

# NEWSLETTER

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



## Microsocialism: Yugoslav Comparisons



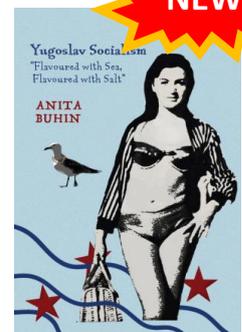
### MIKROSOCIJALIZAM Jugoslavenske usporedbe

Pula, 27-28. listopada 2022.

Znanstveni skup projekta  
Mikrostrukture jugoslavenskoga socijalizma:  
Hrvatska 1970-1990. (Mikrosocijalizam)



The project *Microstructures of Yugoslav Socialism: Croatia 1970-1990 (Microsocialism)* is preparing a small conference with all project researchers and several invited participants, to be held in Pula, October 27-28. It will be a good opportunity for presenting the almost final project results and comparing them with similar microhistories of Yugoslavia. The list of participants includes: Rory Archer (Graz), Chiara Bonfiglioli (Cork), Tomislav Brandolica (Zagreb), Ulf Brunnbauer (Regensburg), Anita Buhin (Lisbon), Ivana Dobrovojević Tomić (Belgrade), Igor Duda (Pula), Tina Filipović (Pula), Ana Kladnik (Ljubljana), Josip Mihaljević (Zagreb), Goran Musić (Beč), Magdalena Najbar-Agičić (Koprivnica), Tanja Petrović (Ljubljana), Jelka Piškurić (Ljubljana), Jure Ramšak (Koper), Saša Vejzagić (Zagreb), Sara Žerić (Regensburg).



Biblioteka CeKaPISarnica

[COLLECTION HOMEPAGE](#)

Also in this issue at pp. 6-8: interview with Stefano Petrunaro

CKPIS was founded in July 2012 as a new unit of the University of Pula. We will celebrate the Centre's 10<sup>th</sup> 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: SAŠA VEJZAGIĆ

Interview by Tina Filipović

**Since 2016, to this day, you are an associate of CKPIS. How have these contacts and cooperation shaped your academic journey?**

At least for a decade now CKPIS was, and continues to be, critically important for my academic upbringing, either via personal contact with colleagues at the Centre, or at the conference *Socialism on the Bench* and inspiring doctoral workshops. Also, since I finished my BA and MA studies at the History Department in Pula, both of them under the guidance and supervision of Igor Duda, I consider Pula and CKPIS as my academic home. In this sense, me working as an associate on the project *Microsocialism* was a form of logical continuation of the already established professional relationship. CKPIS was among the most important sources of academic connections that I have achieved over the years.

**Last year you defended your doctoral**

**dissertation *The Rise of a Business Class - Managerial Elites in Yugoslavia, 1963-1978*. What were your focal points in this research?**

In the thesis I primarily focused on the methodology that would allow me reconstruct edges of “the Yugoslav business world”, especially of one side of its ruling elite – the managers of large industrial systems. When I finally managed to sharpen my lenses, sometime in the third year of my research, it was time to extract a viable sample of this elite and subject it to a prosopographic analysis, which in turn showed me their professional career trajectories. I focused on the position and the role of relevant managers in the production realm of Yugoslav economy in the period after 1965 when the new “market” environment shaped and was partially overturned by the counter-reform and associated labour.

**This brings us to your current research in the project *Microstructures of Yugoslav Socialism on the position of organizations of associated labour between the economy and politics*. Which are your case studies and what do they tell you about the importance of the company in local politics and vice versa?**

While in the thesis I was looking at the broader picture, trying to understand how these large industrial systems came to existence, the project *Microsocialism* was a great opportunity to zoom in a bit and take a closer look inside two cases. For the first I chose GK Međimurje, a company from my hometown Čakovec. Not only on the account of my intimate desire to investigate this local community during the period of Yugoslav socialist project, but also for the fact that the local branch of the state archives in Štrigova



Saša Vežzagić ([read more](#))

is among the rare institutions in the country that have preserved all documents of a single large industrial system. The second is Industrogradnja Zagreb, which proved to be a more challenging choice of a case study, due to the poorer availability of the company

archives. Both companies showed immense reliance on local political structures, but at the same time also far more autonomous initiative than one would imagine without going deep into the topic. Relations between these structures in local environment were almost constant and, I would argue, they demonstrated a certain degree of interdependence, which is nothing unusual.

**In the meantime, you've participated in the RLS SEE project *Cartography of Resistance*, also as an author in the recently published book *Cartography of Resistance: Zagreb 1941-45*, can you give us a brief overview of the content?**

*Cartography of Resistance* is an amazing project. Apart from the academic element, it has a lot of ways to bring this important stage of history as close as possible to the widest audience. It does that through the amazing interactive website, city tours for various groups and hopefully a form of (re-)institutionalization. The project started in 2015 as a reaction to overwhelming revisionism in both Croatian historiography and established national narrative adopted in public space and educational system. In the volume, hence, nine authors reevaluated and sometimes for the first time approached a range of topics: from institutional and social history of the peoples' resistance in three stages of war; the general role of women in the resistance as well as the role of Women's Antifascist Front of Yugoslavia; we explored the Peoples' Aid network; illegal propaganda and the resistance's printing service; the practices of peoples' justice in the aftermath of WWII, and the role of the Party and workers movement in the decade prior the establishment of Ustaša regime.



## CONFERENCES AND CFP

### **The transnational history and memory of World War II crimes in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia and the Northern Adriatic, Regensburg, TBA 2023**

With this call for papers, we invite submissions dealing with the transnational history and memory of marginalized and forgotten sites in Southeastern Europe where genocide and systematic murder took place during the Second World War. For project-related reasons, the geographical focus is on the territory of what was once called the "Independent State of Croatia", Dalmatia, the territories of Slovenia annexed by Germany, Italy, and Hungary as well as the Italian, Slovenian, and Croatian territories on the Northern Adriatic, which were under fascist Italian control from 1941 and formed the Operational Zone of the Adriatic Littoral when Nazi Germany took control from September 10, 1943, onwards. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 October 2022



## PUBLICATIONS

### **Vjeran Pavlaković, Davor Pauković, Nikolina Židek (ur.), Uokvirivanje nacije i kolektivni identiteti. Politički rituali i kultura sjećanja na traume 20. stoljeća u Hrvatskoj (Srednja Europa: Zagreb 2022)**

U knjizi je provedena strategija uokvirivanja nacije i kolektivnih identiteta odozgo prema dolje i odozdo prema gore kroz komemorativne prakse događaja iz Drugog svjetskog rata i Domovinskog rata u Hrvatskoj. S posebnim fokusom na medijsko prikazivanje komemorativnih događaja i istraživanja javnog mišljenja, knjiga se oslanja na intervjue i opažanja sudionika komemorativnih proslava, posebno na govore pripadnika političkih elita, oporbenih političara i drugih društvenih aktera koji podržavaju ili osporavaju službene narative, poput dužnosnika Katoličke crkve, pripadnika antifašističkih organizacija i braniteljskih udruga i udruga ratnih žrtava. ([Read More](#))

### **Šenol Selimović, Esuli od Mussolinija i Tita do Tuđmana i Berlusconijsa (Srednja Europa: Zagreb 2022)**

Cilj istraživanja je da se na primjeru esulskoga pitanja objasni politika povijesti Talijanske Republike koja na unutarnjem planu utječe na nacionalni politički život, a na vanjskopolitičkom determinira njezin odnos prema Republici Hrvatskoj. U radu se polazi od hipoteze da Talijanska Republika, glede poslijeratne sudbine istočnog Jadrana, u zadnjih četvrt stoljeća, u institucionalnoj i javnoj sferi konstituira politiku povijesti koja u bitnom konvergira s onim iz neposrednog poraća kada je politiku povijesti službene Italije obilježio politički mit o esulima kao simbolu "povijesne nepravde" koju su joj nanijeli saveznici odredivši nakon rata novu geopolitičku kartu Europe. ([Read More](#))

**Bojan Bilić, Iwo Nord, Aleksa Milanović (eds.), *Transgender in the Post-Yugoslav Space: Lives, Activisms, Culture* (Policy Press: Bristol 2022)**

Written by an interdisciplinary collective of authors, this powerful book documents the largely unknown histories and politics of trans lives, activisms, and culture across the post-Yugoslav states. The volume sheds light on a diversity of gender embodiments and explores how they have navigated the murky waters of war, capitalism, and transphobia while forging a niche for themselves within the regional and transnational LGBTQ movements. By unleashing the knowledge concentrated in trans lives, this book not only resists trans erasures in Eastern Europe, but also underscores the potential for survival, self-transformation, and engagement in politically challenging circumstances. ([Read More](#))



## POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

**3 PhD & 2 PreDoc Scholarships “Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies”, University of Regensburg**

The Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies (GS OSESUR) is an interdisciplinary and cross-faculty collaborative research network of the Universität Regensburg. With its primary regional focus on East and Southeast Europe, the Graduate School collaborates across the following disciplines: History, Literary, Language and Cultural Studies, Social Anthropology, and Law. Research at the GS OSESUR focuses particularly on interrelations and interdependencies between East and Southeast Europe and other parts of the world. For this reason, the School’s expertise in Area Studies is complemented by insights from European History and North American Studies. The GS OSESUR therefore especially welcomes projects with a transnational / transregional or comparative approach. ([read more](#))

**Application deadline: 20 November 2022**

**Marc de Montalembert Prize, École du Louvre**

The Marc de Montalembert Foundation and the École du Louvre have formed a partnership to sponsor the Marc de Montalembert Prize, worth 9,000 euros. The prize will be awarded to support a research project whose anticipated results will constitute an original contribution to the knowledge of the arts of the Mediterranean world from Antiquity to our day. The Foundation will also offer the prize holder the possibility of a residency at its headquarters in Rhodes, Greece. The research period will begin with a month in Paris, based at the Research Centre of the École du Louvre. Living expenses will be covered by the Foundation Marc de Montalembert with a flat-rate allowance. The prize holder will receive scientific advice from a member of the École’s academic staff, with whom she/he will be in regular contact for the duration of the project. ([read more](#))

**Application deadline: 30 November 2022**



## INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Sara Žerić

**Stefano Petrunaro is an Associate Professor at Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies at Ca' Foscari University of Venice ([read more](#))**



Stefano Petrunaro

**In several projects, you were involved in researching the history of industry in the Adriatic. Among other things, in the book *Porti di frontiera. Industria e commercio a Trieste, Fiume e Pola tra le guerre mondiali* together with the co-authors, Laura Cerasi and Rolf Petri, you researched the industry of Trieste, Rijeka and Pula in the interwar period. The logic behind the selection of those three cities is quite clear, their similarities are still visible today. Which results did you find?**

Those three ports were chosen in order to investigate the economic policies developed by the Italian state towards those newly acquired port-cities. What we already knew was that the Venetian industrial and later

commercial port of Marghera represented a model to be partly replicated, and we wanted to examine the concrete measures taken and their effects. The economic history of these ports during the interwar years is not a research issue often investigated, since it seems to be self-evident: detached by their natural hinterland, it seems that these ports were simply destined to fall. Well, our study showed how it is necessary to include these ports in the new economic Adriatic system which took shape in those years, not to mention the international geopolitical order and its changes during the Thirties. As a result, not all the economic developments of the examined ports can be solely attributed to the change of the international borders, since some economic dynamics had other causes, of national or international character. Furthermore, the economic measures taken in those years were not completely ineffective, but with very different results in the three cities, and even with respect to the various local industries. Whereas Rijeka, for instance, experienced a debacle, some firms in Pula – but not the shipyard – could stabilize their activity, whereas some minor Istrian ports linked to the mineral resources experienced a development, a.s.o. A carefully investigation is therefore needed. As a good starting point, a necessary premise is to avoid naïve and teleological considerations regarding alleged natural predestinations of the places, because of their orographic features and geographic position: what is also, and even more important, is that local, national and global politics deeply influence(d) the history of these ports and their industries – and this is clearly true also for the period after 1945.

**In researching the industry of the city of Pula, you went one step further, focusing on the Uljanik shipyard, researching the work discipline of Uljanik workers. How did this discipline change through early and late socialism and post-socialism?**

In the 1950s-70s labour discipline in Uljanik was diversified and multi-layered, often not invasive and severe, but neither absent. The main point is that it was deeply linked to a social respectability enjoyed by the workers, as well as with a solid ethics of work shared by the workers, the foremen, and the managers. It is during the 1980s that the relationships between workers and managers began to change, including the entire social meaning of work, and the moral economy of the workers, leading to a kind of perceived anarchy in the very late 1980s and especially first 1990s, which were clearly also war years. In the post-socialist decades, the personal and professional relationships between managers and workers drastically worsened, deeply affecting workers' attitudes toward their work. Whereas in the past was discipline more internalized, linked to a workers' self-esteem and a social respectability, all this vanished with the post-socialist transformation. Now, without the old workers' self-perceptions and their attitudes to work, without the mutual respect between workers and managers, and without the ethics of work which characterized the past, what remains is almost only discipline. The older formal and informal rules, with all their strengths and weaknesses, whispered away, with the effect that efficiency in the production can be affirmed solely through a rigid and repressive work discipline.

**As part of this research, one of the methods you used was oral history. By making those**

**interviews, have you noticed differences in the discipline, behaviour, and perhaps also the salary of the male and female workers of Uljanik? What was it like to be a woman in a "male" industry?**

Yes, the issue of labor discipline is very much diversified, depending on age, education, and gender factors, which must be connected with the specific individual occupation in the factory structure. Shipyards are an industry with a preponderant male presence, nonetheless, there is the possibility to write a women history of shipyards, too. My/our research confirmed the results of the most recent research about women and work in socialist societies, which highlighted the double, if not triple burden of female industrial workers, and the gendered forms of discrimination and inequality – in terms of salary, too. What I found interesting in the interviews with female employees was the weak, sometime even the absence of criticism with respect to issues and phenomena, which are now harshly condemned, if looked through the gender consciousness of nowadays. This is not to say that the interviewed women did not recall all the difficulties they encountered in order to harmonize labour obligations like the overtimes, with family responsibilities. Yet, again, this was firmly linked with a strong element of pride, a further, gendered, and female form of pride, ie. that of having been able to be at the same time a good worker, and a good mother.

**On which topics are you working on now and can we expect in the future the results of some new research about socialism and/or post-socialism?**

I devoted the last twelve years to the investigation of several groups of socially

marginalized people like prostitutes, beggars, vagrants, unemployed people. I was particularly interested in understanding what kind of policies and practices were developed by public authorities and the civil society towards them, as well as to investigate the agency of those marginal actors and their (re)actions to those measures. But the chosen case study was the first, not the second Yugoslavia, even though the conclusions of the research can tell us something also about the socialist experience. Anyway, I've just began a new research about the political and social roles of mass exhumations in contemporary societies. The focus is on Eastern European countries, observed through a transnational and global perspective. The phenomenon I am talking about began already during the late socialist years, becoming very important in the post-socialist societies. The times, the forms, and the social meaning of the exhumations from mass graves can be very different from one country to the other. I am looking forward to learn more about the single local dynamics, and later to compare and to connect them.

**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?**

Since this is the bulletin of the CKPIS, it would probably too banal to mention the volume edited by Rory Archer, Igor Duda and Paul Stubbs about social inequalities and

discontent in Yugoslav Socialism, even though I must say that I find the interpretative gesture proposed in that book extremely important for a renovation of the scholarship about Yugoslav socialist time and not only. It is maybe not a coincidence that I am about to publish a book with a partly similar approach, even though focused – as I mentioned before – on social marginalities and on the pre-socialist years. Said that, I would suggest having a look at the volume edited by Marsha Siefert in 2020, *Labor in State-Socialist Europe, 1945–1989. Contributions to a History of Work* (CEU Press). This is a great book because it brings “work” back to its crucial role in the history of socialist countries, adopting the approaches of the new labor history, enriched by the cultural and the gender history. Some contributions make also use of a comparative and even transnational perspective. They are, together with several other studies appeared in the last years, a good evidence of how vivid and inspiring can be the research about (Yugoslav) socialism.

## NEWSLETTER

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