Sparked off by urban conflicts at youth centres and squatted houses, youth revolts unfolded in April / May 1980 in Amsterdam and Zurich, soon spreading to West Berlin and other West-German cities. Simultaneously, cities such as Copenhagen and Vienna also witnessed a rise in confrontations between young people and the police, while in Great Britain so-called “race riots” broke out in more than thirty cities in the early summer of 1981. Did other European countries also witness an upturn of youth protests in the early 1980s? Was there such a thing as an international protest attitude among young people in the early 1980s?

These questions will be central at this conference, which aims at gaining a European perspective on the 1980/81 youth revolt, as well as more in-depth insights into its specific aspects. Can the youth protests be explained as the side effect of a European-wide development towards longer and more extensive education schemes or was the economic downturn and youth unemployment a primary cause for the protests?

The goal of the conference will be to achieve an overview of developments in Europe that moves beyond the descriptions of the most eye-catching confrontations. The revolts and (to some extent) new groups and scenes of the 1980s were connected to a new, radical form of subjectivity, which can be linked to more general social trends such as secularisation, individualisation and pluralisation of life styles.

The conference language is English and the conference itself is open to the public. If you want to participate, please register by May 5, 2014 with Rupert Marienfeld at: marienfeld@zeitgeschichte-hamburg.de

Conference venue:
International Institute of Social History
Meetingroom: Scheltema Room
Cruquiusweg 31
1019 AT Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel. +31 20 66 85 866

Public transportation:
From Amsterdam Central Station:
Bus 22, bus stop Zeeburgerdijk

From the centre of Amsterdam:
Tram 7 to Molukkenstraat (10 minutes walking distance), tram 10 to Van Eesterenlaan (5 to 10 minutes walking distance), tram 14 to Javaaplein (5 to 10 minutes walking distance)

By car:
From the circular road (A10) take the junction Zeeburg (S114), proceed to the traffic lights, and follow the signs Zeeburg across the bridge (left turn). At the end of the bridge go right at traffic lights. At the next traffic lights, take the road to your right (Molukkenstraat). Proceed to the end of the Molukkenstraat; the IISH is the large white building ahead of you. Attention, there is only paid parking space near the IISH!

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[Photo: Michael Kipp / Umbruch Bildarchiv. Rudolf Hauck (SPD), Head of a Bundestag-Committee of Enquiry with Squatters in West-Berlin 7.2.1982]
A EUROPEAN YOUTH REVOLT 1980/81?

EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES OF YOUTH PROTEST AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

THURSDAY, 15.5.2014

14.00 – 14.30 Opening Remarks
Marcel van der Linden (Amsterdam)
Stefan Berger (Bochum)
Michaela Kuhnhenne (Düsseldorf)

Introduction:
Knud Andresen (Hamburg)
Bart van der Steen (Leiden)

14.30 – 15.30 Keynote Address
Sebastian Haunss (Bremen): Unrest or Social Movement? Some Conceptual Clarifications

16.00 – 18.00 Panel 1: Youth Unrest in Consensus Democracies
Linus Owen (Middlebury): Activism and Travel Networks
Adrienne Sörbom / Jan Jämte (Stockholm): Autonomous Movement and Antifa in Denmark
Chair: Bart van der Steen (Leiden)

FRIDAY, 16.5.2014

9.00 – 11.00 Panel 2: Youth Unrest in East and South Europe
Oskar Mulej (Budapest): Punk in Slovenia and Yugoslavia
Nikolaus Papadogiannis (Berlin): The Party is Over? Youth Protest in Greece “around 1980”
Chair: Lex Heerma van Voss (Den Haag)

11.30 – 13.30 Panel 3: Youth in Postcolonial Societies
Didier Chabanet (Lyon): The French Republic “One and Indivisible” Challenge to the Suburbs: The Turning Point of the 1980s
Almuth Ecke (Mannheim): “Bloody Brixton”: Placing the Riots of 1980/81 in British Post-Imperial History
Chair: Anna Tijsseling (Leiden)

14.30 – 16.30 Panel 4: Spaces in Youth Movement
David Templin (Hamburg): Youth Center Initiatives in the “Youth Revolt” of 1980/81
Jan-Hendrik Friedrichs (Berlin): Revolt or Transgression? Squatted Houses and the Heroin Scene as Spaces of Transgressive Youth in the Early 1980s
Aline Maldener (Saarbrücken): To have and have not – The 1981 Youth Revolt in Germany and Great Britain as Point of Culmination in a Youth-centered 1960s and 1970s Consumer Culture
Chair: Knud Andresen (Hamburg)

17.00 – 19.00 Panel 5: Reactions in Politics and Media
Jake Smith (Chicago): From Apathy to Subversion: Envisioning European Youth Movements, 1980 – 87
Jan Hansen (Berlin): Defining Political Dissidence: How did the “Establishment” react to Extra-Parliamentary Protest?
Freia Anders (Mainz) / Alexander Sedlmair (Bangor): Debates, Definitions, Developments: Comparative Perspectives on Squatting in the Early 1980s
Chair: Klaus Weinhauer (Bielefeld)

SATURDAY, 17.5.2014

9.00 – 10.30 Panel 6: Beyond Youth Revolts
Dario Fazzi (Middelburg): A Global, Western Concern. The Transatlantic and Environmental Dimension of the European Youth Revolts of the Early Eighties
Monika Baär (Groningen): The European “Disability Revolts” of 1981: How were they Related to the Youth Movement?
Chair: Pepijn Brandon (Amsterdam)

11.00 – 12.30 Panel 7: Youth and Radical Politics
Joachim Häberlen (Warwick): Between Autonomous Youth Centers and Free Sight on the Mediterranean Sea: The Politics of Subjectivity in the Youth Revolts of 1980/81
Mathew Worley (Reading): Punk and Politics: The British Experience
Chair: Joost Augusteijn (Amsterdam)

13.30 Final Discussion