The development of a new social movement analysis tool

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This paper presents an analysis tool designed to inform and analyse new social movements. This tool was developed to deepen understandings of the positioning of people who have been othered; and to facilitate learning from other new social movements. A preliminary analysis of two new social movements, the Australian Women’s Liberation and the Indigenous (Australians) Rights Movements, formed the basis for the emergence of this analysis tool. The analysis tool is presented as three separate but interrelated parts named: domains, details and dimensions. Domains provides insight into the positioning of people who have been ‘othered’ within an hierarchy of dominance, and contributes three domains of oppression – medical, professional and market. Details investigates the voices, the events, and the visions of new social movements within their local and international context. Dimensions asks how a movement can be defined as a new social movement and looks at areas of new social movement development, through phases of individual, group and public consciousness. This analysis tool has a wide scope for application. It is presented as a series of questions which can be applied, for example, to documents (monuments of movements) or interviews of movement participants.

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