

– Call for Papers –

International Conference

STREET POLITICS IN THE AGE OF AUSTERITY From the Indignados to Occupy

February 21-22, 2013

Centre de recherche sur les politiques et le développement social
Université de Montréal

Organizers: Pascale Dufour, Department of Political Science, Université de Montréal
Marcos Ancelovici, Department of Sociology, McGill University
Héloïse Nez, Department of Sociology, Université de Tours

This conference aims at bringing together scholars who have conducted research and field work during the recent wave of public square occupations (cf. the “Indignados” and the Occupy Movement) and anti-austerity protests in Europe and North America. We want to situate this wave of protests with respect to the global justice movement of the late 1990s and early 2000s, understand its dynamic by looking at its embeddedness in varieties of local and national histories, and put it in the contemporary context of worldwide struggles against austerity. The goal is to contrast and compare these mobilizations and contentious episodes in order to produce an edited volume in English.

An introductory panel will present these protests in a comparative perspective and outline the main issues and questions. Abstracts submitted should fall within one of the four panels listed below:

1/ The Transnational Diffusion of Movements: The first panel will examine the circulation of actors, frames and modes of action by looking at the discourses and practices that have travelled from one site of contention to another. Can we observe processes of transposition, diffusion, and adaptation? What circulates and what does not? Are we witnessing a single phenomenon or different movements?

2/ The Spatial Dimension of Mobilizations: These mobilizations have almost everywhere implied the occupation of public squares. This second panel will propose a comparative analysis of these occupations with a particular focus on the type of spaces being occupied (and how they relate to the claims and demands of occupiers), the mode of occupation (camps, sit-ins, assemblies, etc.), and their evolution over time.

3/ Democratic Practices and the Question of Representation: This third panel will consider how movements address the issue of representation and relate to institutional politics. It will analyze the internal mode of organization and functioning of occupations (deliberative practices, decision-making processes, assemblies and committees, etc.). It

will also look at the relation between occupations and protests, on the one hand, and intellectuals, civic associations, trade unions, and political parties, on the other.

4/ Direct Action and the Relation to the Police: Tactical issues and the relation to violence had different implications depending on the context, from the standpoint of both activists and police forces. This fourth panel will compare, across time and space, the stance of movement actors with respect to violence and the diversity of tactics as well as the response of the police and the government.

Practical Details

- The conference will be in English.
- The *first* day of the conference will be open to the public and will aim at presenting the authors/participants' research. The *second* day of the conference will be closed to the public and organized as a workshop so that participants can discuss each other's research, identify central points, and generate a common framework that will give some coherence to the edited volume.
- The abstracts to be submitted should be about 300 words, indicate the panel to which they relate, and specify the case study that was conducted and/or the research method used. Abstracts must be submitted by **September 30, 2012**, to: pascale.dufour@umontreal.ca, marcos.ancelovici@mcgill.ca, heloise.nez@gmail.com.
- The selection will be made by **October 30, 2012**, and you will be notified by email.
- Papers will have to be submitted by **January 31, 2013** at the latest. They should be about 45,000-60,000 characters.
- Part of travel expenses will be covered by the organizers and supporting institutions.