

## Reading Notes

### **I. Bert Klandermans and Dirk Oegema. "Potentials, Networks, Motivations and Barriers:.**

A. I assigned this article for its orderly discussion of the four steps of mobilization

1. Mobilization potential = the people who support a movement. Consensus mobilization = trying to persuade people to support the movement. Note: Their "mobilization potential" = "adherents" from my lecture.
2. Recruitment networks which put organizers into contact with mobilization potential so they can be asked to participate. Potential participants have to be told about the action or they cannot possibly participate. The process of using or creating these networks is crucial.
3. Motivation to participate, the decision by the person that they will participate. Benefits and costs of participating.
4. Barriers to participation, things that block participation after the decision to participate.

B. Article describes the specific campaign, and the research methods to track it. A key element was having a tie to the organization so the researchers could measure attitudes and intentions before the campaign began. Context was a demonstration against the 1980s Reagan proposal to deploy nuclear weapons in Europe.

C. Data show that most of the drop-off was at the step of motivation to participate: very few wanted to do so. Biggest factors predicting this were "voting behavior" (small left parties) and believing the Dutch government could influence the outcome. Everyone who intended to participate had a network contact with the movement, and formal + informal ties were most important.

### **II. Freeman. Origins of the Women's Liberation Movement**

1. I assigned this article for its emphasis on the two different networks from which the women's movement emerged in the 1960s: the Commissions on Women, which led to the founding of NOW, and the women in the Civil Rights Movement, which led to "women's liberation" groups. The article gives a good summary of the status of the movement as of the early 1970s.
2. Theoretical emphasis on importance of cooptable communication networks as essential for mobilization. This is consistent with much social movement theory.
3. There is also discussion of a "crisis" which galvanizes action, and the stress that it must be coupled with a network. Crises do matter, but once they get going, movements keep going, so crises are not always proximate to movements. Nevertheless, crises can be important in ramping up mobilization in an ongoing movement.
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### **III. Esterberg. From Accommodation to Liberation.**

1. I assigned this because it sketches the history of the movement, rather than for a specific theoretical argument. It focuses on one organization, the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), but in telling how it related to other organizations and changed over time, also gives a picture of the rest of the movement.
2. Theoretical perspective is critique of "competition theory," preference for new social

movements.

3. Social organization of gays & lesbians: can look like heterosexuals, of all classes/races etc.
4. Formation of organizations in the 1950s. Began small, highly repressed. Great threat of punishment: it was illegal to advocate homosexuality.
5. Daughters of Bilitis: integrationist strategy. Like heterosexuals except for choice of partner. Advocate blending in (e.g. avoid "butch" clothing.)
6. Conflicts with more radical men's organizations, debates about relation between lesbians and gay men, about lesbians' relation to women's movement. Charts changes over time "from accommodation to liberation."
7. Emphasizes that diversity of identities affected the process of mobilization.