



Rome, 1984 - Rotterdam, 2009

The conference theme for this special gathering of critical criminologists in the Common Study Programme is **“What is Critical? Key Themes For Critical Analysis in 1984 and 2009”**

It is 25 years ago that the first Common Session was held in Rome, Italy. Now, 25 years later, many things have changed within the programme. The programme has shed its original criminal justice focus while raising its critical profile even further. Despite these changes the Common Session is still alive and kickin’ and has maintained its hallmark loose – if not anarchic – organisational structure.

In order to maintain the critical perspective on crime and crime control, we must first take a look back at that critical perspective itself. This is not simply a debate for well-known scholars, but also for the next generation—today’s critical students! Therefore, we have organised a student debate on Wednesday night, 18th of November, covering two questions:

- 1. Critical Criminology should avoid the pluralism inherent in contemporary theoretical fads and revive its orthodox Marxist roots if it hopes to realize meaningful social change.*
- 2. Critical Criminology should put aside its understandable discomfort with the popular press and encourage Critical Criminologists to become ‘Public Intellectuals’ who actively challenge the bankrupt discourses that pervade the public sphere.*

The 'debate' will follow an informal discussion format, though advanced thought and preparation is encouraged. We will have a short walk to *Café Concordia*, which is student-like bar, nearby the Erasmus University. There, from approximately 17:00 until 20:00, the discussion will take place. Drinks can be ordered (own expenses!) and it is possible to have dinner afterwards. Hope to see you there!

