

Guide for Writing SMS Profiles

Why write a profile?

A profile is a short descriptive summary of a contemporary event or development within a social movement. We aim to publish profiles quickly (often including them in the next edition of the journal) enabling the journal to include timely reaction to contemporary events. A profile can be quick to write and often receives good citations. Profiles help us to produce a diverse, contemporary and informative journal.

What makes a good profile?

A good profile is written in an authoritative style which both analyses what has occurred and seeks to explain why change has happened. It is written for a specialist social movement audience but is clear in its argument, rationale and explanation. Profiles should assume that readers are familiar with the key concepts in the field of social movement studies. Its style is similar to that of an intellectual magazine article written from the perspective of an external observer (though this is not the same thing as suggesting that the author should be objective). A profile is not a short version of an academic article and is not theoretically driven. A good profile might seek to categorise, illuminate or outline different groups' participation in a social movement and the political context in which it is operating. We particularly encourage pieces on new and emerging social movements, and activism in majority world contexts. A nice example is: Harsch, Ernest (2016) [*Blowing the Same Trumpet? Pluralist Protest in Burkina Faso*](#), *Social Movement Studies*, 15:2, 231-238.

What do I need to include?

A profile should include an abstract, up to six key words, a short bibliography (if needed) and a short personal biography. The title should be short and descriptive – informing readers clearly of the topic of the profile.

What is the word length?

Profiles should not exceed 3,000 words in length, inclusive of a short bibliography. We encourage you to keep any references used to a minimum.

How is a profile reviewed?

In order to ensure a fast turnaround profiles are not normally peer-reviewed, but are read and commented on by an editor of the journal. We aim to make an editorial decision on any profiles within two months of submission. Occasionally we will send a profile to an external reviewer if we feel the need for additional expertise in making our decision. We seek to avoid significant revisions to profiles and thus we are more likely to reject a profile that requires major revisions rather than engage in an extensive revision process.

Who should I contact about a profile idea?

If you are interested in writing a profile please contact the journal via the email address above to discuss your idea. While we welcome unsolicited profile submissions it is useful for us to have an initial discussion with potential authors to ensure that particular social movements or topics are not repeatedly targeted.