Community Organising Reading List

Core readings are marked *

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Films about Organising

Podcast Episodes

Documentaries/Videos

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 Morri: 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)

### 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: *Public Narrative Guide*
- Martha Nussbaum: “Emotions and Judgments of Value” (in Soloman, Thinking about Feeling)
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 Alinksy: 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 forRadicals (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 Heclo: 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*
- 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
- 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
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 Jnr: 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

The Suffragettes
- 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 Ideas
- 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