

NEWSLETTER

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF SOCIALISM
CENTAR ZA KULTUROLOŠKA I POVIJESNA ISTRAŽIVANJA SOCIJALIZMA

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11th Doctoral Workshop: CALL OPEN



11TH DOCTORAL WORKSHOP Systems of Governance

Pula, August 27-30, 2025



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Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism

The 11th Doctoral Workshop: Systems of Governance will take place in Pula on August 27-30, 2025. The call for papers has been open since March 14.

Oriented towards PhD students in history, as well as in other fields of the humanities and social sciences, this year's annual summer workshop will explore the diverse systems of governance that were envisioned from the early 19th century and have shaped societies throughout the 20th century and up to the present day. Our focus is both on Europe and global developments. The workshop will address the theory and practice of governance

at various levels – from intellectuals and party ideologies to state institutions, social movements, companies and corporations, offering both top-down perspectives and views from a range of local and everyday practices. Participants are encouraged to examine themes such as democracy, authoritarianism, totalitarianism, utopian socialism and state communist systems, colonial and postcolonial governance, as well as destatisation, Yugoslav self-management and direct democracy. The impact of different forms of governance on social, cultural and economic life will also be considered,

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Melvin Bernard (pp. 8-9)

highlighting interactions between ruling structures on one side and local communities or the workplace on the other. By focusing on the dynamics of historical processes, we are interested in all stages of different systems of governance: from initial ideas to implementation, including possible crises, reforms, transitions and dissolutions.

Among the expected four keynote speakers are **Mike Tyldesley** (Manchester Metropolitan University), **Ana Kladnik** (University of Graz), **Marko Zajc** (Institute of Cont-

emporary History, Ljubljana) and **Igor Duda** as one of the organisers.

Our objective is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas among PhD students, as well as foster participation in stimulating discussions. We aim to enhance networking and collaboration among young researchers and identify emerging research trends, particularly at the doctoral level.

[More information in the call.](#) Please, submit the online application form by MAY 15.

Vedran Duančić on Science and Technology

On March 28, CKPIS hosted the first guest lecture after moving to the new campus. Our guest was Vedran Duančić, PhD, University of Klagenfurt, a historian specializing in modern intellectual history and history of science, with a particular interest in the intersection of science and politics. History students and other colleagues followed his lecture on science and technology in socialist Yugoslavia with great interest.



Housing.Yu (ERC): Researchers Wanted



On March 20, the Institute of Art History (IPU) from Zagreb announced the job offers within the five-year ERC project *Right to Housing: The Production of Spaces of Everyday Life in Yugoslavia (1945–91)* or *Housing.Yu*, led by Tamara Bjažić Klarin (IPU). The call includes positions of three research assistants – PhD candidates (in history, art history, architecture, 5-year contracts), three postdoctoral researchers (in history, art history, architecture, 4-year contracts), a professional associate for the documentation and information systems, and the project manager. The research assistant and the postdoctoral researcher in history will also have an attachment to CKPIS and Igor Duda as their supervisor. **The call is available at the IPU website in [Croatian](#) and at the Euraxess site in [English](#). The deadline is APRIL 21.** Please, note that there might be a correction and a postponement of the call for three postdoctoral researchers. In the following days, please follow the IPU and Euraxess websites for possible corrections.

Socialism on the Bench: DEADLINE APRIL 1



The 7th Socialism on the Bench will be held in Pula on September 18–20, 2025. **The application deadline is APRIL 1.** The complete call and application form can be found on the conference website in [English](#) and [Croatian](#).



Visiting Fellowship at CKPIS

In the February issue we published the [call for visiting fellows](#) at CKPIS. It will be repeated annually, with no fixed deadlines. We are welcoming visiting scholars for stays ranging from one week to a full semester.



CONFERENCES AND CFP

Tackling Cold War Student Organisations through Social History, Fribourg, 20-21 November 2025

This conference aims to explore the history of students through their regional, religious, national and international organisations in the second half of the twentieth century, using certain approaches commonly used for the previous period. The aim is not to study the official discourses and organisational structures but rather to examine the student agency through the analysis of their social profile, the forms of material or symbolic compensation for their commitment, and the circulation of knowledge about the economic and social situation of the students. Taking into account the geopolitical context of the Cold War and the youth movements of the 1960s, we want to pay more attention to the emergence of the mass university on the one hand and to decolonisation on the other. ([Read more](#))

Paper proposal deadline: 1 May 2025

East-West political, diplomatic and economic co-operation during the Twentieth Century, Cambridge, 27 June 2025

This event seeks to bring together researchers and former/current diplomats interested in East-West co-operation during the Twentieth Century. The workshop will facilitate academic discussions regarding inter-state co-operation through various channels but focusing on key mechanisms such as high-level meetings between state leaders, special envoys, and trade agreements, with a particular focus on the Cold War era. In particular, the event aims to explore how historical insights can inform and enhance contemporary policy-making, especially by assessing the effectiveness of summit diplomacy in achieving both geopolitical and economic goals. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 4 April 2025

Queer Histories of East Central Europe in the 20th Century, Marburg, 26-27 August 2025

While queer histories have been increasingly studied in Western contexts, gender and sexual diversity in East Central Europe remain underexplored, often marginalized by dominant national narratives and shaped by intersecting forces of ideology, repression, and resistance. This event aims to amplify research on the experiences, identities, and activism of LGBTQ+ individuals and communities within the historical and political landscapes of East Central Europe. The aim is to examine queer lives and identities in relation to broader socio-political transformations in East Central Europe. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 30 April 2025

Dynamics of Property Change in Eastern Europe: Land Reforms, Expropriations and Restitutions in Political, Economic, Ecological, and Social Transformation Processes, Herne, 16-17 October 2025

The DGO Annual Conference aims to discuss the dynamics of property relations from a historical perspective, considering their long-term consequences and adopting a comparative approach, beyond the narrower legal and economic history. It seeks to address this research gap and invites approximately 15 speakers, who may also contribute to a subsequent joint publication. This conference aims to foster a broad and interdisciplinary discussion of property transformations in Eastern Europe, examining their multifaceted implications from a comparative and historical perspective. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 April 2025

The Yugoslav Wars: A Watershed Moment for Europe, Tutzing, 6-10 October 2025

The year 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of both the Srebrenica genocide and the end of the wars in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. This moment offers a crucial opportunity to critically examine the Yugoslav wars (1991–1999), not only as a defining episode for Southeast Europe but as a watershed moment for Europe as a whole. While these wars have long been framed as a regional phenomenon, more recent research has increasingly emphasized their global dimensions – from transnational actors and international interventions to their lasting impact on European security, law, and memory cultures. This conference builds on these transnational and interconnected perspectives while maintaining a strong focus on the local, interethnic, and personal dimensions of violence and its aftermath. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 30 April 2025

Body and Care in the Ordeal of the War: A Socio-historical Perspective on East-Central and East-Southern Europe in the 20th-21st Centuries, Prague, 12-14 November 2025

The aim of this conference is to fill an important gap in our understanding of the relation between war, violence-affected and thus fragilized bodies and care in East-Central and East-Southern European societies in a long-term perspective, that of the armed conflicts of the 20th-21st centuries. Disrupted by the brutality of war violence and confronted with the short- and long-term challenges of managing its consequences, evolving in a context of collapsing empires and emerging new states in the borderlands, of constantly redrawn borders and changing political regimes, but also engaged in an intense circulation of ideas, norms, models, people, and practices, East-Central and East-Southern European societies constitute a laboratory for social innovation in caring for violence-affected bodies on various scales (community, associative, humanitarian, municipal, state, national, international). ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 5 May 2025

Education and Employment of Individuals with Sensory Disabilities in the First and Second Yugoslav States (1919-1991), Ljubljana, 5-6 November 2025

The history of the education and employment of individuals with sensory disabilities in the two Yugoslav states is marked by numerous transformations that reflected the complex social, economic, and political changes across different epochs. Although First World War sparked broader societal discussions on the value of human life, individuals with disabilities, apart from war veterans, remained marginalized. After Second World War, the approach to this population began to change. An increasing number of social, educational, and vocational institutions for children and youth with sensory disabilities were established, aiming to prepare them for specific professions. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 June 2025



PUBLICATIONS

Branimir Janković, Nikola Tomašegović (eds.), *Nadilaženje nacionalne paradigme. Od historiografskog nacionalizma do transnacionalnih pristupa* (Srednja Europa, Zagreb 2025)

Zbornik radova predstavlja nove pristupe u studijima nacija i nacionalizma koji preispituju prevladavajuća mišljenja o etničkim i nacionalnim identifikacijama. Nasuprot tome, radovi zagovaraju koncepte poput nacionalne ravnodušnosti i ukazuju na sveprožimni odnos emocija i nacionalizma, kao i sveprisutni svakodnevni nacionalizam. Zbornik donosi i radove koji upućuju kritiku problematičnoj vezi historiografije i nacionalizma, kako u vidu historiografskog nacionalizma, tako i metodološkog nacionalizma. Pritom promiču alternativne transnacionalne pristupe koji streme nadilaženju nacionalne paradigme i dovođenju u pitanje njezine dominacije. ([Read more](#))

Filip Alexandrescu, Ryan Powell, Ana Vilenica (eds.), *Urban Marginality, Racialisation, Interdependence. Learning from Eastern Europe* (Routledge 2025)

Through the application of new empirical material and novel theoretical syntheses that exceed conceptual binaries (East-West, North-South), the authors explore shifting contemporary experiences of marginality in various urban contexts in Eastern Europe (EE). The unique articulation between global processes – such as gentrification, financialization, racialization and spatialization – and the distinctive histories, contestations and dislocations that characterize EE cities calls for increasing scholarly attention. The volume explores new patterns and drivers of urban marginality and racialization, and at the same time connects these to wider problematics of “advanced capitalist” cities as well as to post-socialist and anti-colonial urbanisms. The fourteen chapters contribute to a more nuanced understanding of global urbanism that decentres dominant Anglophone conceptualisations. ([Read more](#))

Karla Crnčević (ed.), *Za nesavršeni film: Tekstovi i manifesti treće kinematografije* (Blok, Zagreb 2025)

Šesto izdanje Tendencije obuhvaća više autora snažne filmske tradicije borbenog filma, poprilično nevidljive i zapostavljene u našem kontekstu, a u ovom trenutku iznimno aktualne. Ova odluka slijedi ideju međunarodne suradnje u kulturnoj proizvodnji koja proizlazi iz revolucionarnih pokreta te tako povezuje sve narode u borbi za oslobođenje. U okviru te ideje filmsku su liniju, koja se javila krajem 1950-ih, uz rame revolucionarnim događanjima, u manifestu kojim se otvara ova publikacija argentinski filmaši Solanas i Getino definirali kao treću kinematografiju. Ona se uspostavlja upravo kao suprotnost tradicionalnim kinematografijama koje postoje do tog trenutka – onoj prvoj, holivudskoj, i drugoj, europskoj – te njihovim pandanima na različitim kontinentima.

[\(Read more\)](#)



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

2 PhD candidates exploring the history of early childcare in Central and Eastern Europe, University of Leiden

The PhD candidates will become part of a research team exploring a century of early childcare and the invisible work linked to the first 1,000 days of human life in modern central and eastern Europe led by Prof. dr. Sarah A. Cramsey. The positions are fully funded under the ERC Starting Grant scheme (project CARECENTURY). This project hypothesizes that caretaking regimes—a collection of medical beliefs, moral assumptions, new technologies and advances in material culture—interacted with changing political economies and inherited religious and ethnic sensitivities. Variations across this interaction explain how and why caretakers utilized some early childcare practices and not others within this illuminating milieu. [\(read more\)](#)

Application deadline: 11 April 2025

Project Assistant with a Doctorate/PhD, CIRAC, University of Graz

The Center for Interdisciplinary Aging and Care Research (CIRAC) is looking for a dedicated and qualified individual to collaborate on the interdisciplinary and international research project "Transforming Anxieties of Ageing in Southeastern Europe: Political, Social, and Cultural Narratives of Demographic Change", funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. The project assistant should ideally have a background with a focus on Southeastern Europe. The responsibilities will be: participation in the project, development of qualitative research instruments, data analysis, and interpretation, independent research and publication activities within the project framework, and contribution to scientific project reports, events, and publications. [\(read more\)](#)

Application deadline: 15 April 2025



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Tina Filipović

Melvin Bernard is PhD student at the EHESS, School for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences, in Paris
([read more](#))



Melvin Bernard

At the last Doctoral workshop in Pula, you discussed about the importance of socialism in the context of housing matters. Can you tell us more about your research?

My research focuses on access to housing in late socialist Yugoslavia, especially after the mid-1970s reforms. During this period, work organizations were primarily responsible for housing provision to their workers, and the process was supposed to fit the self-management model as it was conceived by the communist authorities at the top of the Yugoslav state. Each company's workers' council drafted a specific rule book that would define precisely the criteria for priority access to housing. Then, the text had to be submitted

to the workers' approval through a referendum. These negotiations sparked intense debates on social justice, giving way to confrontations over the criteria that would rank the workers at the top of the list. The whole process of housing distributions was also the occasion for great contestations from the workers who regularly came in person to the workers' council or sent letters to have their situation re-assessed. Therefore, housing distributions were placed at the center of the political and social life of the companies, offering insight into how self-management functioned among the Yugoslav workers.

How would you describe the relationship between companies and workers in resolving housing issues? Were agreements easier to reach in certain factories?

The main consequence of the Yugoslav housing model was that workers were strongly dependent on their companies for access to every form of welfare, especially housing. Municipalities practically stopped distributing apartments in late socialism, while the private market was often in the worst state, leaving many workers who relied on it living in horrifying conditions. For company managers, housing policy was very explicitly considered a tool to reinforce the bonds between the associated workers and their company. One director, for example, was outraged that her proposal to work every Saturday to fulfil the plan was rejected during the workers' assembly. She particularly

pointed out some workers who had just got a housing credit from the work organization and still voted against the project. Thus, solving housing issues was also generally a means for the directors to earn support from the workers, and maintain a form of consensus within the company. Reaching an agreement about housing distributions generally came with great debates and even confrontations within the work organization. Even the factories that had an ambitious housing policy had to face conflicts. However, these were part of the self-management model, and the contestations were admitted or even encouraged as long as they did not call into question the core of the Yugoslav socialist system. By channelling and arbitrating these conflicts, the workers' council could even reinforce its authority over the workers.

What challenges do you face during archival research or fieldwork?

The main challenge is document preservation. Availability of the material was a key factor in selecting my local case studies in Croatia and in Serbia. Factory document preservation was highly uneven, which, in my view, reflects something about the company itself. On the one side, some factories just destroyed most documents, as if they wanted to hide their practices. On the other side, some other ones kept their reports of the workers' council in very beautiful bond books, which were for them a patrimonial element of their self-management practices. When company records are not available, I rely on alternative sources to understand the process. During my whole research in Croatia and in Serbia, the

archivists have certainly been a great help to me. They had a deep knowledge of the institutional system and pointing me to some specific boxes that I would not have noticed at first. I also appreciated their hospitality, especially in the smaller archives where I had my best experiences!



At the 10th Doctoral Workshop (Pula, 2024)

What other activities and projects are you involved in?

Aside from my PhD studies, as the French system encourages to do, I have taught contemporary Western European history at the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, which was an interesting experience, even though I am still waiting to teach my specialty subjects! I was also a member of the CoST action "Who Cares in Europe?", and the project entitled "Welfare and the Domestic Space in Southeastern Europe". I am also involved in a new project which focuses on voluntary associations and social movements in Southeastern Europe.

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