"DIY *im Eigenverlag*: Punk Productions, Made in GDR”

Especially when punk is at issue, scholarly discussions of counter-publicity and do-it-yourself (DIY) cultural production often stress such practices’ potential to “establish a public sphere that is not saturated with the logic of the commodity market” (Stacey Thompson). In this presentation, I will discuss punk productions undertaken in East Germany during the last 15 years of Communism—in a time and place where the specifically anti-*capitalist* properties often attributed to counter-publicity were of little relevance, and different emancipatory concerns moved to the fore. Examining recordings by the punk band L’Attentat, *samizdat* publications by “Matthias” BAADER Holst, and a super-8 film by Claus Löser, I will consider how “independence” registered both formally and thematically in what the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung terms East Germany’s *autonome Kunst* and *unabhängige Literatur*. I will further consider how the SED state’s use of Marxist-Leninist arguments to justify its own monopoly on cultural production prompted East Germany’s independent artists to abandon programmatic critique as a rhetorical mode—or at least to be very selective when employing it.

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