Campus Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaigns: Key Texts

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November 6, 2017

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1  Social movements


Gamson, William and David Meyer  “The Framing of Political Opportunity” in McAdam, Doug et al eds. Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings. Cambridge University Press, 1996.


Hadden, Jennifer  “Explaining Variation in Transnational Climate Change Activism: The Role of Inter-Movement Spillover.” Global Environmental Politics. 2014. 14 (2): 7–25


1.1 Institutionalization and radicalization in climate activism


1.2 Networks


1.3 Issue emergence


1.4 Framing


1.5 Political process theory


1.6 Resource mobilization


1.7 Contentious politics


Tilly, Charles From Mobilization to Revolution. Addison-Wesley, 1978


Tilley, Charles and Sidney Tarrow Contentious Politics. Oxford University Press. 2015.


1.8 Climate change activism


350.org strategy documents:
- How to Create Momentum
- Spectrum of Allies
- How campaigns are really created

1.9 Youth activism

Altbach, P. G. “Perspectives on Student Activism.” Comparative Education. 25(1). 1989.


1.10 Technology and collaboration in activism

Online collaborative tools and platforms have been central to the functioning of CFFD campaigns: from social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter as means of awareness-raising, person-to-person communication, and event promotion to Google Docs and NationBuilder as powerful tools for collaboration among activists and organizers and outreach to those they seek to influence.

Benkler, Yochai “Sharing Nicely: On Shareable Goods and the Emergence of Sharing as a Modality of Economic Productio.n”


Shirky, Clay “Gin, Television, and Social Surplus” (The social/cognitive surplus concept connects to how activism requires privilege, at least in terms of spare time. This can lead to accusations of hypocrisy when activists position themselves as champions of the poor and politically disenfranchised.)


2 | Methodology

2.1 Case selection

Collier, David and James Mahoney “Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research” World Politics. 49: 74. (October 1996)

2.2 Interview methods


Hestres, Luis E. “Preaching to the Choir: Internet-mediated Advocacy, Issue Public Mobilization, and Climate Change”. New Media and Society. 2014. (“based on interviews with key staff members of two climate change advocacy campaigns”)


2.3 Process tracing


2.4 Related disciplines


