

Pride In Central Eastern Europe - Risk Variation and External Repertoire Brokerage for LGBT Movements

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This paper aims to analyze the different degrees of implementation of Pride Marches by the local LGBT movements of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. I begin by identifying Pride marches as a form of political contention exogenous to the region, which has come to replace prior local forms of collective visibility and seizing of public space. I then attempt to map out the evolution of the respective movements' repertoire drawing on data from public access sources and semi-structured qualitative interviews with key activists, in order to show that the incorporation of Pride Marches to a local repertoire is less dependent on the external brokerage of institutions such as ILGA-Europe (although this type of brokerage does exist and mediates issues such as the *form* and the *interaction* between movement/event and the institutional environment), than it is on a) the informal diffusion of learned cultural norms and particularly b) the evolution of the *cognitive map* of local activists themselves.

A discussion of the effectiveness of Pride Marches as a form of contentious politics in each of the cases will be left outside the scope of this paper. Rather, I will focus on identifying and analyzing the effects of the following variables on the adoption and execution of Pride Marches themselves: 1) the variations on levels of activism *risk*, both institutional and extra-institutional; 2) the effects of resource mobilization variables, namely a) constituency and b) capital/financial resources; and 3) the level of positive political elite/institutional involvement aside from instances of institutional repression.