

# **Networked Revolution?**

By

**Eva Oyón Murphy**

2009/2010

Supervised by Prof. Jónatas Machado,  
Universidade de Coimbra.

Thank you to all the lovely staff and amazing friends in Coimbra for making my time there such an interesting and happy one.

\* \* \*

A special thanks to mum, Hannah and Helle for their love support and encouragement.

## **ABSTRACT:**

This study explores the Social Networking Sites (SNS) phenomena and its potential to contribute towards human rights advocacy goals. It combines socio-theoretical and socio-historical perspectives to shed light on the new reality SNS present and their meaning as a tool in the historical evolution of human rights advocacy.

It exposes the structural changes in the public sphere facilitated by SNS and considers this in light of an emerging global civil society, while taking into account matters of social exclusion and access. The study also considers what SNS can offer for human rights advocacy from the point of view of mobilisation and activism. By drawing on theories of social movements it contemplates the issues of identity, leadership and responsibility in an activity largely taking place in a virtual space.

It argues that as a new tool (SNS) can bring into question ways of *doing* human rights advocacy that were otherwise unchallenged. It exposes the ways that SNS are being used as forums for collaborative production and networking, particularly by grass-roots activists. Finally it considers more practical issues and the important dangers of the darker sides of SNS and questions to what extent they can really be used to achieve concrete political and institutional change.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>AI:</b>	Amnesty International
<b>HR:</b>	Human rights
<b>ICT:</b>	Information Communication Technologies
<b>IGO:</b>	Inter-Governmental Organisation
<b>INGO:</b>	International Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>NGO:</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>NSM:</b>	New Social Movement
<b>RM:</b>	Resource mobilisations
<b>SNS:</b>	Social Networking Sites
<b>TAN:</b>	Transnational Advocacy Networks
<b>TTC:</b>	Tactical Technology Collective
<b>TNC:</b>	Transnational Corporations
<b>UK:</b>	United Kingdom
<b>UN:</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCHR:</b>	United Nations Commission on Human Rights
<b>UN DRIP:</b>	Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
<b>UN GA:</b>	United Nations General Assembly
<b>US:</b>	United States of America
<b>WGIP:</b>	Working Group on Indigenous Populations

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