



Biennial Report on RN 25 – Social Movements

2015-2017

1. Name and Number of RN

Social Movements RN25

2. Names and email addresses of:

a. outgoing Coordinators and board members (past term)

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b. incoming Coordinators and board members (new term after this year's conference)

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3. Activities:

Please describe all relevant activities of your RN in the past two-year term:

- a) **Organization of a midtem conference:** As a major event in the last two-years term, we organized a midterm conference in Florence between 6th-8th October 2016 with the title 'Friends and Foes of Social Movements' (<http://cosmos.sns.it/all-events/friends-and-foes-of-social-movements-2/>). The conference took place at the Scuola Normale Superiore (SNS), and was organized by the two coordinators of the RN. We selected 28 papers out of 80 following criteria of excellence and thematic focus. Around 80 people participated in the conference. The call for papers was

widely spread through different mailing lists and the Internet. The conference was organized with the support of the ESA and SNS. There was no registration fee for conference participants. We invited two keynote speakers: Prof. Donatella Della Porta and Prof. Mario Diani. Two roundtable were organized discussing two books: 1. Della Porta and Diani. 2015. *Oxford Handbook on Social Movements*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2. Fillieule and Accornero. 2016. *Social Movement Studies in Europe*. Oxford: Berghahn. As a conscious choice, the conference included scholars who were at different stages of their careers as well as experts from different fields, with the aim of exploiting the potential of interdisciplinary approaches as well as fostering an inter-generational dialogue. We encouraged participation of young scholars with two travel grants up to 450 Euro each. Discussion was lively and fruitful. The midterm conference also provided a great opportunity for networking and further socialization among RN members.

- b) **Organizing of the ESA RN25 at the ESA Conference in 2017:** We organized 12 sessions at the ESA Conference in Athens with the help of a number of RN members who acted as peer-reviewers and chairs for some of the sessions. A call for papers was circulated among different mailing lists. We have received 118 abstracts and accepted 50 oral presentations, in consideration of their relevance and quality, Chairs were chosen not only among board members but also among affiliates to widen participation and diversify discussions. The sessions were very well attended, the rooms allocated to our RN turned out to be too small for several sessions. During the conference we have also organized a business meeting that was attended by more than 50 people.
- c) **Coordinating the Email List:** We invited scholars to join the RN email list (esa-rn25@listserv.gu.se), and spread news and exchange on ongoing research through this. We are also taking into consideration if to open a facebook page in order to disseminate further information also through this channel.
- d) **Publications related to RN midterm meeting in Madrid:** Uba and Romanos. 2016. Special Issue. Rethinking the Consequences of Social Movements and Cycles of Protest. In *Revista Internacional de Sociologia*.
- e) **Improving participation of PhD students and early career researchers:** We encouraged participation of young scholars in the SNS midterm conference with two travel grants up to 450 Euro each. We also elected one representative to the ESA PhD network: Ana-Maria Nikolas. At the next midterm-conference (“1968-2018, fifty years after: where is the social movements field going?” 23-25 May 2018, Florence) we will organize a mentoring session for young scholars.
- f) **International Cooperation and Inclusion of Non-European Researchers:** We explicitly invited participants and paper givers from Northern America, Latin America, Middle East and Central Eastern Europe to join the 2018 midterm conference in Florence. At the General Conference, we were able to get several participants and new members to our RN from all over the world.
- g) **Improving Collaboration with other Research Networks:** We have strengthened our collaboration with the European Consortium for Political Research’s standing group on mobilization and participation, the International Sociological Association’s research committee on social classes and social movements, the American Sociological Association’s section on social movements, and the Council for

European Studies' research network on social movements.

- h) **Future activities:** we are organizing a midterm-conference in Florence in May 2018 in collaboration with COSMOS/SNS and with the standing group on participation and mobilization of the ECPR (<http://cosmos.sns.it/news/call-for-paper-conference-1968-2018-fifty-years-after-where-is-the-social-movements-field-going/>). It is the first time the RN25 and the ECPR Standing group on participation and mobilization collaborate on the organization of a joint event. This is the result of a growing collaboration among the two networks and a symbolic occasion to give evidence of this. The title of the next mid-term conference is "1968-2018, fifty years after: Where is the social movement field going?". Taking the 1968 anniversary as a stimulating moment for reflection, this conference seeks to provide space for looking at the implications of that period on social movement research as well as addressing a number of key questions in current social movement research. The midterm-conference will open with a mentoring session for young scholars. The call for papers has attracted almost 200 proposals. We have accepted 50 participants. We are expecting an audience of almost 100 people for the keynote presentations. The six keynote speakers are internationally renowned scholars in the field of social movement research: Professor Donatella Della Porta, COSMOS, Scuola Normale Superiore; Professor Mario Diani, University of Trento; Professor Olivier Fiolle, University of Lausanne; Professor Marco Giugni, University of Geneva; Professor Béla Greskovits, Central European University; Professor James Jasper, City University of New York; Professor Hanspeter Kriesi, European University Institute; Professor Michele Micheletti, Stockholm University; Professor Eva Anduiza, Autonomous University of Barcelona. A roundtable will be organized discussing the second edition (2017) of the *Handbook of Social Movements Across Disciplines* by Conny Roggeband and Bert Klandermans.
- i) **Plans and goals:** The past events organized by the RN were very successful and showed a great potential. Many applications were received and the events were well-attended. The goal for the upcoming three-years term is to further develop the RN as a crucial network for European and non-European scholars of social movements with a particular focus on its long-term maintenance. In order to do that, we will focus on:
- The RN has established a relatively large constituency of scholars interested in events organized by the RN and was successful at recruiting renowned scholars to participate at the events. In order to maintain the high interest among social movement researchers, the RN will focus particularly on the further improvement of the quality of research presented at the events organized by the RN. We strongly believe that high standard quality in the long-term pays also in terms of increasing the number of members who remain affiliated and of new ones who enter.
 - The development a RN's website to assure the online presence of the RN and to provide information to the members as well as to other scholars interested in the RN.
 - Further cooperation with other organizations and networks focused on social movements and protest.