

La Revolución Será Transfeminista o No Será:

Collective Identity in Women's Movement in Mexico

Introduction

Current scholarship on collective identity focuses on its impact on internal movement cohesion but lacks an in-depth exploration of its impact on groups excluded.

What does collective identity reveal about social movement participants, groups excluded from the movement, and the relationship between the two?

Gender Violence in Mexico

- approx. 10 women are murdered in Mexico daily
- close to 44% of women in Mexico have experienced domestic violence
- almost 7 out of every 10 Mexican women fifteen and older have experienced some form of gender-based violence

Rise of Women's Movement

- August 12, 2019: violent incident involving minor becomes catalyst for women's movement against gender violence
- eruption of protests on national scale and rise in feminist collectives

Olga Patricia Guerrero, May 2021

Theoretical Framework

- synthesis of theories of collective identity and gender studies in exploration of *collective identity* formation in women's movement in Mexico

Data and Methods

Social media content analysis

- Facebook and Twitter pages
- Six women's grassroots organizations that are based in Mexico City
- August 12, 2019-March 8, 2021

- (1) Las Del Aquelarre
- (2) Okupa Cuba
- (3) Resistencia Queer
- (4) Luchadoras
- (5) Brujas Insurrectas
- (6) Colectiva Dignas Hijas

Data scraping was carried out with Octoparse using three keywords: "trans", "vandalism", and "police".

Findings

Mexican women's collective identity formation is rooted in an analysis of their gendered experiences with respect to *male supremacy, patriarchal gender norms, and political repression*.

Excluded groups:

- trans women
- liberal women
- female officers
- male supremacy
- anti-vandalism, upholders of gender norms
- political repressors

"Real feminism / Real Womanhood"

- Trans women are not considered real women by all groups
 - trans activism = threat to feminism
- ALL groups consider non-radical women and police officers as real women despite not showing "real" feminism

Transphobic discourse is becoming deeply entrenched in radical feminist ideology.

Collective identity of movement participants can be weaponized → holds potential power for both destabilizing or perpetuating systems of oppression for already marginalized groups