The youth are in great demand, for they symbolize the future of society, and that future is constantly up for debate. The political potential of young people became apparent once again during the revolutions in the Arab world and the latest protests in Russia, all of which were significantly shaped by young activists. As a result, we are witnessing a repeat of the scenario familiar from the uprisings that occurred throughout Eastern Europe during the last decade. The so-called “colour revolutions” led to a debate about the social-political role of young people. The trajectory of the discussion reveals both a social need to project collective wishes onto youth activism and societies’ obvious helplessness when it comes to critically reflecting on the disappointment stemming from the exaggerated expectations. The conference aims to initiate an unbiased discussion of quintessential developments, results and discourses that are central to the youth cultures in Eastern European countries.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

9:30-10:00 Opening: Matthias Schwartz, Heike Winkel (Berlin)

10:00-11:00 SECTION 1: THE REDEFINITION OF THE POLITICAL
Keynote Speaker: Ken Roberts (Liverpool): youth Cultures and the Formation of a New Political Generation in Eastern Europe

11:00-11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30-12:00 Félix Krawatzek (Oxford): Youth Mobilisation in its Relation to Politics. Comparing Perestroika and the Putin / Medvedev Era
Anna Zhelnina (St. Petersburg): “Young Politics”? The Emergence of the Social Network of Young Politicians in St. Petersburg, Russia

13:30-14:00 LUNCH BREAK

15:00-17:00 SECTION 2: THE REVISION OF THE SOCIAL I: NEW TYPES OF BELONGING
Herwig Reiter, Christine Steinr (Berlin): Two Different Countries, two Different Pathways to Capitalism – one New Youth?
Maciej Bernasiwicz (Katowice): Worldview Discourses in Polish Magazines for Young People and Hip-Hop Music
Vlad Strukov (Leeds): “Optimistic” Youth: Media Environment, Politics of Space and Construction of Identity

17:00-17:30 COFFEE BREAK

17:30-19:00 THE REVISION OF THE SOCIAL II: NEW MEDIA TECHNIQUES
Piotr Wasiak (Warszawa): ‘Video-Fans and Computer Bosses’, Consumer Electronics and Youth Identities in the Late State-Socialist Poland

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

10:00-11:20 SECTION 4: THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE IMAGINARY I: CONSTRUCTING IDENTITY PATTERNS
Yaryna Borenko (Lviv): Concepts of Patriotism within Education and Youth Policies in Ukraine
Jovana Papović, Astrea Pejović (Belgrade): Nationalist Iconography of the Nineties in Contemporary Youth Discourse in Serbia
Robert Pruszczyński (Warschau): Masculinity without a Rebel, a Rebel without a Masculinity. Polish cinema, Youths and National Stereotypes (Zamojska, Żuławski)

11:20-11:40 COFFEE BREAK

11:40-13:00 Sabine-Adina Luca, Bogdan Gheorghita and Dragos Dragoman (Sibiu): Young People in Romania. How ‘New Media’ Shape Social Communication and Political Activism

13:00-14:00 CONCLUDING DISCUSSION