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What was Millan Ilnyckyj's PhD dissertation? Provide a professional 500 word summary of the contents of the document and the arguments made by the author

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Milan Ilnyckyj's PhD dissertation, titled "Persuasion Strategies: Canadian Campus Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaigns and the Development of Activists, 2012–20," is a comprehensive study of the campus fossil fuel divestment (CFFD) movement in Canada.

The dissertation examines how participation in organizing the movement influenced the political beliefs and behaviors of student activists. Ilnyckyj uses the contentious politics theoretical framework to provide an anatomy of the CFFD movement, including the political opportunity structure in which it arose, the mobilizing structures campaigns used to organize labor and make decisions, and the activist repertoires they employed.

The study begins with the proliferation of the idea of fossil fuel divestment campaigns at universities by the climate change non-governmental organization 350.org in July 2012. They provided a "campaign in a box" with a common demand for divestment from the 200 corporations with the largest fossil fuel reserves over five years and a standard set of tactics.

Campaigns were launched across Canada with the strategic objectives of persuading universities to divest, delegitimizing the fossil fuel industry in the eyes of the public and decision-makers, and recruiting and developing a new cadre of climate change activists.

Ilnyckyj's chief research question is how involvement in the CFFD movement influenced the political beliefs and behaviors of activists. Based on his interviews with organizers in Canadian campaigns, a review of the journalistic media and published scholarship on divestment, and social media monitoring of campaigns, Ilnyckyj concludes that the main effect of the CFFD movement on activist beliefs was to differentially socialize them into climate justice (CJ) and CO₂-energy (CO₂-e) worldviews.

These differ in their account of the root causes of climate change, and most notably in the political project which they call for in response. For CJ advocates, climate change is one manifestation of profound global injustices including colonialism and racism. Eliminating the problem of climate change thus requires eliminating those causes, and thus a radical global program of political and economic reform.

CO₂-e advocates question whether the issue linkages at the heart of the CJ strategy are analytically convincing and, more importantly, part of a sound strategy for avoiding the worst projected effects of unconstrained climate change. While the CJ worldview has helped overcome some of the emotional and motivational problems that block effective climate action, it only speaks to a limited subset of the population that embraces the progressive assumptions behind it.

Producing a sufficient coalition to enact effective climate change policies and keep them in place requires support from non-progressive flanking coalitions who share an interest in climatic stability but do not embrace the rest of the CJ agenda.