

Social Movements and Collective Action Area Exam

Department of Sociology, *University of Notre Dame*

Spring 2017

Part I (Day 1).

Answer two of the following four questions.

1. Provide a detailed discussion of how the logic that can be found in various theories of social movements could be applied to address a research question on a topic not traditionally studied by social movement scholars.
2. Do social movements matter? After answering this question, explain what you see as the biggest achievements of and challenges with extant research on social movement consequences.
3. The types of questions that one asks when studying social movements typically have important implications for what the appropriate unit of analysis should be. Provide examples of the types of research questions and studies that have asked and answered such questions that are best-suited for *two* of the following units of analysis:
 - A. Individuals
 - B. Organizations
 - C. Social interactions
 - D. Geographic units
4. Discuss how and why emotions were initially central to theorizing social movements, then excised, and then reintroduced again 20 years later. How has the role of emotion in social movement theory developed since its reintroduction?

Part II (Day 2).

Answer two of the following four questions.

1. Identify some theorized causes of social movements that appear to apply to all social movements, and then identify some theorized causes that may only apply to certain types of social movements. Discuss the significance of these distinctions for how research on social movements should be carried out.
2. Why do people participate in social movements? After providing a general answer to this question, make an argument for a specific factor that you think best explains differential participation. Finally, identify any methodological challenges associated with understanding what distinguishes activists from non-activists.
3. Trace the following: 1) the initial shared history between collective behavior and social movements; 2) the following theoretical split between the two research agendas; and 3) how the two areas have become, and could further be, integrated once again.
4. Identify what you believe to be the most important contribution of social movement research over the last three decades. Explain its importance.