Call for papers: Movement internationalism(s)

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The November 2014 issue of the open-access, online, copyleft academic/activist journal Interface: a Journal for and about Social Movements (http://www.interfacejournal.net/) invites contributions on the theme of Movement internationalism(s) as well as general submissions.

Internationalism, originally used to refer to relationships between states, has come in much movement practice to mean relationships of solidarity between people and peoples across or despite national boundaries, inter-state conflicts and economic competition.

Social movement internationalisms have had many different flavours: since the late 18th and early 19th centuries we have seen liberal cosmopolitanism, radical-democratic internationalism, internationalisms linking anti-colonial and national liberation struggles, often overlapping. In the later 19th and early 20th century we have seen often more tightly-defined trade union, socialist and anarchist internationalisms; Pan-African and Third-Worldist internationalisms; and some paradoxical right-wing internationalisms. In more recent decades a “new internationalism” often associated with links between movements rather than parties, playing a role in the alterglobalisation movement and the 2003 anti-war movement as well as the latest movement wave.

Internationalisms do not always take this formal shape. We are equally interested in the global plebeian networks of the kind discussed by Linebaugh and Rediker in The Many-Headed Hydra or come to that contemporary grassroots labour networking; “transnational advocacy networks” campaigning around specific themes; processes of international solidarity, often in support of specific revolutionary movements such as the Zapatistas; and state-sponsored internationalisms such as that of the Venezuelan state’s Bolivarismo.

For this special themed section of Interface 6/2 we are interested in articles by researchers and activists, as well as material in other formats such as “action notes” on particular organising methods, activist biographies, book reviews, conversational roundtables, analyses of movement events etc. written in such a way as to be of interest or use to people outside the specific internationalism in question – contributing to Interface’s goal of “learning from each other’s struggles”. Contributions might address such questions as:
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- The practical challenges of international social movement organising;
- The different political implications of how movements frame international, global, transnational or other ways of organising;
- How do relationships of solidarity cope with the often vast differences in resources, power and experience between their participants, including differences between organisations in the North and the South and between NGOs and popular movements?
- The relationship between international movement organising and other actors such as the international state order or global capitalism;
- The present-day tension between local struggles and their representation in international movement or left circuits;
- The role of migrants and minority groups in international organising and its contribution or otherwise to redressing national ethnic injustices;
- Other questions relevant to the special issue theme.

As in every issue, we are also very happy to receive contributions that reflect on other questions for social movement research and practice that fit within the journal’s mission statement (http://www.interfacejournal.net/who-we-are/mission-statement/).

Submissions should contribute to the journal’s mission as a tool to help our movements learn from each other’s struggles, by developing analyses from specific movement processes and experiences that can be translated into a form useful for other movements.

In this context, we welcome contributions by movement participants and academics who are developing movement-relevant theory and research. Our goal is to include material that can be used in a range of ways by movements — in terms of its content, its language, its purpose and its form. We thus seek work in a range of different formats, such as conventional (refereed) articles, review essays, facilitated discussions and interviews, action notes, teaching notes, key documents and analysis, book reviews — and beyond. Both activist and academic peers review research contributions, and other material is sympathetically edited by peers. The editorial process generally is geared towards assisting authors to find ways of expressing their understanding, so that we all can be heard across geographical, social and political distances.

We can accept material in Afrikaans, Arabic, Catalan, Czech, Danish, English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Maltese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish and Zulu. Please see our editorial contacts page (http://www.interfacejournal.net/submissions/editorial-contact/) for details of who to submit to.
Deadline and contact details

The deadline for initial submissions to this issue, to be published November 1, 2014, is May 1, 2014. For details of how to submit to Interface, please see the “Guidelines for contributors” on our website. All manuscripts, whether on the special theme or other topics, should be sent to the appropriate regional editor, listed on our contacts page. Submission templates are available online via the guidelines page and should always be used to ensure correct formatting.