

NEWSLETTER

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

No. 102
Pula
April
2025
ISSN 2806-9625

11th Doctoral Workshop: DEADLINE MAY 15



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, and it will be closed on May 15. Do not forget to submit your proposal!

7th Socialism on the Bench: PARTICIPANTS SELECTED

The 7th Socialism on the Bench ([English](#), [Croatian](#)) is slowly taking shape. Applications were closed on April 1, and the selection process is now over. We have received many more submissions than the three-day programme



can handle, so we are grateful for the huge interest in the conference. The programme will be available by the end of June. We are looking forward to meeting everybody at our new campus in Pula.

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Pavle Antonijević (pp. 7-8)

Anita Buhin on the Adriatic Casanovas



On April 24, CKPIS hosted the second guest lecture after moving to the new campus. The speaker was Anita Buhin, Nova University Lisbon, who has also been involved in all CKPIS activities from its beginnings. In Lisbon, she deals with the phenomena of the so-called *galebovi* (seagulls), i.e. local young men who engaged in sexual/romantic relationship with foreign tourists at the Adriatic.

On the Yugoslav example she tries to trace various economic, cultural and social aspects of the phenomena in order to establish a research paradigm for the whole of the (Euro-)Mediterranean area in the time of the development of mass tourism.



Launching Reana Senjković's new book in Zagreb



On April 25 in Zagreb, two scholars of CKPIS, Igor Duda and Andrea Matošević, together with Renata Jambrešić Kirin and the book's author, took part in the launch of Reana Senjković's new volume *Novi ljudi: tri kulturnoantropološka rakursa* (IEF, 2024).

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. Through entire April, our guest has been Marta Harasimowicz, a doctoral student at the Charles University of Prague, who has been visiting us in the previous couple of years, too.



Congratulations to Tina Filipović



On April 23, at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Filozofski fakultet), University of Zagreb, Tina Filipović successfully defended her PhD dissertation titled *Position and Influence of the Federation of Associations of Combatants of National Liberation War in Croatia during the 1970s and 1980s on the Examples of Labin and Sisak Municipalities* (Položaj i utjecaj Saveza udruženja boraca Narodnooslobodilačkog rata u Hrvatskoj 1970-ih i 1980-ih godina na primjeru općina Labin i Sisak). The topic was part of the research project Microstructures of Yugoslav Socialism: Croatia 1970-1990 (Microsocialism), financed by the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ). Tina's supervisor, as well as the project PI, was Igor Duda. Members of the examination commission were Tvrtko Jakovina, Snježana Koren and Magdalena Najbar-Agičić.



CONFERENCES AND CFP

Eastern Bloc Universities as a Meeting Place for International Youth during the Cold War, Nancy, 7 November 2025

This study day on international mobility is part of the transnational turn in research on the Cold War, which in recent years has highlighted a certain permeability of the Iron Curtain. It will focus on the transnational movement of students. It will focus in particular on the universities of Eastern Europe as a place of sociability and cultural mixing, and as a meeting place for young people. It will look at the issues at stake and the ways in which these encounters take place, in order to understand their impact on the personal trajectories of these young people at a time when their identity and professional pathways are being forged. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 May 2025

Social mobility, meritocracy, and dictatorship in 20th century Europe, Neubiberg, 16-17 October 2025

This workshop deals with the role of meritocratic ideas in the history of political ideologies and with the political effects of social mobility. It aims to establish a comparative perspective by bringing together scholars who work on right-wing and socialist regimes in the 20th century. Did socialist and right-wing regimes use the promise of meritocracy and upward social mobility to gain support? How did propaganda of this kind relate to barriers against social mobility that existed in European societies in the first half of the 20th century? How did right-wing and socialist regimes deal with pre-existing ideas of merit? Did they try to redefine notions of merit in order to promote different values? How successful were such attempts in the long run? ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 8 May 2025

Migration, Gender and Generation. New perspectives on migration, Essen, 8-10 October 2025

The interdisciplinary conference will explore migration in, from and to Europe and the history and present of migrations from the perspectives of gender and generations. History from a gender perspective have intensified in recent years, but are still underrepresented overall. This applies to a greater extent to the history of migrant women. What special experiences do female migrants have? What effects do the process of migration, orientation and life in a new country have on women's roles in the family and at work? What effects do they have on women's identity? How do the respective legal, economic and social power relations affect the relationship between the sexes? ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 16 May 2025

Interpreting Leisure in Diasporic Communities: Motivation and Impact, Zagreb, 4-5 December 2025

The aim of the conference is to explore the relationship between leisure and identity formation in diasporic communities. According to Burdsey („Leisure and Diaspora“, 2017) this topic, which is full of potential, is relatively under-researched and thus conference seeks to address a significant gap in the literature. Examining the leisure activities of diasporic communities provides insights into the very concept of 'diaspora' which is highly contested. To better understand the concept analytically, it is crucial to study diaspora through the scrutiny of practices that lead to the (re)construction of a collective identity among migrants and their descendants (Brubaker, „The 'diaspora' diaspora“, 2005). Many of these practices comprise leisure activities embarked upon freely and routinely and may encompass such pursuits as music, craft, dance, sport and so forth.

[\(Read more\)](#)

Application deadline: 1 June 2025



PUBLICATIONS

Reana Senjković, *Novi ljudi: tri kulturnoantropološka rakursa* (Institut za etnologiju i folkloristiku, Zagreb 2025)

Autorica demonstrira zavidno interpretativno umeće, gradeći matricu tumačenja koja uspešno obuhvata raznovrsnu i kompleksnu empirijsku građu, pokazujući višestruke smislaone veze između različitih razina empirijskih fenomena. Osim toga, u delu se daje i izvrstan, obuhvatan pregled drugih relevantnih istraživanja, čime rukopis nudi i pouzdan vodič unutar postojeće literature za čitaoca zainteresiranog za tematiku rada, tranzicije, radnog angažmana žena, kao i kulture sećanja. Takođe, delo sadrži vredne uvide za čitaoce iz različitih profesionalnih oblasti, budući da je smešteno u interdisciplinarno područje gde se susreću antropologija, istorija, sociologija, ekonomija i politologija. [\(Read more\)](#)

Boris Postnikov, *Književna republika Jugoslavija* (Durieux, Zagreb 2025.)

Temeljitom analizom nemalog broja književnih i kulturnih fenomena koji egzistiraju nakon raspada Jugoslavije, a koji simbolički pamte i promišljaju zajedničku prošlost Jugoslavije te dijele probleme i izazove suvremenog kapitalizma, autorovi argumenti govore u prilog tezi o postjugoslavenskom književnom i kulturnom polju koje vrijedi istraživati i iz čijeg istraživanja možemo izlučiti važne (metodološke, društvene, ekonomske i ine) lekcije. Pritom, autor ne želi od postjugoslavenske književnosti načiniti neku novu esencijalističku kategoriju, već je artikulira kao fleksibilan koncept koji donosi analitički dobitak za suvremenu znanost o književnosti. [\(Read more\)](#)

Nataša Bodrožić, Antonia Vodanović (eds.), *(Dis)Trust the Storyteller: The Case of Krvavica Children Health Resort* (Set Margins' Press 2025)

Designed by Rikard Marasović, the Children's Health Resort in Krvavica near Makarska is a legendary building from the 1960s located on the Adriatic coast. Protected as immobile cultural property, this masterpiece of late Modernist architecture has been gradually decaying since the early 2000s. This publication recounts the history of a place and of the real and parallel lives of a building originally intended for the treatment of children with respiratory diseases. The book features interdisciplinary research and texts on the building's past and on its architect, presented from various angles. It also reflects our attempts to include the participants of the citizens' initiatives for the protection and revitalisation of the building, as well as to give voice to the tenants of the adjacent apartment block, whose fate is tethered to that of the former resort. ([Read more](#))



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

Visiting fellowship 2025/2026, Institute of Contemporary History, Ljubljana

The Institute of Contemporary History in Ljubljana is now accepting applications for the Visiting Fellowship program, for the visits to take place between October 1, 2025, and September 30, 2026. Scholars working in the field of contemporary political, social, economic history or related disciplines, as well as scholars working in the field of digital humanities, are invited to apply for the fellowship of two weeks, one month, or two months. The visiting fellows are expected to contribute to the work of the Institute, yet the scope and the essence of the contribution is negotiable and will be agreed upon on a case-by-case basis. Applications from doctoral candidates, early career researchers, and senior academics are welcomed. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 July 2025

3 Junior Fellowships "Universalism and Particularism in European Contemporary History", Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

The Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences (Kolleg-Forschungsgruppe, KFG) 'Universalism and Particularism in European Contemporary History' at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU) is seeking to appoint 3 Junior Fellowships (PostDocs) with a research topic focusing on the economy or human rights or religion/secularity in contemporary European history. Applications with other research topics, connected to the overall agenda of the KFG, are welcome. Apart from engaging in their individual research, fellows are expected to actively participate in the Center's weekly colloquia and to contribute to the development of a methodological anthology on the main concepts of historical and political sciences connected with universalism and particularism in European contemporary history. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 June 2025



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Sara Žerić Đulović

Pavle Antonijević is a PhD student in history and a research assistant at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory in Belgrade ([read more](#))



Pavle Antonijević

Your work focuses on intellectual history of socialist Yugoslavia, particularly the theory of workers' self-management and the Praxis philosophy. How do you approach these concepts, and how do you contextualize them within the broader socio-political landscape of Yugoslavia at the time?

The intellectual history of socialist Yugoslavia remains a largely neglected field of research. I believe this needs to change because ideas are an essential part of understanding the past. Studying them can offer important insights into the complex dynamics between material structures and social consciousness. My research focuses on the theory of Yugoslav

self-management, Party ideology, and the history of Marxist philosophy in Yugoslavia. Although there is a rich body of historical sources, these topics have received surprisingly little attention in historiography. This makes working on them both a pleasure and a significant challenge. Without an existing tradition of historical studies in this area, the sources themselves can sometimes be misleading – which is why questions of context become even more important. My methodological approach is grounded in the belief that ideas cannot be properly understood without their historical context. Isolated readings of texts inevitably risk producing anachronisms and misinterpreting the intentions of historical actors. I do not view context as a singular or static backdrop, but rather as a network of interrelated and dynamic factors.

You examine conceptual representations and uses of anarchism in socialist Yugoslavia. What are the main sources you rely on in your research?

I chose anarchism in socialist Yugoslavia as the topic of my PhD research because I believe it offers important insights into the intellectual history of socialism and the ideological dynamics of that period. Although there was no organized anarchist movement in socialist Yugoslavia, anarchism was widely discussed: it was a concept that was present in public discourse and interpreted in various ways by different actors. One of the biggest challenges

of working on a topic like this is the nature of the historical sources. My research draws on a wide range of materials, from party ideological documents, books and essays by intellectuals, and historiographic studies, to the student press and films. I start from the belief that how anarchism was interpreted and used as a concept reveals much about the broader ideological positioning of various actors in relation to the fundamental dilemmas facing Yugoslav socialism.



At the 10th Doctoral Workshop (Pula, 2024)

How do you address methodological challenges of intellectual history, and how do you balance the analysis of ideas with their historical and social reception?

I would agree that intellectual history brings certain methodological challenges, which I encountered while defining the topic of my PhD research. Initially, I intended to investigate the influence of anarchism on the Yugoslav model of self-management. However, I soon realized that such an approach would be ahistorical and methodologically untenable. First, the meaning of anarchism itself is difficult to clearly define. Second, even if certain influences could be presumed, there were no

explicit references, making it impossible to distinguish them from the broader non-authoritarian socialist traditions. Instead, the focus of my research is on the conceptual use, interpretative contestations, and representations of anarchism within the socialist context by historical actors. I believe this approach is particularly relevant given the specificity of the Yugoslav model of self-management and social ownership, which attempted to incorporate a non-authoritarian orientation while simultaneously operating within an authoritarian Bolshevik party structure and under the growing influence of capitalist elements in the economy.

You participated in the 10th CKPIS Doctoral Workshop. What were your impressions of the event?

Participating in the 2024 doctoral workshop was an enriching experience. Opportunities to meet colleagues from across Europe who work on different aspects of the history of socialism are rare, and this workshop offered precisely that. It was also regionally significant, as it provided one of the few chances for PhD students from the post-Yugoslav space to come together and exchange ideas, research findings, and experiences. With its interdisciplinary approach and intellectually engaging environment, the workshop encouraged ongoing discussions and critical reflections on socialism from the diverse perspectives of the humanities.

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