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***Global Social Movements as „Cultural Practices from below“?
Reclaim the Streets and Indymedia***

Boris Buden raised the question: “Is there a notion of culture which is possible without a national(istic)-cultural frame?”

I will base my reflections on political articulations of global social movements against neoliberalism on a notion of culture which was developed within the framework of Cultural Studies (mainly UK-Universities). In this context, the notion of culture is based on day-to-day practices, experiences and interpretations. Culture is seen as “a whole way of life” (Raymond Williams) or “a whole way of conflict” (Edward P. Thompson).

Both *Reclaim the Streets* and the network of *Independent Media Centers* consist of local nodes situated in different national and political discourses and on different continents. Through a wide variety of communication channels (media in the widest possible sense), these local nodes are sharing resources, practices, symbols, ideologies and experiences within a global network.

Could this complex process be understood as an oppositional “cultural practice from below”? How does this “oppositional cultural practice from below” relate to the resp. states’ cultural policies?

In how far are fragments of a shared (sub-)culture emerging in this process (e.g. DIY culture, commitment to openness/transparency, practices of protest, self-descriptions as “dis-organisation” etc)? Does a suggested social-movement-specific way of doing things and making sense of the world transgress national and geographic boundaries? How are differences negotiated in the course of these “local politics with global span” (Saskia Sassen)?