

Beyond Horizontalism: the complexities of media activist organizational structures

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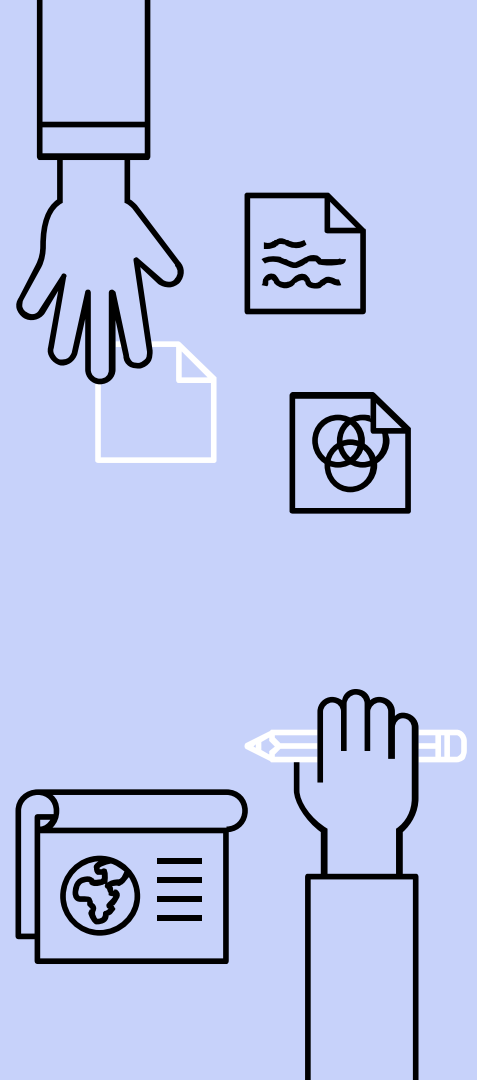
beyond horizontalism

CONTEXT

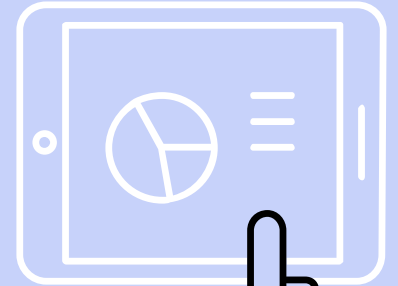
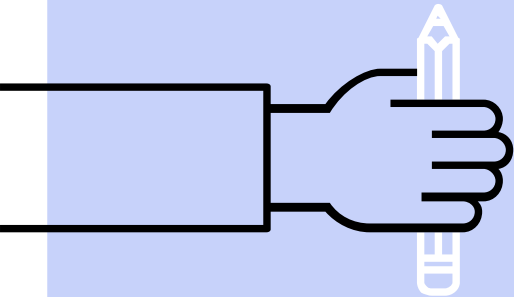
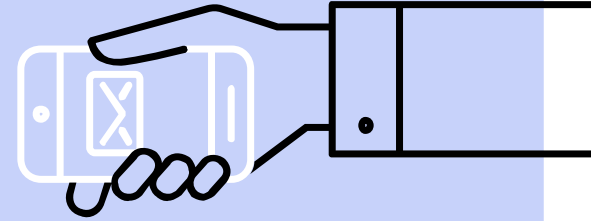
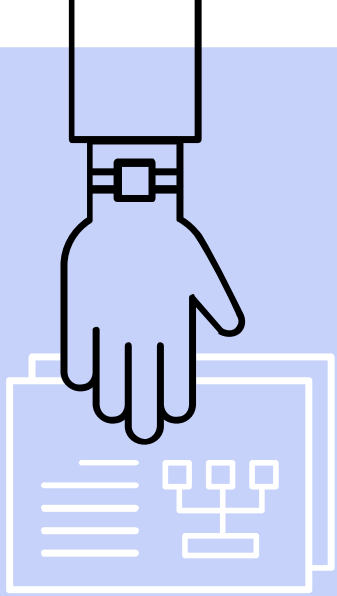
- ▶ Horizontal media activist projects prefigure equality (Hanke, Pickard, etc.)
- ▶ Horizontalism as an objective and a practice (Sitrin)

COMPLEXIFICATION

- ▶ Global and domestic digital divides in Indymedia (Wolfson)
- ▶ Domination of privileged voices in media activist projects (Costanza-Chock)



methodology



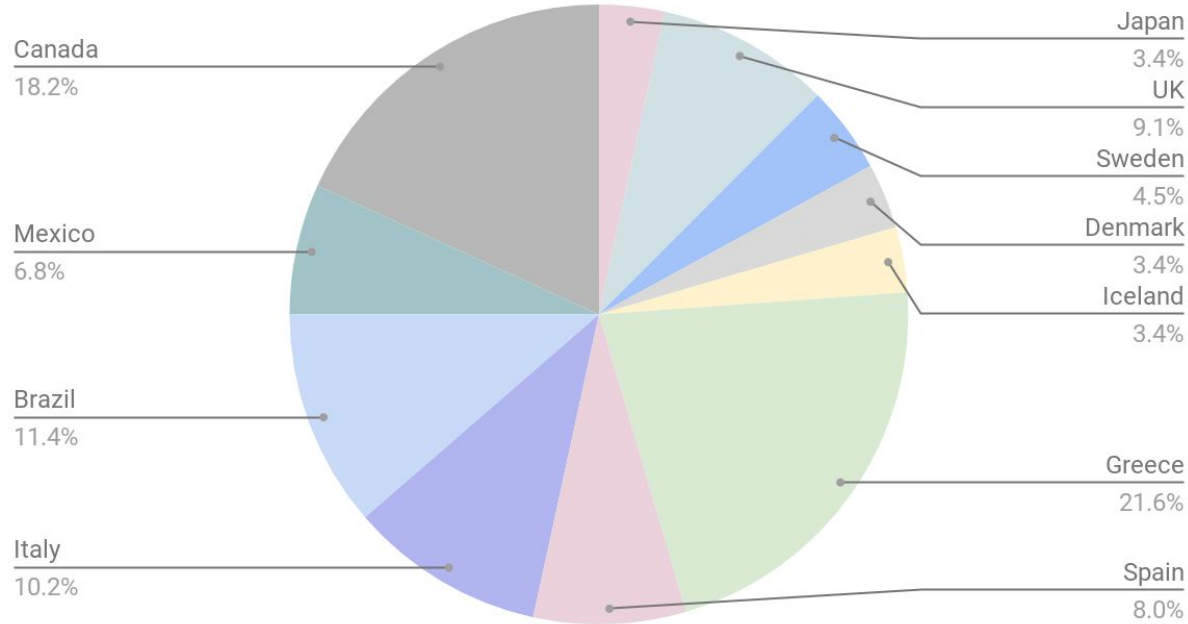


research-activism collective

participatory communicative action
research methodology



number of interviewees



88

semi-
structured
interviews

11

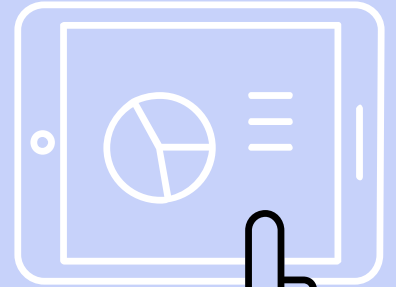
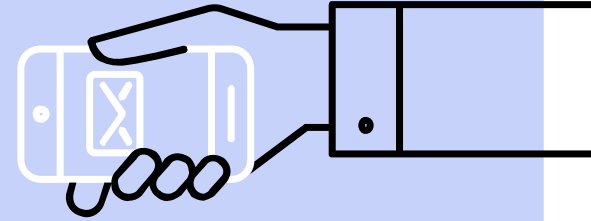
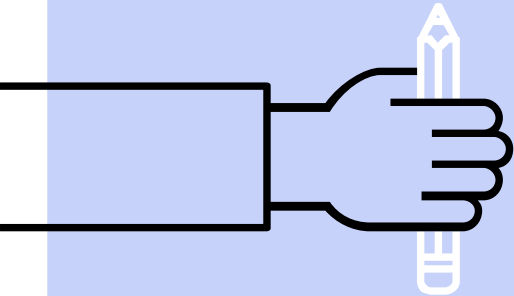
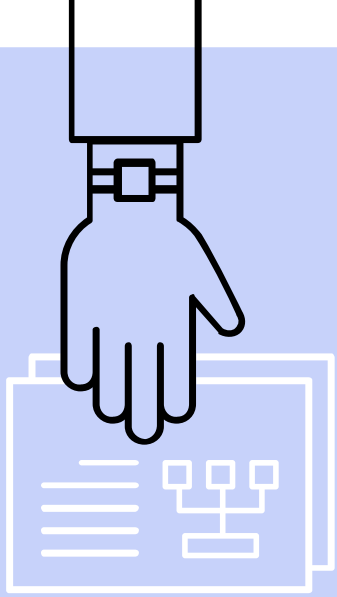
countries

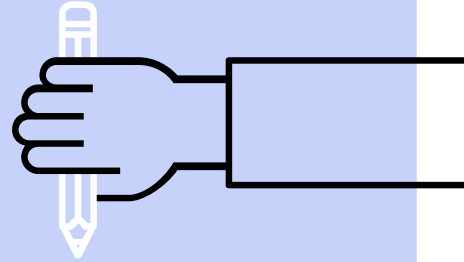
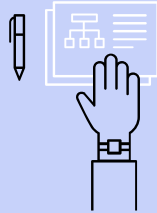
“

different structures
of horizontality in
practice will enable
different
anti-capitalist
outcomes

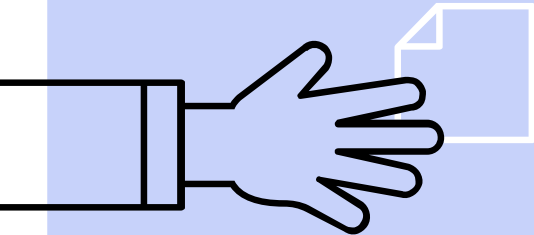


theoretical framework





horizontality

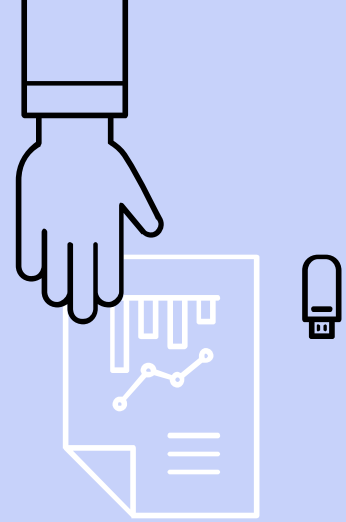


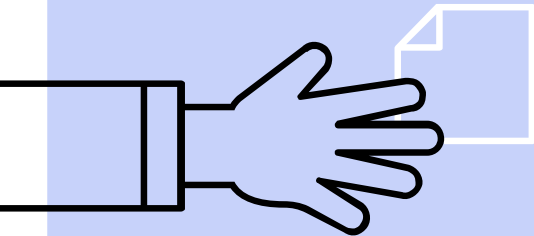
emergence of horizontal practices

Argentina
uprisings
2000

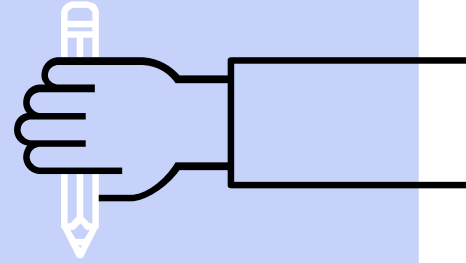
global
justice
movement

Indignados wave
of contention
2011 +





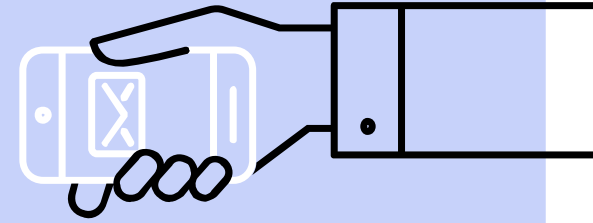
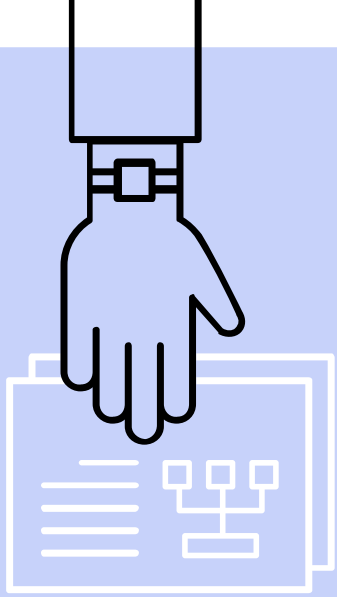
political
economy



four key dimensions

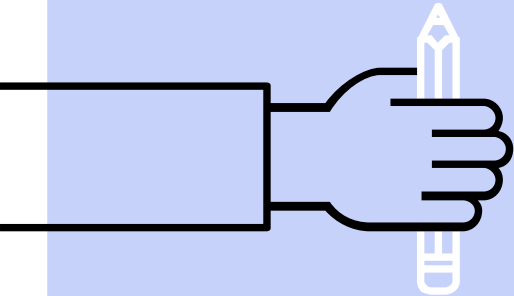
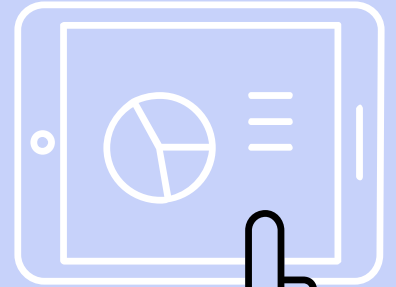
- ▷ ownership
- ▷ organizational structure
- ▷ funding model
- ▷ labour model





findings

complexities of horizontality in
media structure practices



Horizontality for collective liberation

5.6%

Horizontality embedded in capitalist org

13.9%

Horizontal volunteer collective

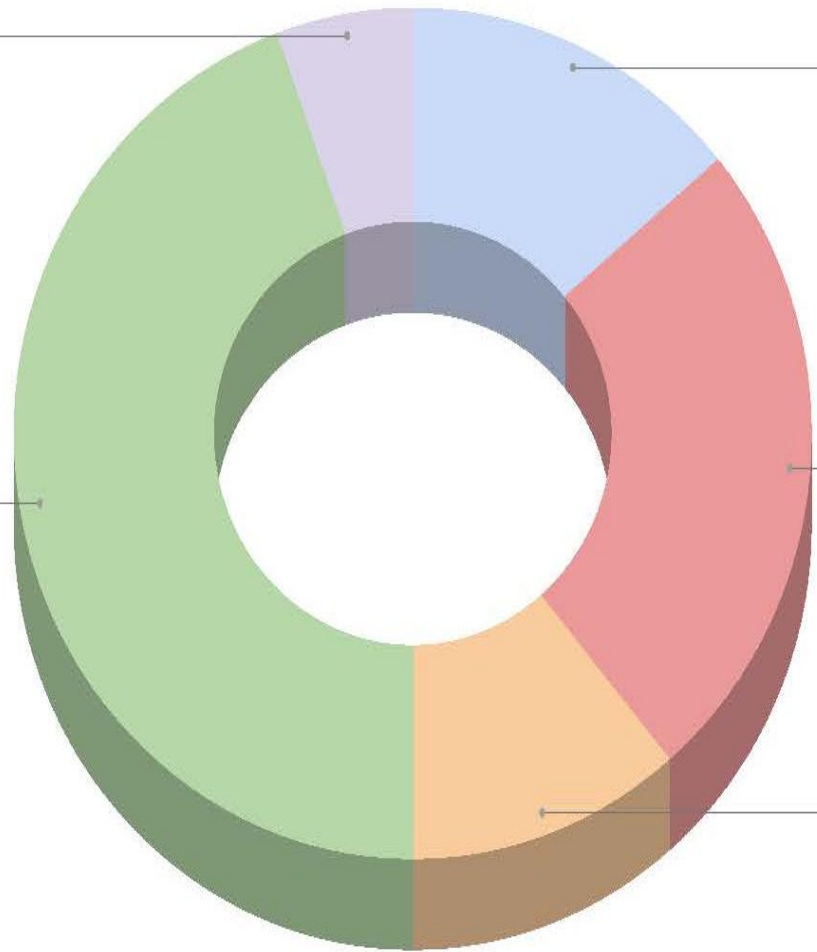
44.4%

Proto-capitalist horizontality

25.0%

Horizontal workers co-operative

11.1%



| IDEAL TYPE | <i>Ownership</i> | <i>Org structure</i> | <i>Funding model</i> | <i>Labour model</i> | Number |
|--|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1.Horizontality embedded in capitalist org | Hierarchical | Horizontal collective within hierarchical capitalist structure | Hybrid funding and resources | Hybrid: Paid, unpaid & underpaid | 5 |
| 2.Proto capitalist horizontality | Hierarchical or collective | Hierarchical or horizontal | Hybrid funding | Paid labour | 9 |
| 3.Horizontal workers co-op | Collective | Horizontal | Hybrid funding | Hybrid: Paid, unpaid & underpaid | 4 |
| 4.Horizontal volunteer collective | Collective | Horizontal | None/ self-funded | Unpaid labour | 16 |
| 5.Horizontal collective liberation | Collective | Horizontal | Solidarity economy | Blurs labour-life boundary | 2 |

Funding & Labour Models

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | hybrid : paid/unpaid, underpaid | Horizontality embedded in capitalist organization | hierarchical : hybrid |
| 2 | hybrid : paid | Proto-capitalist horizontality | either/or |
| 3 | hybrid : paid/unpaid, underpaid | Horizontal workes co-operative | collective : horiztonal |
| 4 | self-funded : unpaid | Horizontal volunteer collective | collective : horizontal |
| 5 | solidarity economy : blurs labour/life boundaries | Horizontality for collective liberation | collective: horizontal |

Ownership & Organizational Structure

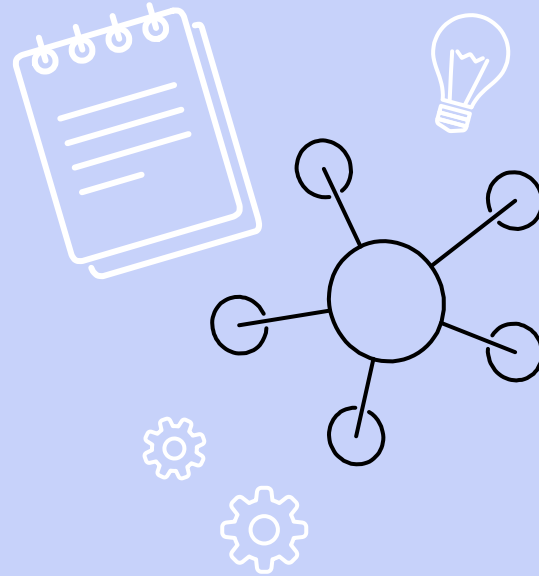
Hierarchical



Horizontal

practising horizontality

- ▶ activist media project structures can be considered media practices that shape outcomes
- ▶ important consequences for global democratic communications



acknowledgements

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thank-you

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