



University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe
Centre for African Studies Basel (CASB)

WORKSHOP

Social Movements in Theory and Practice: Concepts and Experiences from Different Regional Contexts

24–25 October 2014, University of Zurich

Full abstract

Social movement theories emerged initially from Western experiences. They have since been enriched by analyses and theorizing from other regional contexts, and have gained importance in current transnational debates. This workshop brings together a leading theorist in social movement theory and scholar-activists with expertise in Japan, South Asia, North and sub-Saharan Africa in order to discuss the relevance and applicability of social movement theories and concepts in different regional contexts. In doing so, we aim to question the set of concepts and theories that are available to us today through two different angles: from the perspective of different regional (i.e. economic, historical, political ...) contexts and from the perspective of activists, who engage with social mobilizations, both practically and academically.

The workshop will address the following questions in particular. Do the theories and concepts that are available today enable us to understand and analyze social movements that are taking place in these different regional contexts? Do certain concepts and approaches of social movement research seem more relevant than others, depending on the region? Which experiences cannot be understood by available theories? What are the alternative concepts and approaches that have been developed to address them? How did findings from these regions contribute to enriching and questioning social movement research in more general terms?

This two-day workshop will begin with an overview of the current major approaches in social movement research while reviewing some of its problems and missing elements. This introduction will be followed by presentations that will contrast these theories through experiences from different regional contexts (day 1). The second half of the workshop will be dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the research projects conducted by doctoral and post-doctoral researchers of the URPP Asia & Europe, the Centre for African Studies Basel and their partner institutions (day 2).

Registration:

Registration required by **October 10, 2014** at yasmine.berriane@uzh.ch. Participants interested in presenting their doctoral or postdoctoral research project during the second day of the workshop are kindly requested to register and submit their abstract and a short CV by **September 15, 2014**.