

**SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND IDEAS:****MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPLORATIONS OF SOCIO-CULTURAL CHANGE****- READING GROUP -**

Scholars from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds (history, anthropology, sociology, and political science) tend to agree that social movements are closely connected to cultural and ideological change. Social movements are often the products of such changes, but they can also be its producers, as they can offer different understandings of social, political and cultural arrangements that sometimes help to reshape mainstream beliefs and values. Yet, there are vast disagreements about how movements actually engage in ideational work, and under what conditions they engender change.

Aimed at postgraduate students and academics of all levels, this reading group seeks to bring together scholars from various disciplinary backgrounds to explore how participants conceptualize and theorize the role of social movements in cultural change and how they actually "do it" empirically. The aim of the reading group is thus to bridge disciplinary boundaries and literature-specific languages about movements, ideology, and culture.

**Format:**

3 meetings (on the last Tuesdays of March, April and May 2009) will be held to debate a small number (2-3) of readings, based on the suggestions of group members. The readings will be circulated 2-3 weeks in advance in pdf form.

Dates: Tuesday, March 31; Tuesday, April 28; and Tuesday, May 26.

Time & Venue: 4 to 5.30pm at CRESC, 178 Waterloo Place, Oxford Road.

The readings will come from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, organized around the theme of each of the meetings: (a) conceptualizing social movements; (b) social movements as products of socio-cultural change; (c) social movements as producers of socio-cultural change.

**Suggested Core Readings:**

Below are some of the readings suggested by the organizers of this reading group, but we hope that participants will propose others from their own disciplines, or that they believe speak to the themes of the group.

Mann, Michael. 1993. *The Sources of Social Power. Volume 2: The Rise of Classes and Nation States 1760–1914*. Cambridge University Press. Selections of Chapter 2, "Economic and Ideological Power Relations."

Polletta, Francesca. 2008. "Culture and Movements" in *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 619, pp.78-96.

Sewell, William. "Historical Events as Transformations of Structures: Inventing Revolution at the Bastille" In *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation*, University of Chicago Press, 2005., pp.225-270

Wuthnow, Robert. 1989. *Communities of Discourse: Ideology and Social Structure in the Reformation, the Enlightenment, and European Socialism*. Harvard University Press. - Selections from Introduction and Conclusion.

**Outcome:**

If the reading group proves a success, we would then look to organise a one-day workshop in the 2009-2010 academic year where participants would present their own work in light of the previous theoretical discussions and explore to what extent the conceptual tools of other reading-group members help to (or don't help to) advance insights in their own empirical work.

**Interested in participating?**

If you are interested in joining the reading group, or would like to know more about it, please contact the conveners:

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In order to ensure that the environment of the reading group is conducive to informal discussion, we will limit the numbers to around 15, so contact the conveners before the end of February. We will also give priority to those who are able to attend all three meetings.