



Critical Perspectives on Social Media and Protest

Between Control and Emancipation

Edited by Lina Dencik and Oliver Leistert

“At last, a collection on social media and protest that is genuinely critical, spanning both the nature of the technological tools, the political-economic environment they are part of, the organisational responses these formations then lend themselves to and the political consequences they reap. Rich in detail, broad in remit, interrogatory by design this will be my 'turn to' book on this subject for years to come.”

– Natalie Fenton, Goldsmiths University of London

Oct 2015 | HB £70.00/\$100.00 9781783483358 | PB £22.95/\$32.95 9781783483365 | eBook £22.95/\$31.99 9781783483372

“Refusing simple explanations and traversing protest movements from around the globe, this collection is essential reading for academics and activists alike. The volume interrogates the power and systemic shortcomings of corporate-based social media as deployed during moments of revolution, rupture, and dissent.”

– Gabriella Coleman, McGill University

“This collection provides a much-needed antidote to the ready equation of social media and political empowerment. It counters the cyber-hype with a truly critical collection of readings that explore the political limits and potentials of social media. This is a crucial volume for anyone interested in the key political question of our time: the relationship between media technology and activism.”

– Mark Andrejevic, Pomona College

Commercial social media platforms have become integral to contemporary forms of protests. They are intensely used by advocacy groups, non-governmental organisations, social movements and other political actors who increasingly integrate social media platforms into broader practices of organizing and campaigning. But, aside from the many advantages of extensive mobilization opportunities at low cost, what are the implications of social media corporations being involved in these grassroots movements?

This book takes a much-needed critical approach to the relationship between social media and protest. Highlighting key issues and concerns in contemporary forms of social media activism, including questions of censorship, surveillance, individualism, and temporality, the book combines contributions from some of the most active scholars in the field today. Advancing both conceptual and empirical work on social media and protest, and with a range of different angles, the book provides a fresh and challenging outlook on a very topical debate.

Lina Dencik is Lecturer in the School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies at Cardiff University, UK.

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