



Social Movements

SOC.0352

Summer term, 2024

Session 9.

June 12, 2024

Other forms of *movements*.

Six Levels of Collective Action

In order of increasing scale:

1. everyday forms of resistance,
2. local grassroots movements,
3. national social movements,
4. waves of protest,
5. Revolutionary movements, and
6. transnational social movements

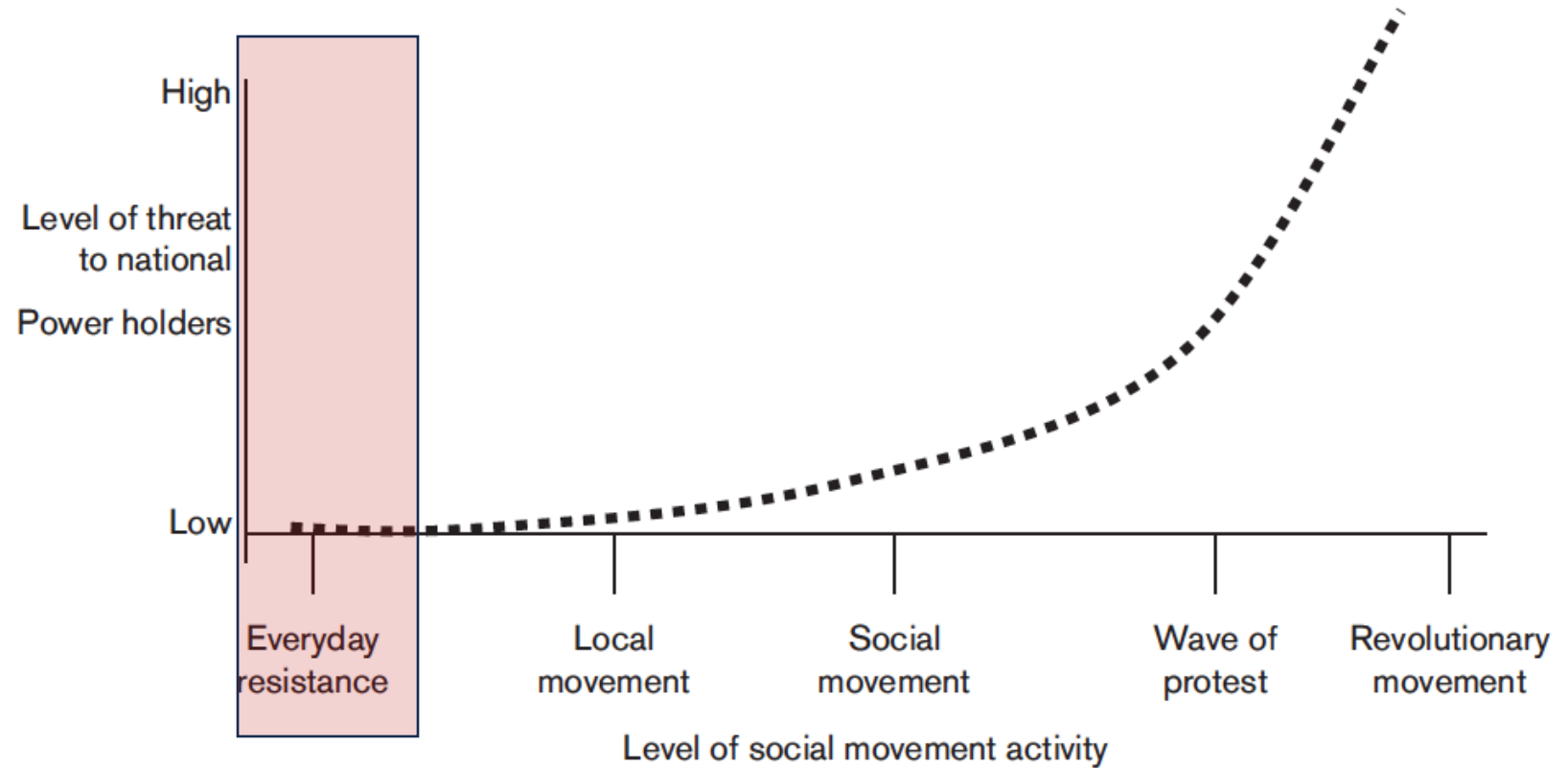


FIGURE 3. Escalating Levels of Movement Activity.

Everyday Forms of Resistance

- Daily acts of dissension and noncompliance
- Individuals or small groups who are somehow more excluded than others.
- Rejection of injustice, threats, etc.
- The smallest level of oppositional activity / Compared to other forms we have studied.



Quiet activism

- Our approach to Social Movements has emphasized vocal, antagonistic, and demonstrative forms of protest.
- We need to expand the activism category to include **modest**, **quotidian** acts, connection, and **creativity**.
- Acts that are 'affirmative and potentially transformative' yet remain 'modest, quotidian and proceeding with Little fanfare' (Horton and Kraftl 2009, 14).



The power of **small**
and **quiet acts** of
making and doing to
critique, resist,
subvert, and rework
dominant situations
of injustice.





Planting the seeds of a quiet activism

Laura Pottinger

- Seed savers who cultivate fruits and vegetables and then select and save seed to provide future generations of plants for themselves and others.
- Two organizations: The Heritage Seed Library and a local seed swap event (Seedy Sunday, Brighton) in the UK.
- Groups of individual seed savers connected in the quiet acts of growing and sharing as part of a broad movement to conserve biodiversity and challenge the corporate control of food and seed systems.
- the overwhelming majority of seed savers were cautious about accepting the activist label.

Thompson, W. E. (1983). Hanging tongues: A sociological encounter with the assembly line.

- Workers interact with one another on the job.
- They cope with the strains of the work and maintain a sense of self-worth.
 - Monotony
 - Danger
 - Dehumanization.
- **They resist informally by slowing down work.**



A Women's Non-Movement: What It Means to Be a Woman Activist in an Islamic State

Asef Bayat

Attention to Context (Recall POS Model):

- Patriarchy is prominent in authoritarian regimes with conservative religious tendencies.
- Conventional women's movements often struggle to emerge under repressive conditions.

Everyday Resistance:

- The idea of "non-movement" is where women engage in daily practices that collectively resist and transform gender norms.
- Unlike traditional movements, these activities are often dispersed and lack formal organization or leadership.



A Women's Non-Movement: What It Means to Be a Woman Activist in an Islamic State

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- **Incremental Gains:**
 - Women's participation in public life changed education, employment, and family law.
 - **This incremental approach led to tangible shifts in gender dynamics and expanded women's choices.**
 - Women activists used religious discourse to argue for gender equality, offering a more inclusive interpretation of Islam.



Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance

Jim Scott

- Scholars often focus on large-scale insurrections.
- Archival records highlight moments when the peasantry threatened the state.
- Everyday resistance has historically been more significant for most subordinate classes.
- Common strategies:
 - Foot-dragging, dissimulation, false-compliance, pilfering, feigned ignorance, slander, arson, sabotage.
- These tactics require minimal coordination and often avoid direct confrontation with authority.



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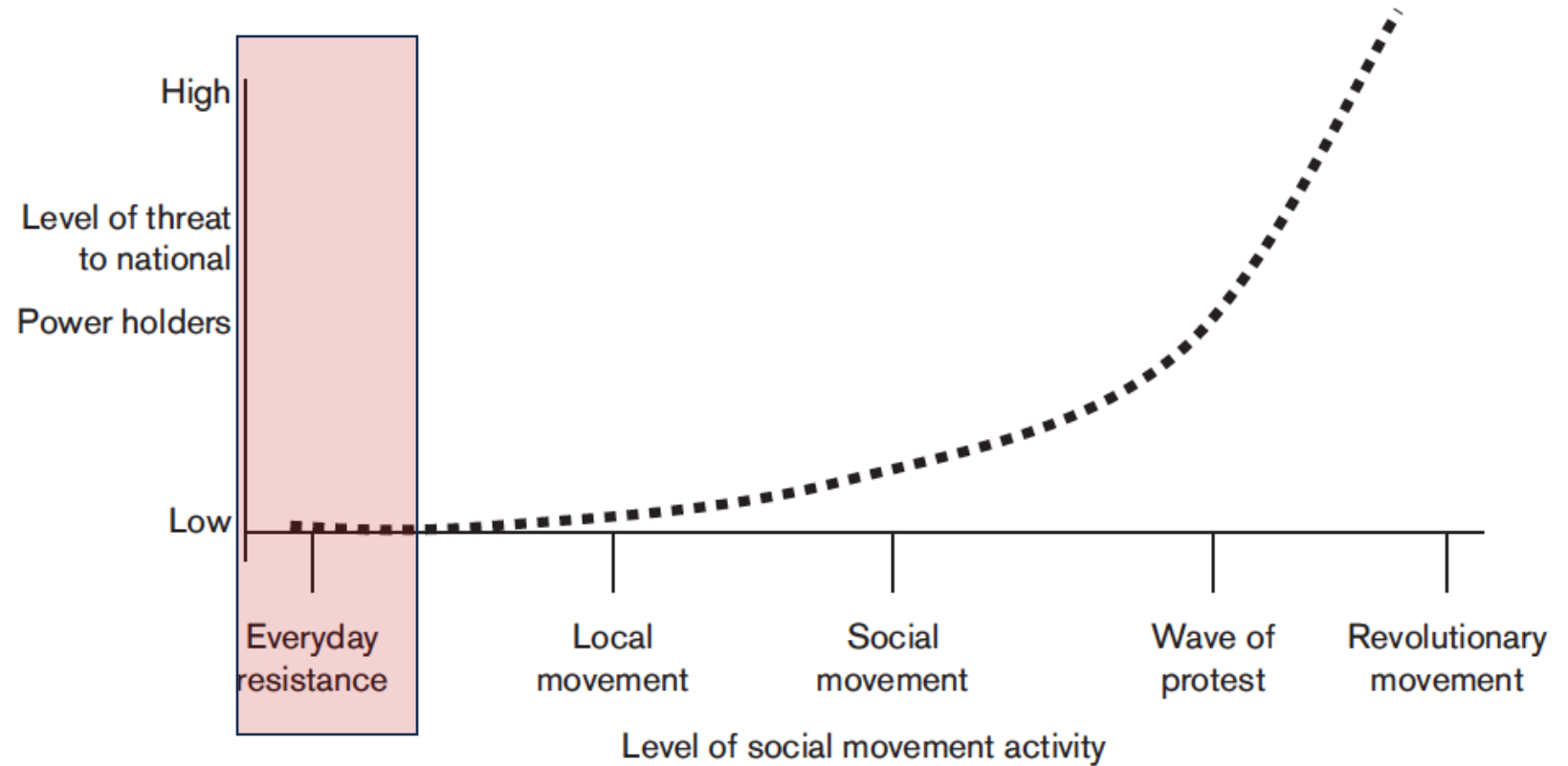


FIGURE 3. Escalating Levels of Movement Activity.



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Next class:

(R) Staggenborg, Social Movements. Chapter 4: The Protest Cycle of the 1960s

Weekly quiz on Friday.