

*Terror on Screen: Generational Struggle in German Terrorist Films*

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I incorporated my enthusiasm for modern film and social phenomena into my dissertation "Terror on Screen: Generational Struggle in German Terrorist Films." This study examines the representation of terrorism in films ranging in date from the 70s to the present and the ways in which terrorism and generational struggle intersect in the construction of German cultural identity. By calling on social sciences, psychoanalysis, cultural studies, and gender studies I draw attention to the otherwise overlooked complexity of inter- and intra-generational relations, simultaneously criticizing the ways in which German generations image themselves. Starting with Schlöndorff's *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum* (1975) I reconstruct the 60s' generational identity and those cinematic tools used to promote it. I then illustrate how Schlöndorff again in *The Legend of Rita* (2000) and the younger filmmakers Petzold in *The State I Am in* (2000) and Roth in *Baader* (2002) toy with this identity to create their own generational self-image in direct opposition to the former 68ers, now in power. Drawing on sociological research on generations, I conclude that the discussion on national identity—arising from Germany's troubled past—is today displaced onto the discourse on generational identities.