

## *Justice and social change: the importance of procedural justice in shaping collective action*

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In recent decades the world has witnessed a significant number of violent and non-violent protests, as well as instances of police violence and human rights violations during such events. Yet, why are people willing to participate in collective action, and under what circumstances does violence become an option? Research on the Social Psychology of Social Movements has shown that individuals are more likely to engage in collective action when they perceive an injustice or grievance that needs to be addressed. While injustice is recognized as a catalyst for collective action, the underlying processes by which it leads to such action remain largely unknown. Merely experiencing injustice is often insufficient to prompt collective action. Furthermore, there is a lack of understanding regarding the factors that drive individuals to resort to violent forms of protest. In this presentation, I propose a dialogue between the Social Psychology of Social Movements and the Theory of Procedural Justice. I argue that considering the relationship between injustice and social change from the perspective of Procedural Justice Theory can provide valuable insights. First, people care to a great extent about the fairness and impartiality of the procedures used by those in a position of authority to make decisions and allocate resources. Individuals want to be treated with dignity and respect, and they care about whether their voices are taken into account. Procedural justice communicates a sense of fairness and legitimacy to individuals, even if they do not necessarily agree with the outcome. By promoting transparency, accountability, and impartiality, procedural justice can help to establish and maintain trust in authorities and social institutions. On the contrary, when people perceive that they have been treated unfairly, they might mobilize to change the order of things. Second, as we know from the perspective of Social Justice theories, situations of injustice are more likely to lead to collective action when people perceive that the procedures and treatments are unjust and inconsistent with their values of fairness and impartiality. It is therefore not enough to perceive an injustice (justice evaluation), people need to care about justice in the first place (normative justice). Finally, the perspective of Procedural Justice Theory can help us understand when different types of collective action are more likely to be preferred. Procedural injustice is a double-edged sword: while it can motivate people to mobilize, it can also delegitimize the authorities that have mistreated them. When authorities are no longer perceived as legitimate, non-violent collective action may seem unviable for achieving social change and violence may seem necessary. Based on the above, it can be proposed that procedural justice plays a crucial role in understanding how injustice shapes the dynamics of collective action.