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Protesting Civil Society in Poland, 2004 – 2020.

In the 1990s, American scholars came to the conclusion that social protests were becoming part of the standard repertoire of Western civil societies and had nothing to do with the violent outbreaks of social discontent observed a few decades earlier. Collective protest has become one of the ways for the citizens of Western societies to represent legitimate political interests. The universality of collective actions after World War II was a pretext for formulating a conclusion about the high availability of protests for the citizens of Western democracies and the repetition of their repertoire. American scholars put forward a thesis that nowadays the citizens of Western societies live in the "social movement society". According to the thesis, a number of phenomena occur in developed democracies that make social protests similar in several ways: protest becomes a legitimate tool of political conflict, participation in social protests increases, during protests the conventional repertoire prevails (participation of illegal protest methods and violence decreases). It is also acceptable to accept protests that were once considered illegal, such as strikes. The first objective of the project is to investigate whether the *social movement society* exists in Poland, in the years 2004-2010. This will be done on the basis of data from the protests in the daily press. It will be the first such comprehensive study on Polish collective actions after 2004. The use of previous studies based on the counting of protest events from the daily press and survey data will make it possible to examine the scope, scale and detailed presentation of a number of variables on protest events after Poland's accession to the European Union. The second objective of the project is to investigate the structure of Polish civil society based on data on protests. This is connected with an attempt to understand the structure of the configuration of protest repertoire and the hierarchy of the position of actors participating in the protests. The result will be the creation of a map of civil society protests in the years 2004-2020. The map will reflect relations on two levels: 1) between individual actors (individual organizations) and 2) between groups of actors (collections of different organizations) of civil society. Using the technique of social networks analysis I will show the dominating actors of civil society in Poland since 2004. This will allow to explore the socio-political context of protest mobilization and learn how the mechanisms of protest work, in which conditions Polish protests are born and demobilized. The main effect of the project will be the creation of a research infrastructure in the form of a database of Polish protests from 2004 to 2020. The database will be accessible to scientists and the general public. The collection will be deposited in the Social Data Archive (ADS) (<http://www.ads.org.pl/index.php>.) run by the University of Warsaw and the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Science.