

Active abstention as a political action

Anne Muxel, sociologist, research director at CNRS, affirms that "the abstainers do not constitute a homogeneous block. Thus can we distinguish between those who, by putting themselves outside the electoral decision, are also politically "out-of-game" from those who, although not participating in the election, register their decision "in-game"", she decrypts.

These reflect both a crisis in political representation and growing dissatisfaction with the political offer. These two persistent factors were increased tenfold during the social movements of spring 2016 against the labor law, giving rise to several more or less organised movements. The *Les Enfants de la Nasse* collective has produced a booklet to deconstruct the received ideas on abstention from arguments that are regularly retorted: "voting is a duty of good citizens" or "people died for the right to vote".



But the movement that has found a stronger resonance is Ungovernable Generation, they try to apply this notion of ungovernability on a daily basis. "It is essential to be aware that it is by acting locally by ourselves that we will change things, for example by reappropriating spaces for living and thinking within schools and universities" explains Patichak (a pseudo), 19, also a political science student.

Vanina Delmas, "Active abstention as political action", *Politis.fr*, April 22, 2017.

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