

Palgrave Studies in European Political Sociology

Conceptualizing Culture in Social Movement Research



Edited by Britta Baumgarten,
Priska Daphi and Peter Ullrich



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Britta Baumgarten is a Research Fellow at CIES, Lisbon, Portugal. Her research interests include social movements, civil society and political participation, especially in Portugal and Brazil.

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"A valuable and timely contribution. The authors and editors of this terrific volume provide the tools for figuring out how culture matters to movements with a useful conceptual framework and case studies chock-full of theoretical insights."
- Francesca Polletta, University of California, Irvine, US

"In line with the more general cultural turn in the social sciences, this state-of-the-art collection of essays and analyses provides stimulating ideas and insights into theoretical, methodological, and empirical aspects of culture in social movements. It is a must for both curious newcomers and experienced scholars working in this field."
- Dieter Rucht, Free University Berlin and WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Germany

About the book

Culture has become a prominent concept in social movement research. It is, however, often employed in an unsystematic and limited way. This volume introduces and compares different concepts of culture in social movement research. It assesses advantages and shortcomings of existing concepts and introduces new approaches. In particular, it addresses facets of cultural theory that have hitherto been largely neglected in the literature on social movements. This includes ideas from anthropology, discourse analysis, sociology of emotions, narration, spatial theory, and others. The chapters in this volume address three relationships between social movements and culture: culture as a framework for movements, social movements' internal culture, and culture and cultural change as a result of social movement activity. For the purpose of making concepts easily accessible, each contribution explains its approach to culture in an understandable way and illustrates it with recent cases of mobilization.

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