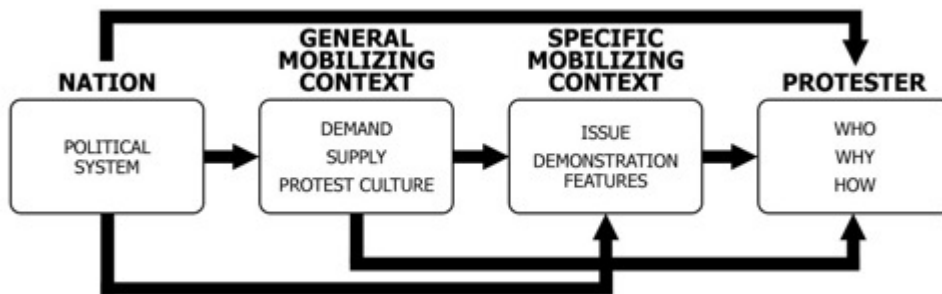


CURRENT PROJECTS

Caught in the act of protest: contextualized contestation.

This project attempts to find answers to the questions of who participates in protest, for what reason, and how they are mobilised. As the motivational dynamics of different forms of participation vary, we chose to focus on one particular type of protest, namely, protest demonstrations. The decision to take part in a protest demonstration is not taken in isolation but within a wider social and political context. We will investigate the impact of contextual variation on the dynamics of protest by comparing demonstrations in different countries and mobilizing contexts.

The central tenet of this study is that a specific national context generates a specific mobilizing context; that the interaction of nation and mobilizing context produces a specific type of demonstration; that a specific type of demonstration brings a specific group of protestors into the streets. We assume that the composition of the group of protestors, their motives and the way they are mobilized result from the interaction of national context, mobilizing context, and type of demonstration (see Figure).



A comparative design is employed to gather data in 7 different countries. We will gather contextual data (at the national and mobilizing context) and data on protesters in 8-10 demonstrations per country. In total we hope to collect data on about 70 different demonstrations. Eventually we aim for a data set that contains contextual data on 7 countries, 70 demonstrations with approximately 40,000 respondents. For more information on this project: <http://www.protestsurvey.eu/>

Uploading Unrest

Societies change rapidly. In short, these changes constitute new communication technologies and a *network society*, both inseparably intertwined. These developments cause formal networks embodied by organisations to give way to more informal networks rooted in the personal lives of individuals. Indeed, both communication and networks are essential elements in contentious politics; therefore we assume that these societal changes also affect the dynamics of protest. In this project we investigate

how 'old' formal organizational mobilization versus 'new' informal network mobilization differentially influence the who, the why and the how of protest participation. We collected data in a period of protest with both informal network mobilisation and formal organizational mobilisation for the same group (secondary school students) and the same issue (quality of education). The first results indicate that mobilization practices influence who participates and why. The youngsters in the spontaneous protests were younger, lower educated, and cynical about politics than the protesters in the official event. Moreover, the students in the spontaneous protests were frustrated about the amount of hours in school and identified with others involved, contrary to the students in the official event, for whom qualitative education, ideological concerns and social approval were stronger drives.

Managing Multiple Identities

Young Dutch Muslims face the challenge to combine multiple identities that in the outside world collide or even clash. This paper shows that identification as 'Muslim', 'Dutch', or both influences the interpretation of the socio-political context; shapes grievances, efficacy, and emotions. A dual identity conditions either 'individual voice' or 'collective voice', dependent on feeling respectively fearful or angry. A single identification as Muslim conditioned either 'silent exit' (doing nothing) or a 'loud exit' (prepared to take radical action), dependent on level of trust in democracy. Identity positions, thus, shape people's perceptions of the socio-political context and their strategies to cope with it.

The Evolution of Collective Action in Evolving Neighbourhoods

Our understanding of *who* participates in collective action and *why* is far from complete. Why does one person go to a demonstration while others stay at home? or, why is the one grievance translated into mobilization rather than another? or why does the same problem in one neighbourhood lead to mobilization whereas other neighbourhoods remain quit? These questions refer to important yet unanswered topics in the literature. This project addresses these gaps by presenting a dynamic interdisciplinary model accounting for collective action participation. We borrow the "demand and supply" metaphor from economics. *Demand* refers to the potential in a society for protest; *Supply* refers to the participation opportunities staged by organizations; and *Mobilization* is the mechanism that links demand and supply. We will test the model with a new and innovative method. We investigate the very *beginning* and *evolution* of collective action in newly developing neighbourhoods_s-called VINEX locations_as 'natural laboratories'. Our aim is to catch the demand and supply side of participation as they form in three neighbourhoods with different socio-economic composition. We will conduct longitudinally structural network analyses and focusgroup interviews with organizers to catch the evolution of the supply factors and mobilization and Internet panel studies to monitor the development of demand factors such as grievances, identification etc. The project promises to yield interesting theoretical and empirical results. We investigate the

development of collective action from the very beginning, this will enable us to peep into the black box of how grievances turn into motivation to participate in collective action. Furthermore, we take a dynamic approach, which allows us to overcome the chronic issues of causality and sampling on the dependent variable in collective action studies. Finally, this study promises fascinating empirical results on how social-economic composition of neighbourhoods facilitates or hinders participation of its residents.

Emotions & Protest

Politics, and especially politics of protest, are full of emotions. Yet, little is known about how emotions impact on people's motivation to participate in political protest. This project combines psychological and sociological approaches to fill in this gap. The research objectives of this project are threefold: (1) providing a *systematic inventory* of emotions spurring protest, (2) investigating emotions at *different moments* during an activist career and (3) describing and explaining the interplay between *ideologically opposing frames* of movement organizations and individual participants from an emotional resonance perspective. We plan to conduct three studies that use psychological theories of emotions and motivation and sociological theories of framing and social movement context: focus group interviews, longitudinal comparative Internet panel study and laboratory studies. The study is innovative in that it investigates, emotional in addition to cognitive frame resonance by connecting organizational frames of ideologically opposing movement organizations to the motivations and emotions of their members.