

NEWSLETTER

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

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8th Doctoral Workshop in Pula



Organised by CKPIS and the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, the 8th Doctoral Workshop with the topic *Microhistories of Socialism and Postsocialism* was held in Pula, August 24-27, 2022. Sixteen PhD students, who presented their research papers, came from the universities of Belgrade, Bologna, Cambridge, Ghent, Graz, Hamburg, Lisbon, Ljubljana, Regensburg, Turku, Warsaw and Zagreb, as well as from CEU and EUI. Magdalena Najbar-Agičić, Tanja Petrović, Pieter Troch and Radina Vučetić participated as keynote speakers and took part in discussions. Moreover, Karlo Držaić, Petra Šarin and Saša Vejzagić as co-authors presented the edited volume *Kartografija otpora: Zagreb 1941-1945*. (eds. Josip Jagić and Marko Kostanić). Visits to parts of the city and to the Historical and Maritime Museum of Istria were also organised.

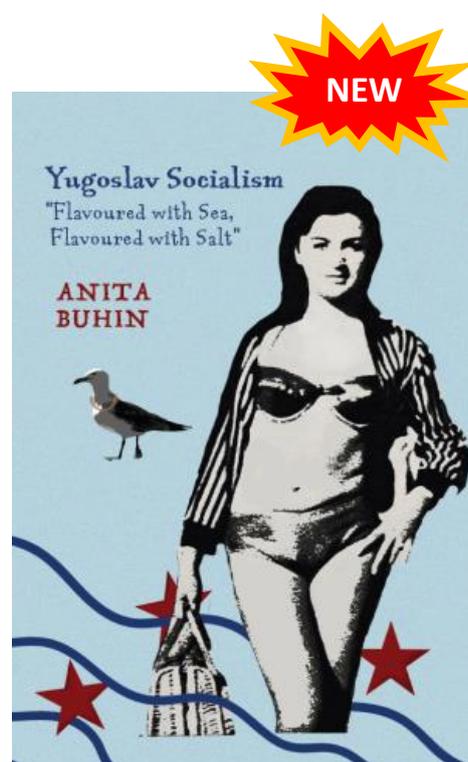
The Organising Committee (Igor Duda, Anita Buhin, Tina Filipović, Sara Žerić) is thanking for the support to the University and the Faculty of Humanities. The cooperation with the Student Dorm, as the workshop venue, went smooth as always. You are welcome to check the [programme and photos](#).



Anita Buhin's first book

Under the title *Yugoslav Socialism "Flavoured with Sea, Flavoured with Salt": Mediterraneanization of Yugoslav Popular Culture in the 1950s and 1960s under Italian Influence*, Srednja Europa from Zagreb has just published the first book written by Anita Buhin. It is based on her PhD dissertation, and it is the 17th volume in the CKPIS collection [CeKaPISarnica](#).

The audio and visual images of the seaside of the seaside that entered Yugoslav homes in the 1950s and 1960s coincided with the development of mass tourism. For some audiences the sounds and pictures evoked memories of summer holidays at the Adriatic, but for some it was just a longing. For the latter, it also represented the ideal of the promised socialist success of modern life. The coastal images transmitted through mass media fitted perfectly in the imagination of the Mediterranean, simultaneously familiar and exotic, modern but never fully adhering to the laws of dehumanized social interaction of the capitalist West.



Also in this issue at pp. 8-10: interview with Pieter Troch

CKPIS was founded in July 2012 as a new unit of the University of Pula. We will celebrate the Centre's 10th anniversary throughout this year. There will be a series of lectures within the *CKPIS Summer Semester*, a round table and, here on the *Newsletter* pages, short interviews with our researchers. Moreover, in the section *Interview of the Month*, month after month, we hope to present colleagues with whom we have closely cooperated.



TEN YEARS OF CKPIS: BORIS KOROMAN

Interview by Sara Žerić

You are an assistant professor at the Department of Croatian language and literature at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Pula, but you are also one of the co-founders of CKPIS in 2012. From your perspective, how has the Centre developed in the last ten years, and how it influenced your academic path?

Ten years ago, the Centre set in motion academic work and energy on so many tracks that it is somehow for me difficult to discern which changes happening in academic fields are simply parts of some worldwide processes and which perhaps I observe from the point of view as a researcher in CKPIS. My point is that there is an indisputable change in the quantity and quality of the research on socialism in the last decade. I think that ten years ago, with the foundation of CKPIS, we were able to really sense and perceive the call, or perhaps the need, for the research of socialism. We took the opportunity to do it while being able to

recognize accurately that this is something that is also beginning to happen elsewhere in the academy. And of course, it has influenced my academic path. Ten years ago, I was convinced that the research of socialism is inevitable and necessary not just because it can put a light on a present but also because socialism was at times researched insufficiently and sometimes even poorly. And I had this great opportunity to take part in what I saw was just the right thing to do.

You participated in the Centre's first major project "Making of the Socialist Man" financed by the Croatian Science Foundation with the project theme "Workers' cultural practice in socialism: the case of Istrian periodicals". What results did you achieve in that project?

I can say that "Making of the Socialist Man" was a great project for me. I wrote three papers and I am personally very satisfied with them because they are so diverse. By

writing those papers I've been able to unfold additional topics that have been very interesting to me. One paper is about the notion and practice of the complex term "the culture" in the context of self-management. A complex, huge, and very interesting topic that I only touched on, and now I am so pleased to see how and in which ways Anita Buhin is dealing with it these days. The second one was epistemologically challenging, opening the question of how to analytically approach poems written by workers in factory periodicals. I tried to do my part by trying to be inventive with methodology and reference literature. I found it interesting, challenging, and useful. The final paper for the project "Socialist Man" was a media analysis, an overview of the editorial concepts of factory and industry newspapers.

In 2018, your book "Contemporary Croatian Fiction and Transition" was published. How would you describe the current state of research in Croatian literature of socialism and post-socialism? Is there interest in these topics in the already established academic community, and in the new generations of students?

There is a difference between the current state of research in Croatian literature, which focuses on socialism, and the state of research in contemporary Croatian literature, which deals, relatively speaking, with post-socialism or transition, and which I believe are also terms that are somewhat outdated, at least today, in 2022. The state of research in contemporary Croatian literature, with emphasis on its cultural or economic aspects, is very encouraging, and for me often exciting. There are a lot of good works, especially from colleagues from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb.

I would say that there is a small but recognizable community that attempts to approach literature in a similarly prolific way. I have also noticed a lot of interesting graduate theses in recent years, so yes, a certain trend is visible.



Boris Koroman ([read more](#))

What is the current focus of your research? Do these topics still include socialism and/or post-socialism?

Currently, I am dealing with two main topics. The first is very much intertwined with the mentioned changes – I returned to the topic with which I started my research work a quarter of a century ago – new media. Since I scratched the surface of this topic in the late nineties, still in the age of great optimism about the advent of the Internet, it really seems useful to me now to address the question of why it all seems to have turned out to be something that can be seen as quite a failure. The second topic I'm dealing with is long-term, and it's about researching the contemporary Croatian novel, more precisely fiction. I have many ideas for that, but about that on another occasion.



CONFERENCES AND CFP

CFP: edited volume "Post-Memories of Communism: Genealogy, Knowledge, and Significance in Southeast Europe"

The Balkans History Association is preparing a volume dedicated to studying genealogies, knowledge transfers, and negotiation of memories of socialism to the youngest generations of Southeast Europe. Looking at the "generations after" socialism, authors are invited to (re)consider the viability of the paradigm and scholarship of post-memory studies in the region vis-à-vis Russia's war against Ukraine. Chapter proposals could include issues and discussions over oral histories, memories, and reinterpretations of the socialist past. Ideally, authors could tackle the transnational significance of post-memories of socialism among minority groups and (counter)diaspora, citizens living in marginal or rural areas, (un)verbalised and silenced memories of traumas and intimate stories. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 November 2022

"Emigre Europe": Civil Engagement Transfers between Eastern and Western Europe, 1933-1989, Krakow, 4-6 December 2022

"Émigré Europe" seeks to explore the means and methods through which Central and Eastern European migrants were able to engage new or existing civil society structures within their host countries to set or express their own agendas and interact with their host societies on a range of levels, from local grassroots initiatives up to institutional European organizations and decision-making bodies. By civil engagement transfers, we refer to various exchanges of practices of self-organization and engagement that occur between migrant and host communities or between two migrant communities, and between various layers of civil society. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 October 2022



PUBLICATIONS

Marie-Janine Calic, *Tito - Vječni partizan* (Fraktura: Zagreb 2022)

Činjenice iz Titove biografije više-manje su općepoznate. Nema novih velikih otkrića, osim možda o do sada relativno nepoznatoj supruzi Lucie Bauer. Nova mogu biti samo tumačenja. Sâm naslov knjige, *Tito - Vječni partizan*, sažima središnju odrednicu Brozova života, ali i proturječja njegove ličnosti, proturječja između njegove beskrupuloznosti i vizije humanog društva, između njegova staljinizma i antistaljinizma, između emancipacijske vanjske politike i blagog, u nekim razdobljima manje blagog, a neposredno nakon rata surovog autoritarizma u zemlji. Josip Broz Tito nije bio partizan samo u Drugom svjetskom ratu, već je to ostao i nakon rata, do kraja života - vječni partizan trajno razdiran između potrebe da bude borac za mir i ugledan svjetski državnik (u čemu je uglavnom uspijevao) te boljševički revolucionar koji je u ime komunističke utopije i daleke budućnosti ponekad bio spreman na uskraćivanje sadašnjosti. ([Read More](#))

Milivoj Bešlin, *Ideja moderne Srbije u socijalističkoj Jugoslaviji (knjiga 1) (Akademska knjiga: Novi Sad 2022)*

Pomno čitanje ove monografije potvrđuje da se radi o delu koje će imati veliki uticaj na studije jugoslovenskog socijalizma i na razvoj historiografskog pristupa njegovim fenomenima. Istorijska nauka kod nas i u regionu ovom knjigom dobija, između ostalog, i temeljnu i neizostavnu studiju za izučavanje glavnih problema Titove Jugoslavije i mesta Srbije u njoj. Središnje pitanje kojim se autor bavi odnosi se na puteve, stranputice i prepreke nameravanoj modernizaciji društva, države, politike, kulture i ekonomije u Srbiji u vreme vladavine srpskih liberala, a dva su ključna razloga uslovila da monografija svojom širinom izlazi van zadatog hronološkog okvira studije. U kauzalnom smislu, problemi ovog perioda nisu se mogli hermetički odvojiti od procesa koji su im prethodili ili koji su sledili posle smene srpskih liberala. To je bilo teže utoliko što upravo u ovom periodu kulminiraju unutrašnje kontradikcije i postaje očigledan sukob koncepcija koje su sve vreme bile prisutne u jugoslovenskom društvu. ([Read More](#))

Berislav Majhut, *Na Ticonicu: hrvatska dječja književnost u razdoblju socijalističke Jugoslavije (Hrvatska sveučilišna naklada d.o.o.: Zagreb 2022)*

Knjiga donosi nove spoznaje i interpretacijske perspektive o hrvatskoj dječjoj književnosti druge polovice 20. stoljeća promatrajući neke od najpoznatijih djela hrvatskih dječjih pisaca i njihove adaptacije u kontekstu povijesnih i ideoloških okolnosti. Pritom se usmjerava na razdoblje socijalističke (druge) Jugoslavije u kojem su neki od najvažnijih dječjih pisaca uspostavljali specifičan odnos prema suvremenoj zbilji i njezinim normama. Uvriježilo se razmatranje povijesti hrvatske dječje književnosti na periodizaciju iz šezdesetih godina dvadesetoga stoljeća te na središnji položaj opusa četiriju dječjih pisaca (Filipović, Brlić-Mažuranić, Lovrak i Vitez). ([Read More](#))



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

SFI-IRC Pathway Programme

Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Irish Research Council (IRC) are pleased to launch the SFI-IRC Pathway Programme which will support talented postdoctoral researchers from all research disciplines to develop their track record and transition to become independent research leaders. These awards will enable postdoctoral researchers to conduct independent research for a four-year period and will provide funding for a postgraduate student who will be primarily supervised by the applicant. The programme objective is to enable talented postdoctoral researchers to develop their track record and establish themselves as independent investigators, with the support of their research body. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 14 November 2022

IEG Fellowships for Postdocs, Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz

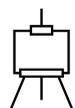
The IEG awards postdoctoral fellowships to young academics from Germany and abroad who have completed their doctoral dissertations and are pursuing a new research project. This fellowship is intended to help you develop your own research project in close collaboration with researchers working at the IEG. Your contribution consists in bringing your own interests to bear on the work of the IEG and its research programme negotiating difference in Europe. This includes the possibility of developing a perspective for further cooperation with the IEG. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 October 2022

A small but fertile field: strengthening Southeast European Studies in Regensburg, IOS Regensburg

The project "A small but fertile field: strengthening Southeast European Studies in Regensburg" (seeFField) was launched in July 2022 with the goal of strengthening Southeast European Studies in Regensburg. The aim is to integrate and critically examine various forms of knowledge production and knowledge transfer related to South-Eastern Europe in academic as well as non-academic fields. Fellows will be offered the opportunity to spend one month in Regensburg, using the IOS library, consulting colleagues at UR and IOS, attending talks and seminars, and presenting their research in our research seminar. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 16 September 2022

**EXHIBITIONS****Heritage from Below | Drežnica: Traces and Memories, Gallery of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, 30 August - 10 September 2022**

The exhibition 'Heritage from Below | Drežnica: Traces and Memories' is the result of an international heritage project focused on the recent past of Drežnica's region, which was one of the crucial sites of partisan resistance during the Second World War. Launched in 2019, the project was grounded on the idea that interdisciplinary collaborations and community-based research opens up the possibility of critical perspectives on phenomena such as social memory and the production of heritage. The exhibition starts by presenting Drežnica's multi-layered memorial landscapes through the depiction of past and contemporary approaches to mapping heritage. It then proceeds to open up four thematic "trenches", connected to the locales where archaeological research was carried out: 'Radical Care', 'Media of Resistance', 'War at Home' and 'Shelter'. ([read more](#))



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Sara Žerić

Pieter Troch is an assistant professor in Southeast European Languages and Cultures at the Department of Languages and Cultures at the Ghent University ([read more](#))



Pieter Troch

You were one of the keynote speakers at the 8th Doctoral Workshop and you gave a very interesting lecture on "Ethnopolitical mobilization and the microstructures of socialism: The miners' strikes in late socialist Kosovo" according to the case study of the mining, metallurgy and chemical industry complex Trepča. Indeed, it seems that by talking about this micro-topic we can find out another macro-topic on the events in Kosovo in the late eighties. How did the 1989 strike begin and what consequences did it leave on Kosovo and Yugoslavia?

The miners' strikes in Kosovo during the winter of 1988–89 are often seen as a political strike in reaction against the growing nationalism of the Republic of Serbia's leadership under Slobodan Milošević. Of

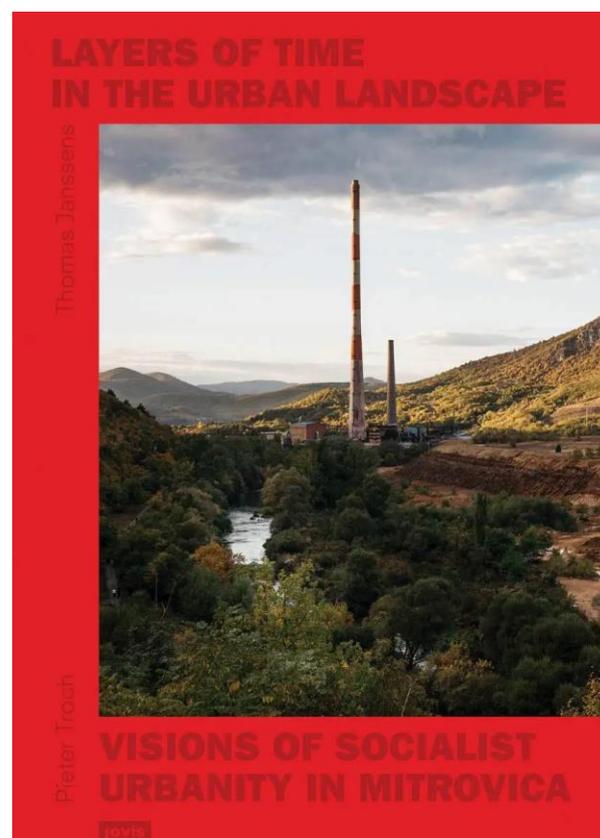
course, the strike generated massive social unrest not only in Kosovo itself but also elsewhere in Yugoslavia and caused unprecedented political tensions at the Yugoslav federal level. In that sense, the strike is a crucial step in the dissolution of Yugoslavia. In my lecture, however, I wanted to revisit the miners' strike from the perspective of social history. First, I wanted to connect the Kosovo miners' strike to broader instances of social mobilisation in late socialist Yugoslavia. Recent research by Goran Musić in particular shows that social mobilisation in late socialist Yugoslavia was generated by social dissatisfaction with the socio-economic crisis and the lack of legitimacy of the socio-political system. Ethnopolitical elements started playing a role late in the process. Second, I wanted to situate the strike within the particular social domain of mining, which is characterised by particular rhythms of growth and recession. The anthropologist James Ferguson has forcefully captured the sentiment of abjection caused by what he calls the betrayed promises of modernisation-through-mining in the Zambian Copperbelt. Much of what Ferguson wrote resonated strongly with the sentiments I encountered in the mining communities of northern Kosovo, where the promise of modernisation-through-mining continues to resonate strongly, more than thirty years after the collapse of the mining enterprise. Based on a thorough reading of the factory journal, I wanted to show that the recession of mining in Kosovo led to rearticulations of social relations. These shifting social relations and hierarchies in the mining collective were increasingly framed

along ethnic lines, because of particular divisions of labour and patterns of social mobility in mining in socialist Kosovo in combination with growing sentiments of abjection caused by the betrayed promises of development-through-mining. There was mid-intensity salience of ethnicity. This means that ethnicity mattered, but that it did not monopolise social relations in the mining collective. Outright ethnopolitical mobilisation occurred only during the winter of 1988–89 as a result of specific developments in the institutional microstructures of the socialist enterprise (managerial competitions and relations between production units in the complex enterprise).

Moreover, you are the author of the monograph *Layers of Time in the Urban Landscape: Visions of Socialist Modernity in Mitrovica*, which is another micro-study on the post-socialist urban transformation of the city of Mitrovica, a city that is still ethnically divided and often the target of various nationalist conflicts. What was the process of socialist modernization of Mitrovica? Also, what is the citizens' memory of socialist Mitrovica (if there is)?

Layers of Time in the Urban Landscape is a photobook I did together with the Belgian photographer Thomas Janssens. It consisted of a series of photos portraying the legacies of socialist industrialization in contemporary Mitrovica and a historical essay. Indeed, although the city is mostly known as a divided city and the ethnopolitical markers of division are so prominent that they dominate our understanding of the urban landscape, the legacies of socialist urbanization continue to give meaning to present-day Mitrovica. This includes not only the built environment – industrial ruins, socialist monuments, miners' settlements, collective housing – but

also socio-spatial differentiation in the urban landscape between „the new socialist city“ and „the old Ottoman city centre“, between modern collective housing and illegal individual houses, between the city and the miners' settlements. Again, in-depth knowledge of the microstructures of urban society. It also prevails in living memories of urban residents, who in the great majority connect emotionally to the promises of development that were materialized in the urban landscape. We felt that the particular format of a photobook could convey most efficiently the meaning of socialist urbanization for the contemporary city and its residents.



Finally, what book would you recommend to a young student who has just started becoming interested in Yugoslav history or history of socialism, and why?

I would advise students of Yugoslav history to turn to other regions from time to time. It helps to refresh our own look at the country.

However, the book that has inspired me the most in my ongoing research is Michel Roux, *Les Albanais en Yougoslavie: Minorité nationale, territoire et développement*. I am aware that the language poses considerable barriers, but the book deserves to be read more widely. The book was published in 1992 and presents an incredibly rich study of the social and spatial tensions characterizing what Roux calls the Albanian settlement area in Yugoslavia. Roux was a social geographer, who convincingly shows that space shapes social relations, which is an important point of departure for research on socialist Yugoslavia in general (think about regional inequality, the relation between urban and rural environments, urban hierarchies, trans-local connections). He also drew heavily on the existing body of

research in geography, sociology and political sciences produced during socialist Yugoslavia, showing the enormous richness of the knowledge produced in the social sciences during the existence of socialist Yugoslavia. Reading for anyone working in the field.

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