Observing the 1980s

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SOCIETY FAMILY ROYAL WEDDING MEDIA LIVE AID THATCHER PEOPLE FALKLANDS MEMORIES UNIONS UNEMPLOYMENT MINERS STRIKE THE CITY IMAGES VOICES CULTURE LIFE

23 Respondents from the Mass Observation Project (1981-1990)

26 Voices from the British Library Oral History Collection

38 Leaflets pamphlets & flers from the University of Sussex Documents Collection

“1984: Thatcher’s Britain” Moodle Open Educational Resource (OER)

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soundcloud.com/observing80s
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http://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/observingthe80s/
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Undergraduate course '1984: Thatcher's Britain'
Download as Moodle zip file or guest login

https://studydirect.sussex.ac.uk/login/
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Sexuality in Thatcher's Britain

July 1982
Terrence Higgins dies in London, the first confirmed case in the UK. The Terrence Higgins trust is founded in 1985 in his memory.

AIDS: Don't die of ignorance
UK Government public information leaflet

June 1981
The US Centers for Disease Control link the deaths of 5 gay men in Los Angeles from similar but unusual symptoms.

At that stage, it was gay-related immune deficiency syndrome, in 1982, 1983.
Paul Ward British Library Oral History

1979
Another Country
Homosexuality and identity in a 1930s public school is explored in this 2014 movie.

The Age of Consent
Bronski Beat, 1984
The band's debut album directly addresses issues of identity and sexuality.

1980
No Clause 28
Boy George, 1988
Don't mean to be uptight
I don't mean to be precious
But tell me iron lady, are we moving to the right?

AIDS benefit recordings
What's that friends are for
1985 charity single by Dionne Warwick and friends.

Red Hot + Blue
1991 compilation album featuring U2 and Sinéad O'Connor.

Section 28 activism
In 1988, protesters abseil into the House of Commons and invade BBC studios.

1990
Sexuality
Billy Bragg, 1991
I've had relations with girls from many nations.
I've made passes at women of all classes.
And just because you've gay it isn't enough to turn you away.

EastEnders
First openly gay character, Colm Russell, 1986.

Brookside
First pre-watershed lesbian kiss screened in 1994.

Women talking about AIDS
University of Sussex Library
Special Collections

November 1991
Freddie Mercury issues a statement to confirm he has AIDS. He dies the following day.

Mass Observation
Special Directive 1985
It is interesting that the BBC's Panorama coverage of AIDS, at 11/9/87, was cancelled at the last minute to be replaced by a programme about the newly-announced General Election. This suggested to me that the AIDS programme was undeniably serious, and computing JISC to provide a topic for a hysterical campaign at a time when there was nothing more newsworthy to focus on.

Mass Observation
Special Directive 1997
I was tested positive. That was in the Spring of 1985. For the rest of that year I was living under a shadow... I prepared myself for death... But when eventually I came to take stock of what had happened to me I realised I had robbed myself of my ambition and my future. I just realised I should have been selfish for life. For the rest of my life, however long it should be, I am doing that now and have found a contentment in it.

Mass Observation
Special Directive 1997

Infographics
Observing the 1980s

THE FALKLANDS
BRITAIN AT WAR

THE FALKLANDS EFFECT?
Percentage of vote in UK elections

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Infographics
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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=me0fhkAerlE#t=3m39s
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Making resources available

http://humbox.ac.uk/3909/

http://dspace-jorum.ac.uk/xmlui/handle/10949/17543

https://www.facebook.com/Observingthe80s
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Educational outreach - BTEC students
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