

Call For Papers:

Comparing cultures of solidarity: Socialist internationalism and solidarity across the Eastern Bloc and beyond

Workshop, 20-21 June 2022

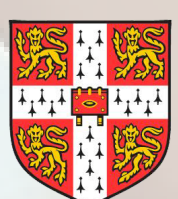
Deadline for abstracts: 18 February 2022

We are interested in papers that tackle the following themes:

- To what extent did solidarity and socialist internationalism, particularly with non-European states, follow a bloc-wide pattern? Can we speak of a broadly shared timeline between the different states? Which states represent outliers in this regard? Similarly, were the aims and drivers of these projects similar across the region, or were they distinct in each state?
- How was socialist internationalism paid for across the socialist world? What did solidarity look like on the ground? Which institutions and agents were involved in implementing internationalism and solidarity in everyday life, and what practices and events did they produce?
- Through which cultural forms was solidarity communicated or reproduced in state socialist societies? How was it depicted and received in media, the arts, or design?
- How did socialist internationalism relate to the political legitimization of socialist state power in different countries across the bloc and to the legitimacy of socialist elites? If international solidarity was in part designed to shore up political legitimacy among populations 'on the home front', where did it have the greatest impact? How did the politics of solidarity engender conflict between citizen and state?
- How did practices of solidarity and socialist internationalism intersect with other quotidian experiences of life in socialist societies, for example, informed by race, nationality, class, gender, or religion?
- In Poland and elsewhere, solidarity became associated with dissidence in the 1980s, both as a naming convention for dissident groups and a means of critiquing the state. How did different groups and activists deploy the term to critique the state?
- In what ways did socialist internationalism live on beyond the decline and fall of socialism? To what extent can we see its afterlives in the contemporary politics of Eastern and Central Europe?

Please send proposals (300-400 words) together with a short CV to George Bodie (gfb29@cam.ac.uk) by 18 February 2022. Participants will be invited to contribute to a journal special issue based on the workshop papers.

For more details, please go to crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/32109/



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Welltjugendlied by Werner Zitzmann

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