

## LP<sup>2</sup> STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR FALL 2022

### 1971 REVISITED: THE YEAR AND ITS IMPACT

**Coordinator:** Bernetta “Penny” Parson

Can one year really change everything? Maybe not, despite a recent documentary series declaring 1971 as the year music changed everything. Instead, this study group examines the sociocultural, political and artistic impacts of events in 1971. We will explore the trendsetters, leaders and power brokers as well as those left out of the mainstream. Much of the focus of this study group is US-centric, though we also examine international events and people. More than 50 years have passed. What has changed? What is the same? What lessons did we learn (or not learn) from that time? Let’s time-travel 50 years in the past to see how the events of 1971 reverberate more than 50 years later.

**Bernetta “Penny” Parson** is a reformed academic, having spent 20 years in higher education as an administrator, lecturer and researcher. She is now pursuing creative activities, including podcast and television production, and writing (for fun).

**Type of Study Group:** Presentation followed by discussion

**Readings and other Materials/Online Services:**

Coordinator will email PDFs of articles and photos and links to YouTube and other video clips.

Week 2 example: <https://bit.ly/3jBkxKl>

\*\*\*\*\* **SYLLABUS - A WORK IN PROGRESS** \*\*\*\*\*

#### WEEK 1

**TOPIC:** 1968-1970: events leading up to 1971 (Vietnam War, King/Kennedy assassinations, racial protests)

**READING/WATCHING:** PDF email: events, archival video/pictures

**QUESTIONS:**

Can we say a year changed everything? (This is a reference to the documentary *1971: The Year Music Changed Everything*.) Where were you in 1971? What was your life like? (Share pictures, if possible.) What, in 1971, stands out most to you?

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### WEEK 2

**TOPIC:** New York City and State (women's status, Sewer/Police strikes)

**READING/WATCHING:** PDF email: events, archival video/pictures

**QUESTIONS:**

What conflicts or agreements occurred between women and peers, younger women and older women, women of different races, women and men, women with different sexualities? How were these relationships impacted by the law and culture? There were several successful strikes leading up to the one-day 1971 Sewer strike and the January NYPD "blue flu". Why were they successful and the 1971 ones were not? What are some parallels/differences with city workers protests 2021 and early 2022?

### WEEK 3

**TOPIC:** USA/International (Nixon/Attica/Vietnam/Bangladesh)

**READING/WATCHING:** PDF email: archival pictures/video *The World is Watching* or *And Another Family for Peace*

**QUESTIONS:**

Was the Attica uprising inevitable? Why or why not? What does the US involvement in Vietnam and Bangladesh say about Nixon? Vietnamization was a tactic the Nixon administration used to end the war. It has been used in Afghanistan as well. How effective is this strategy? Antiwar activists came from many different worlds (Civil Rights, Women's Movement, Vietnam veterans, students, etc.) How much of an impact did they make, especially given the fact that Nixon won re-election?

**FOR WEEKS 4-12:**

**READING/WATCHING:** PDF email: events, archival video/pictures

**In most cases, participants are not expected to view entirety of TV shows/movies referred to below.**

**WEEK 4:** Television ("rural purge", Prime Time Access Rule, *All in the Family*)

**WEEK 5:** Television, cont. (*Soul Train*, *Masterpiece Theatre*, *Electric Company*)

**WEEK 6:** Movies (*Brian's Song*, *Duel*, *Billy Jack*, *Sweet Sweetback's*)

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*Baadasssss Song)*

**WEEK 7:** Movies, cont. (*Klute, The Last Picture Show, Fiddler on the Roof, French Connection*)

**WEEK 8:** Literature (Pablo Neruda, *The Lorax, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*)

**WEEK 9:** Art (*Whitney Museum/Counter-Exhibit on Black art, Feminist Art, The Sphere*)

**WEEK 10:** Music (Grammys 1971, women singer-songwriters, Jazz, Latin, Soul)

**WEEK 11:** Music, cont. (soundtracks, Concert for Bangladesh, Soul to Soul Concert, Pop, Rock)

**WEEK 12:** What came after?

What were the immediate impacts (1972)? What are the lasting impacts of 1971?