Understanding social protest in Costa Rica, 1992-2016

State of the Nation Program

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- Equity and social integration
- Harmony with nature
- Sustainable human development
- Economic stability and opportunities
- Strengthening democracy
To know the Costa Rica we have

To think the Costa Rica we wish

A mirror for a better understanding of ourselves

To promote human development
Research cluster
independent tool, in citizens' hands, in order to assess human development
Development > growth

Human development
Academic research for social deliberation

Information: public asset
Dialogue

Public policy
Quality control on research

Board workshop → Research network → Research period

Draft workshops ← Final papers (inputs) ← Report chapters

Chapter workshops → Final edition → Dissemination
Data on social mobilization

• Database since January 1992 (25 years)

• Daily records based on three newspapers (paper)

• Coding manual
Research questions already addressed

Who, when, how and against what?

What are the main trends?

Is it possible to explain the peaks?

What is triggering the protests? *
The database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21 variables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actor / sub-actor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public / private entity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demand / sub-demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repertoire of contention (set of tools) ...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mobilized actors under comparative perspective, by percentage 1992-2015

- Public workers: 45.4% (2015), 38.8% (1992-2014)
- Citizenship: 17.3% (2015), 27.6% (1992-2014)
- University and high school: 7.5% (2015), 5.0% (1992-2014)
- Businessmen: 7.1% (2015), 3.5% (1992-2014)
- Agricultural producers: 5.4% (2015), 4.1% (1992-2014)
- Informal workers: 7.1% (2015), 2.5% (1992-2014)
- Environmental groups: 4.1% (2015), 2.0% (1992-2014)
- Pro housing groups: 2.6% (2015), 1.9% (1992-2014)

Date range: January 1992 - December 2014

Five distinct episodes of conflict
Public workers use more institutional channels for their demands.

Collective actions flows by actors and repertoires. 1992-2016

Actors

Workers

Businessmen

Producers

University and highschool

Other groups

Citizenship

Repertoires of mobilization

Strike

Public declaration

Meetings and assemblies

Street protests

Other mobilizations
Citizenship expressed in the streets

Collective actions flows by actors and repertoires. 1992-2016
Social protests go down on summer and vacations.
Trend changes with the new President in May 2014

Collective actions trend, by actor

- Increasing trend
- Decreasing trend

- Public workers
- Citizenship
- Total CA
New government faced less conflicts than expected

Amount of collective actions and forecast. January 2013 to March 2017

President Chinchilla

President Solis

Forecast

Collective actions
Social protest is sensible to economic changes

Relationship between economic cycles and collective actions
How can we enrich social protest records with social media (Facebook/Twitter)?

Is there a way to track it in real time?

Think of in advance notification systems?

Machine learning for recognition?
More information

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