Westminster School of Media, Arts & Design at the University of Westminster. She is Co-leader of the MA in Media, Campaigning and Social Change and Deputy Director of the Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI). Her research focuses on the links between online tools and decentralized organizing practices, democratic decision-making, and the development of solidarity among participants in collective action.

Emma Avilés is an activist based in Barcelona, part of the Spanish 15M and French NuitDebout movements. She is member of Xnet; the group of activists behind the leaks of the major corruption cases shaking Spanish politics with 15MpaRato device (main lawsuit against the Spanish bailed-out Bankia and its banksters) and XnetLeaks (a system for citizen whistle-blowing). She has also taken part in various European networks and projects, exchanging media activism knowledge and tactics with different European movements, and has participated in the construction of #NuitDebout's communication device.

Kamilla Petrick is a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Lakehead University Orillia and a lecturer in Communication Studies at York University in Toronto (Canada). She holds a doctorate in Political Science and two prior degrees in Media Studies. Her research interests include social movements, political economy, temporality, collective memory, and the role of technology in social transformation. Her work has appeared in *Fast Capitalism*, *Time & Society*, *Studies in Social Justice*, *Globalizations*, and *Convergence: The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies*. She lives and organizes in Toronto.

Kate Coyer is a Fellow at the Berkman Klein Center at Harvard University this year and directs the Civil Society and Technology Project at Central European University's Center for Media, Data and Society. Her research examines the use of new and old technologies for social change and the impacts on human rights and freedom of expression, and the role of social media company policy and practice. Her work also supports digital rights advocacy, community media, and communication access for refugees whose work has been featured on NPR, BBC, Washington Post, Al Jazeera, New Scientist, Mashable and others.

Kersti Ruth Wissenbach is a PhD candidate with the DATACTIVE project (data-activism.net) at the Department of Media Studies, University of Amsterdam. Her research explores the emerging field of civic tech activism that utilizes data and technology to foster government accountability around the globe. Her research emphasizes power dynamics from a 'Global South' perspective and collective action and identity formation across borders. Prior to her PhD and for over a decade, she has worked in the open governance field, mainly in African contexts.

Sandra Jeppesen is an activist, researcher and educator who researches with autonomous media and anti-authoritarian social movements from a queer, trans, feminist, anti-racist, anti-capitalist & anti-colonial perspective. She is co-founder of the Media Action Research Group (MARG), former member of the *Collectif de Recherche sur l'Autonomie Collective* (CRAC) in Montreal, Associate Professor in Interdisciplinary Studies/Media Studies, and currently holds the Lakehead University Research Chair in Transformative Media & Social Movements.

Lorenzo Coretti is Assistant Professor of Media and Communication at the University of Rome. His research interests focus on the role played by the use of commercial social networking sites, and Facebook in particular, on Social Movement Organizations, in terms of, respectively: life-cycle, organizational processes, mobilization strategies, repertoire of contention, and collective identity. His work on the anti-Berlusconi protests in Italy has been published on international peer-reviewed journals such as *Information, Communication & Society*, and *DigitCult*.

Jakob Svensson got his PhD from Lund, his associate professorship in from Karlstad and is currently working at both Uppsala and Malmö University. His research focuses mobile communication and empowerment and political participation on social media platforms. Here he

has conducted studies on a parliamentary, activist as well as a popular cultural level. Currently he is working on understanding logics that inform social media platforms as well as society as a whole.

Emiliano Treré is a Research Fellow at the Scuola Normale Superiore (Italy), and an Associate Professor at the Autonomous University of Querétaro (Mexico). He has published extensively in international journals and books on the challenges, the opportunities, and the myths of media technologies for social movements and political parties in Europe and Latin America. His book, provisionally titled *Complexities of Contemporary Digital Activism: Social Movements and Political Parties in Spain, Italy and Mexico*, is forthcoming with Routledge.

Alice Mattoni is Assistant Professor at the Scuola Normale Superiore. She investigates media practices and grassroots politics. Her work has been published in top-ranked international journals and she is the author of a monograph for Ashgate.

Elena Pavan is Assistant Professor at the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Scuola Normale Superiore. Her most recent research interests pertain to the relationships between collective action/political participation and social media use. Within this area, she is working interdisciplinary to combine technical and social knowledges into the study of socio-technical systems and is employing network analysis techniques and tools to explore online and offline systems of interaction.



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