

Mobility, Participation, and Community: Modes of Political Belonging for Young Adults in New York City

Existing studies of political incorporation often ask whether minorities and immigrants are included in or excluded from political community. This article instead highlights *modes of political belonging*, or how “internal others” perceive political institutions and how those perceptions structure their political acts. I argue that mode of political belonging is tied to their sense of position in society: as groups marked by discrimination and exclusion, minorities and immigrants strive for economic mobility and political participation to better their standing, and their perceptions of political institutions are situated within the conjunction of these two different pursuits. Analyzing survey and interview data on young adults in New York City, I identify four different modes of political belonging: exit from politics, participation through protest, community work, and self-development by way of helping others. The variation is explained through different configurations of respondents’ concerns about mobility, participation, and community.