

The Everyday Life of Revolt - The Transnationality of French and West German Rural Communities in the Long 1960s

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The project examines rural communes from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s in France and the Federal Republic of Germany as points of condensation of transnational exchange relations and thus opens up new perspectives for historical studies. This period ranges from the emergence and popularisation of rural communes in Europe to their progressive dissolution or replacement by more socially accepted residential communities. France and the Federal Republic of Germany are particularly suitable for the historical study of this phenomenon, which can be observed in many Western European countries. In both countries, rural communes were similarly widespread and had a comparable popularity. In addition, communes played a decisive role in alternative reform projects and social theories in both countries. Based on these findings, the sub-project concentrates on three thematic foci.

Firstly, the connection between political criticism and innovative housing concepts will be investigated. The aim is to investigate why the municipalities functioned more as precursors than as consequences of political change. The sub-project analyses rural communes as symptoms of anticipated social crises and asks about alternative social practices and innovative cultural techniques that resulted from the anticipation of crises and hopes for reform.

Secondly, the sub-project examines German and French rural communes from a transnational perspective. In contrast to existing research, it examines transfer and exchange processes. Forms of influence, demarcation and cooperation are explicitly not restricted to the USA. Other states and regions of the world play an equal role. It is asked to what degree cross-border transfer processes shaped the worldviews and lifestyles of the community's inhabitants.

Thirdly, the reception and production of media content is a thematic focus. Many communards used the media available to them to inform themselves about rural communes abroad or about foreign lifestyles and forms of protest. In contrast to current research, the sub-project thus also addresses communes as products of a media landscape that intensified in the course of the 1960s. In addition to looking at adaptation processes from an ensemble of expanding media, it asks about the media productions of the communards. For these not only provide information on the everyday life and concerns of the communes. They are also significant for the social impact of their concepts.