The Activism Orientation Scale (AOS) assesses individuals' propensities to engage in social action. We've tested its properties with both activist and non-activist university students as well as community-based activists and a community sample heterogenous with regard to its activist participation. It is theoretically-grounded and demonstrates sound psychometric properties, and its uses by others can be found via Google Scholar.

The AOS begins with the question stem, "How likely is it that you will engage in this activity in the future?," followed by 35 items completing this stem; for example, "display a poster or bumper sticker with a political message" and "engage in an illegal act as part of a political protest." Respondents indicate their likelihood for each behavior using a scale with points of 0 (extremely unlikely), 1 (unlikely), 2 (likely), or 3 (extremely likely). Factor analysis revealed two underlying factors, Conventional Activism and High-Risk Activism. The items above respectively represent items from these factors. All items are forward-scored. Total scores result from summing across items and can range from 0 to 105. Higher scores indicate a greater willingness to engage in activist behaviors.

The formatted measure is available here. More information about the AOS is available in the original development article referenced below. If you cannot access a copy of the article, feel free to contact me for a copy.