

## **Call for papers volume 11 issue 2 (Nov-Dec 2019)**

### **Understanding and challenging right-wing movements**

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The November-December 2019 issue of the open-access, online, copy left academic/activist journal *Interface: a Journal for and about Social Movements* (<http://www.interfacejournal.net/>) will focus on the theme of understanding and challenging right-wing movements. Contributions on other themes, as always, are also welcome.

The Volume 11, issue 1 (May-June 2019) issue will be a general issue, open to all contributions relevant to the journal.

### **Understanding and challenging right-wing movements**

In country after country, right wing social movements appear to be on the increase. They take different forms; there are the street politics of La Meute in Quebec, the neo-fascist squatters of Italy (CasaPound), Brazilian homophobes attacking LGBTQ folks, and Czech skinheads organizing concerts and publications. There are the Confederate statue defenders and the Proud Boys in the US. There is the complexity of the alt-right on the subreddit sites. There are also deep resonances and connections with the new men's movements and shared strategies of doxxing and swarming employed against their SJW (social justice warrior) enemies. There are forms of community organising with impoverished white working class neighbourhoods including the provision of food, community centres and other services otherwise absent laced with deeply dehumanising discourses about the raced 'other'. There are anti-migrant attacks in Saudi Arabia, South Africa and India alongside attacks on women, queers, Jews, Muslims and the homeless. There are the dozens of far right, anti-immigrant, anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim political parties moving from the fringes to the mainstream and gaining power.

These movements are premised on logics of exclusion, separation and elimination. They racialize and gender "community", legitimise violence against those that they dehumanize and express feelings of hate and resentment. They are changing and multiple, and expand the terrain of political logics and subjectivities in both old and new ways. They develop on and through complex affectivities with alt-right communities articulating and bringing sense to their practices, strategies and beliefs through both discourses of hate, anger and resentment towards the Other(ed), and love, community, loyalty and patriotism in relation to their own 'imagined' political and cultural community..

At the same time, conservative voices often interpret right wing activities as “movements” in misleading ways, inflating online phenomena and “astroturfing”, exaggerating spontaneity and the level of popular participation where more careful research shows events dominated by the wealthy and powerful and populated by members of long-standing conservative traditions, and underplaying the dialectic between right wing parties and policies, right wing media, religion and publishing and right wing movements. Often, too, journalism accentuates reporting on right wing movements where larger left wing phenomena gain little attention.

On the other hand, social liberals and central left ‘progressives’ present disdain, shock and deeply classed and moralistic narratives about the ‘imagined’ figures who populate the new right. This both legitimises and elides the role of Third Way political parties and governments across the ‘West’ in the construction of a deeply anti-popular, post-antagonistic and racialised/ist neoliberal hegemony. Their role in this process, along with more obvious conservative forces, has created the conditions of political disarticulation, social-economic exclusion and feelings of betrayal, abandonment and loss in now impoverished white working class communities and undercut the conditions for unity across different sectors of the working classes and broader subaltern. Right wing movements and governments are arguably not a rupture with but a continuation of the practices, strategies, narratives and policies of the broader neoliberalised political elite.

As engaged social movement researchers, there are methodological as well as ethical reasons for researching the movements we sympathize with, and challenges (including at times physical danger) of researching right wing movements. However, there are important strategic reasons why we must understand these movements, their appeal, their strategy, their form, their impact and their contradictions, particularly within white working class and subaltern communities so as to contribute to strategy building with which to offset and push back against their growth and consolidation. *Interface* is uniquely positioned to provide a forum for this work that is international, multi-lingual, comparative and engaged.

Some general questions seem to be particularly important:

1. Can we understand right wing movements using the same theoretical and conceptual frameworks that we use to understand left wing movements?
2. What is the relationship of right wing movements with the ‘official’ neoliberalised political elite?
3. What is the relationship between the alt-right and the men’s movement?
4. Is populism a helpful way of theorising right wing movements?
5. How do online networks and offline organizing intersect in these movements?
6. What are the new (and old) forms of political subjectivity emerging?

7. What is the role of affect in the emergence and consolidation of identification with alt-right and right wing narratives and ideas amongst working class communities?
8. How do mainstream and social media help the rise of right wing movements? How and why?
9. What relationship is there between right-wing grassroots movements and the political establishment especially with regards to electoral processes?
10. How do right wing movements draw on resources of power, wealth and cultural privilege to develop?
11. Are there any specific historical, social and economic conditions/ forces that favour right-wing movements today?
12. What are the complexities and weak points of right wing movements?
13. What kinds of strategies and pedagogies might be developed to disrupt right wing organising in working class and subaltern white communities?
14. What distinguishes short-term or fractured right wing movements from those which have a greater strategic and political capacity?
15. How can right wing movements be resisted and defeated?

In this issue, we would particularly encourage event analyses, comparisons and practice analyses focussed on understanding the strategies of the right, and the counter-strategies of anti-fascist, anti-racist, migrant justice, Jewish, feminist, LGBTQ and indigenous movements.

### **Principles for contributions**

*Interface* is a journal of practitioner research, meaning that we welcome work by movement activists as well as activist scholars, and work in a variety of formats which suit these different kinds of writing as well as our very varied readership – which includes activists and researchers across the world, connected to many different movements and working within very different intellectual, theoretical and political traditions.

We are interested in pieces in many formats – peer-reviewed articles and interviews with movement activists, research and teaching notes, book reviews and key documents and other formats that work well for their purposes – that tackle some of the questions raised above.

All contributions (including those for the special issue and the special section) should go to the appropriate regional editors by the deadline of May 1, 2018.

Please see the editorial contacts page

(<http://www.interfacejournal.net/submissions/editorial-contact/>) – and use the appropriate template. Please see the guidelines for contributors

(<http://www.interfacejournal.net/submissions/guidelines-for-contributors/>) for more indications on content and style.

## **General contributions**

As always, this issue will also include non-theme related pieces. We are happy to consider submissions on any aspect of social movement research and practice that fit within the journal's mission statement

(<http://www.interfacejournal.net/who-we-are/mission-statement/>). Pieces for *Interface* 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. In addition to studies of contemporary experiences and practices, we encourage analysis of historical social movements as a means of learning from the past and better understanding contemporary struggles.

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 Bengali, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovak, Spanish and Swedish. Please see our editorial contacts page

(<http://www.interfacejournal.net/submissions/editorial-contact/>) for details of who to send submissions to.

## **Deadline and contact details**

The deadline for initial submissions to this issue, to be published in late 2019, is 1 May 2019. For details of how to submit pieces to *Interface*, please see the "Guidelines for contributors" on our website. All manuscripts should be sent to the appropriate regional editor, listed on our contacts page.

Submission templates are available online via the guidelines page (<http://www.interfacejournal.net/submissions/guidelines-for-contributors/>) and should be used to ensure correct formatting. *Interface* is a completely voluntary effort, without the resources of commercial journals, so we have to do all the layout and typesetting ourselves. The only way we can manage this is to ask authors to use these templates when preparing submissions. Thanks!