Details about Methods

Data Source: Newswires available in Annotated English Gigaword (AGW), available by purchase from the Linguistic Data Consortium (Associated Press Worldstream, New York Times, Los Angeles Times/Washington Post).

We used a protest-relevant keyword search string (boycott* OR press conference OR news conference OR protest* OR strik* OR rally OR ralli* OR riot* OR sit-in OR occupation OR mobiliz* OR blockage OR demonstrat* OR marchi* OR marche* NOT protestant*) and a Black/African American search string ((Black AND NOT Blacks) OR African* OR Afro*) to retrieve a large pool of articles from the AGW database. We used MPEDS, an open-source automated system developed by Alex Hanna (2017) to select the subset of articles that were likely to have information about protests. Hanna (2017) reports that classification errors by MPEDS mimic those of human coders in this inherently difficult task. An automated system for identifying locations in news articles from place names was used to further restrict protests to those in the US.

The original identification of events in news articles, what we call pass 1 coding, was done by undergraduate assistants generally working for course credit using the MPEDS Annotation Interface (MAI) developed by Alex Hanna and available at https://github.com/mpeds/mpeds-coder. MAI is specifically designed for protest event research and can be modified for each project's specific needs. Coders identify events in articles, answer questions about the events, and highlight text about them. Output of the MAI is a table of information that is input to our pass 2 system, implemented in Microsoft Access, in which events are matched up between articles and the initial coding is used to created authorized events. Pass 2 coding includes reviewing and correcting pass 1 decisions. The first three authors of this paper did the pass 2 coding, as well as additional coding, review, and correction of errors.

Central to our method is a relational database that establishes strong verifiable links between articles and events which permit us to review and correct prior work. Coding protest event data and matching events up between articles involves adjudicating many ambiguous cases and is difficult to do consistently and without errors. Our procedures involve several iterations of checking and error-correction, and we return to the database and correct errors if we find them in the process of analysis. We record the export date for any published analysis. The final export date for the data reported in this paper and released in the replication package is 2022-2-7.

As the paper indicates, in addition to events by Black actors, we retain anti-Black or pro-White events and events by other actors if they appeared in articles mentioning Black events.

Our methods involve coding events that are aggregates of other events. These include both unspecific references to multiple past events with phrases such as "protests last week" and events that are made up of subevents, such as protests with counter-protests or coordinated protests in multiple cities. We record the relations among the events in our data. For the descriptive purposes of this paper, we have

counted all events, including those that are aggregates of other events, as this does not affect our goal of providing a broad view of the Black movement. We flag aggregate events that include other events in the data, so that we do not double-count participants.

For each event, we identify its specific issue, the thing the event is "about." This is usually readily identified in news articles because this is how they are written. A specific issue cluster is a set of events about the same specific issue. Again, these clusters are usually readily identified because that is how the articles are written. There are some cases in which researcher judgement was involved in defining specific issue clusters, with the general principle being that events were described in articles as being related to each other in article narratives about a given topic. An event can belong to more than one specific issue cluster, but in this paper each event is associated only with one cluster, either its primary cluster or, in the case of clusters nested within clusters, with the most overarching cluster.

Grouping these specific issues into issue groups is a researcher-driven process, as the researcher creates abstract categories in line with researcher purposes or theorizing.

Because our methods simultaneously record events and news coverage of events, we can describe both "what happened" according to the news sources and the volume or content of news coverage of different events. After providing basic quantitative overviews, this paper provides a qualitative discussion of the "big stories" that received a great deal of news coverage.

Hanna, Alex. 2017. "MPEDS: Automating the Generation of Protest Event Data." *Deposited at SocArXiv* *https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/xuqmv*.

Table A1. Summary of the largest clusters that were covered in more than 20 articles or had more than 20 events.

Cluster Name	Description	Issue group	# events	# articles	Min. Est. People	Dates	Places
Diallo	Near daily protests in Feb & March around the killing of Amadou Diallo by New York Police. More protests in Jan & Feb 2000 around the trial of the police; memorial in 2003.	Police Violence	62	76	38,203	1999-2000, 2003	New York City & Albany
Cincy01	Protests and disruption after police killing of Timothy Thomas on 7 April 2001. Includes intertwined lawsuit, community forums, and a boycott.	Police Violence	50	73	5,343	2001-2	Cincinnati
Jena6	Online mobilization and protests about over-charging Black youth and under-charging symbolic hate crimes. Includes a big march and many sympathy rallies around the country.	Other Criminal Legal	32	62	23,982	2006-7	Jena, Louisiana and elsewhere
MillionMan95	Million Man March Oct 1995 and related events	Solidarity	11	60	404,025	1994-5	Washington, DC and elsewhere
SCFlag00	Many events 1999-2003 including protests and a boycott about removing the Confederate flag from the South Carolina state capitol.	Confederate Symbols	33	46	56,689	1999-2003	South Carolina

Cluster Name	Description	Issue group	# events	# articles	Min. Est. People	Dates	Places
MillionYouth	Three Million Youth Marches in New York City 1998-2000 organized by Khalid Muhammad of New Black Panthers + attempts to block the rallies & a related 1998 Atlanta rally. Police attacked the 1998 rally.	Solidarity	6	42	8,151	1998 - 2000	New York City and Atlanta, Georgia
125thStreet	In Dec 1995 in Harlem New York City a man who had been part of a small group of Black pickets outside Freddy's clothing store set the store on fire and killed 8 people. After the arson/murder, extensive coverage tied the violence to ongoing conflicts about street vendors and non-Black businesses.	Inter-group Violence	24	38	2,155	1994-5	New York City
SeanBell	Multiple protests in New York City about the police killing of Sean Bell in 2006 including many events in 2007 and especially after police acquittal in 2008.	Police Violence	22	25	52,310	2006-7	New York City
OGrant	Protests in 2009 and 2010 about the police killing of Oscar Grant in Oakland California and subsequent light punishment for the officer who killed him.	Police Violence	16	24	2,653	2009-2010	Oakland, Calif.

Cluster Name	Description	Issue group	# events	# articles	Min. Est. People	Dates	Places
Mumia	Protests in many places and some counter-protests across multiple years about not executing Mumia Abu-Jamal who was found guilty of killing a police officer.	Other Criminal Legal	29	23	19,677	1994-2001	multiple
Vote2000	Events in many cities protesting the 2000 presidential election in November 2000 through early January 2001.	Politics	21	17	11,635	2000-1	Multi
UCAffAct	Protests about banning affirmative action in University of California	Affirmative Action	21	16	16,874	1995-7	California
TOTAL for Big Clusters			327	502	641,697		
Total for All Clusters			1,342	2,110	4,710,468		
Percent of All Clusters			24%	41%	14%		

Table A2 Number of issue clusters, events, articles, and participants associated with issues

	# Clusters	# Events	# Articles	# Participants (min)	# Participants (max)
Police Violence					
NY Louima	1	7	12	9,510	24,790
NY Diallo	1	62	76	38,203	122,447
NY Dorismond	1	15	11	13,989	36,884
NY Bell	1	22	25	52,310	59,640
Cincinnati	1	50	73	5,343	14,590
Oakland	1	16	24	2,653	20,575
Police Violence - Other	40	92	87	21,638	68,718
Other criminal legal					
Charging - Jena6	1	32	66	23,982	83,032
Charging - Nooses 2007	1	15	15	920	1,737
Charging Hate Crimes - Other	2	2	2	158	214
Charging - other	5	19	14	50,668	204,940
Death Penalty - Mumia	1	29	23	19,677	98,025
Death Penalty - Other	4	12	8	3,075	28,880
Police - Pro-police	3	3	3	4,505	15,030
Police - Other	8	20	16	3,543	10,343
Legal - other	7	11	7	5,567	14,330
Confederate Symbols					
South Carolina Flag 2000	1	33	61	56,689	90,296
Georgia Flag 2000	1	7	13	465	1,585
Other	22	48	35	5,371	45,105
Affirmative Action					
Affirmative Action - California	1	21	16	16,874	84,328
Affirmative Action - Other	7	22	17	25,671	39,629
White Identity Groups					
KKK vs NBP	4	21	17	998	2,661
with Counter-protests	10	29	18	2,088	5,388
Other	25	52	35	11,905	27,498
Campus Issues					
Rutgers	1	8	12	1,234	2,420
Other	14	43	22	8,690	19,785
Local Issues					
New Orleans	3	12	14	4,337	8,620
Community Violence	10	16	13	8,081	31,865
School	9	15	11	3,736	8,433
Economic	9	15	11	1,697	5,400
Other	12	22	15	18,752	56,166
Other Black Issues					
Discrimination	5	15	15	513	1,355
Reparations	2	12	11	361	1,305
Media	5	15	12	2,239	17,850
Speech & Symbols	12	26	19	1,906	6,530
Foreign Countries	2	10	11	10,302	40,651
Other	7	8	9	415	775

Table A2 Number of issue clusters, events, articles, and participants associated with issues

	# Clusters	# Events	# Articles	# Participants (min)	# Participants (max)
Organizational					
Organizational	10	13	14	2,984	20,854
Inter-group Violence					
125th Street	1	24	38	2,155	5,398
LA Jails 05	1	20	18	3,558	6,001
Hate Crimes	12	24	20	6,915	60,442
Other Collective	12	18	18	4,972	15,407
Coalition Issues					
Million Moms (guns)	1	2	8	500,000	980,000
Abortion	4	6	4	108,520	529,790
Gay Rights	7	12	11	205,436	427,325
Higher Education	2	9	3	15,964	17,427
Immigrants & Other Groups	16	38	37	106,678	433,302
Iraq War	2	7	8	1,900	52,180
Religion	2	5	4	302,305	1,020,560
Welfare Issues	2	2	5	200,180	1,000,220
Workers					
Discrimination	11	36	21	2,074	6,667
Strikes	16	36	25	253,624	410,085
Workers-other	13	20	15	19,968	39,965
Political Issues					
Vote2000	1	21	17	11,635	43,095
Inaugurations - 2001	1	4	13	9,200	18,800
Inaugurations - 2005	1	5	20	12,750	38,200
Racialized - Beck	1	3	23	112,000	405,000
Racialized - Other	3	6	12	6,710	7,800
Political-other	15	26	34	577,037	943,069
History					
MLK Day 2000	1	7	1	80,760	125,400
Commemorations	27	61	55	74,909	415,929
Truth-telling	14	22	20	976	3,960
Solidarity					
Million Man March	1	11	60	404,025	1,007,100
Million Youth (KAM)	1	6	42	8,151	9,601
Millions-other	4	25	22	692,573	2,849,509
KAM other	3	5	7	570	1,570
Festivals-policing issues	3	7	7	420,000	735,000
Solidarity-other	4	4	4	20,100	37,000
Total	432	1,342	1,435	4,606,694	12,968,476

Table A3 Number of clusters with articles including name, by issue group

Person or Organization	Police Violence	Other criminal legal	Confederate Symbols	Affirmative Action	White Identity Groups	Campus Issues	Local Issues	Other Black Issues	Organizational	Inter-group Violence	Coalition Issues	Workers	Political Issues	History	Solidarity
Person or Organization															
NAACP	14	6	11	5	5	2	5	8	5	5	11	6	9	9	6
Al Sharpton	13	5	0	0	4	2	9	7	0	5	3	5	7	2	6
Jesse Jackson	7	9	3	3	3	1	5	7	2	4	4	7	5	9	4
NAACP or Sharpton or Jackson	27	14	11	5	11	4	14	17	5	10	12	16	12	18	8
SCLC	2	4	4	1	0	0	3	2	1	0	1	2	2	6	3
Martin Luther King III	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	3	3
Coretta Scott King	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	10	1
Rosa Parks	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	5	2
Rainbow/PUSH (no Jackson)	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Ben Chavis (no NAACP)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Kweisi Mfume (no NAACP)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Louis Farrakhan	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	6	2	2	0	1	1	10
Khalid Abdul Muhammad	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Malcolm Zulu Shabazz	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1
Nation of Islam (no Farrakhan, Muhammad, or Shabazz)															
New Black Panthers (no Muhammad or Shabazz)	4	2	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Civil Liberties Union (ACLU & affiliates)	9	4	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
AFL-CIO	2	3	1	2	0	0	1	3	1	1	3	8	0	1	2
National Organization for Women	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	2
Amnesty International	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Anti-Racist Action	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Any of the listed names or groups	29	19	13	5	16	4	19	20	10	11	17	22	13	24	13
None of the listed names or groups	34	18	14	5	28	13	28	18	0	21	27	21	15	24	6
Total	46	32	24	8	39	15	43	33	10	26	36	40	22	42	16