

# A Tale of Feminist Struggle

The Development and Evolution of the  
Campaign for Access to Legal, Safe and Free  
Abortion in Argentina 2005-2020



# Objective

Es Ley.

This paper centres on the multi-stakeholder activist front leading the legalisation of abortion in Argentina between 2005 and 2020, in the form of a Campaign for Access to Legal, Safe and Free Abortion. Discourse and policy change implications will be the focus of the present analysis.





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what factors account for differentiated impacts in agenda-setting for the legislative treatment - or lack thereof - of several iterations of an abortion bill?

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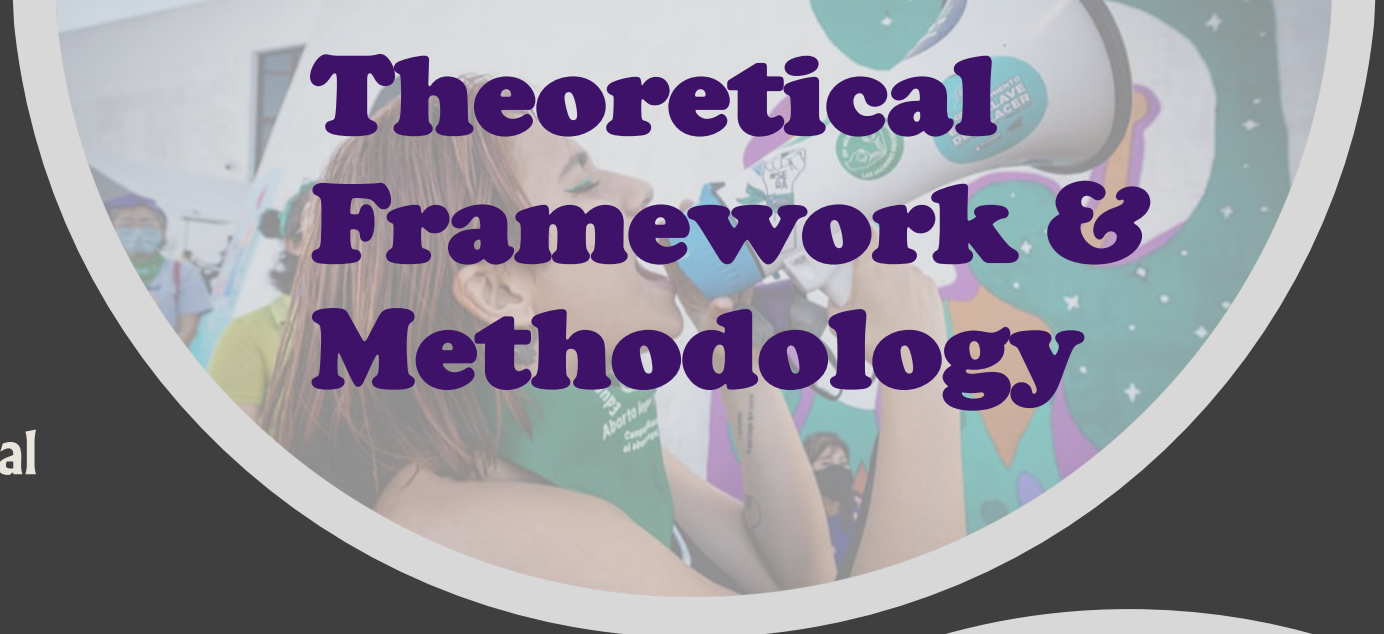
what impact did the Campaign have in providing a discourse change that was paramount in treating abortion access as an issue of public health?

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what can we learn from the Campaign from a feminist and activist perspective regarding the future of abortion access and feminist struggles in Argentina, the Latin American region and the Global South as a whole?

# Research Questions





# Theoretical Framework & Methodology

- Relationship between legal, political & social change.
  - Fernandez Anderson (2020)
  - Kane (2008)
  - Tabbush et. al. (2019)
- Collective action frames in feminist organising.
  - Argüello Pazmiño (2013)
  - Sutton & Borland (2019)
  - Daby & Mosseley (2021)



## *The Campaign as a case study*

- *Documentary review of audiovisual material produced by Campaign's members (NGOs, think-tanks, individuals).*
- *Ex-Post discussions (January-June 2021).*



# Timeline

1983 – return to democracy in Argentina.

1986 – First National Women’s Meeting.

1987 – Divorce Law.

1988 – creation of the Commission for the Right to Abortion.

1994 – Cairo conference.

1995 – Beijing Conference

2002 – Sexual & Reproductive Health Law

2005 – creation of the National Campaign for the Access to Legal, Safe and Free Abortion / misoprostol is declared an essential medication by the WHO.

2006 – Integral Sexual Education Law.

2007 – first attempt at an abortion bill is introduced in Congress.

2009 – Law to Prevent, Sanction and Eradicate GBV.

2010 – second attempt at an abortion bill / Equal Marriage Law.

2012 – Gender Identity Law. / Supreme Court Ruling on decriminalisation under 1921 Penal Code (rape, health, diminished capacity).

2015 – #NiUnaMenos (first VAWG national demonstration).

2018 – first time an abortion bill was discussed in Congress.

2020 – 8th attempt at an abortion bill passes in Congress.



**what factors account for differentiated impacts in agenda-setting for the legislative treatment - or lack thereof - of several iterations of an abortion bill?**

Explanation 1: maturity, persistence & strategy of the feminist movement  
(Sutton & Borland, 2019; Tarducci, 2018)

Explanation 2: co-optation of a larger feminist mobilization & social justice frame  
(Daby & Moseley, 2021)

Explanation 3: dynamics between social movements & institutional allies in Latin America  
(Fernandez Anderson, 2020)



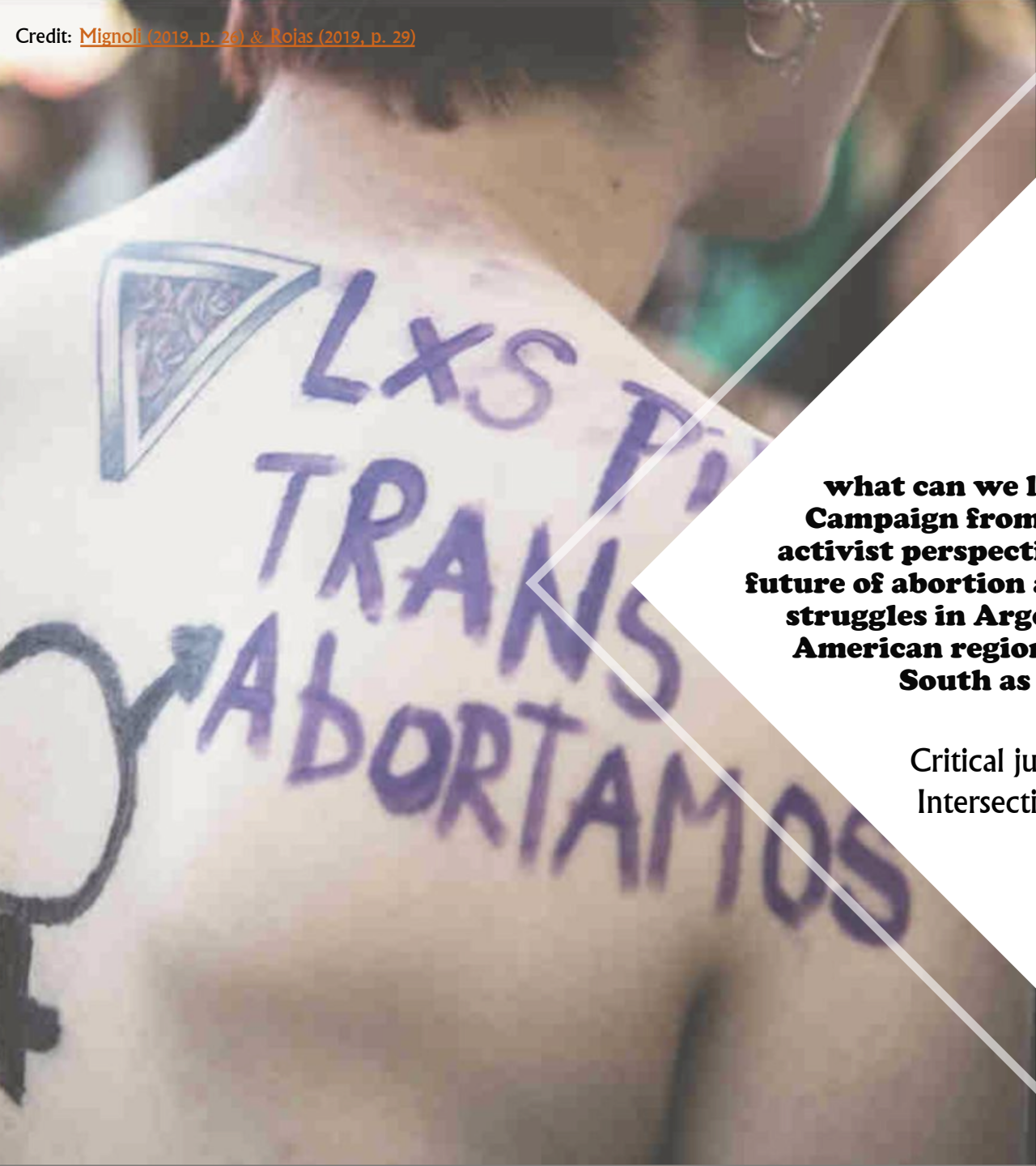
## what impact did the Campaign have in providing a discourse change that was paramount in treating abortion access as an issue of public health?

*“In the corner of Rivadavia and Callao a group of women is handing out hand-cut flyers. They have a folding table and a megaphone. They jump on people passing by El Molino café asking for their support. Some sign the petition, others tell whispered stories. Many of them scream ‘murderers!’. They insist: this is their stop every other Monday from 6 to 7.30 pm. It is 1991 and these women dare to talk about abortion on the street, in front of Congress, when getting contraceptives for free is not even a right yet”.*

*(Alcaraz, 2018)*







**what can we learn from the Campaign from a feminist and activist perspective regarding the future of abortion access and feminist struggles in Argentina, the Latin American region and the Global South as a whole?**

Critical junctures  
Intersectionality

TA IÑ KALVL

NUESTROS CUERPOS

TA IÑ MAPU

NUESTRA TIERRA

TA IÑ JVZKUN

NUESTROS ABORTOS

FEMINISMO TERRITORIAL MAPU



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# Thank you