**How the Platform of Mortgage Victims Mobilized the Poor Through Care: An Altruist Explanation of Collective Action.**

This paper offers an alternative approach to the dominant rational/strategic actor view of how social movements appear and mobilize, which states that aggrieved collectives who do not have access to political institutions gather together to advance their interest through non-institutionalized means. As much as this understanding of social movements applies to many of them, it presents two shortcomings. The first one is the classic collective action problem. While all collectives who engage in contentious politics are expected to be aggrieved, not all aggrieved persons take part in social movements. The second shortcoming represents the other side of the coin. While some aggrieved individuals remain inactive, other persons who are not facing the challenges of that group mobilize in solidarity with them. The grow during the last years of anti-sweatshop movements and migrant solidarity networks are just a few examples of this phenomenon.

Why is it that some aggrieved persons do not use the available means to confront the injustices they suffer while others decide to oppose these inequalities on their behalf? To shed light on this apparent contradiction I develop an altruistic understanding on mobilization based on the concept of care and argue that it is complimentary to the traditional strategic actor-inspired social movement theories. From a care perspective, s grievances are sometimes so overwhelming that those suffering them need to see certain needs fulfilled before they are ready to take part in collective action. On the other hand, some other, normally privileged persons, mobilize in solidarity with aggrieved collectives because they decide to take on the responsibility to advance someone else’s interests. Moreover, I argue that in doing so they experience pleasure and this is what keeps them going.

To illustrate this new approach, I use the case of the Platform of Mortgage Victims, a group mobilizing against evictions and for the right to adequate housing in Spain. None of the persons who created this movement had a mortgage and they had to do significant efforts until they managed to mobilize those who were suffering the consequences of the burst of the housing bubble. In spite of this, this group has become one of the most successful social movements in the history of Spain.

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