

GLCb1014 Social Movements: Multidisciplinary Approach

Lecture 2: Mobilizing grievances



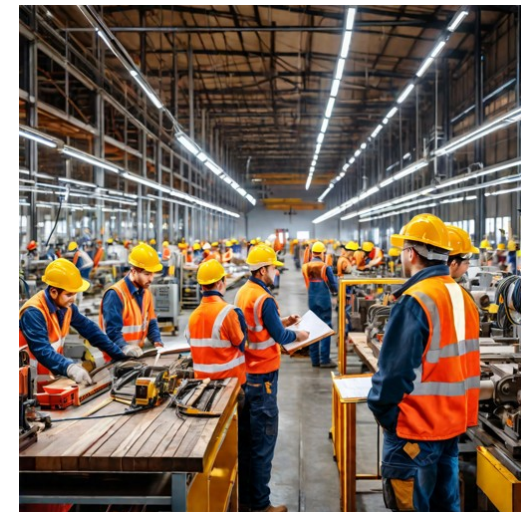
The relationship between mobilization and grievances

- Grievances/problems have to become mobilizing grievances/problems to trigger collective action
- Ubiquitous injustices and problems? (theory of New Social Movements)



Grievance/dissatisfaction

- Everyday/individual vs. Mobilizing/collective
- There is no automatic relationship between material deprivation and mobilizing injustices
- Wrongs/dissatisfaction is not primarily a psychological condition, it is not about crossing "objective" boundaries of tolerance
- Mobilizing injustices are shaped through interpretive processes, they are socially constructed



Which grievances/problems?

Structural/material conditions

1. Group conflicts/inequalities - Marx et al.
2. Social pressures/tensions/disintegration - Durkheim et al.
 - 2.1 **Social disintegration**/disintegration theory (wars, disasters)
 - 2.2 **Absolute deprivation** (poverty, homelessness ...)
 - 2.3 **Disruption of the everyday** (disruption of routine, sense of security, changes in social organisation/control ...)

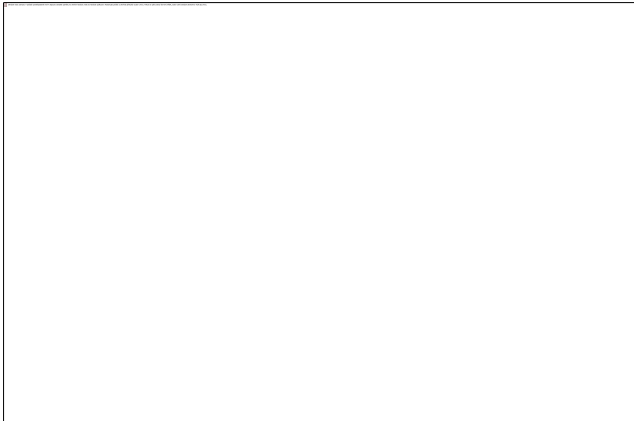
Psycho-social factors (frustration-aggression, relative deprivation, status mismatch)

BUT: what to compare with? Is the problem felt? Is it perceived as legitimate (fair)? Is it felt as a threat of loss? How is it interpreted? -> these psychological processes are key



Problems/grievances and their framing

- Framing - labeling, interpretation of collective action
- The mediating role of culture
- Key role of opinion, meanings
- Diagnostic, prognostic, motivational frames
- Problematization - politicization + attribution of blame/responsibility



Summary

- Individual/daily problems/grievances vs. mobilizing problems/grievances
- Key motivating incentives for collective action
- Under what conditions do they arise?
- Not an automatic, mechanical response to material conditions (but their presence is often necessary)
- Often related to a sense of loss and disruption of the everyday
- Psychological processes an important factor (vs. psychological states)
- Key framing processes and interpretations



Pro-Palestine protest in London

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFr2M0qgXxg>

Pro-Ukraine protest in London

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Vu35Ff0cKM>