

Leaderless Social Movements: Study results

In December 2011 we interviewed Occupy Windsor protesters to explore their views on leadership, why the movement is dubbed to be “leaderless” and how the members of the movement communicate and accomplish day-to-day protesting issues as well as communicating their message using a non-hierarchical structure. The interviews reflect frustration with the media and the difficulty in communicating the real message of the protest to reporters who have their own idea of the story. As well, the interviews discuss the innovative solutions to challenges of running a camp and protesting activities without hierarchical leadership. The findings from these interviews will be used in a chapter that takes a broader look at the Occupy Movement as a leaderless movement, putting it in the context of other social movements that have tried this organizational strategy, as well as in the context of leadership theory.