



## St Antony's International Review (STAIR)

### 16.2 Theme Section – February 2021

#### Revolution, retrenchment, or reform? Social movements in a changing political world



Social movements today have come to occupy a multiplicity of different roles. Often simultaneously serving as protesters, advocates, politicians, guardians, organisers, lobbyists, and social representatives, the role of social movements in the first twenty years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century can hardly be overstated, and examples of these movements abound in worldwide popular press. Given this global context, academic scholarship would be well-served in focusing on exact and nuanced roles of social movements as agents of change and continuity.

STAIR's February 2021 issue thus invites contributors to investigate the multifaceted character of social movements and their roles as actors within the broader socio-political arena of a changing political world. Contributors from a broad range of disciplines are encouraged to submit abstracts and pursue a variety of approaches, including institutional, historical, and critical perspectives. Of interest to this edition are submissions which interrogate how the inner workings of social movements affect their relationship to—and within—existing forms of political governance. More specifically, we seek contributions related to, but not limited to, the following themes:

- **Structure and agency within social movements** – exploration of key players in social movements; power structures, evolution, and changes of these actors over time; visible and invisible groups within social movements; and how leadership influences internal developments of the movement.
- **Social movements within a political context** – exploration of how social movements work within or counteract existing power structures; the influence of political systems on the growth of social movements; and whether social movements are more successful when targeting niche audiences or broader publics.
- **Issue salience in social movements** – exploration of why certain issues become salient in society; how social movements determine their momentum; what determines the momentum of specific issues; and what happens to a social movement's organisational power when an issue loses public salience.

STAIR welcomes submissions from across different disciplines, including international relations, area studies, history, law, political science, economics and political economy, sociology, international development, anthropology, comparative politics, education, and gender studies, and especially encourages submissions from scholars and institutions in the Global South. Founded in 2005 by graduate students of St Antony's College, STAIR carved out a distinctive niche as a cross-disciplinary outlet for research on pressing contemporary global issues, providing a forum for emerging scholars to publish their work alongside established academics and policymakers.

Please submit your abstract of at least 400 words to [stair-journal@politics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stair-journal@politics.ox.ac.uk) by **11 May 2020**. Final drafts (with a maximum word limit of 8,000 words) should be submitted by **10 August 2020**. Please email any inquiries you have to STAIR's Managing Editor, Daniel Waqar at [daniel.waqar@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:daniel.waqar@sant.ox.ac.uk).