



SOLIDARITY/solidarities  
**CHILDREN OF THE REVOLUTION**  
1989–2009

## **SOLIDARITY/Solidarities**

A conference hosted by the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies

**Friday 5 & Saturday 6 June 2009**

As part of

**'Children of the Revolution 1989 - 2009'**

A series of events celebrating the 20th anniversary of the 1989 democratic transformation in Europe

Organised in partnership with EUNIC-London

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## **Conference Rationale**

This conference, the inaugural event of the Children of the Revolution Season, will engage with the historical moment of Solidarity and other oppositional movements in Central and Eastern Europe with a view to reassessing the concept of solidarity both in its theoretical dimensions and in its relevance for political action today.

**Historical Context.** This task will require a re-examination of Solidarity and analogous movements in the breadth of their historical contexts. On the one hand, these are contexts internal to particular national societies and internal to the Eastern bloc. On the other hand, these are the broader contexts of shifting alliances, social developments and ideological positions on a European and global stage. In both these sets of contexts, it appears that the anti-hegemonic and anti-monolithic nature of Solidarity and related movements cut across simple polarities of the left and right, challenged established interests and established world-views, and sought to create new forms of solidarities and new modes of political activity.

**Analysis.** From this contextualization follows the need for an analytical interrogation of these solidarities and modes of activities.

- To what extent did these movements introduce a new dimension to the legitimation of power - making new demands on rulers and putting new obligations on the ruled?
- What was the relationship between ethics, aesthetics and political practice in these movements?
- To what extent did these movements attempt to create a moral space, later called 'civil society', that might be more than the neutral space where norms of co-existence could be hammered out?

