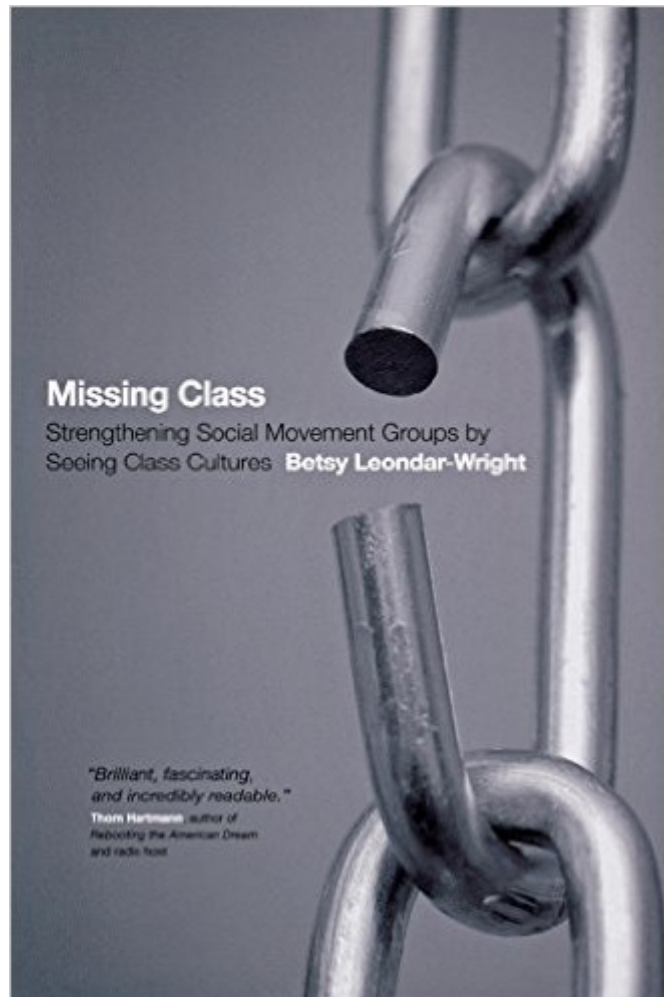


The book was found

# Missing Class: Strengthening Social Movement Groups By Seeing Class Cultures



## Synopsis

Many activists worry about the same few problems in their groups: low turnout, inactive members, conflicting views on racism, overtalking, and offensive violations of group norms. But in searching for solutions to these predictable and intractable troubles, progressive social movement groups overlook class culture differences. In *Missing Class*, Betsy Leondar-Wright uses a class-focused lens to show that members with different class life experiences tend to approach these problems differently. This perspective enables readers to envision new solutions that draw on the strengths of all class cultures to form the basis of stronger cross-class and multiracial movements. The first comprehensive empirical study of US activist class cultures, *Missing Class* looks at class dynamics in 25 groups that span the gamut of social movement organizations in the United States today, including the labor movement, grassroots community organizing, and groups working on global causes in the anarchist and progressive traditions. Leondar-Wright applies Pierre Bourdieu's theories of cultural capital and habitus to four class trajectories: lifelong working-class and poor; lifelong professional middle class; voluntarily downwardly mobile; and upwardly mobile. Compellingly written for both activists and social scientists, this book describes class differences in paths to activism, attitudes toward leadership, methods of conflict resolution, ways of using language, diversity practices, use of humor, methods of recruiting, and group process preferences. Too often, we miss class. *Missing Class* makes a persuasive case that seeing class culture differences could enable activists to strengthen their own groups and build more durable cross-class alliances for social justice.

## Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: ILR Press; 1 edition (April 15, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801479207

ISBN-13: 978-0801479205

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.7 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #657,721 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #136 in Books > Business & Money > Job Hunting & Careers > Volunteer Work #400 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Political Advocacy #689 in Books >

## Customer Reviews

This is a very useful book for activists seeking to bridge class differences, based on interviews of 362 members from 25 leftist groups in 5 states, plus transcripts of 100 of their meetings. Most groups were very frustrated, even torn apart, by conflict rooted in class differences but never discussed. With awareness these differences could be a source of strength. The principle categories of class analysis discussed in this book are working class, lower professional class, professional middle class, and upper middle class. But these are supplemented by "straddlers", who grew up working class but became middle class, and by "voluntary downwardly mobile" activists from middle class backgrounds who chose to join low income, radical groups such as anarchists. Education and occupation are the primary determinants of class status in this scheme, not income. The research goal was to distinguish differences caused by class versus other factors such as race, gender, ideology, and militancy. The major differences that were identified seemed to be most influenced by education and the associated social and occupational networks. The college educated middle class activists are far more individualistic and politically or ideologically motivated and talk abstractly. Less educated working class activists have a more communal ethic of mutual aid, talk more concretely and in shorter sentences, and bond to their group by relationships of trust, especially with leaders or mentors, as well as help actually given or received. I note that this way of interacting harks to the mutual reciprocity in hunter-gatherer societies (read "5000 Years of Debt" by David Graeber).

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Missing Class: Strengthening Social Movement Groups by Seeing Class Cultures Small Groups for the Rest of Us: How to Design Your Small Groups System to Reach the Fringes The Zen of Seeing: Seeing/Drawing as Meditation Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees (Seeing Series) Social Security & Medicare Facts 2016: Social Security Coverage, Maximization Strategies for Social Security Benefits, Medicare/Medicaid, Social Security Taxes, Retirement & Disability, Ser Social Media: Master, Manipulate, and Dominate Social Media Marketing With Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn (Social Media, Social Media ... Twitter, Youtube, Instagram, Pinterest) Social Media: Master Strategies For Social Media Marketing - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube & LinkedIn (Social Media, Social Media Marketing, Facebook, ... Instagram, Internet Marketing Book 3) Indigenous Australian Cultures (Global Cultures) When Cultures Collide, 3rd Edition: Leading Across Cultures JavaScript & jQuery: The

Missing Manual (Missing Manuals) Dreamweaver CC: The Missing Manual: Covers 2014 release  
(Missing Manuals) Investigating Mysteries: Literature & Writing Workshop (The Case Of The  
Missing Ring, Meg Mackintosh and The Case Of The Missing Babe Ruth Baseball, The Binnacle  
Boy) iWork: The Missing Manual (Missing Manuals) The Relationship Cure: A 5 Step Guide to  
Strengthening Your Marriage, Family, and Friendships Ten Lessons to Transform Your Marriage:  
America's Love Lab Experts Share Their Strategies for Strengthening Your Relationship Psychic:  
The Psychic Development Guide for Strengthening Your Psychic Abilities Emotionally Focused  
Couple Therapy with Trauma Survivors: Strengthening Attachment Bonds (Guilford Family Therapy  
(Paperback)) Every Body Matters: Strengthening Your Body to Strengthen Your Soul Strategic  
Planning for Public and Nonprofit Organizations: A Guide to Strengthening and Sustaining  
Organizational Achievement 7 Keys to Spiritual Wellness: Enriching Your Faith by Strengthening the  
Health of Your Soul

[Dmca](#)