

# CriticalMass*Bulletin*

Newsletter of the Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements, American Sociological Association

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Please send all your ideas, feedback, and submissions to [cbsmnews@gmail.com](mailto:cbsmnews@gmail.com).

## Message from the Chair



Edwin Amenta

*CBSM Section Chair*

*Professor of Sociology*

*University of California, Irvine*

Hello Fellow Section Members,

I hope you are well, all things considered.  
Spring is in the air, as is collective action!  
And not just the type in the streets, where I  
know many of my colleagues have been, but the type that we study.

I am delighted to **announce our full slate of events at the ASA meeting in Chicago**. We will start before the meeting with a **mini conference**: “The Many Impacts of Social Movements: Fifty Years after William Gamson’s The Strategy of Social Protest.” It will take place on Thursday and Friday, August 7 and 8, at the downtown campus of Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management. Among the **plenary speakers** will be Aldon Morris, Francesca Polletta, Steven Epstein, Myra Marx Ferree, Kenneth Andrews, Donatella Della Porta, and Brayden King. There will be a question-and-answer session with editors of several journals, including from Mobilization, Social Movement Studies, Social Science Computer Review, and Science Advances, as well as series editors from Cambridge University Press and Amsterdam University Press. The **paper sessions** will contain panels on the impacts of movements on politics and policy, on non-political institutions, on news and social media, on entertainment media and art, on collective memory, on collective identity, on activist biographies, in authoritarian polities, and in China and Hong Kong. Other panels include ones focused on strategy, methods, revolutions and rebellions, and the impacts of gender-based movements, right-wing movements, and Black Lives Matter. You can register [here](#).

**Our section day is Saturday, August 9**, and we have a full schedule of exciting research. A **panel** on Recent Advances in Social Movement

Research will start us off at 8am. It includes papers by James M. Jasper, Maria Grasso, and Michael Biggs among others. At 10am we will have an expert panel addressing the question: “What Is the Use of Protest Today?” The panel will respond to an essay by Zeynep Tüfekçi about the potentially declining impact of protest. It includes David Meyer, Marco Giugni, Dana Fisher, and Daniel Gillion. **We have 15 roundtable panels** starting at 2 and ending at 3, when our business meeting begins in the same room. At 4pm, we have a panel on Advances in Data and Methods for CBSM Research. It focuses on the use of big data, of which the section has been in the forefront. It includes papers by Alex Hanna, Charles Seguin, and Yuhua Hu, among others. On Sunday, our last panel will take place at 10am. Mobilization and Contemporary Democratic Elections: Coping with Violence & Extremism will include papers by Jackie Smith, Chandra Russo, and Avital Sison among others. Our reception will be that evening.

I look forward to seeing you all in Chicago!

All the best,  
Edwin

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## CBSM Junior Job Market Candidates

### Matthew Blanton

PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology  
University of Texas at Austin

<https://www.matthewblanton.com>



Matthew Blanton is a PhD candidate in Sociology and Demography at the University of Texas at Austin. His dissertation, *Forced Migration From and Within Central America*, uses a mixed-methods approach to examine the long-term effects of historical violence on migration, the timing and dynamics of unaccompanied minor migration, and

the health consequences of post-migration stressors. In a second line of inquiry, he studies the political and civic implications of religious change in Latin America.

His research has been published in *International Migration Review*, *Society and Mental Health*, and *The Sociological Quarterly*, and his public scholarship has appeared in *The Boston Globe* and *The Hill*. His work has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the University of Texas Graduate School, and the Strauss Center for International Security and Law.

#### **Selected publication:**

Blanton, Matthew. "Post-Migration Stressors and Mental and Physical Health Among Refugees and Migrants in Need of Protection: A Mixed-Methods Analysis with Weekly Panel Data." *Society and Mental Health*. Forthcoming.

#### **Dr. Andrew K. Thompson**

athompson@holycross.edu

<https://www.holycross.edu/academics/people/andrew-thompson>



I am currently a Visiting Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Holy Cross and am looking to find a permanent home in a department where critical scholarship and social engagement are valued. As an award-winning educator and a movement-based scholar with international impact, my research and teaching foreground my commitment to social change.

I am the author of two books on social struggle and the co-editor of three others. Along with being translated into Turkish and German, my work has appeared in journals like *Social Movement Studies*, *Contention*, and *Interface*. Owing to my interdisciplinary and public-facing commitments, I have also been featured in journals like *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association* and in popular venues like *Boston Review* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

#### **Selected Publication**

AK Thompson (2024). *Walter Benjamin und die Kultur der Revolte* (Frank Engster, Trans.) Philosophische Gespräche Heft 70. Berlin: Helle Panke e.V., Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung

#### **Youngjin YJ Chae**

Department of Sociology, Rutgers University

[Scholar](#) | [Department website](#)



My research interests lie at the intersection of social movements, family demography, and computational social sciences. I leverage machine learning and large language models to examine how the political right mobilize around conservative, gender-divisive family norms. Specifically, my latest research investigates how men's rights activists try to co-opt contemporary fathers and their perceived grievances to increase the legitimacy and visibility of antifeminist causes. Methodologically, I have

expertise in natural language processing techniques, causal inference framework, and a range of quantitative methods.

### **Selected publication**

Chae, Y., & Davidson, T. (2025). Large Language Models for Text Classification: From Zero-Shot Learning to Instruction-Tuning. *Sociological Methods & Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00491241251325243>.

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## **Featured Recent Publications in Collective Behavior and Social Movements**

### *Featured Papers*

Ghaziani, Amin. 2025. "The Cultural Field of Queer Nightlife: Organizations, Artists, and Curatorial Activism." *The Sociological Quarterly*. Online first: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00380253.2025.2466496>.

#### **Abstract**

Queer nightlife is recognized by humanists as an artistic project, while social scientists use it more often as a case to examine deviance and regulatory control, macro-structural inequities, substance use, and sexual violence. In this article, I invite researchers to prioritize culture and creativity in theoretical frameworks of nightlife. Based on 112 interviews about underground parties in London that have arisen as gay bars close, I argue that, more than just an art form, queer nightlife is a cultural field. The conceptual shift from form to field accents the organizational plurality of nightlife,

relational artmaking practices, and the aesthetics of activism. While these themes have been described by others—and they are by no means exhaustive—I use them to explain broad associations between art and event-based nightlife scenes in the context of community-level disruptions.

Hui, Elaine Sio-ieng, and Weixiang Chen. "The Rise and Fall of Student Labour Activism in Authoritarian China." *Journal of Contemporary Asia* (2025): 1-22.

#### **Abstract:**

Research has highlighted the contribution of university students to labour movements in non-democracies, but little is known about the processes by which student labour activism arises in these societies. Based on qualitative research conducted in Guangzhou, China, in 2017 and 2018 and insights from social movement theories, this article considers how student labour activism emerges and declines in an authoritarian regime. It argues that student labour activism is a result of favourable political processes, exposure to movement resources, social ties to pro-labour agents, and the influence of movement frames. The article holds that as student labour activism in China was still in an embryonic stage and had not yet developed into a sustainable movement, escalating political threats were able to stifle student labour activism easily both through direct repression and by mediating other movement factors.

Jung, Minwoo. 2025. "Decolonizing the Global: Contested Cosmopolitanisms in Global Queer Activism." *British Journal of Sociology* (online first). <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.13217>

#### **Abstract:**

In the last decade, the “decolonial turn” has gained prominence across academic disciplines,

challenging inherent Eurocentric knowledge paradigms. Extending these conversations, this paper critically investigates the notion of “the global” from a decolonial perspective. Decolonial scholars criticize the mainstream conceptualization of cosmopolitanism for its Eurocentrism and advocate for alternative forms of cosmopolitanism. This paper builds on this decolonial scholarship and examines how various local actors make sense of and give meaning to the contested category of “the global” in understanding, articulating, and addressing their visions for social change. Drawing from ethnographic research on queer activism in South Korea, it identifies the coexistence and contestation between two forms of cosmopolitanism—metrocentric and provincial—and suggests that we understand non-Western activists as producers of anticolonial thought from below. By doing so, this paper contributes to critical scholarship on globalization, cosmopolitanism, and decolonial thought.

**Lynette H. Ong and Kevin W. Luo (2024), “Stability Maintenance, Preventive Repression, and Contentious Politics in China under Xi Jinping’s Rule”, *Issues & Studies* 60(4).**

**Abstract:**

The recent authoritarian turn in Chinese politics under Xi Jinping has invigorated interest in the concept of “public security,” a metamorphosis of the term “*weiwén*” (stability maintenance) fashioned by his predecessor Hu Jintao. Both concepts emphasize a preventive repression that involves a whole-of-society approach to preserving social order. Drawing on an original protest dataset and the Chinese government statistics on public security spending, we conduct an empirical study of the repression-protest nexus to investigate the extent to which the Chinese state has been effective in preempting social contention. While we find correlational evidence of increased security

spending and a decline in protests, this provides modest support for the strategy’s effectiveness. Despite political tightening under Xi, we find evidence for increased frequency, larger size, and pluralization of grievances for protests during his rule. Overall, our methodological approach allows us to compare contention and repression between the Hu–Wen and Xi periods and to investigate the empirical evidence for preventive repression, which lies at the core of the Chinese approach to the preservation of social order.

**Marois, Sophie (2025). “Remember, reclaim, heal”: commemorating anti-Muslim violence in Canada. *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41290-024-00233-9>**

**Abstract**

This paper traces annual commemorations of two anti-Muslim massacres in recent Canadian history: the 2017 shooting at a mosque in Québec City and the 2021 vehicle-ramming attack against a Muslim family in London, Ontario. Both attacks have prompted numerous commemorative efforts and emerged at the forefront of public debates around Islamophobia, far-right terrorism and hate crimes, as well as inclusion and national belonging. I examine these public contests and memory projects by combining sociological research on memory and commemoration with critical scholarship on the politics of grief. Empirically, I build a corpus of annual commemorative efforts and their associated media coverage (2017–2022), analyzing how practices and discourses of commemoration articulate grief and political grievances. Drawing on this corpus of public texts, I conceptualize commemoration as recognition and commemoration as repair as two overarching political grammars of commemoration in the aftermath of racially and religiously targeted massacres. By attending to these grammars and the barriers they encounter, this paper offers insights into public responses to white



nationalist and anti-Muslim violence, and contributes to the growing focus, within memory studies, on the transformative potential of commemoration. Implications for theories of recognition and repair in cultural and political sociology are discussed.

**Marom, Oded. "Banal Radicalism: Free Spaces and the Routinization of Radical Practices in Far-Right Movements." *The British Journal of Sociology* (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.13213>**

### **Abstract**

How do free spaces become radicalizing spaces? This study explores how and when insulated movement spaces contribute to the radicalization of far-right activists. While free spaces allow participants to express and integrate radical ideas into daily practices, the prevalence of these ideas was found to be inconsistent. This research, based on a four-year ethnographic study of a right-wing libertarian movement in New Hampshire, shows how activists creatively highlight and downplay radical ideas to address situational challenges and coordinate action. In this way, movements' free spaces can imbue mundane practices with political significance, but they can also obscure the political meanings of otherwise radical practices. This process of banalization is crucial to the radicalization journey, enabling activists to coordinate actions among diverse participants, including those without overt radical motivations. These findings show how motivations for radical action are articulated in the moment, shaped by specific situations and the challenges they present.

**Moqadam, Mahbubeh. "Fractal Scaling of Feminist Politics and the Emergence of the Woman, Life, Freedom Movement in Iran." *Social Forces* (2025): soaf050.**

### **Abstract:**

This article presents a socio-historical analysis of the ways women's everyday resistance and struggles over several decades have contributed to the emergence of the Woman, Life, Freedom (WLF) movement in Iran. Drawing on archival and (digital) ethnographic data spanning from the mid-19th century to the 2022 WLF movement, I take a spatiotemporal approach to illustrate the evolution of feminist politics in social (non)movements in Iran. I argue that while state policies have historically constrained women's access to and participation in sociopolitical spaces, these very constraints have gradually fueled the growth of grassroots feminist politics, which have incrementally scaled up to sustain and generate new forms of resistance and struggle. I specifically argue how the ongoing dialectical interaction between the state and women's everyday resistance and historical struggles have led to the fractal expansion of feminist politics through decentralized feminist friendship networks that cultivate (in)visible forms of everyday resistance. This study has implications for understanding how women in general and feminist activists, in particular, navigate material circumstances and different forms of spaces for change across various spatiotemporal scales, particularly in authoritarian states, where feminist politics' creativity and adaptability become essential forces for sustaining resistance and advancing social change.

**Scipes, Kim (2025) "Looking Ahead: US Unions Must Look Beyond Themselves to Save Themselves." *Class, Race and Corporate Power*, Vol. 13, No. 1, Article 8. On-line at <https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/classracecorporatpower/vol13/iss1/8/>**

### **Abstract**

This article argues that there has not been a labor movement in the US since 1949, but only a trade

union movement; the latter only focuses on the betterment of union members instead of workers in general. Yet unions are important for all workers. Drawing off a forthcoming book based on years of on-the-ground experience, the author suggests that workers might find social justice unionism--uniting workers and communities--as a way to advance unions, overcome weaknesses of business unionism, strengthen and advance communities, and rebuild a labor movement to address issues facing workers in the US and around the world.

**Silva, Fabiana, Irene Bloemraad, and Kim Voss (2025). Frame Backfire: The Trouble with Civil Rights Appeals in the Contemporary United States. *American Sociological Review*. Online firsts: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224251333087>**

#### **Abstract**

Many scholars and activists consider civil rights to be a powerful, effective way to frame diverse causes, but do civil rights claims actually resonate? Building on social movements, collective memory, and public opinion scholarship, we conceptualize civil rights claims in three non-mutually-exclusive ways: as a highly resonant “master frame” grounded in core American ideals of equal rights, as an appeal to the idealized memory of the Civil Rights Movement, and as racialized messaging that is likely to provoke backlash. Using these conceptualizations, we derive expectations about the effectiveness of civil rights claims across diverse issues, beneficiaries, and audiences, which we test using two large-scale survey experiments. Respondents viewed “civil rights” very positively in the abstract and broadly agreed about the meaning in both closed and open-ended survey responses: civil rights are about ensuring equal rights and treatment, rather than addressing material needs. Yet, surprisingly, framing contemporary problems—even unequal treatment—as civil rights violations reduced support for government

intervention. Indeed, we find widespread frame backfire: civil rights framing was counterproductive across issues (material deprivation, unequal treatment), beneficiaries (African Americans, Mexican Americans, White Americans, undocumented Mexican immigrants), and audiences (liberals, conservatives, Whites, African Americans, Latinos). Given the consistently negative effects across respondents, these findings cannot be adequately explained as racialized backlash. Instead, we propose that civil rights claims evoke comparisons to the historic Civil Rights Movement, making contemporary hardships appear less significant and prompting unfavorable contrasts with idealized claims-making of the past. Our findings challenge assumptions that frames resonate when they align with audiences’ values or appeal to positive collective memories; indeed, invoking idealized memories risks undermining support for contemporary causes.

**Russo, Chandra. 2025. “Beyond the book club: white antiracist organizing before and after the 2024 election.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2025.2482715>**

#### **Abstract**

The 2024 US presidential election results show that large portions of the white electorate continue to endorse the politics of nativism, anti-Blackness and misogyny. Yet what white people think and do in relation to white supremacy is neither uniform nor sedimented. My research examines how movement groups seek to organize white people away from white supremacy and towards racial justice. In this essay, I establish how a liberal, middle-class approach to antiracism has been insufficient to the political project of challenging white supremacy. I then draw on four years of field work and interviews with the largest US-based organization seeking to organize white communities towards

intersectional racial and economic justice. I offer two examples from the field to show what politically strategic approaches to organizing white people for racial justice can entail. These include centering poor and working-class white people and situating antiracist learning in the service of collective action.

### *Featured special issues*

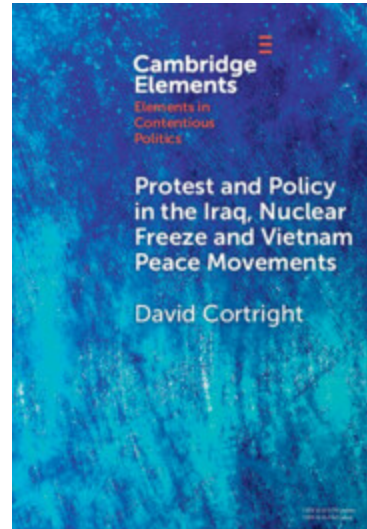
**Liberation Conversations: To Imagine and Build** (co-edited by Melanie Bush and Rantsho Moraka / Open Access) *International Journal of Critical Diversity Studies*. Pluto Journals. University of Witswatersrand. Volume 7. Issue 1.10 February 2025.

- Includes articles by Melanie E L Bush: "Peoples Network for Land and Liberation" and "Interview with Ramon Grosfoguel".

<https://www.scienceopen.com/journal-issue?id=c51e64a9-5c2a-4eb2-a2c4-e8e1c1c09e89>

### *Featured books*

**Cortright D. *Protest and Policy in the Iraq, Nuclear Freeze and Vietnam Peace Movements*. Cambridge University Press; 2025.**



#### **Abstract**

This book addresses questions about social movement effectiveness and the strategies and methods that are most likely to achieve policy change. It examines the nature of peace movements through a comparative analysis of three major movements, focusing on their policy impacts. It assesses social movement dynamics and the mechanisms through which movements gain influence. The purpose is to mine campaign experiences from the past to develop action guidelines for more effective citizen activism against war and nuclear weapons in the future. The Element examines non-institutional and institutional forms of politics and the relationship between the two, and how they can be mutually reinforcing. It traces examples of inside-outside approaches within the three peace movements and their effects. Lessons from the analysis and case studies are applied in the final section to proposals for a new global freeze movement to stop the emerging international arms race.

**Schroering, Caitlin. 2024. *Global Solidarities Against Water Grabbing: Without Water, We Have Nothing*. Manchester University Press.**  
<https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/9781526177865/>





**Abstract:**

Conflicts over water are human-caused events with socio-political and economic causes. From Brazil's Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens (MAB) to environmental activists in Pittsburgh, people are coming together to fight for control of their water. This book examines how movements are communicating and organizing against water privatization and other forms of water grabbing, and explores how movements engage with and learn from each other. Water is at the heart of this book, but *Global solidarities against water grabbing* is as much about collective struggle and popular organization as it is about water. Based on extensive fieldwork with two movements fighting against water privatization, the book uses anticolonial and feminist research methods to show how global communications and organizing are occurring around water and how Global North movements are engaging with and learning from the Global South and vice versa.

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## Announcements

### *Call for Papers – Special Issue of the Journal Social Movement Studies*

Social Movement Studies invites submissions for a special issue entitled “**Artificially Enabled Social Change? Opportunities and Challenges of (Generative) Artificial Intelligence for Activists and Movement Organizations,**” edited by Alice Mattoni (University of Bologna) and Lorenzo Mosca (University of Parma).

For more details, visit the Social Movement Studies CFP [webpage](#).

#### Key dates

- Submit a 500-word abstract by **June 15, 2025** to [sms\\_specialissue\\_ai@live.unibo.it](mailto:sms_specialissue_ai@live.unibo.it)
- Notification of paper acceptance: **July 15, 2025**
- Full papers due: **November 15, 2025**

### *Call for Book Proposals: ASA Rose Series in Sociology*

The **ASA Rose Series in Sociology**, a joint publication of the Russell Sage Foundation and the American Sociological Association, **invites seasoned scholars to submit proposals for books** that offer fresh perspectives on enduring controversies, challenge prevailing paradigms, and provide synthetic analyses of contemporary public issues. The series focuses on critical areas of research, including the **Future of Work, Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration, and Social, Political, and Economic Inequality**. We also welcome interdisciplinary work that intersects

with these themes. Rose Series books are designed to be accessible to both academic and general audiences, ensuring broad impact and relevance across multiple fields.

### Benefits of Publishing with the Rose Series:

- Quick and Professional Review Process: Russell Sage compensates expert reviewers to ensure timely and high-quality evaluations of proposals.
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- Annual Meeting.
- Rose Book Speaker Series: Hosted by the University at Albany Rose Editors, this lecture series offers authors a platform to present their work to diverse audiences and emphasize the policy relevance of their research.
- Interested authors are encouraged to submit their proposals.

Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis.

For more information, please contact us at [roseseries@albany.edu](mailto:roseseries@albany.edu) or reach out to a member of our editorial team: Joanna Dreby ([jdreby@albany.edu](mailto:jdreby@albany.edu)), Aaron Major

([amajor@albany.edu](mailto:amajor@albany.edu)), Katherine Trent ([ktrent@albany.edu](mailto:ktrent@albany.edu)), and Steve Messner ([smessner@albany.edu](mailto:smessner@albany.edu)).

### **Next Issue of Critical Mass** ***Highlight your accomplishments for the job market!***

Are you going on the sociology job market this year? Do you have students who are going on the market? The Summer issue of *Critical Mass* is devoted to highlighting the accomplishments of junior social movements scholars. The issue will be published in early August.

To publish your profile, please provide the following:

- *Photograph (optional)*
- *Current affiliation*
- *List of up to 10 representative publications (including forthcoming publications and works in progress) in ASA or APA format*
- *200-word candidate statement in 1<sup>st</sup> person*
- *Website and email address*

Please send all materials to *Critical Mass* co-editors David Su and Ana López Ricoy at [cbsmnews@gmail.com](mailto:cbsmnews@gmail.com) by **July 1, 2025**.