In public memory and among professional historians the 1960s have gained more attention than the 1970s. On the one hand this is understandable, since many political and social changes took off during the 1960s. On the other hand this focus on the 1960s is unfortunate, because it was in the 1970s that these changes first became major shifts that impacted upon Western societies as a whole.

A research network centering around the universities of Münster, Utrecht, Boston and Leiden analyses the developments in the 1970s in a transnational comparison. In 2011 the network held its first conference in Boston about “The Radical Decade in Global Perspective”. Researchers from Germany, the Netherlands, the US, France, the UK, Italy, Poland and Switzerland will now focus on the origins of Détente, the internal debates in the 1970s about East-West relations, the birth of protest movements, the emergence of human rights and Détente’s other consequences on national politics.

If you wish to attend, please register by 15 April 2013 (by mail or reply card).
Conference Program

Friday, 19 April 2013

13.30–14.00
Introduction/Welcome
Duco Hellema (Utrecht)
and Friso Wielenga (Münster)

14.00–16.00
Theme 1: Détente as Controversy
Chair: Bruce Schulman (Boston)
Détente as a Cause of Contention and Controversy in US Politics
Jussi Hanhimäki (Geneva)

German Ostpolitik in European Perspective
Andreas Wilkens (Metz)

Superpower Détente and Europe
Ralph Dietl (Belfast)

16.00–16.30
Break

16.30–18.30
Theme 2: The Political and Socio-Cultural Impact of Détente
Chair: Jacco Pekeler (Utrecht)

Saturday, 20 April 2013

9.00–11.00
Theme 3: Grassroots Détente and Human Rights
Chair: Beatrice de Graaf (Leiden)

Humanitarization of International Relations?
Jan Eckel (Freiburg)

The “Helsinki Effect” and Beyond: Polish Intellectuals, the Western Left, and the Rise of Human Rights
Robert Brier (Warsaw)

French Intellectuals and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
Nicolas Badalassi (Paris)

11.00–11.15
Break

11.15–13.15
Theme 4: The End of Détente
Chair: Friso Wielenga (Münster)

The Dual Track Decision and the Euromissiles Crisis: the End of Détente in Europe?
Marilena Gala (Rome)

The Euromissile Crisis, the Dutch, and the Allies
Ruud van Dijk (Amsterdam)

Renegotiating Détente: The SPD and the Euromissile Crisis, 1977-83
Jan Hansen (Berlin)

13.15–13.30
End of the conference
Closing remarks by Duco Hellema (Utrecht)