

GLCb1014 Social Movements: Multidisciplinary Approach

Lecture 4: Participation in social movements



Political participation (Van Deth)

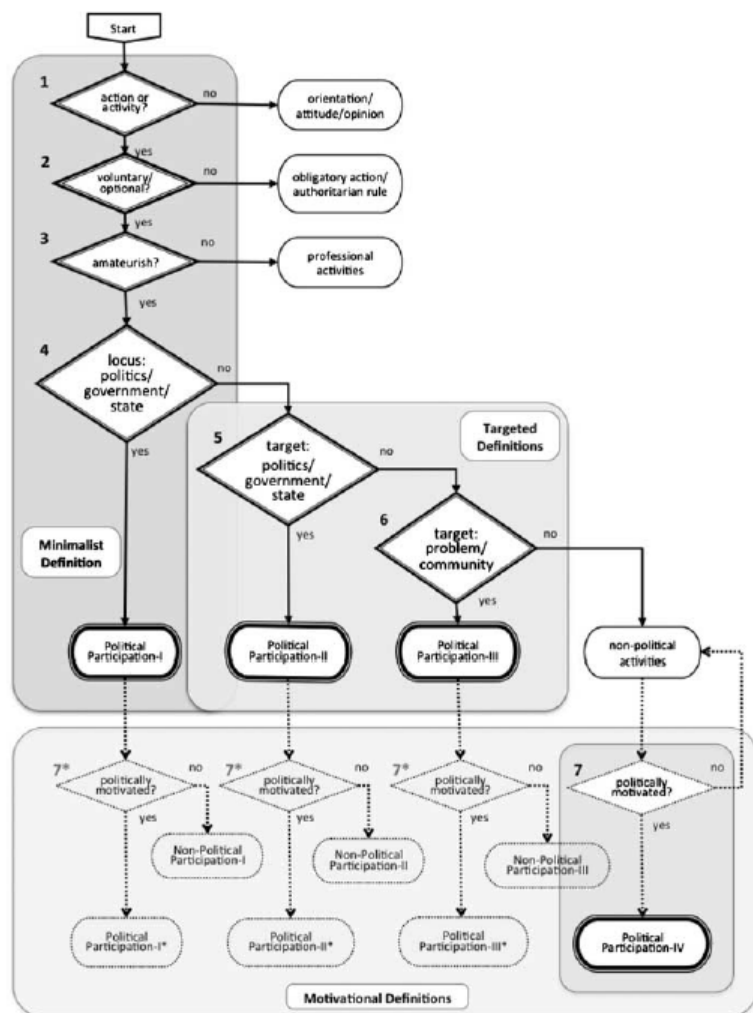


Table 1: Concepts, types and typical modes of political participation

Operational concepts (see Figure 1):

Minimalist definition

Political Participation-I

Types and commonly used labels

Specimens of typical modes

Targeted definitions

Target: government/
politics/state

Political Participation-II

Aimed at: problems or
community

Political Participation-III

Motivational definition

Political Participation-IV

- conventional political participation
- institutional political participation
- elite-directed action
- formal participation
- ...
- unconventional political participation
- non-institutional political participation
- protest
- political action
- contentious politics
- elite-challenging action
- everyday activism
- ...
- civic engagement
- social participation
- community participation
- ...
- expressive political participation
- individualized collective action
- personalized politics
- ...

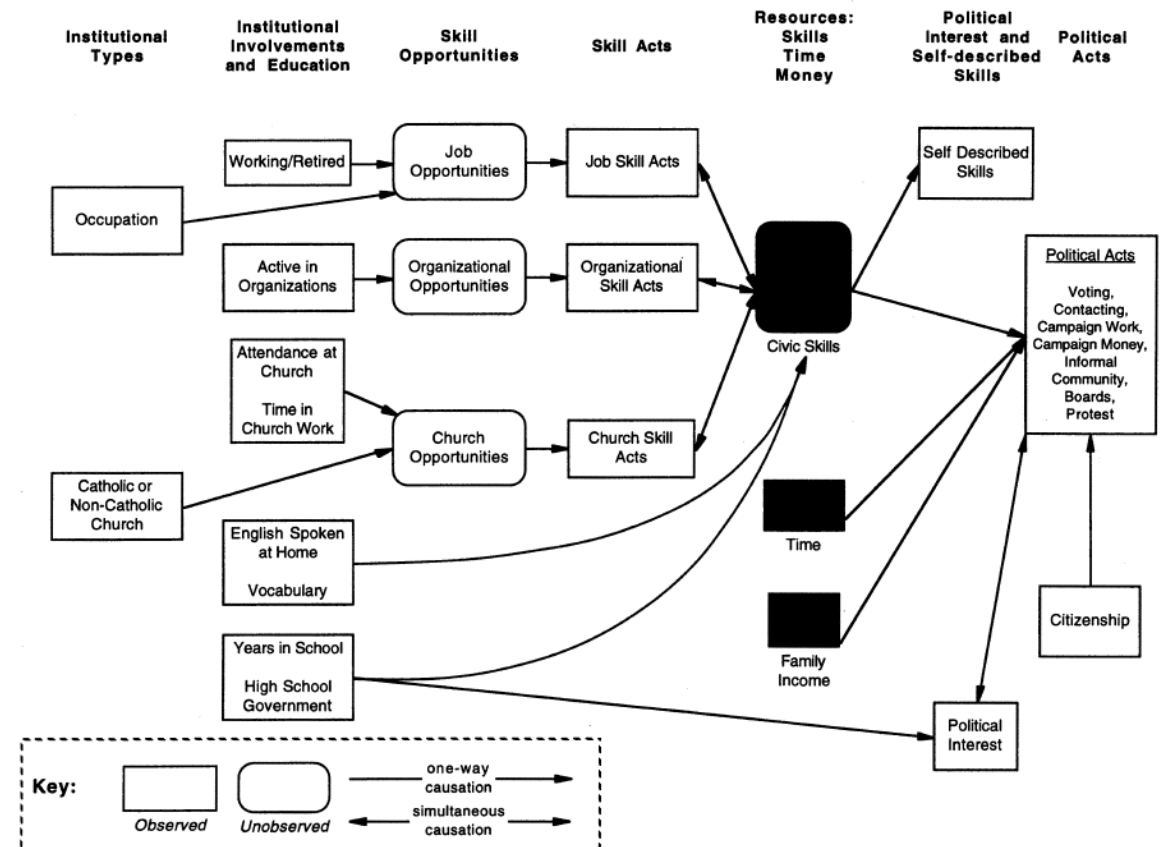
- voting
- budget forums
- party membership
- contacting politicians
- ...
- signing a petition
- demonstrating
- blocking streets
- painting slogans
- flash mobs
- ...
- volunteering
- reclaim-the-street-party
- ...
- political consumerism
- boycotts
- boycotts
- public suicides
- ...

Figure 1: A Conceptual map of political participation (minimalist, targeted and motivational definitions).

Political participation

- Having necessary resources: time, money, and civic skills (Brady et al. 1995)
- Developing civic skills (communication and organization skills that facilitate effective participation)

The Resource Model



Obstacles of participation

- Citizens cannot participate
- **Citizens don't want to participate**
- Nobody asked them

Table 4.1

TYPES OF COST AND RISK ASSOCIATED WITH
MOVEMENT PARTICIPATION

Type of Risk/ Type of Cost	Low Risk	High Risk
Low Cost	(1) Low Risk, Low Cost Participation (e.g., signing a petition)	(2) High Risk, Low Cost Participation (e.g., signing a pro-Communist petition in McCarthy Era)
High Cost	(3) Low Risk, High Cost Participation (e.g., traveling to Washington, D.C., for large march)	(4) High Risk, High Cost Participation (e.g., Freedom Summer)

Recruitment

- Why some people engage and others not?
 - Social networks/organizations
 - Biographies/identities
 - Collectiver identity + sense of efficacy
 - Motivation



Participation in social movements

- The role of social networks (embeddedness) and groups
- Outside the networks recruit mostly very closed groups (sects)
- Weaker role of attitudes!
- Important: membership in organisations, previous experience of collective action, relationships with other people in the social movement
- Networks: create predispositions to collective action (collective identity), create opportunities, influence decisions (move from predispositions and opportunities to action)

Organization membership – CR (EVS 2017)

Member: Belong to sports or recreation	35,3
Member: Belong to education, arts, music or cultural activities	18,8
Member: Belong to none	13,7
Member: Belong to conservation, the environment, ecology, animal rights	12,5
Member: Belong to religious organization	11,9
Member: Belong to humanitarian or charitable organization	10,2
Member: Belong to professional associations	9,8
Member: Belong to labour unions	7,7
Member: Belong to self-help group, mutual aid group	7,1
Member: Belong to political parties	4,7
Member: Belong to consumer groups	4,4

Maintaining commitment: Collective identity

- Identity formation as a **process** - the possibility of multiplying and mixing identities
- Identities promote mobilisation (especially in larger groups, without the possibility of **specific incentives** - prestige, respect, friendship) – solidarity
- Inclusive vs. Exclusive collective identities - the higher the inclusiveness, the less capacity for mobilization
- Identity formation: **objects** (typ. with signs, symbols), **personalities**, **artifacts** (books, films music ...), **rituals** (dramatization, denial of traditional cultural codes ...)

