

Abstract

The project “*Contentious Images – Unruly practices. An Ethnography of Visual Protest Repertoires in Southeastern Europe*” is positioned at the intersection of the social movement and visual culture fields. We introduce the notion of Visual Protest Repertoires (VPR) to examine how the protests are visualized in contemporary Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Greece. Through three different case-studies we examine the video activism of a feminist social movement organization in Belgrade, the participation of football fans in social protests in Tuzla, Zagreb, and Ljubljana inside and outside the stadiums, and the usage of printed political posters by social movement groups in Athens under the austerity context. By following an ethnographic approach we aim to focus on the structures of meaning as understood by the subjects examined. The conjuncture of these processes contributes to a repository of cultural constructions of protest in visual form, as activists seek both to inform and sensitize wider audiences and sympathizers about the emerging realities of class-contentious society. This study demonstrates the fruitfulness of merging visual anthropology and social movement-based cultural perspectives when analyzing social change. In addition, it illustrates the significance of visual representation as a primary communicative practice that archives the discursive formations of protest in multiple temporalities and spaces.