

Environmental Collective Action – December 2022

This summary is prepared for the 2022 three-month trial of the Forward Project of the Social Change Lab - Susilo Wibisono & Winnifred R. Louis – details of the methodology and all summaries available here: <http://www.socialchangelab.net/forward.html> and via subscription/email at <https://socialchangelab.substack.com/>. Feedback welcome, to w.louis@psy.uq.edu.au .

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Month/Year	December 2022
Key term	“environmental collective action” and environmental collective action
Database	Google Scholar
Link to database	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17p2fFHcyHQ0-hhlzNb2ZV-nzAUPxBPYs1fXsVC1_IRY/edit?usp=sharing

Overview

For the month of December 2022, the search using “environmental collective action” in Google Scholar yielded no results, but without quotation marks there were a total of 88 results, with one additional publication that there was no access to, which was not included in the database. Overall, there were 10 relevant publications, 24 partially relevant publications, and 54 not relevant publications. Considering both relevant and partially relevant documents, there were 22 journal articles, four archived documents, one research report, three book chapters, one book, and three miscellaneous publications (one review, one policy brief, one proceeding). From now on, this summary will solely focus on the six selected relevant journal articles.

Approaches and disciplines

Educational science and sociology were the most salient discipline studying environmental collective action within this period. The disciplines were decided based on the first authors’ affiliation as marked in the published journal articles. All six journal articles were empirical, where four articles were qualitative, one article was quantitative, and one was inconclusive due to the document being written in Indonesian. Three studies used interviews to collect data and four studies used existing data or literatures.

Participants and data

The studies that used interviews (Hart, 2022; Akchurin, 2022; Maldonado-González, 2022) all required participants to be knowledgeable about the study topic, so no single blind or double blind techniques were used. This included residents, teachers, and respondents knowledgeable about privatisation and renationalisation. The countries where the studies were based in included China, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Morocco, Indonesia, and the USA.

Themes and findings

The salient contexts where the studies on environmental collective action take place are communities and educational contexts. Several articles investigating environmental collective action in relation to specific locations found that community engagement was the main contributing factor to local collaboration, conservation movements, and decision making related to environmental protection (Xing & Xing, 2022; Dwi Susilo, 2022; Hart, 2022). Xing and Xing (2022) found that participation in environmental collective action at the local level was influenced by identification with the place where people live. Additionally, Hart (2022) emphasized that the feeling of ownership also influenced the participation, such that people want to protect what they perceive as their own. These feelings of local favouritism are likely to lead to collective solidarity (Hart, 2022) and collective identity, which is a vital aspect of collective action (Dwi Susilo, 2022).

Creating awareness about the environment and the use of collective actions to protect it can be done through education (Maldonado-González, 2022; Santana de Oliveira & Froes, 2022). Interviews with higher-education workers revealed their commitment to incorporating and addressing climate change and other issues in their teachings work to influence their students to engage in environmental collective action (Maldonado-González, 2022). Environmental education has proven to be important due to allowing collective reflection and discussion, debate on local issues and potentials, community organisation, local environmental action, and more (Santana de Oliveira & Froes, 2022).

There were other important findings that did not fit the two above themes. Akchurin (2022) found that during an economic crisis in Buenos Aires, while water privatisation activated social movements, what sustained collective action was place-based organising. Activists shifted their focus to pressuring state officials to follow through with their promises of infrastructural expansion. Participatory planning was found to aid collective action which in turn improves infrastructural issues. Finally, the findings suggested that environmental and social policies should be studied together, due to collective action.

Selected References – Environmental Collective Action – December 2022

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- Hart, L. B. (2022). Emotion and othering in a contaminated community. *Ethnography*. Published online. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14661381221145812>
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<https://doi.org/10.1080/01442872.2022.2162033>