

Abstract

Ferenc Hammer

Rock around the blocks – State and popular music between 1977 and 1987 in Hungary

In my intervention I will scrutinize state presence in popular music scenes in the 1980s and in the 2010s. I will compare and contrast dimensions such as state influence in media types which had been and have been essential for pop musicians to reach their audience, direct or indirect government censorship regarding pop music content and performance, and state sponsorship in larger concerts and festivals, pop musicians' role in politics. I'll also compare and contrast pop music scenes and initiatives which had and have chosen to keep distance from state structures in popular music. The juxtaposition of the two eras from the viewpoint of state presence and intervention in pop music seems to offer a complex picture, however sometimes with surprising conclusions.