

**Urban Social Movements in Los Angeles  
The Struggle over Urban Farmland in South Central, L.A.**

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*Abstract*

Under the conditions of entrepreneurial urban politics, urban social movements protest against different forms of social injustice. They call for political change, and they (potentially) constitute a counter-hegemony to neoliberal politics. Any analysis of current urban politics therefore has to look at the struggle between actors who want to implement entrepreneurial urban policies, and actors who protest these politics and call for resistance.

In the case of Los Angeles, recent studies suggest that on one hand neoliberal hegemony is very strong. On the other hand, a new 'mosaic of progressive movements' is coming into place, bringing together social groups and political issues, that traditionally have been very separated, such as: Questions of labor and environmental issues, union politics and the struggle for affordable housing, undocumented immigrants who provide low-skilled labor and formally employed workers, etc.

In this presentation I look at the struggle for 14 acres of urban farmland, right on the border between South Central and Vernon, to illustrate the strenght of L.A.'s 'progressive mosaic', and to also show its limits.