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***The Oxford Handbook of Social Movements* by Donatella Della Porta and Mario Diani (eds). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. 835pp., £95.00 (h/b), ISBN 9780199678402**

*The Oxford Handbook of Social Movements* is both a detailed and an extensive state-of-the-art presentation of social movements and social movement theory. More than a book about collective action, generally speaking, it is a critical compilation and an organisation of the field that aims to map the existing trends in order to move beyond them with original and groundbreaking contributions to such scholarship.

It advances from the already established literature that remains transfixed in an inconclusive discussion about a universal theory of social movements and which usually concludes with a summary of the existing schools of social movement research. Instead, this Handbook's proposal is to recognise the diversity and heterogeneity of the field, dealing in a very stimulating way with the challenges that arise from this option of refusing the orthodox systematic framework.

In order to do so, the book focuses on the responses that social movement research has already provided to key themes and issues, identifying old approaches, their evolution and the different lines of investigation which have developed in recent years. Its aim is not only to map out but also to expand the field, incorporating recent developments in cognate areas of study, both within and beyond sociology and political science.

Edited by two of the most prominent scholars of social movement research, Donatella Della Porta and Mario Diani, *The Oxford Handbook of Social Movements* also counts on the contribution of several other authors, from already established scholars in the field to a few young researchers at the beginning of their academic journey.

Alongside the diversity of its proponents, the structure of the Handbook reflects and allows for the accomplishment of the book's aims. While it opens up to the development of current positions in the field of social movements, it also incorporates contributions and inspirations from other fields. Perhaps the book's only weakness is in failing to transcend intellectual borders towards a geographical expansion that would reflect the academic production outside Western scholarship.

The balance between the recognition of the traditional and most incipient research on social movements and also the very successful attempt it makes to expand the field and highlight its new potential definitely place this book on the list of mandatory reading both for those who are new to the field and for those who are already familiar with social movement scholarship.

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