

Social Movement Studies Britta Baumgarten Memorial Prize 2022

We dedicate this memorial prize to a wonderful colleague who left us far too soon, Britta Baumgarten (1975-2018). Britta deserves to be remembered for many reasons, not least as a role model for social movement scholars. Britta was an excellent and generous scholar and a good friend to the *Social Movement Studies Journal*, allowing us [to publish her work](#) but also serving as a thoughtful reviewer.

I first met Britta when she and her co-editors invited me to collaborate on a book project on [Culture and Social Protest](#). I had been planning a book on a similar theme but immediately saw that the topic was already in excellent hands. My favourable impression was intensified when I saw the rigour, passion, and commitment to the project. Not only did Britta and her co-editors organize collaborative peer review for the book, but they invited the contributors to the WZB in Berlin to participate in a series of workshops where each chapter had an hour of intensive feedback and discussion devoted to it. I have never before or since seen this level of commitment to the editing of an academic book, and it is a model I hold as a “gold standard” to this day. The trip to Berlin enabled me to meet Britta in person, and I was delighted to discover that her academic rigour was accompanied by an openness and a generosity of spirit that made her a joy to be around. Some people are “light givers” --they simply make other people feel better just by being with them, and Britta was such a person. If she was going to be at a conference or event it greatly increased my chances of accepting to go too. Her generosity of spirit, strength of character, open mindedness, and critical intelligence was greatly appreciated by her students and collaborators around the world. She was a core member of the [IPB](#) (Institute for Social Movement Studies) in Berlin, and from 2011 worked at the [ISCTE University Institute Lisbon](#). She worked on current Portuguese social movements against austerity, movements of the poor in Brazil and the changed frameworks for action of these movements over time. She was particularly interested in the transnational cooperation of movement activists and the political participation of groups usually excluded from political decision making. She actively participated in furthering research in the field through conference organizing, participation in transnational research groups, and publishing projects.

Britta wasn't just a dedicated scholar, she was also a committed activist who cared deeply about injustice. Her scholarly work was rigorous but also inspired by a strong concern for the social issues that the activists she studied mobilized around, including austerity politics, poverty, unemployment and youth and labour precariousness. Her sensitivity made her an excellent ethnographer, giving her access to social movement communities and a deep awareness of their concerns, challenges, and experiences.

I last saw Britta in Lisbon in November 2017, where in typical fashion, she generously took time from packing for her trip the following morning to meet me for a coffee in a little square by the harbour. She was happy and relaxed in a city she loved, with the people she loved most, her partner and young son. We talked austerity politics, academic precariousness, family, and her upcoming trip to Brazil, which she was excited about. I was looking forward to continuing our conversations in the coming years, but it wasn't to be. I have only great memories of her, and I know she is missed deeply by the many colleagues, activists, friends and family who loved her. A list of her published work (and a memorial from her friends and colleagues at IPB in German) can be found here: <https://protestinstitut.eu/britta-baumgarten-1975-2018/>. –Cristina Flesher Fominaya, on behalf of the editors of *Social Movement Studies*.

2022 Jury Decision/Prize Winners

All non-Open Access articles will be Free to View until March 2023.

Britta Baumgarten Memorial Prize 2022: 'Slow Justice: A Framework for Tracing Diffusion and Legacies of Resistance' by Kate J. Neville and Sarah J. Martin

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14742837.2022.2031955>

Honourable Mention: 'Instagram and Social Capital: Youth Activism in a Networked Movement' by Samson Yuen and Gary Tang

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14742837.2021.2011189?journalCode=csms20>

Shortlisted:

What Has Become of the Indignados? by Héloïse Nez

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14742837.2021.1977113>

Nothing About Us Without Us by Tom Montgomery & Simone Baglioni

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14742837.2020.1770069?journalCode=csms20>

Fighting gentrification from the boxing ring: how community gyms reclaim the right to the city by Chiara Milan & Stefania Milan

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14742837.2020.1839406>

Transgressive protest after a democratic transition: The Kamour Campaign in Tunisia by Rory McCarthy <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14742837.2021.1967128>

Contentious gender politics in Italy and Croatia: diffusion of transnational anti-gender movements to national contexts by Anna Lavizzari & Zorica Siročić

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14742837.2022.2052836>

Jury decision:

The jury awards the Britta Baumgarten prize 2022 to 'Slow Justice: A Framework for Tracing Diffusion and Legacies of Resistance' by Kate J. Neville and Sarah J. Martin. We find this to be a singularly ambitious, original and well-written article, which develops a framework around the concept of 'slow justice' to understand the ways in which environmental movements might have invisible, less tangible and complex positive consequences that are difficult to see and measure, with non-linear patterns of causality, and effects that may spread well beyond initial spatial confines and over time. Flipping Rob Nixon's concept of 'slow violence' on its head, the authors suggest a three-part typology of social movement connectivity, simplified as 'people', 'projects' and 'processes' and then illustrate its potential in an intriguing case study of a period of contention over a pipeline in Mackenzie Valley in northern Canada in the 1970s. In effect, the article offers a powerful riposte to both simplistic understandings of social movement 'impact' and to climate pessimism. While we might quibble with some aspects of their typology and its application, we think this is crucially important, agenda-setting work for both social movement studies and environmental activists, of wide resonance, and we look forward to seeing the authors develop their ideas in the future.

We would also like to give an honourable mention to 'Instagram and Social Capital: Youth Activism in a Networked Movement' by Samson Yuen and Gary Tang. With its timely focus on youth activism, and particularly teenagers, this article develops a very well argued and compelling case study of the networking activities of teenage school children in the anti-ELAB

movement in Hong Kong. The key argument is that social capital from the reputation of elite schools carries over into movements constructed via Instagram. This is a useful argument to be making in the broader sense of recognising the existence of 'non-digital' inequalities in the digital realm, and as such makes a significant contribution to studies of online as well as youth activism. One of the article's other strengths is its rigorous mixed methodology, the later qualitative sections bringing the argument alive with some interesting details that give a good sense of what the movement was like for the teenagers participating within it.

The judges would like to extend their warmest congratulations to Kate J. Neville and Sarah J. Martin, Samson Yuen and Gary Tang, and to all the authors on the shortlist.

The Editors would like to thank Catherine Eschle and Kevin Gillan for serving on this year's jury.