"There will be no class today." An exploration of the links between campus activism and extremist action in the 1960s and 1970s

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University of Leicester School of Management
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Abstract

My PhD research centres around an examination of the organisational structures of the extremist movements of the New Left in the 1960s and 1970s, with particular reference to the role of women within these organisations’ ideology and activities. I am focusing in particular on the Red Army Faction in West Germany and Weatherman in the United States. I am currently looking at the context out of which these movements emerged, and I am interested in the extent to which they had their genesis in the student movements of the 1960s, in particular the Sozialistische Deutsche Studentendbund in West Germany and Students for a Democratic Society in the United States. In my seminar presentation I will explore the connections between the campus activism of the 1960s with the extremist movements of the early 1970s by examining their ideological underpinnings and some of the turning points which led some disillusioned members of these groups to turn to revolutionary violence.

Biography

Laura has been a part-time PhD student in the School of Management since October 2009. Her first degree, in Modern History and Politics, is from the University of Southampton. She has an MSocSc in Russian and East European Studies from the University of Birmingham and a PgDip in Management Studies from De Montfort University. Her PhD research brings together her existing interest in social and political history with her newly-found and rapidly-developing interest in organisation studies.