

Tactics: Direct Action

CASM believes in using *direct action* as the most effective means for accomplishing our objectives. Direct Action means to act in one's own individual or collective interests through the direct exertion of power. This is not the same as *civil disobedience*, which acknowledges authority and deliberately acts disobedient in hopes that authority will reform itself. CASM is not a reformist organization. We intend to build our power and create the world(s) we wish to live in. We do not intend to ask permission from our oppressors to accomplish our objectives, strategy, and overall goal.

We also embrace a diversity of tactics. As a horizontal organization, no single entity is in charge, therefore anyone can be in charge. Leaders temporally arise and dissolve, meaning that an individual may take initiative of an action or task, but that their position as a leader is temporary, unlike a hierarchical structure where leaders are permanent. Through the diversity of temporal leadership of all individuals involved, a diversity of tactics is possible. Our strength rests in our decentralization, where all goals seeking to be manifested are broader than the individual level, and are enacted as an organization.

Now: We Build our Movement

We will be more effective the more people we have. This means organizing autonomously across many campuses and coordinating our actions collectively. Each campus will have an autonomously managed CASM to create a network of CASMs.

Chasm /kazem/ - a breach or wide fissure in a wall or other structure

CASM

Purpose and Praxis



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Movement Overview

Goal: Student Autonomy (self-governance)

CASM seeks to develop student power and autonomy across California universities and colleges, including the Cal States, UCs, and community colleges. We believe it is necessary to confront the neoliberalization of education that frames us as empty individuals who must *invest* in ourselves in order to make us more attractive to potential employers in an increasingly desperate economy. Instead, we believe college should be managed by and for students, which means developing and initiating our own projects and curriculum. We also believe education should be free and that all student debt be abolished. This is a reversal of the neoliberal logic. We believe society should value education as a public good. We also seek to confront and liberate ourselves from social inequalities, patriarchy, capitalism, ecological degradation, and all forms of hierarchical violence, coercion, and repression.

Strategy: Community Development

We believe in horizontal organizing as opposed to hierarchical structures of domination. This requires developing strong social relationships horizontally for a decentralized network of connections. Rather than dominating others, we believe we can influence society through the strength of our social bonds and free agreements we hold with one another. We reject competition, in favor of cooperation. We cannot begin to confront the tasks ahead of us if we cannot even develop a community. Developing a collective consciousness will allow us to coordinate our individual efforts in a way that

realizes collective power. Power is indomitable, and with collective power, we can challenge authority. Authority is based on hierarchical violence and coercion to compel others to give up their individual power, but individuals can resist authority by exerting their power. We want to build collective power in order to dissolve hierarchies and render the atomization we experience on a daily basis obsolete. We reject centralized authority and stand by one another.

Objectives: Campus Projects

We have a few ideas on how to build campus community and we welcome new ideas. Coordinating our efforts can help us accomplish the projects we seek to actualize.

- Student-Managed Cooperatives
- Directly Democratic Student Popular Assemblies
- A Strong Autonomous Student Body/Union separate from the University
- Community Garden
- Art Area / Art Wall
- Free Parking / Free Tap Cards
- Free Health Services

We need to take back our campus and build student culture, where students are able to have a strong role in the development of classes, but also transform the neoliberal consensus on what education is. The projects listed above would facilitate community development and student empowerment.