

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Qualifying Exam — Spring 2018

The questions below constitute the qualifying exam for social movements. To complete the exam, you must answer one question from each of the three sections below in an essay format. Each answer should be a self-contained essay approximately 8–10 pages long (i.e., 2,000–2,500 words). Although you must cite to referenced work in each essay, one comprehensive bibliography for all three questions will be sufficient. You may consult materials from the reading list you've been provided, as well as any other scholarly sources you've read during the exam period.

This qualifying exam is to be completed in two weeks. The evaluation of the exam will take two weeks. You will be notified of your performance by email. Make sure that the office has your up-to-date contact information. Please use the identifying student number that you have been assigned at the top of your exam. The exams are graded confidentially and numbers only will be used to identify the author of the exam. See Graduate Handbook for any further details.

A. Choose one of the following:

1. Define the field of transnational social movements.
 - A. Outline and explain three major components necessary for the study of transnational social movements.
 - B. Evaluate three exemplary studies in the area of transnational social movements from your reading list. Make sure to describe the method and theory of the three studies. Then, explain why you consider these studies exemplary.

2. Select one book from the reading list that particularly interests you. Discuss the major contributions of that book, theoretically and/or empirically. Then, select three other scholars from the reading list and discuss how those three scholars would critique the book that you selected. What would they consider to be the book's contributions as well as its limitations? Why do you think so? Include in your answer at least one improvement that each scholar would recommend to the author to improve the contributions of their work.

B. Choose one of the following:

1. What are the arguments of social scientists who claim that the social movements that have emerged since the 1970s are "new social movements"? To what extent do you agree or disagree with this claim?

2. How has globalization, the thickening of transnational social relations affected women's movements in the Global South and their views of Western feminism?

C. Choose one of the following:

1. Following the structuralist turn from the psychologically-informed theory of Collective Behavior, social movement theory remained largely devoid of a concept of 'emotion'. However, in the past few years 'emotion' has made a come back to the Social Movement theory. Is this a welcome development? Why? What does the element of emotion add to the social movement perspectives? Is this not a return to the old-fashion collective behavior perspective and its pitfalls? How is the recent emphasis on 'emotion' different from the one which deployed in Collective Behavior? Discuss.

2. Currently, the prevailing literature on contentious politics, including social movement theories, has paid insufficient *theoretical* attention to leaders and leadership. This is so primarily because contentious collective action is by definition about groups, collectives, not individuals. What do you think of this statement? Is this deficiency in social movement theory then inherent? Do you see a solution for this? Do you see a reasonable perspective that can accommodate the role of individuals in the contentious collectives?