

# **"I Will Be Out There Everyday Strong!" Protest Policing and Future Activism among Ferguson and Baltimore Protesters**

An established body of literature shows that people engage in protest events for a number of reasons, including grievances, collective identity, increased efficacy, and emotions. However, it is unclear what happens to individuals' motivation towards protest participation as they experience the reality of repressive policing. This study contributes to the theoretical body of knowledge of protest policing and social movements by investigating the micro-level processes that affect protest participation. Specifically, I build from the insights of previous research by examining how 102 Ferguson and Baltimore protesters with varying levels of commitment—revolutionary, intermittent, tourist—experienced repressive policing and how such tactics affected their subsequent decision to engage in future activism. Findings suggest that those with the strongest commitment towards protest goals experienced the most repressive tactics, and yet did not seem to be deterred in their motivation to be engaged in future protests. In contrast, while repressive tactics appeared to deter the less committed individuals from street protests, they remained motivated to engage in other forms of civic engagement.



**Dr. Jennifer Cobbina**  
Associate Professor  
Michigan State University

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