



# Anti-Trump Protests in Santa Clara County 2017-18

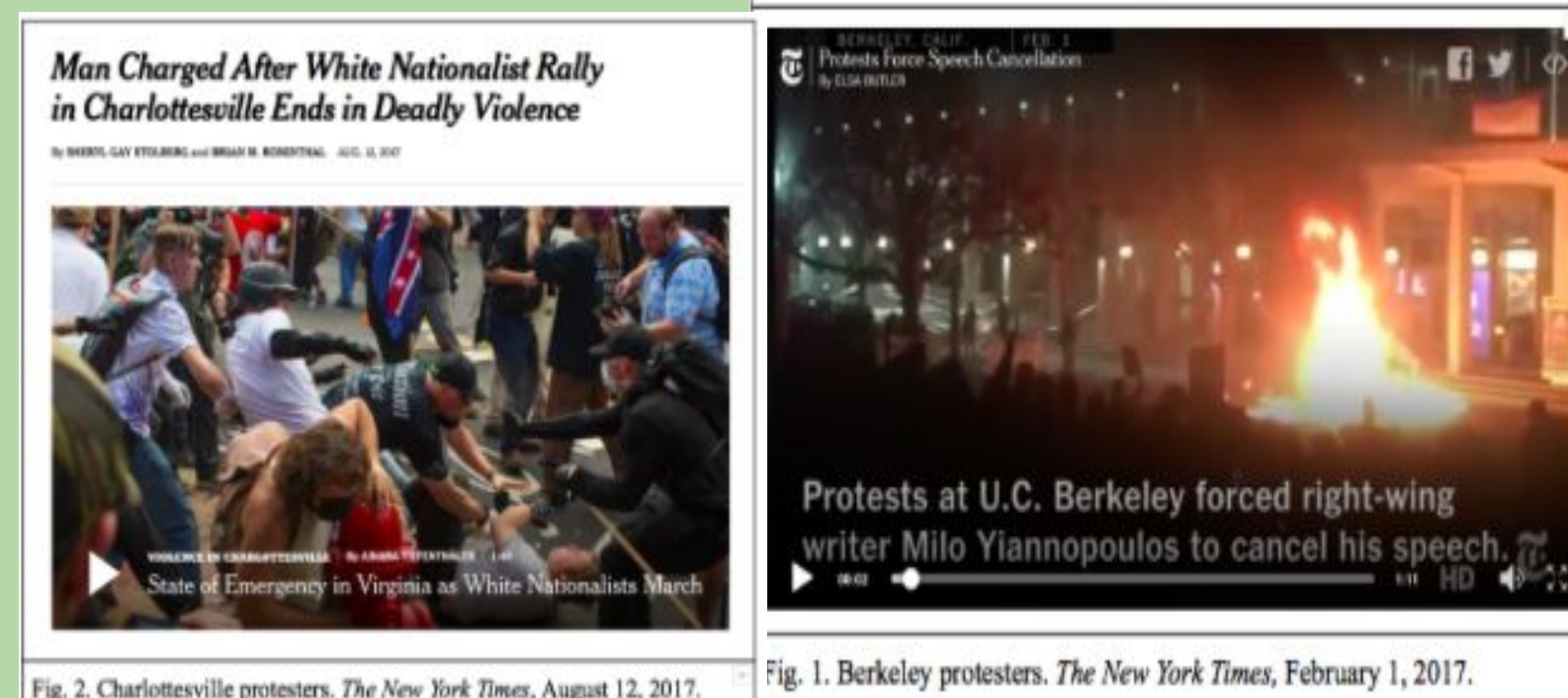
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## INTRODUCTION

The Donald Trump presidency is creating strong divisions. Protests and counter-protests are now an everyday reality. There is extensive news coverage when alt-right speakers come to Berkeley and San Francisco to provoke a liberal response and receive free publicity (Bauer, 2017). However, this type of spectacle is not typical of local communities in the Bay Area, so it is difficult to see what everyday people are doing to resist the Trump policies. As a result, there is a problem understanding what is happening on a local level in the Bay Area away from San Francisco and Berkeley, such as Palo Alto in Santa Clara County.



## DISCUSSION, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION

The author's documentation of these representative protest events reflects the fact that the nature of political protests in the Trump era are different in Santa Clara County than they are in other parts of the Bay Area and the rest of the country. This visual record shows how the characteristics of these local protests share certain distinctive commonalities.

### PROTEST CHARACTERISTICS:

- ❑ These protests are smaller and locally organized.
- ❑ These protests have little or no police presence.
- ❑ The demographics of these protests reflect a largely white, older, and middle or upper middle class residential community.
- ❑ The signage displayed at these protests displays strong and unequivocal anti-Trump messages, such as "Resign Racist," "No Trump, No KKK," etc.
- ❑ There have been few counter-protestors at these events.

**DATA AND FINDINGS** Out of the events that the author researched, two protests were selected as representative case studies of local protests. These were a protest against the alt-right held in Mountain View and a protest against President Trump in Palo Alto. These protests illustrate the nature of public action being taken locally to protest Trump.

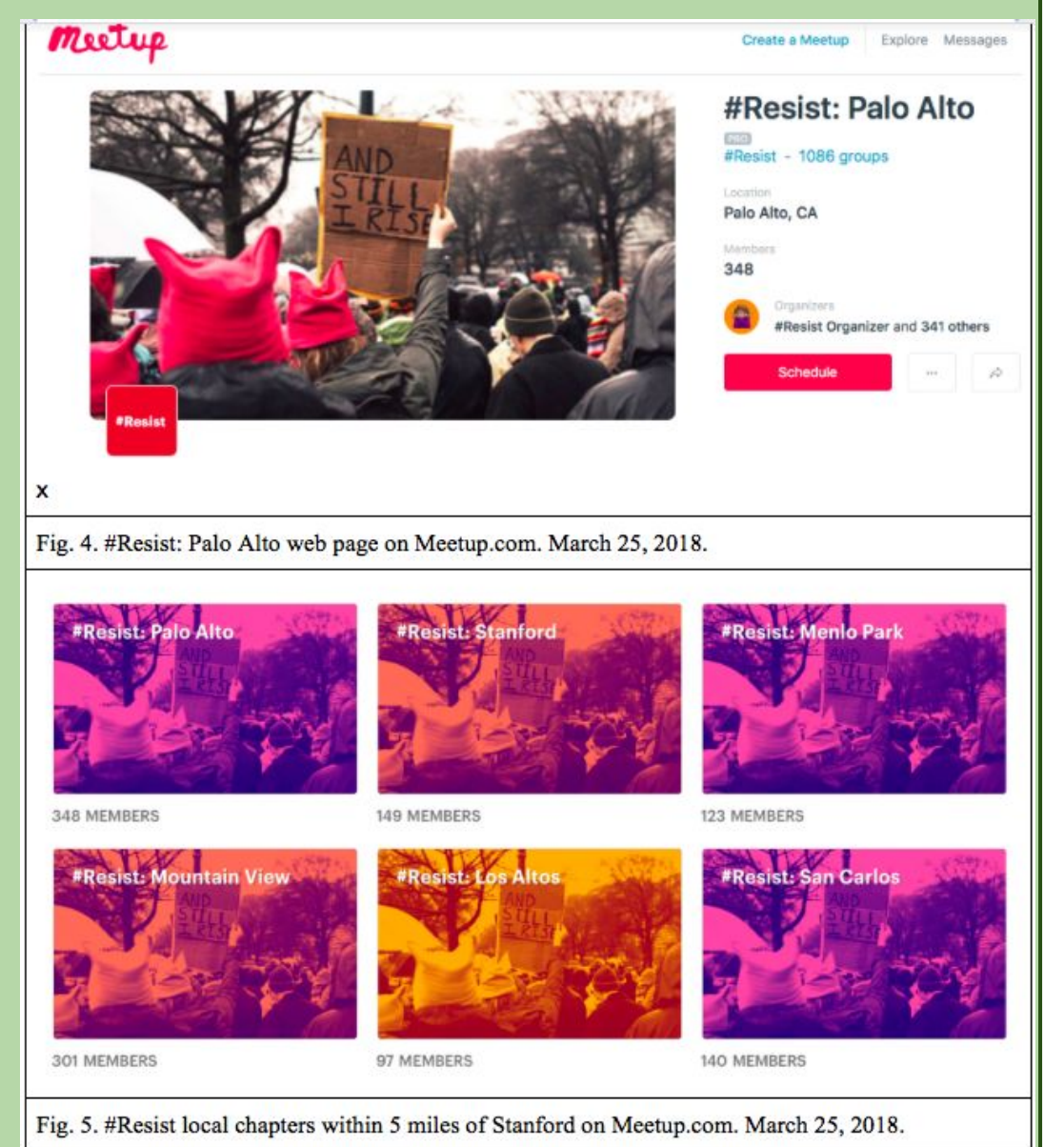
**Mountain View protest, August 17, 2017 at Civic Center Plaza, against the Alt-Right and Trump.**



## RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

This study used an inquiry approach reflecting the author's orientation as a particular humanist. The study utilized the author's intuitive, subjective knowledge as a photographer to approach the research subject. Documentary photography is a powerful medium to study the public actions of citizens (Rice, 2007). After identifying local protest events through social media, the author served as photographer and collected raw photography of citizens participating in anti-Trump protests. In addition, the author organized and edited the raw photography in order to select photographs that would be representative of the local protest experience.

**Palo Alto protest, January 23, 2018, at Town & Country Village's El Camino Real, "Resign Racist" on MLK Day.**



## CONCLUSIONS

### Anti-Trump Protests

- ❑ Anti-Trump protests in Santa Clara County have a uniquely local, grassroots, non-violent, and suburban feeling to them, and they are largely driven by an older demographic with strong philosophical objections to Trump.
- ❑ These findings are important as historical documentation of the nature of civic protest here during the Trump presidency. They fit into the broader framework of understanding political protest in the Trump era.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFERENCES

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### NEXT STEPS FOR PHOTO PROJECT

#### Issue-Focused Protests

- ❑ Other local protests have focused on single issues, such as gun violence and women's rights. These protests have involved a strong youth turnout.

#### Other Civic Engagement

- ❑ Besides protesting, many citizen groups here are engaged in action such as fundraising to try and effect change.