

NEWSLETTER

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

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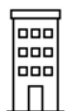
Socijalizam na klupi again and again



The 7th Socialism on the Bench: Global Socialism and Non-Alignment was successfully held at new campus of the Juraj Dobrila University of Pula on 18-19 September and at Brijuni National Park on 20 September. More than 100 participants took part in 19 panels, several roundtables, book launches and lectures, as well in an exhibition. The **programme, book of abstracts, photo gallery and Radio Rojc interviews** with keynote speakers (Chiara Bonfiglioli, Tvrtko Jakovina and Paul Stubbs) are all [available online](#). Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Southeast Europe has been the conference's partner since 2015, and its representatives were once again present this year. The Organizing Committee is thanking everyone for being part of the conference!

PROJECT IN CONVERSATION: SOCIOBORD & Laura Lee Downs (pp. 7-10)





HOUSING.YU

by Antun Dulibić

Project team in Pula, Rijeka, Labin and Raša



At the 7th International Conference *Socialism on the Bench*, a roundtable presented the ERC project *Right to Housing: The Production of Spaces of Everyday Life in Yugoslavia (1945–1991)*. The project, run in cooperation with CKPIS, maps how socialist Yugoslavia produced everyday living spaces, connecting architecture, governance, and

international knowledge networks to trace the legacy of mass housing across the region. Lead researcher Tamara Bjažić Klarin presented the team alongside Lidija Butković Mićin, Martina Malešić, Mejrema Zatrić-Šahović, Ljiljana Kolečnik, Irena Šimić, Hana Bečević, Frano Petar Zovko, as well as CKPIS members Igor Duda and Antun Dulibić. Members of the research team afterwards participated in two guided field research trips to Rijeka and Raša-Labin area examining pre-socialist and socialist period housing estates, as well as a digital humanities workshop organised at the university campus. The Centre looks forward to continued and fruitful collaboration with Housing.yu project.



Housing.Yu is employing!



The Institute of Art History (IPU) in Zagreb has announced job opportunities within the five-year ERC project *Housing.Yu*. The call is open for **THREE POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS** (in history, art history, and architecture; 4-year contracts). As already agreed with the research assistant, although employed by IPU, the postdoctoral researcher in history will also be affiliated with CKPIS, with Igor Duda as their supervisor. The application deadline is 31 OCTOBER.



CONFERENCES AND CFP

CfA: Special Issue of Southeastern Europe, "Southeastern Europe in Comparison: Beyond the Region and Back

The special issue, guest edited by Diana Mishkova and Ulf Brunnbauer, calls for papers that rethink Southeastern Europe through comparative, transregional perspectives. Instead of treating the region as a fixed unit, it invites scholars to explore how regional definitions shift when phenomena from this area are compared with developments elsewhere. It promotes a transcomparative perspective that combines comparative analysis with entangled histories. Its central aim is to explore how spatial units of analysis shift when phenomena located in Southeastern Europe are compared with similar developments elsewhere. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 October 2025

BASEES 2026 Annual Conference, Birmingham, 10-12 April 2026

The British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) invites proposals for panels, roundtables, and papers for its 2026 annual conference. BASEES welcomes proposals with an area-specific focus as well as positioned within disciplinary and interdisciplinary frameworks. These disciplines and areas include, but are not limited to: Politics; History; Sociology; Geography; Film and Media; Languages and Linguistics; Literatures and Cultures; Anthropology; Economics; Baltic Studies; Polish Studies; Ukrainian Studies. We particularly encourage proposals that help push forward efforts to decentre and decolonise the study of the region. The conference especially welcomes the participation of postgraduate research students and early career scholars. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 3 October 2025

Radio and Newspapers: What Intersections for Media History?, Lausanne, 30 June – 1 July 2026

Building on our ongoing reflections on a historical "transmedia" approach, this international conference aims to move beyond the traditional understanding of press-radio relations. As the two main information media in the 20th century, their relationship has often been reduced in literature to one of simple institutional competition. This conference seeks to investigate the complexity of their relations. It aims to throw light on mutual influences over content and format, staff and practices circulation between the two media, as well as cross-representations and cross-uses. A central objective is to explore the novel research perspectives offered by the development of digital tools in the context of the digitization of press and radio archives. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 November 2025

Trade Unions, the Far Right, and the Battle for the Working Class. Perspectives from Europe and North America since 1945, Berlin, 28-30 October 2026

Important studies have shown that a complex mix of factors facilitates electoral success of the radical populist right, including a specific perception of socioeconomic change which sees traditional working-class lifestyles under threat by economic pressures, migration, and social elites whose cultural values seem far removed from the realities of “ordinary” people. However, while a growing body of research addresses the failure of traditional left-wing parties to successfully appeal to their historic working-class base, the role of trade unions and the dynamics of the workplace have remained surprisingly underexplored in explanations of far-right electoral success and cultural resonance. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 November 2025



PUBLICATIONS

Nataša Kovačević, *Nonaligned Imagination: Yugoslavia, the Global South, and Literary Solidarities Beyond the Cold War Blocs* (Northwestern University Press, 2025)

NAM spanned political and economic systems, uniting members in opposition to superpower politics and around policies of nuclear disarmament, active peaceful coexistence, anticolonialism, and respect for national sovereignty. The book reconstructs the forgotten literary and cultural history of this movement, tracing the development of new networks of intellectual engagement and cultural exchange between writers, journalists, and scholars who connected postwar Yugoslavia with 1950s India, 1960s Algeria and Guinea, 1970s Vietnam, and beyond. Nonaligned narratives attempted to reconfigure the understanding of the globe outside Eurocentric tropes and hegemonic political stratifications and to articulate Yugoslavs' own internationalist sensibility. ([Read more](#))

Franko Dota, *Politička povijest muške homoseksualnosti u socijalističkoj Jugoslaviji* (Fraktura, Zagreb 2025)

Knjiga Politička povijest muške homoseksualnosti u socijalističkoj Jugoslaviji povjesničara, novinara, prevoditelja i aktivista Franka Dote značajan je iskorak u proučavanju jednog tek prividno marginalnog fenomena. Dota je knjigom, utemeljenom na marljivom arhivskom radu, i rijetkom intelektualnom i moralnom odgovornošću ispunio prazninu kojom se naša historiografija nedovoljno – ili uopće nije – bavila. U zrcalu sudbine muških homoseksualaca, isprva stigmatiziranih, izloženih preziru i kaznenom progonu, s vremenom postupno, koliko god nevoljko, ipak prihvaćanih, ogleda se i evolucija jugoslavenske države i društva, od poslijeratnog totalitarizma, preko liberalizacije i mekog autoritarizma, do relativno slobodnih osamdesetih godina. ([Read more](#))

Ulf Brunnbauer et al., *U olujama transformacije. Dva brodogradilišta između socijalizma i Europske unije* (Srednja Europa, Zagreb 2025)

Knjiga je važan doprinos razvoju društvene povijesti, prije svega povijesti radništva te povijesti poduzeća na primjeru poljskog brodogradilišta Stocznia Gdynia i hrvatskoga Uljanika. Autori su analizirali povezanost proizvodnje s lokalnom zajednicom, koja je utjecala i na stil života radnika u proučavanim sredinama. Također, vrlo detaljno i sistematično prikazuje se društvena i politička transformacija navedenih brodogradilišta od doba “ugljena i čelika” sve do današnjeg vremena. Šestorica povjesničara, sociologa i socijalnih antropologa uranjaju duboko u svakodnevni život brodogradilišta na Baltičkom moru i Jadranu pa i na toj razini analiziraju veliku preobrazbu koja je uzdrmala Europu u posljednjih pedeset godina. ([Read more](#))

Natalija Dimić Lompar, Ognjen Tomić, Nikola Koneski (eds.), *Nova istraživanja jugoslovenske prošlosti: perspektive sa postjugoslovenskog prostora* (Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije, Beograd, 2025)

Ovaj zbornik predstavlja prirodan nastavak skupa održanog u Arhivu Jugoslavije u Beogradu od 15. do 18. oktobra 2024. godine. Radovi koje sadrži proizašli su iz izlaganja na konferenciji, a zatim su oblikovani u formu naučnih članaka, dopunjeni novim uvidima i dodatnim istraživanjima. Iako obuhvataju različite teme, pristupe i vremenske okvire, povezuje ih zajednički cilj – da doprinesu dubljem i raznovrsnijem razumevanju istorije Jugoslavije. Zbornik tako ne nudi jedinstvenu naraciju, već mozaik pogleda koji se nadopunjuju i otvaraju nova pitanja, potvrđujući da prošlost ove države, ma koliko puta bila proučavana, i dalje nudi obilje prostora za nova istraživanja. ([Read more](#))

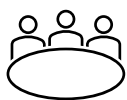


POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

3x Leibniz Summer Fellowships “German and European History in the 20th century”, ZZF Potsdam

The Leibniz-Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam / Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF) is pleased to invite applications for three Leibniz Summer Fellowships in the field of “German and/or European (including Eastern European) History in the 20th century”. These two-months fellowships provide an opportunity to pursue individual research in Germany while participating in the academic life of one of Germany’s major historical research centres. Successful candidates will be assigned to one of the institute’s departments, offered participation in departmental activities and asked to present their project as part of the institute’s research seminar. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 30 November 2025



PROJECT IN CONVERSATION

by Tina Filipović

Social Politics in European Borderlands: A Comparative and Transnational Study, 1870s – 1990s ([read more](#))



SOCIOBORD
Social Politics in European Borderlands

SOCIOBORD reframes the history of welfare and social care in modern Europe by restoring to view the contribution of local actors – primarily families and associations – to shaping mixed economies of welfare in three European borderlands: Galicia, the North-eastern Adriatic and the Franco/Belgian/Luxembourgish/German border regions from the 1870s through the 1990s. By bringing borderland studies into dialogue with welfare studies, the project has created an analytic framework which allows us to rethink the history of European social welfare from the perspective of peripheral regions that lie at the edges of state power.

Nine researchers, including both senior scholars and early-career researchers, have contributed to this project. In collaboration with several researchers associated with the project, members designed and carried out eighteen carefully chosen case studies, each of which is focused on one of our

three border regions and on one of three target populations therein – children, women workers or veterans. By exploring mixed, overlapping, and competing welfare structures in borderland spaces, where state authority is often contested, the project offers a fresh perspective on welfare systems and their recipients, who are often viewed as passive consumers reliant solely on state provision.

As the project nears its conclusion, CKPIS speaks with Laura Lee Downs, Principal Investigator and the Professor of History at the European University Institute. The SOCIOBORD project is being conducted at the European University Institute in Florence.

Sociobord introduces a new conceptual approach by shifting the focus from national frameworks to borderlands. Why approach the history of European welfare from the state's periphery?

Borderlands, those intermediary spaces that lie between nation states, are a particularly rich and revealing laboratory in which to explore the multiple intersections of state borders with welfare provision; a question that has proven central to the Sociobord project. Such regions exist on the fringes of state power. As such, they are often the object of contest between surrounding states. In such conflicts, states frequently deploy social provision in order to lay claim to and establish a predominant position in these regions. By focusing on the entanglement of social provision with state borders, our project has shown that welfare and borders are distinct but compatible technologies for imposing categories of classification onto populations.

As such, they are complementary instruments for creating and monitoring the political and social order which can, and often do, intersect in borderland regions. Indeed, these dynamics are most visible in such regions, where political actors (both local and state) mobilize welfare associations in order to mark, defend or expand new state borders, most typically in territories seized during (or after) a war. But the relationship between borders and welfare goes both ways. For if institutions of social protection are often deployed in service of bordering, debordering and rebordering projects in borderland regions, new borders can also create opportunities for welfare associations to expand the ambit – and the repertoire – of their action.

What led you to select these particular border regions as vantage points for examining local welfare systems and their dynamics?

Sociobord's findings are grounded in a series of case studies that we conducted in northwestern, southeastern and central Europe. We chose these regions because they offer three distinct ecologies within which diverse mixed welfare economies, based on local mobilizations around vulnerable populations, arose and evolved across the long 19th century. The three-three analytic grid that structures our investigation (that is, three borderland regions and three target populations) has enabled us to make comparisons across European borderlands while tracing the transregional circulation of ideas and practices. These comparative and transregional analyses reveal that the dynamics governing the relationships between social welfare and state borders are

remarkably similar across eastern and western, northern and southern Europe. By unveiling the connections that link welfare strategies and institutions in these three borderland regions, Sociobord's findings challenge studies based on the idea of welfare regime types (Nordic, Continental, Southern, etc.) and reveal instead the similarities in those mixed economies of welfare that underpin European welfare systems.



Laura Lee Downs

The project highlights the pivotal role of families, working-class women, and voluntary associations as co-creators of social welfare. How did these actors, often among the most vulnerable, manage to challenge the nation-state's monopoly on welfare and influence patterns of provision?

Families, working-class women and voluntary associations in borderland regions rarely, if ever, faced a state monopoly on welfare for the simple reason that borderland regions, which lie outside of state borders, are, by definition, places where the reach of national states is fluctuating and uncertain. Social provision in

these regions was, therefore, created and delivered through mixed economies of welfare that were based on local actors, notably voluntary welfare associations, municipal governments and families. These welfare economies were grounded in multiple forms of belonging that reflected the diversity of multiethnic borderlands, including religious, occupational, municipal, familial or ethnic solidarities. In the border regions we studied, these solidarities generated forms of social welfare that were co-constructed by a range of private and public actors, only some of whom represented the state. The mixed economies of borderland welfare that these mobilizations produced were largely built on the labor of local social activists, whose associations and institutions generally focused on a single, vulnerable group, such as children from impoverished families (a favorite target of solicitude). The answer to your question thus lies in the central role played by voluntary associations, families and women (working class and middle class) in mixed economies of borderland welfare. Moreover, the pluralist nature of these welfare economies offered a broad field of action for women, religious actors and families to participate in building and running local welfare institutions, and many such actors seized on these opportunities.

In the context of the turbulent postwar reconfigurations of state power and territorial boundaries after WWI and WWII, differentiated social assistance in the borderlands could function not only as a response to local needs, but also as a form of bordering practice. To what extent do you see

welfare provision itself becoming a tool for reinforcing or redrawing the borders in these contested spaces?

Your question goes to the very heart of the Sociobord project, and, indeed, prefigures one of our central discoveries. For time and again, across our eighteen case studies, we have seen how, in very different contexts, social welfare itself became a bordering practice. Whether in post-WWI East Belgium, interwar Galicia, or post-WWII Istria, we see the same pattern: welfare associations developed schemes of social protection that were, or became, party



to larger political projects which used social protection to defend (or expand) borders while reshaping local identities. If the details of each case were different, the central dynamic was the same: the forms of social welfare available to borderland populations were always, perhaps inevitably, shaped by the politics surrounding the region's state borders. Sociobord researchers adopt a social constructivist approach to these questions, one that sees state borders and welfare provision as dynamic and contingent social and political processes which unfold under the pressure of their construction, contestation and transgression. We put this analytic tool to

work in our special issue on *Children, Border(land)s and Mixed Economies of Welfare* (Childhood 32/1, February 2025), in which nine authors lay bare the dynamics of the intersection between welfare and bordering by exploring specific forms of child provision as they emerged within local mixed economies of borderland welfare. Each article builds on the insights of those scholars who conceptualise borderlands as sites of struggle between competing claims, and as spaces conducive to the emergence of alternative social, cultural and political projects. In the case of child welfare, these struggles manifest themselves in the segmentation of the local child population which social actors effected when they chose to assist those deemed most in need but also those who were considered strategic to larger political projects for the region. Finally, our authors argue that, due to the conviction that children play a crucial role in the future of (nation-)states, child welfare often serves as a metonym for larger competing interests and rival political subjectivities, both in borderlands and states.

Could you tell us more about any forthcoming work currently in preparation or awaiting publication?

We have two more special issues in the works. The first is on veterans as objects of, and actors in, the production of social welfare in European borderlands. It is currently under review at European History Quarterly. The

second looks at working women's social welfare – or lack thereof – in borderland regions and its entanglement with the politics of local borders. We also focus on the actions that women workers have taken on their own behalf, often in the context of larger, borderland mobilizations. This special issue is under review at Contemporary European History. Both special issues deploy the analytic tools developed and honed over the life of the Sociobord project in diverse regions across the late 19th and 20th centuries. Taken together, our three special issues realize Sociobord's foundational mission: to recast borderland regions not as outliers in welfare histories, but rather as micro-histories that open up onto larger transnational concerns and developments. Indeed, it is our conviction that these regions offer a wide-angle, long-distance lens that illuminates the contested history of Europe's linguistic, ethnic and religious diversity. Ultimately, this has allowed us to rethink the development of European social provision as uneven and dynamic; challenging conventional state-centred narratives that presume a larger coherence in the evolution of social welfare, rooted in those political, cultural and ideological trajectories that are assumed to underpin various welfare regime types.

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