

# GLCb1014 Social Movements: Multidisciplinary Approach

Lecture 1: Introduction: conceptualizing social movements



# Social movements: a sociological concept

- Broader social change/revolution?
- Gathering in the street?
- Demonstration?
- Protest participation?
- NIMBY mobilization?
- GOOD guys?
- Radicals?
- Civil society?
- Vs. political science (interest groups, advocacy groups)



# Classic conceptualization (Charles Tilly)

- 1) sustained, **organized public** effort making **collective claims** on target **authorities** (campaign)
- 2) employment of combinations from among the following **forms of political action**: creation of special-purpose associations and coalitions, public meetings, solemn processions, vigils, rallies, demonstrations, petition drives, statements to and in public media and pamphleteering (social movement repertoire)
- 3) participants' concerted public representation of **WUNC**: worthiness, unity, numbers and commitment on the part of themselves and/or their constituencies



# Standard conceptualization (Snow & Soule)

- **Challenging** the structures/systems of authority (decision making - government, for-profit corporations, international organizations, local institutions) – directly or indirectly
- **Collective** action (vs. Lobbyist, interest groups)
- Activity **outside** existing institutional/organizational arrangements
- Having **organization**
- Having **continuity**



# Social movements: a concept (Melucci, Diani)

- 1) Involvement in **conflictual** relations with clearly defined opponents
- 2) Linked by dense informal **networks**
- 3) Sharing distinct collective **identity**

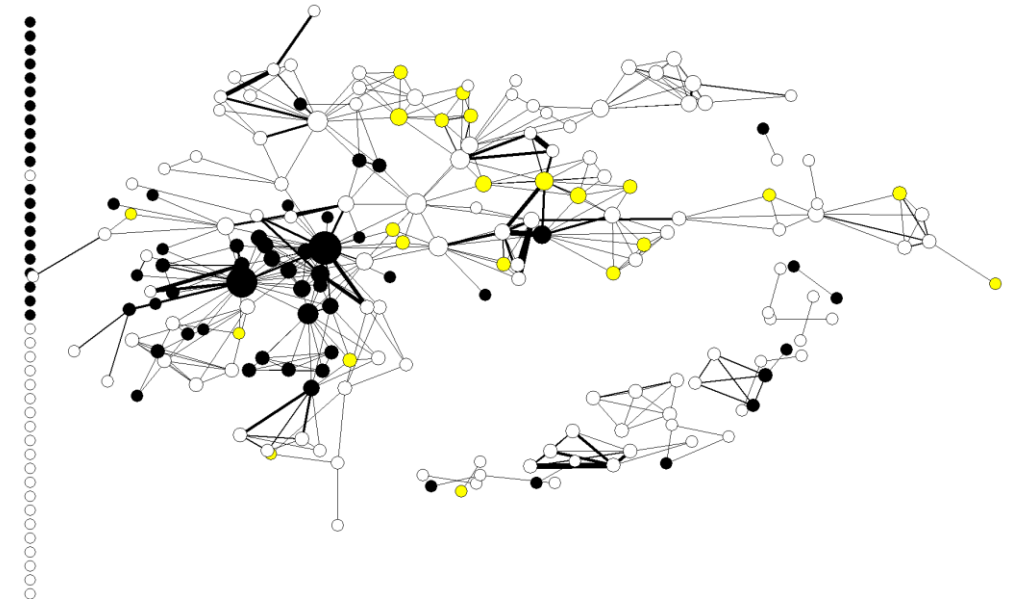
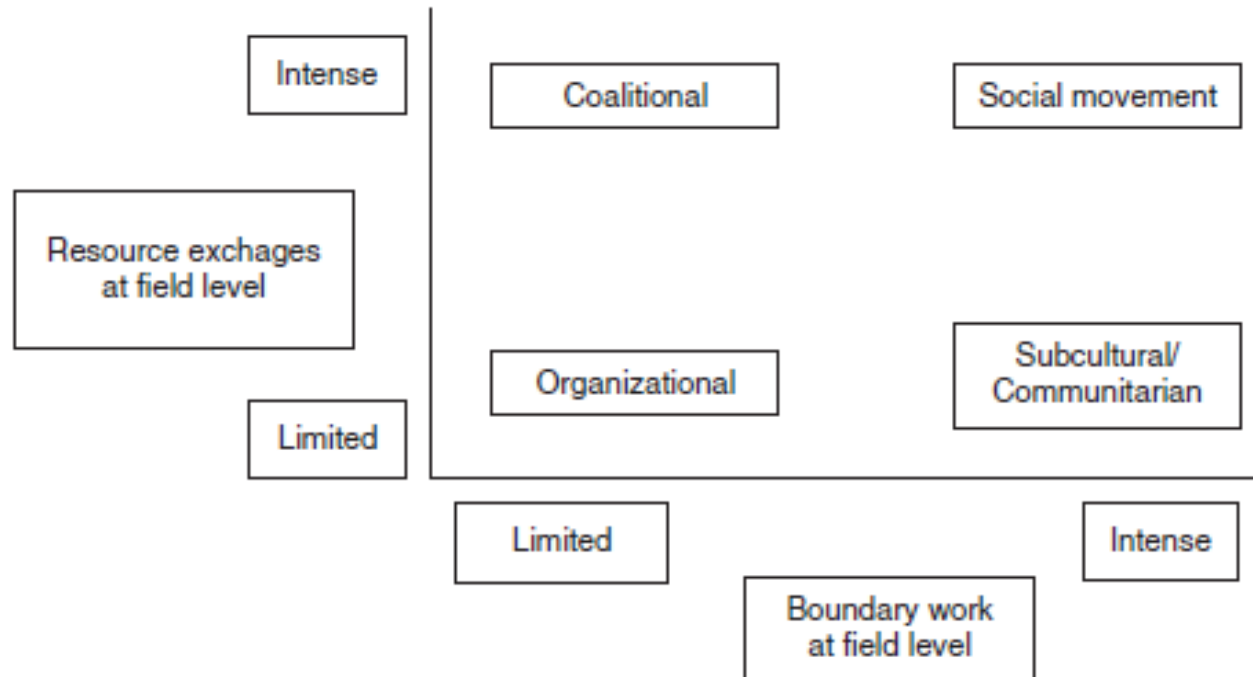


# Relational re-conceptualization (Diani)

- Object? Process?  
Representation?
- Organization? Event? Network?
- Sociology: a processual phenomenon, consisting of various mechanisms
- Boundary de/activation
- Resource sharing



# Processual, network-oriented concept



# Social movements: different puzzles

- How movements emerge? How it connected to social conflict?
- What do movements culturally represent? How are problems identified as potential objects of collective action?
- How values, interests and ideas turn into the collective action?
- How particular contexts affect collective action?





# Recent mega-trends

- Class transformation – new middle classes in capitalist societies after 1970s?
- Decline of material struggles?
- Rise of post-materialist movements?
- New movements representing structural conflicts?
- Examples: abortion rights, climate crisis, Great Recession,

