

Course theme: Social Movements

Potential ideas: Please note that there's a significant overlap between the suggested topics below, and this overlap is meant to allow for a variety of questions, methodologies, and focuses to accommodate students' interests and potentially virtual projects.

1. **Social Movements' Internal Organization & Power Dynamics:** Choosing one social movement (examples here might include: movements associated with climate justice, animal rights, veganism, BIPOC communities, indigenous communities, migrant communities, refugee crisis) and locating or reaching out to one/some of its members, requesting to attend virtual meetings and observing their internal dynamics, power hierarchies, etc.
 - a. **Questions/puzzles:** What motivates these groups, how they organize internally, what are the power configurations inside the groups, how do they view the government & what are their roles vis-à-vis the government?
 - b. **Methodology:** Interviews, attending virtual meetings
2. **Content Analysis or Media Analysis:** Focusing on one social movement and tracing/analyzing its own public statements alongside media coverage and representations of these social movements in magazines, newspapers, online etc.
 - a. **Questions/puzzles:** How is a social movement representing itself and being represented in various media outlets? What are some stereotypes, running themes, and some key moments defining social movements online? How does a social movement's presence online form a bigger community or affect its public presence?
 - b. **Methodology:** Media analysis, content analysis (very basic understanding of which)
3. **Historicizing Social movements:** Again focusing on one social movement, reaching out to older members, and attempting to trace the histories of this social movement while also illuminating generational shifts and changes in that social movement with changes in the government.
 - a. **Questions/puzzles:** How did a social movement emerge and how did its agenda/mission develop over time? How does changes in the government affect the structure, goals, and agenda of this social movement?
 - b. **Methodology:** Archival research, interviews, life histories
4. **Student Governance & Unionizing on Campus:** This project would focus on student governance at University of Toronto. Whether in the political science department or beyond, students can reach out to some members of the student union/governing body, request to interview members and attend virtual meetings if possible. A bit similar to #1, this project would also involve exploring internal power hierarchies and configurations, but also the role of student governance vis-à-vis the university & the government if/when applicable.
 - a. **Questions/puzzles:** What role/s did student governance play on campus? How did it develop over time? What are some of the main conflicts student governance experienced in clashes with the university or the government?
 - b. **Methodology:** Interviews, attending virtual meetings
5. **Violence and Strategies of Handling Conflict:** Choosing one or compare two social movements, this project focuses on strategies that social movements adopt in handling conflict. Students can reach out to a few members of a social movement, request a virtual meeting, and interview or attend a few meetings. The project can also rely on a close reading of media statements and other media artifacts that the movement release in order to understand their definitions, strategies, and tools of managing conflict

- a. **Questions/puzzles:** How do social movements define conflict? What strategies do they rely on for handling this conflict and why? When do social movements resort to violence, how do they define violence, and why do they choose violence if at all?
- b. **Methodology:** Interviews, media statements