

Community Organising Reading List

Core readings are marked *

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An Overview of Community Organising

- Matthew Bolton: How to Resist*
- Hahrie Han: How Organisations Develop Activists*
- Charles Payne: I've got the Light of Freedom ([chapter 8: Slow and Steady Work](#))*
- Barbara Ransby, ["Ella Taught Me: Shattering the Myth of the Leaderless Movement."](#)*
- Mike Gecan: Going Public
- Saul Alinsky: Rules for Radicals
- Ed Chambers: Roots for Radicals
- Warren and Mapp: A Match on Dry Grass (Chapter 1)
- Rinku Sen: Stir It Up: Lesson in Community Organizing and Advocacy
- Stephen Legg: ['No place for hate': community-led research and the geographies of Nottingham citizens' hate crime commission](#)

Underlying Theory

- Saul Alinsky: Reveille for Radicals
- Hannah Arendt - The Human Condition; The Origins of Totalitarianism
- Danielle Allan - Talking to Strangers
- Aristotle: Politics
- Sanford D. Horwitt: Let Them Call ME Rebel
- Paulo Freire: Pedagogy of the Oppressed
- Myles Horton: We make the road by walking
- Martin Luther King Jnr: Why We Can't Wait
- Bernard Crick: In Defence of Politics
- Weber: [Politics as Vocation](#)
- Karl Polanyi: The Great Transformation
- Michael Sandel: The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self ([video](#))
- bell Hooks: The Will to Change
- Bernard Loomer: [Two Conceptions of Power](#)
- Harney et al, Developing 'process pragmatism' to underpin engaged research in human geography

Power

- Matthew Bolton: How to Resist (chapter 1)*

- Saul Alinsky: Rules for Radicals (A Word About Words)*
- Malcolm Gladwell: [Six Degrees of Lois Weisberg](#)
- Bernard Loomer: [Two Conceptions of Power](#)
- Steven Lukes: Power, a Radical View
- Peter Morriss: Power, A Philosophical Analysis
- Hahrie Han: [Want Gun Control? Learn from the NRA](#)
- Jane McAlevey: No Shortcuts: Organising for Power (Chapter 1, 2 and 7)
- bell hooks: The Will to Change
- Remi Peeters: Against violence, but not at any price: Hannah Arendt's concept of power
- David Nyberg: Power Over Power (chapter 2)
- Hannah Arendt: The Human Condition (chapters 2 and 5)
- May Rollo: Power and Innocence (preface, chapters 1 and 2)
- Crenshaw, K. (1991) Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color. *Stanford Law Review*. 43 (6), pp. 1241-1299

Self-Interest

- Ed Chambers: Roots for Radicals (p25-26)*
- Matthew Bolton: How to Resist (chapter 2)
- Saul Alinsky: Rules for Radicals (A Word About Words)
- Alexis de Toqueville: Democracy in America ([chapter VIII](#))
- Hahrie Han: How Organisations Develop Activists (p130-132)
- Victor Frankl: Man's Search for Meaning
- Dennis Jacobsen: Doing Justice (chapter 6)
- Martin Luther King Jr: [The Drum Major Instinct](#)
- Albert Hirschman: Rival Views of Market Society (chapters 2, 4, 5)
- Thomas Sowell: A Conflict of Visions (chapter 2)

121s and Relational Meetings

- Ed Chambers [The Power of Relational Action](#)
- Ed Chambers [The Relational Meeting](#)
- Robert Steven Kaplan: What you Really Need to Lead
- Mike Gecan: Going Public (Chapter 1)
- Dennis Jacobsen: Doing Justice: Congregations and Community Organising (chapter 7)
- bell hooks: The Will to Change
- Brené Brown: Dare to Lead

Story-Telling

- Marshall Ganz: [Public Narrative, Collective Action and Power](#)*
- Marshall Ganz: [Why Stories Matter: The Art and Craft of Social Change](#)
- Marshall Ganz: [Public Narrative Guide](#)
- Martha Nussbaum: "Emotions and Judgments of Value" (in Soloman, Thinking about Feeling)

- Chip Heath & Dan Heath: Made to Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive & Others Die
- Annette Simmons: The Story Factor (2nd Revised Edition)
- [Obama 2004 convention speech \(transcript\)](#)

Leadership and Leadership Development

- Barbara Ransby, ["Ella Taught Me: Shattering the Myth of the Leaderless Movement,"](#)*
- Charles Payne: I've got the Light of Freedom ([chapter 8: Slow and Steady Work](#))*
- Hahrie Han: How Organisations Develop Activists (Chapter 4)*
- Peter Drucker: Your Leadership is Unique
- Matthew Bolton: How to Resist (chapter 9)
- The Bible (Exodus 18)
- Jo Freeman, ["The Tyranny of Structurelessness"](#)
- Saul Alinsky: Reveille for Radicals: (Chapter 5: Native Leadership)
- Mark Warren: Dry Bones Rattling (Chapter 8)
- Paulo Freire: Pedagogy of the Oppressed
- Liz McKenna and Hahrie Han, Groundbreakers: How Obama's 2.2 million Volunteers Transformed Campaigning in America (Chapter 5, "Creating a Structure to Share Responsibility")
- Gabriel Thomas: America's Social Arsonist: Fred Ross and Grassroots Organizing
- Myles Horton: The Long Haul
- Martin Luther King Jr: [The Drum Major Instinct](#)
- Peter F. Drucker: Your Leadership Is Unique
- Brené Brown: Dare to Lead
- Hahrie Han: [Want Gun Control?](#)

House Meetings and Gatherings

- Jeffrey Stout: Blessed are the Organised
- Priya Parker: The Art of Gathering

Taking Action / Strategy

- Aaron Schutz: [Cutting an issue*](#)
- Marshall Ganz: Why David Sometimes Wins (especially p10-14)*
- Saul Alinsky: Rules for Radicals ([Tactics](#))*
- Roots for Radicals by Ed Chambers (Chapter 5 "The practice of public life: research, action, evaluation")*
- Matthew Bolton: How to Resist (chapters 4, 5, and 6)*
- Stephen Legg: ['No place for hate': community-led research and the geographies of Nottingham citizens' hate crime commission](#)
- Martin Luther King Jr: [Letter from a Birmingham Jail](#)
- Ellen Langer: Mindfulness
- Sun Tzu: The Art of War

- Gabriel Thomas: America's Social Arsonist: Fred Ross and Grassroots Organizing
- Jane Addams: 20 years at Hull House (p 74)
- Henry Timms and Jeremy Heimans: New Power

Negotiation

- Thucydides: The Melian Dialogue*
- Saul Alinsky: Rules for Radicals (A Word About Words, Compromise)*
- Jonathan Powell: Great Hatred; Little Room
- Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom
- Bernard Crick: In Defence of Politics
- Chris Voss: Never Split the Difference: Negotiating as If Your Life Depended on It

Evaluation

- Kim Scott: Radical Candor
- Ellen Langer: Mindfulness

Broad-Based Organisations

- Jane Wills: Identity Making for Action: The Example of London Citizens*
- Mike Gecan: Going Public
- Ed Chambers: Roots for Radicals (chapter 3, 7)

Institutions and institutional Development

- Mike Gecan/Neil Jameson: Effective Organising for Congregational Renewal*
- Marshal Ganz, Structuring Teams in [Organizing: People, Power, Change](#)
- Ernesto Cortez Jr., [Towards a Democratic Culture](#)
- Hugh Hecl: On Thinking Institutionally (Especially chapters 4 and 6)*
- Albert O. Hirschman: Exit, Voice, and Loyalty
- Robert Putnam: The Upswing
- Brené Brown: Dare to Lead
- [The New York Times: What Google Learned From Its Quest to Build the Perfect Team](#)

Public and Private Relationships

- Ed Chambers: Roots for Radicals (chapter 5)*
- Rinku Sen: Stir it Up (piv: The Feminist Critique)*
- Richard Sennett: The Fall of Public Man (especially p264)
- Harry Boyte: Commonwealth (p96-99)

Relational, bureaucratic and market cultures

- Mike Gecan: Going Public (chapter 10: Three Public Cultures)*
- Hilary Cotham: Radical Help
- Paul Roberts: The Impulse Society
- bell hooks: The Will to Change
- Robert Putnam: Bowling Alone; The Upswing
- Michael Sandel: What Money Can't Buy
- Franz Kafka: The Trial
- Hannah Arendt: The Human Condition; The Origins of Totalitarianism
- Albert O. Hirschman: Exit, Voice, and Loyalty

Scheduling

- Matthew Bolton: How to Resist (chapter 8)*
- Laura Vanderkam: 168 hours: You Have More Time Than You Think

Anger

- Marshall Ganz: [Leading Change](#) (p10)*
- Rohr: Oneing Anger
- Soraya Chemaly: Rage Becomes Her
- Myles Horton: The Long Haul
- Mary-Beth Rodgers: Cold Anger: A Story of Faith and Power Politic

The Theology of Organising

- Revd Angus Ritchie and Paul Hackwood: Just Love*
- Walter Bruggeman: The Prophetic Imagination*
- [A New Covenant of Virtue: Islam and Community Organising](#)*
- Jill Jacobs: Where Justice Dwells: : A Hands-on Guide to Doing Social Justice in Your Jewish Community*
- The Bible (especially Exodus 2-6;18; Nehemiah 5; Samuel 17)
- Revd Angus Richie: [People of Power](#)
- Rev. Jeffrey K Krehbiel: Reflecting with Scripture on Community Organizing
- Dennis Jacobsen: Doing Justice
- Luke Bretherton: Resurrecting Democracy: Faith, Citizenship, And The Politics Of A Common Life
- Jeffrey Stout: Blessed are the Organized: Grassroots Democracy in America
- Austen Ivereigh: Faithful Citizens
- Wink Walter: The Powers That Be
- Ibn Ishaq: The Life of Muhammed
- Martin Lings: Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources

- Romand Coles' and Stanley Hauerwas: Christianity, Democracy, and the Radical Ordinary, Conversations between a Christian and a Radical Democrat
- Karl Rahner: Theological investigations (chapter 17)

Education and Youth Organising

- Warren and Mapp: A Match on Dry Grass
- Warren and Goodman: Lift Us Up, Don't Push Us Out!: Voices from the Front Lines of the Educational Justice Movement
- Barbara Ferman: The Fight for America's Schools
- Neil Jameson and Seb Chapeau: [Engaging Citizens to Ensure our Democracy](#)
- Soraya Chemaly: Rage Becomes Her
- Lisa Damour: Why Demonstrating Is Good for Kids
- Ernesto Cortes: [Metis and the Metrics of Success](#)
- Harry Boyte: Democracy's Education
- Darwyn Fehrman and Aaron Schutz: [Beyond the Catch-22 of School-Based Social Action Programs: Toward a More Pragmatic Approach for Dealing with Power](#)

Historical accounts of organising

The Civil Rights Movement

- Charles Payne: [I've Got the Light of Freedom](#)
- Martin Luther King Jr: Why We Can't Wait
- Doug McAdam: Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency
- Bayard Rustin: I Must Resist (book of letters)
- Myles Horton: The Long Haul
- Katherine Mellen Charron: Freedom's Teacher: The Life of Septima Clark
- Barbara Ransby: Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision
- Charles Payne: [Ella Baker and Models of Social Change](#)

The Black Power Movement in the UK

- [The Black Power movement overview](#)
- [The Black Parents Movement overview](#)
- [Black Education Movement overview](#)
- Beverley Bryan: Heart Of The Race: Black Women's Lives in Britain
- Reni Eddo-Lodge: Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race (chapter 1)
- Margaret Andrews: Doing nothing is not an option : The Radical Lives of Eric & Jessica Huntley
- Robin Bunce and Paul Field: Darcus Howe: A Political Biography
- Kehinde Andrews: Making education a Priority: Alternative approaches Resisting racism: The Black supplementary school movement

The Suffragettes

- Krista Cowman: Women of the Right Spirit: Paid Organisers of the Women's Social and Political Union
- Diane Atkinson: Rise Up Women!: The Remarkable Lives of the Suffragettes
- Emmeline Pankhurst: My Own Story
- E Sylvia Pankhurst : The Suffragette Movement: An Intimate Account of Persons and Ideals
- Christabel Pankhurst: Unshackled: The Story of How We Won the Vote

Labour Organising

- Cesar Chavez: An Organizer's Tale
- Marshall Ganz: Why David Sometimes Wins
- Jane McAlevey: Raising Hell, Raising Expectations
- Henry Pelling: A History of British Trade Unionism
- Saul Alinsky: John L. Lewis: An Unauthorised Biography

The Industrial Areas Foundation

- Sanford D. Horwitt: Let Them Call ME Rebel
- Gabriel Thomas: America's Social Arsonist: Fred Ross and Grassroots Organizing
- Mary-Beth Rodgers: Cold Anger: A Story of Faith and Power Politic
- Nicholas von Hoffman: Radical: A Portrait of Saul Alinsky
- Aaron Schutz: People Power: The Community Organizing Tradition of Saul Alinsky
- Mike Gecan: Going Public
- Romand Coles: [Moving Democracy](#)

Other historical examples of organising

- Mahatma Gandhi: My Reflections on Truth (Satyagraha)
- Adam Hochschild: Bury the Chains (the abolitionist movement)
- James Alan Mcpherson: [The Contract Buyers League](#)
- David France: How to Survive a Plague: The story of how activists and scientists tamed AIDS

Other Models of organising

- Jane McAlevey: Raising Hell, Raising Expectations
- Becky Bond and Zack Exley: Rules for Revolutionaries
- Mark and Paul Engler: This is an Uprising
- John Atlas: Seeds of Change, the story of ACORN
- Paulo Freire: Pedagogy of the Oppressed
- Myles Horton: The Long Haul

Other Relevant non-fiction

- Jane Addams: Twenty Years at Hull House
- Hannah Arendt: The Human Condition

- Hannah Arendt: The Origins of Totalitarianism
- Alasdair MacIntyre: After Virtue
- Aristotle: Politics
- Robert Winder: Bloody Foreigners: The Story of Immigration to Britain
- Anthony Kwame Appiah: The Lies That Bind
- Max Weber: [Politics as Vocation](#)
- Malcolm Gladwell: [Small Change: Why The Revolution Will Not Be Tweeted](#)
- Sheldon Wolin: Politics and Vision
- John Herman Randall: On the Importance of Being Unprincipled
- [E Pluribus Unum? The Fight Over Identity Politics](#)
- Harry Boyte: Everyday politics: Reconnecting citizens and public life
- DeFillippis, Fisher, Shragge: Contesting Community: The limits and potential of local organizing
- Henry Timms and Jeremy Heimans: New Power: How Power Works in Our Hyperconnected World
- Barack Obama: Dreams from my Father

Films about Organising

- Bread and Roses (2000)
- Cesar Chavez (2014)
- In Dubious Battle (2016)
- Made in Dagenham (2010)
- Milk (2008)
- Pride (2014)
- Selma (2014)

Podcast Episodes

- Making Obama: Episode 1 [The Man In The Background](#)
- Arnie Graf: [Standing for the whole](#)
- On Being: [Thinking and Friendship in Dark Times: Hannah Arendt for Now](#)
- On Being: [Walter Brueggemann, The Prophetic Imagination](#)
- Social Power: [The Marriage \(Same Sex Couples\) Act](#)
- The Ezra Klein Show with Jane McAlevey: [A master class in organizing](#)
- Tom Chigbo, [Echo Chamber Podcast](#)

Documentaries/Videos

- Hahrie Han: Lone Wolf, Mobilize, Organize [VIDEO](#)
- [The Democratic Promise: Saul Alinsky and his Legacy](#)
- What is [community organising?](#)
- [Marshall Ganz's 2014 Organising Course](#)
- [Saul Alinsky in Canada part 1 and 2](#)