

Between new protest movements and formal politics

New protest movements and social networks: part of the problem or part of the solution?

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Social media as an organizational tool in protest movements

- Easy way to organize and mobilize
- Participatory tool

- Mobilization in social networks has to be transferred into mobilization in the real world
- Necessity to delegate tasks and positions to keep movement active?

Protest movements as a form of political participation

- Decline in formal political participation accompanied by rise of single-issue politics
- Nevertheless continuously strong support for democratic principles
- Protest as extension of formal political participation not alternative to it → does not have to be disconnected from formal politics

Characteristics of the new protest movements

- Independence: not led by a party, organization or trade union
- No leader, leading group
- No connection between formal politics and protest movements (requested?)

Challenges and chances

- No European movement – no European vision?
- Danger of rising opposition towards formal politics
- Demands can be implemented into political process
- Strong mobilising potential!