

## **Activism and knowledge production. Archives and protest data in contentious politics field**

Social movements and activists are "both objects of archiving and subjects of self-archiving practices" (Kaun 2016: 5395). Contemporary protest actions are being documented and disseminated with new technologies /social media on a scale never seen before. Classic, paper-based archives coexist with quantitative data collections and almost countless photos of protest actions published on Internet. In an effort to better understand the politics of contestation and industrial disputes, we analyze the ways in which archives and datasets documenting protests function. The main research goal is to identify the production of knowledge through archives and datasets of protests.

We are interested in the activist perspective, the intersection of political engagement and scientific knowledge, and above all, the role of different types of collections in the production of knowledge about the parties to political disputes.

We pose the following hypotheses in the project: H1: Protest archives and data collections are sites of meaning-making, narratives, and frames of action for social movements. H2: Protest data are used to create narratives about social movements and power in the political field depending on the availability and forms of collection (its content and interface). Comparing different types of archives and datasets on protests relating to different topics, forms and contexts will allow us to identify patterns and differences. Therefore, we will conduct our research based on comparing cases of archives from different geographic regions, different historical periods and relating to different types of social movements.

In addition to comparative analysis of cases (case studies) based on site visits and document analysis, we will conduct interviews with organizers/founders/managers of protest archives, as well as experts with knowledge of how they are used in the politics of dissent and social movement activism. The final stage of the research is a multidimensional comparative analysis will be aimed at mapping archives and repositories (factual and contextual classification), reconstructing the structure and architecture of archives and repositories, and assessing their impact on the politics of contestation. The study will be oriented to the following issues: (1) Archives and social memory; (2) Epistemic justice, (3) Protest and power. The multidimensional analysis will be aimed at mapping archives and repositories (factual and contextual classification), reconstructing the structure and architecture of archives and repositories, and assessing their impact on the politics of contestation.

The expected outcome of the research work is an in-depth assessment of the mechanisms of knowledge production in the field of contestation politics and the addition of theoretical and empirical knowledge on the role of protests. The results of the project will provide insight into the mechanisms of knowledge production and its use for political and cultural change.