

The Centre for European Studies' Graduate Travel Research Grant helped defer the costs of my research trip to Berlin from August 17th to September 17th, 2012. Over the course of my stay in Germany, I conducted primary research for my Ph.D. dissertation. Tentatively titled, "From Zuschauer to Ultra: Representations, Perceptions, and Experiences of Football Spectatorship in Divide Berlin, c. 1961-1991", my dissertation examines the relationship between German representations of football spectators and the experiences of local fans in Berlin. My main hypothesis involves demonstrating how football fans may be regarded as a historically constructed phenomenon that provides insight into building modern, democratic societies while simultaneously explaining how Berliners negotiated their multiple identities within three different Germanys.

Part of my research involved locating and amassing visual and textual materials found in newspapers and magazines. Siphoning through vast amounts of especially sport-specific and football-particular magazines found at the *Sportmuseum Berlin*, such as *die neue Fußball-Woche*, *Fußball-Woche*, *der Fußball-Sport*, *Berliner Fußball*, *der Fußball-Trainer*, and *Kicker*, I was able to collect contemporary articles, photographs, images, and caricatures that demonstrate how representations of football spectators in East and West Germany changed throughout the Cold War. The *Sportmuseum Berlin* also holds an excellent collection of contemporary material on "*fanforschung*" (fan research), such as monographs and journals, that demonstrates how academic research on football spectators was closely related to the negative perceptions of fans found in the wider European and British media. These academic sources demonstrate how the early stages of fan research were closely tied with sociological approaches to football spectatorship in England. In the West, the rise of *fanforschung* in the mid-to-late 1960s was predominantly concerned with issues of perceived youth violence and its connection with alcoholism in the United Kingdom. As a result, many studies were conducted in order to help authorities prevent the so-called 'English disease' in Germany. Similar monographs and journal articles on German studies of football spectatorship during the Cold War were also found at the Humboldt Universitätsbibliothek Grimm zentrum, Humboldt Universitätsbibliothek Campus-Nord, Staatsbibliothek Berlin. These sources proved essential in describing the origins of research on football spectators and how public representations of football fans were closely related to wider social anxieties about the contemporary status of Germany within an increasingly integrated Europe.

Conversely, in the GDR most academic publications ignored the behaviour of 'negative' football fans in the East since they did not fit with the ideals of socialism. Although there are similarities between West and East depictions of fans as drunken, violent youth, the East German propagandists preferred to characterize social problems in the West rather than encourage public debate at home. Consequently, a more nuanced understanding of East German perceptions of fans may be found by combining government records with sources from the media. The *Bundesarchiv Berlin-Lichterfelde* holds a range of sources from the *Ministeriums des Innern* (DO 1) and the *Staatssekretariat für Körperkultur und Sport* (DR 5), that provide insight into how the East German state perceived football spectators. When comparing East and West German discourses of fandom, striking similarities and differences appear.

In order to get a sense of the way football fans in Berlin experienced the East, West, and re-unified Germany, I visited the archives of 1. Union Berlin in order to amass materials that do well to present the experiences of the fans. It is important to note that fan experiences hold striking differences from but also similarities to the ways their were perceived in the media, government archives, and in academic discourses. The club's archive holds official (registrations) and unofficial (notes on meeting places) documents pertaining to the creation of fan-clubs and detailing various experiences of fans (fan diaries, letters, programs, important matches, etc.). It is also rich in material artefacts around which a club identity could be built: songs, photographic depictions of fan-groups, scarves, flags, pins, badges, etc. Constructing a narrative that integrates individual experiences with public discourses of fandom provides insight into the ways Berliners created multiple overlapping identities that were essentially localized version of transnational, European phenomena.

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