Essential Skills for Change: Teaching Social Movements

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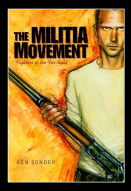
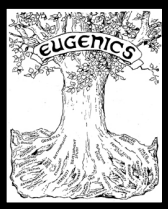
This image has been **CENSORED** pursuant to TCA 49-7-1901 thru -1908, TN's so-called "Divisive Concepts" legislation. I am prohibited from putting my university logo next to the word "Anti-Racist". Our systems are not "inherently" racist, we make choices to cause that reality.

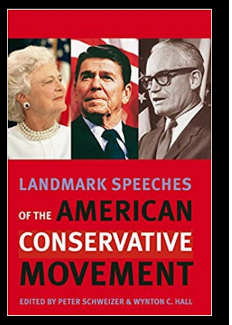
Presented at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting
"It's time to act: Defining and Reckoning with anti-racist social work education"
Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, October 27, 2023

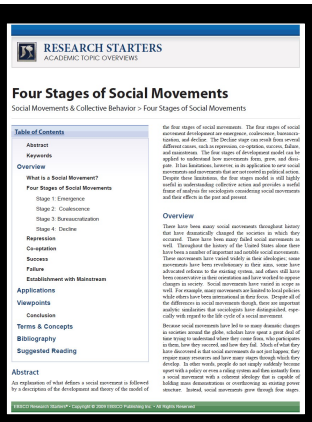
Social Movements are essential for change…

But are all social movements consistent with Social Work values??








RESEARCH STARTERS
ACADEMIC TOPIC OVERVIEWS

Four Stages of Social Movements

Social Movements & Collective Behavior > Four Stages of Social Movements

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Abstract

An explanation of what defines a social movement is followed by a description of the development and theory of the model of the four stages of social movements. The first stages of social movement development are emergence, coalescence, bureaucratization, and decline. The last stage, decline, can be caused by different causes, such as repression, co-optation, success, failure and nonsuccess. The four stages of development model can be applied to understand how movements form, grow, and dissipate. It has limitations, however, in its application to new social movements and movements that are not covered in political action. Despite these limitations, the four stages model is still highly useful as understanding collective action and provides a useful frame of analysis for sociologists considering social movements and their effects in the past and present.

Overview

There have been many social movements throughout history that have dramatically changed the societies in which they occurred. There have been many failed social movements as well. Throughout the history of the United States alone there have been many social movements that have been very successful. Three movements have varied widely in their ideologies; some movements have been revolutionary in their aims, some have advocated reforms to the existing system, and others still have been conservative in their orientation and have worked to oppose changes in society. Social movements have varied in scope as well. For example, many movements are limited to local policies while others have been international in their focus. Despite all of the differences in social movements though, there are important analytic similarities that sociologists have distinguished, especially with regard to the life cycle of a social movement.

Because social movements have led to so many dramatic changes in societies around the globe, scholars have spent a great deal of time trying to understand where they come from, who participates in them, how they succeed, and how they fail. Much of what they have discovered is that social movements do not just happen, they require many resources and have many stages through which they develop. In order to be successful, a social movement must have a goal (e.g. policy or cultural change) and then animate from a social movement with a coherent ideology that is capable of holding mass demonstrations or overthrowing an existing power structure. Instead, social movements grow through four stages.

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We must study them!!!

Foundation Policy Assignment:

Analyze a social movement through the lens of Blumer & the NASW Code of Ethics

Assignment Deliverables:

12 pg Paper
1 pg Mini-zine
5 min Presentation w/PPT

Primary Learning Tools (Lib Guide):

- EBSCO Research Starter Series (Christensen, 2009)
- Lumen Learning Lab (Vonderhaar, 2023)
- Encyclopedia of Social Movements (Ness, 2015)
- NASW Code of Ethics (2021)
- Alternative criteria for theory evaluation in Social Work (Witkin & Gottschalk, 1988)

Library & writing supports for paper publication

Dr. Glenda Alvin,
Dean of TSU Libraries

Julie Huskey, Librarian

Lori Danley, Writing Tutor

Tutoring is NOT a punishment!

Related CSWE Course Competencies

Competency 3 – Advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

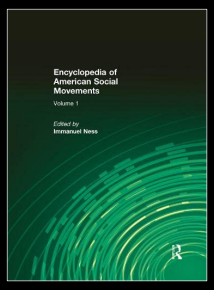
- Apply understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels.
- Engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.

Competency 5 – Engage in policy practice.

- Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services.
- Assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services.
- Apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

Major Social Movements in the USA

1. Anti-slavery movement
2. Civil Rights Movement
3. Women's Movement
4. Labor Rights Movement
5. Native American Movement
6. Rural, Social, & Political Movements
7. Moral Reform Movements
8. Religious, Utopian, and Health Movements
9. Anti-war-Protest Movements
10. Radical and Poor People's Movements
11. Student Movements
12. Ethnic & Group Identity Movements
13. Environmental Movement
14. LGBTQIA Movements
15. Conservative, Nativist, and Right-wing movements
16. Global Justice Movements



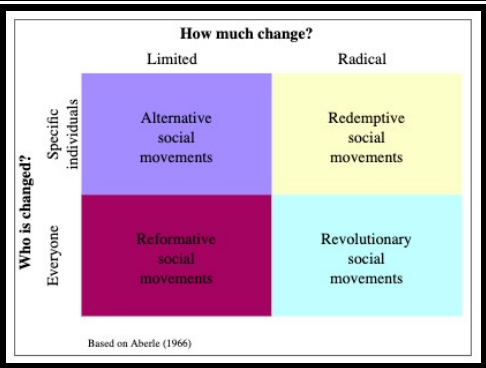
(Ness, 2015)

Blumer's 4-stage Social Movement Analysis Model

1. Emergence (social ferment & discontent)
2. Coalescence (Popularity rises & Leaders emerge)
3. Bureaucratization (formalization & goals)
4. Decline (Popularity/need fades)
   a) Repression
   b) Co-optation
   c) Success
      - Stop actions and cease to exist
      - Adapt actions and alter/evolve mission
   d) Failure
      - Factionalism
      - Encapsulation
   e) Establishment within the mainstream

(Christensen, 2009)

Types of Social Movements (Lumen Learning Lab)



(Vonderhaar, 2023)

What is a Social Movement?

1. Complex and difficult to define
2. NOT a specific party or interest group, these are stable political entities
3. NOT a mass fad or trend, these are unorganized, fleeting and without goals
4. Social movements exist somewhere in between stable political organizations and mass trends
5. Involved in conflict with clear opponents
6. Linked by dense, often informal networks
7. Share a distinct collective identity
8. Typically aimed at policy change, but also often more broadly aimed at cultural change.

(Christensen, 2009)

Social Movements can also be Hate Groups

1. Social movements may cross a line to become a hate group. A sole actor may also damage a movement by committing violence in the name of that movement, which may label the entire movement as a hate group.

2. **FBI has definitions of hate groups and hate crimes for the USA:**
   - ***Hate Crime:*** [A] criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.
   - ***Hate Groups:*** Primary purpose is to promote animosity, hostility, and malice against persons belonging to a different target group. Investigated by FBI only when a threat of force is made following Attorney General protocols.

4. Hate groups are mapped here by Southern Poverty Law Center: https://www.splcenter.org/issues/hate-and-extremism

5. **Accusations** of being a hate group could also be considered repression of an authentic movement that is trying to speak truth to power.

Social Movements can evolve into a Terrorist Organization

1. Social movements that are hate groups may cross a line to become a terrorist organization. Members of the group must repeatedly commit violent, criminal acts to cross this threshold.

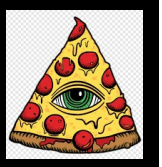
2. International **movement to define what "terrorism" means**.

3. **FBI has working definitions of terrorism for the USA:**
   - **International terrorism:** Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups who are inspired by, or associated with, designated foreign terrorist organizations or nations (state-sponsored).
   - **Domestic terrorism:** Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature.

4. **Accusations** of being a terrorist group could also be considered repression of an authentic non-violent movement. Some left leaning groups do not hurt people, only property.

Social Movements can get caught up with Conspiracy Theory

1. Social movements may get co-opted by a conspiracy theory. False information spread in energized networks can spur extremist members to act.
2. **Conspiracy theories** seek to explain events or circumstances (that may or may not have actually occurred) by attributing events to a secret group of actors, typically alleging wrongdoing by a **targeted group** of either very powerful or else very marginalized people.
3. FBI forbidden from investigating free speech until there is a clear connection to violence, threats of force, or clear calls for the use of force.



(FBI, 2019)

Criteria for evaluating a movement's theory base in SOWK

- **Criteria 1:** The theory should be **explicitly critical** to the extent that it includes a reflexive element concerning its historical, cultural, and political and economic significance. Generally, a theory that is explicitly critical will seek to be liberating in that it serves to expose unquestioned truths, reveal hidden mechanisms, and/or proposes alternative conceptualizations.
- **Criteria 2:** The theory should **recognize humans as active agents**. Agents are capable of choice, reflecting on their own actions, balancing temptations and distractions to achieve objectives, restraining desires, and adopting new principles.
- **Criteria 3:** The theory should **account for the life experiences** of the Agent. This means the theory must be able to take account of the meanings people infuse into their experience of the world.
- **Criteria 4:** The theory should **promote social justice**. This means people should be free from the arbitrary control of others, leading to the expansion of human rights and the legitimation of human variability.

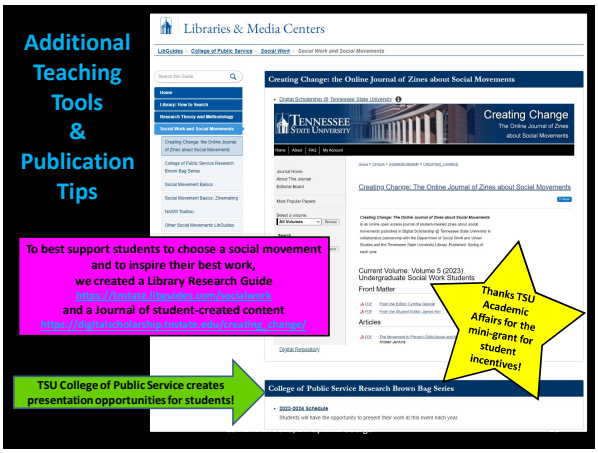
(Witkin & Gottschalk, 1988)

Search tips for studying social movements

- Review (Ness, 2015) and conduct internet searches to choose & analyze
- Always play around with your search terms until you figure out the best set of words to use to pull up sources about your movement
- If you are searching for old information, you may need to use old words…

- Search "[movement name] timeline"
- Search "[movement name] history"
- Search "[movement name] documentary"
- On YouTube, search "[movement name]"
- Search "[movement name] leaders"
- Search "[movement name] agenda"
- Search "[movement name] public policy"
- Search "[movement name] social media"
- Search "[movement name] hashtags" to get a list of hashtags to then search on relevant social media platforms, go to each platform then search "[movement name]" and/or search specific related #'s
- Search the Libraries for peer reviewed articles or other scholarly sources about the movement. Major movements will likely have some published, it is evidence of some level of bureaucratization and impact on society.

Remember to Bookmark Important links!! www.Zotero.org is FREE & legit


Additional Teaching Tools & Publication Tips
Libraries & Media Centers
Creating Change: the Online Journal of Zines about Social Movements
Creating Change
The Online Journal of Zines about Social Movements
Creating Change: The Online Journal of Zines about Social Movements
Current Volume: Volume 5 (2023)
Undergraduate Social Work Students
Front Matter
Articles
To best support students to choose a social movement and to inspire their best work, we created a Library Research Guide
https://tnstate.libguides.com/socialwork
and a Journal of student-created content
https://digitalscholarship.tnstate.edu/creating_change/
Thanks TSU Academic Affairs for the mini-grant for student incentives!
TSU College of Public Service creates presentation opportunities for students!
College of Public Service Research Brown Bag Series
2023-2024 Schedule
Students will have the opportunity to present their work at this event each year.

Social Movement Basics
Christiansen, J. (2009). EBSCO Research Starters: Four stages of social movements. Salem Press Encyclopedia.
Vonderhaar, R. (2023). Introduction to Sociology, Module 18, Social Movements and Social Change, Types and Stages of Social Movements. Lumen Learning Online.
Immanuel Ness. (2015). Encyclopedia of American Social Movements. Routledge: eBook Academic Collection (EBSCOhost).
Social Movement Basics: Zinemaking
Does your city have a zine fest?
Zine-making resources are in our Library Research Guide
https://tnstate.libguides.com/socialwork
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Other Social Movements LibGuides
Lib Guides from other universities and scholarly books & articles are listed in the TSU Library Research Guide
Scholarly Sources about Social Movements
Books
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Social Movement Basics: Zinemaking
NASW Toolbox
Other Social Movements LibGuides
Scholarly Sources about Social Movements
Interlibrary Loan
NASW Toolbox
Aging: https://www.socialworkers.org/practice/aging/aging-tools?udt_18083_param_page=3
Ethnicity & Race Practice Tools: https://www.socialworkers.org/Practice/Ethnicity-Race/Ethnicity-Race-Tools
Gun control: https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=YvR20CC6ORU%3D&portalid=0
Reproductive rights: https://www.socialworkers.org/Advocacy/Policy-Issues/Reproductive-Rights-Are-Human-Rights
Child Migrant Protection: https://www.socialworkers.org/News/1000-Experts/Media-Toolkits/Child-Migrant-Protection-Toolkit
Domestic violence: https://www.socialworkers.org/News/1000-Experts/Media-Toolkits/Domestic-Violence-Media-Toolkit
Voter Rights: https://www.socialworkers.org/Advocacy/Social-Justice/Increasing-Voter-Participation
Immigration: https://www.socialworkers.org/Practice/Research-Materials/NASW-Research-Library-Immigration
Solitary Confinement: http://www.socialworkblog.org/wp-content/uploads/Solitary-Confinement.pdf
Environmental Justice: https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=H0t76Ho_6Ts%3d&portalid=0
NASW Advocacy Toolkits are listed in the TSU Library Research Guide
https://tnstate.libguides.com/socialwork
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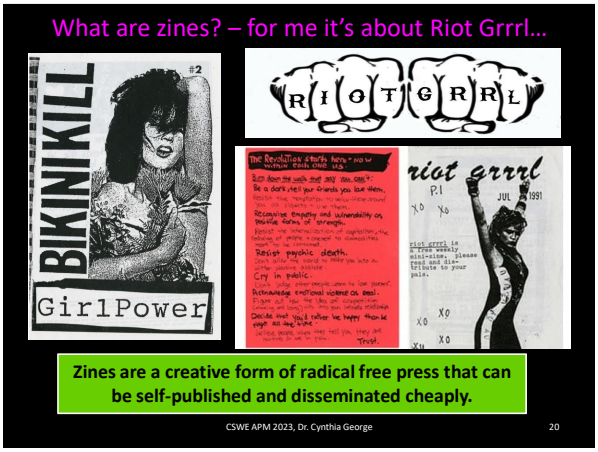
What are zines? – for me it's about Riot Grrrl…
BIKINIKILL
#2
GirlPower
RIOTGRRL
The Revolution starts here - now within each ONE of us.
Recognize empathy and vulnerability as positive forms of strength.
Resist psychic death.
Cry in public
Trust.
riot grrrl
P.1
JUL 1991
Zines are a creative form of radical free press that can be self-published and disseminated cheaply.
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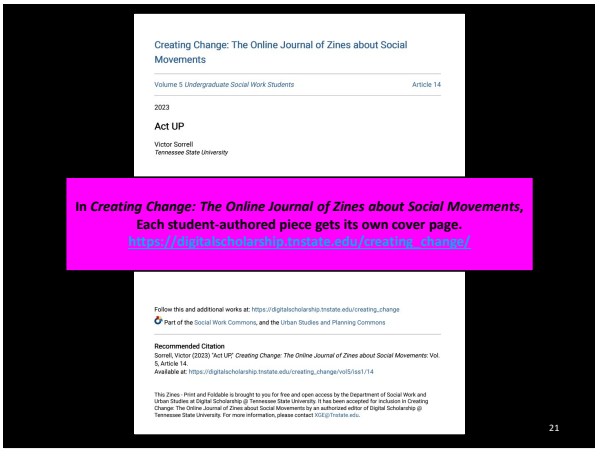
Creating Change: The Online Journal of Zines about Social Movements
Volume 5 Undergraduate Social Work Students
Article 14
2023
Act UP
Victor Sorrell
Tennessee State University
In Creating Change: The Online Journal of Zines about Social Movements,
Each student-authored piece gets its own cover page.
https://digitalscholarship.tnstate.edu/creating_change/
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Recommended Citation
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Available at: https://digitalscholarship.tnstate.edu/creating_change/vol5/iss1/14
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Williams, Anthony (2022) "Black Lives Matter," *Creating Change: The Online Journal of Zines about Social Movements*: Vol. 4, Article 8.
https://digitalscholarship.tnstate.edu/creating_change/vol4/iss1/8

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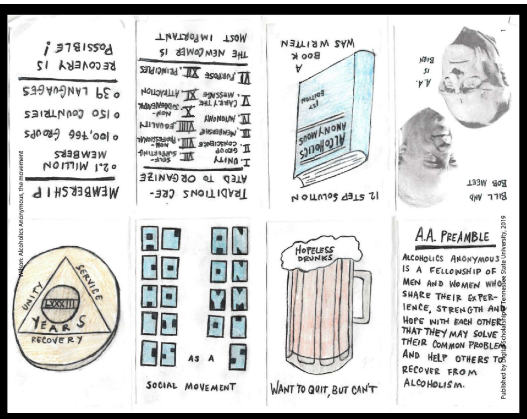

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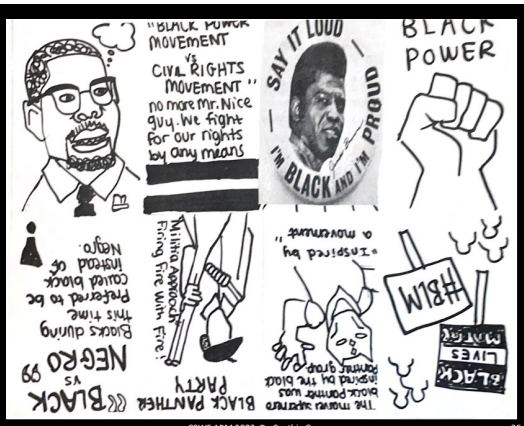

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A poem on prison abolition by James Ker

We Offer Pain/Give Us Freedom

The dirt that mixes in with heat
Is good and just the left over seat
On high at hand the breeze is cool
The rush of water the leak in pools
And rust from pain on end like lightning
The scar of heat installed igniting
To they who ask the frigid wonder
The tear in heart of rain and thunder
An answer still upon awakening
Is like the light from hope and shaking
And in the end the bastion broke
A withered call of peace bespoke

Ker, James (2019) "Prison Abolition Movement," *Creating Change: The Online Journal of Zines about Social Movements*: Vol. 1, Article 4.
https://digitalscholarship.tnstate.edu/creating_change/vol1/iss1/4

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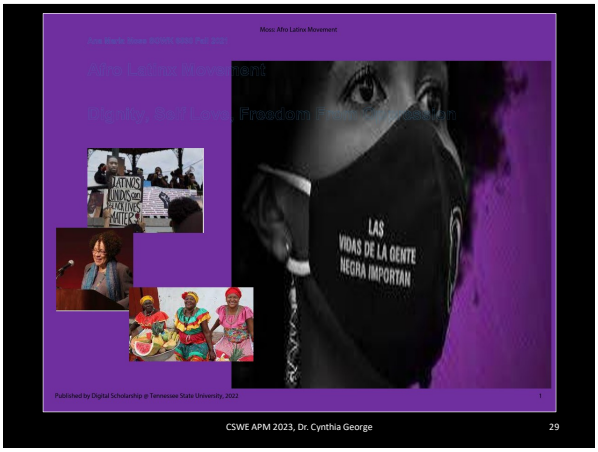

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Grading given Divisive Concepts Legislation…

1. You are NOT grading a student's belief in a specific concept or support for a given movement, you are grading the ability to:
   a) Choose a topic to conduct research & analysis on
   b) Analyze a social movement using a scientific framework
   c) View an issue through the NASW Code of Ethics
   d) Engage in self-reflection to check personal bias to discern actions appropriate for professional social work practice
2. I use a holistic competence rubric…

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Holistic Competence Rubric – Generalist - An Analysis of Social Movements Grading Rubric

Holistic Competence Criteria for Successful Demonstration	Your Score	Possible Points	Feedback for Growth
Knowledge: Paper correctly specifies a social movement, articulates its history, and connects it to public policy accurately; and applies all four stages of Blumer's Analysis Framework to the movement (Emergence, Coalescence, Bureaucratization, Decline w/sub-concepts)		20	
Values: Paper articulates how the social movement is consistent with and/or is in opposition to SOWK values, ethics, and practice behaviors		20	
Skills: Paper presents clear & coherent ideas and is in APA format, including scholarly writing style with appropriate section headings, paper structure, in-text citations, and references		20	
Cognitive & Affective Processes: Paper demonstrates competence in understanding the complexity of diverse groups and management of personal bias to understand the social movement, how it may impact society, and how it may impact social work practice; as well as how movements have been utilized across time to promote social change		20	
Exercise of Judgment: Creates a paper, presentation, and zine that accurately depicts a social movement with an analysis that is relevant to and consistent with professional policy practice for social workers		20	
Total Assignment Points		**100**	

Rating Scale:
- **A (90-100) = Excellent.** Student consistently functions with a very high degree of competency.
- **B (80-89) = Competent.** Student regularly functions with better-than-average competence.
- **C (70-79) = Adequate.** Student performance fulfills minimum competency requirements.
- **D (60-69) = Needs Improvement.** Student performance is uneven, showing wide variation in levels of competency.
- **F (0-59) = Unsatisfactory.** Student performance is consistently low and/or violates ethical standards.

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References: Resources for Teaching Social Movements

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