

# Chapter 11

## The Çapul.tv Experience of Gezi Park Movement

**Sahika Dogan**

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6248-7289>

*Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey*

### **ABSTRACT**

*The decreasing role of nation states in regulating trade and commerce generated an imbalanced international economic order and threatened sustainable economic development at national level. As a consequence, the closing years of the 20th century witnessed the birth of anti-corporate and anti-government social movements, critical of the neoliberal globalization of corporate capitalism that aimed to direct attention to social and economic imbalance both at national and international levels. The aim of this study is to explore the relationship between contemporary social movements and online participatory media. The assumption of this study is that contemporary social movements demand the support of online participatory media environment by nature. The sustainability of online participatory media forms emerged in these movements depends on their civic culture. The perseverance of çapul.tv, which is established during Gezi Park movement, is owed to its civic bases.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Starting from 2011, governments have faced counter-movements in countries such as Tunisia (which then spread to Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Western Sahara and Yemen), Iceland, the United States (Occupy Wall Street), Spain (15-M movement), Turkey (Gezi Park protests) and Brazil (V for Vinegar Movement). Though each local movement had its own causes and characteristics

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-7041-4.ch011

depending on their country of origin, they were similarly represented by the dispossessed or marginalized segments of societies. These movements tended to be against the dominant economic and social characteristics of the neoliberal world order. Harvey (2005), who foresaw the emergence of such movements, asserted that the exploitative and anti-democratic character of neoliberalism marked the focal point of public oppositions (p. 205-206).

The Internet emerged as the most important source of news about ongoing events during Gezi Park movement, which started on 28 May 2013 initially to contest an urban development plan at Taksim in Istanbul. The emergence of movement specific media remained in line with the participatory culture notion of Jenkins (2008), which is marked for the active role played by the audience in processes of data collection, reporting, analysis and content dissemination.

In this study, Dahlgren's (2009) notion of civic culture is also taken into consideration, while exploring the alternative media outlets of Gezi Park movement. Dahlgren conceptualizes civic culture as social and cultural formations that are shaped by ordinary citizens, gathered around certain characteristics and interests, which include identities, knowledge sharing, fostering democratic values, practices and skills (p.9). In line, the current study will be exploring the online participatory media formed during Gezi Park movement, by specifically focusing on the experience with *çapul.tv*.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### The Framework of Gezi Park Movement

Gezi Park movement began as a wave of demonstrations that emerged in reaction to the urban renovation plan of the Gezi Park area in Beyoğlu district of İstanbul. As the wall between Gezi Park and the intersecting road was destroyed by construction workers on 27 May 2013, a small group of activists stepped in the park to prevent the cutting down of the trees. Around 50 environmentalist activists camped out at Gezi Park that night to prevent further demolition. The following morning, municipal police burnt down tents of activists who slept at the park. Still, activists kept on blocking the bulldozers and preventing municipal police forces from entering the park. Brutal police raid throughout the following days that attracted thousands of individuals to the protest on field.

Gezi Park movement marked an important turning point for Turkey's civil society. Although it started as a small protest against an urban redevelopment plan, it turned into a larger expression of anger against governmental policies over social, cultural and economic life. Gezi movement was also important in the sense that it

20 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: [www.igi-global.com/chapter/the-apultv-experience-of-gezi-park-movement/368388](http://www.igi-global.com/chapter/the-apultv-experience-of-gezi-park-movement/368388)

## Related Content

---

### Online Auctions of New Product Before and After Its Official Launch: Differences, Time Series Linkage, and Correlation with Stock Market

Yanbin Tu (2019). *International Journal of Online Marketing* (pp. 64-79).

[www.irma-international.org/article/online-auctions-of-new-product-before-and-after-its-official-launch/236110](http://www.irma-international.org/article/online-auctions-of-new-product-before-and-after-its-official-launch/236110)

### Past, Future and Presents: Meeting New Online Challenges with Primal Marketing Solutions

Ruth Gannon Cook and Kathryn Ley (2015). *International Journal of Technology and Educational Marketing* (pp. 19-33).

[www.irma-international.org/article/past-future-and-presents/143184](http://www.irma-international.org/article/past-future-and-presents/143184)

### E-Service Delivery in Higher Education: Meeting MBA Student Expectations

Matt Elbeck and Brian A. Vander Schee (2012). *International Journal of Technology and Educational Marketing* (pp. 70-80).

[www.irma-international.org/article/service-delivery-higher-education/69185](http://www.irma-international.org/article/service-delivery-higher-education/69185)

### Microcelebrities: The New Celebrities in the Digital Era

Bejoy John Thomas (2021). *International Journal of Online Marketing* (pp. 51-63).

[www.irma-international.org/article/microcelebrities/282484](http://www.irma-international.org/article/microcelebrities/282484)

### Marketing With Twitter: Challenges and Opportunities

Alena Soboleva, Suzan Burton and Aila Khan (2018). *Digital Marketing and Consumer Engagement: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (pp. 695-732).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/marketing-with-twitter/195119](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/marketing-with-twitter/195119)