

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Contentious Politics

edited by

David S. Meyer

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University of Pittsburgh

SIXTY YEARS OF VISIBLE PROTEST IN THE DISABILITY STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY, JUSTICE, AND INCLUSION

David Pettinicchio

University of Toronto

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David Pettinicchio

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David Pettinicchio

University of Toronto

Author for correspondence: David Pettinicchio, d.pettinicchio@utoronto.ca

Abstract: Visible protests reflect both continuity and change. This Element illustrates how protest around long-standing issues and grievances is punctuated by movement dynamics as well as broader cultural and institutional environments. The disability movement is an example of how activist networks and groups strategically adapt to opportunity and threat, linking protest waves to the development of issue politics. The Element examines sixty years of protest across numerous issue areas that matter for disability including social welfare, discrimination, transportation, healthcare, and media portrayals. Situating visible protest in this way provides a more nuanced picture of cycles of contention as they relate to political and organizational processes, strategies and tactics, and short-and-long-term outcomes. It also provides clues about why protest ebbs and flows, when and how protest matters, who it matters for, and for what.

This Element also has a video abstract: www.cambridge.org/Pettinicchio

Keywords: social movements, social change, protest outcomes, disruption, disability rights

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