Abstract

In recent years, a new breed of organizing has ignited campaigns for peace and justice. Many of these campaigns utilize innovative approaches to organizing diverse communities against a broad range of local and transnational targets. This new form of community organizing emphasizes elements of play, creativity, joy, peer-based popular education, cultural activism, and a healthy dose of experimentation. Themes of community building and renewal of democracy run throughout. A lively element of openness and learning from past mistakes while empirically testing new approaches propels the new organizing. A spirit of trial and error keeps it fresh. Much of the innovation in question finds its inspiration in the global justice movement’s spirit of joy, pleasure, and play. Multiple illustrations of creative play in relation to social work practice bear evidence to creative play as a forward-leaning approach to social work practice.