

NEWSLETTER

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

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Microsocialism: Yugoslav Comparisons



The conference *Microsocialism: Yugoslav Comparisons* (*Mikrosocijalizam: jugoslavenske usporedbe*), organized by the project *Microstructures of Yugoslav Socialism: Croatia 1970-1990* (*Microsocialism*), was held in Pula on October 27-28. It was an opportunity for the members of the project team to present their almost final research results, while several invited participants based their contributions on their own research in the field of social and microhistory of socialist Yugoslavia. The conference succeeded to fulfil its goal, i.e. comparing the research within and outside the project, placing late socialist Croatia into a wider Yugoslav context, as well as providing feedback by the project consultant and colleague experts on the work done within the project. The list of participants included Rory Archer (Graz), Chiara Bonfiglioli (Cork), Tomislav Brandolica (Zagreb), Ulf Brunnbauer (Regensburg), Anita Buhin (Lisbon), Ivana Dobrivojević Tomić (Belgrade), Igor Duda (Pula), Tina Filipović (Pula), Ana Kladnik (Ljubljana), Josip Mihaljević (Zagreb), Goran Musić (Vienna), Magdalena Najbar-Agičić (Koprivnica), Tanja Petrović (Ljubljana), Jelka Piškurić (Ljubljana), Jure Ramšak (Koper), Saša Vejzagić (Zagreb), Sara Žerić

(Regensburg). Unfortunately, one participant had to cancel, while two joined online. Students of the BA and MA programme in history at the University of Pula were also invited to follow the panels. Igor Duda, as the PI, and the project team thank to all the invited participants, and to the Student Centre and the Student Dorm in whose premises the conference was held. Final publications are expected in April 2023 when the project, after four and a half years, comes to its end.



MIKROSOCIJALIZAM Jugoslavenske usporedbe

Pula, 27-28. listopada 2022.

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



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Also in this issue at pp. 8-10: interview with Ivana Dobrivojević Tomić

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: SARA ŽERIĆ

Interview by Tina Filipović

As a student you've participated in numerous activities of CKPIS, from volunteering at conferences to participating in bilateral and multilateral projects of the Centre. What did you work on and how did those engagements reflect on your work today?

I was familiar with CKPIS activities since my early student days, and I must admit that the work of Igor Duda and the entire CKPIS played the biggest role in my academic path. It meant a lot to me having the opportunity to follow various visiting lectures and other programs of the Centre. I joined CKPIS for the first time as a volunteer at the conference *Socialism on the Bench* in 2017, and then, as a student, done the research on the project *Remembering and Forgetting Industrial Labor in the Adriatic: The Case of Istria*. That allowed me to face a research process for the first time - from digging through newspapers and archives to doing interviews and writing

a paper. I analysed the industrial past of Fažana during socialism and focused mainly on Badel factory. After finishing my MA in 2020, I joined CKPIS as a volunteer assistant and got involved in the organization of doctoral workshops, conferences, and many other programs of the Centre. That kind of cooperation helped me to upgrade my organizational skills, establish contacts and networks with many colleagues, and motivated me for my research even more.

Recently, you assisted Chiara Bonfiglioli in carrying out the archival research for the ongoing project *Microsocialism*. Have these newly discovered documents captured your further attention, inspired your research affinities, and maybe encouraged your contribution to some research outputs of the project?

I started to work as a research assistant for Chiara's research on the project at the end of 2020, that took me to the archives in Karlovac

and Varaždin. I've looked through the materials related to local women's activities (KDAŽ) and immediately found myself in that topic. The conversations we often have are more than motivating to me, and together we always brainstorm and come to certain conclusions. Finally, that's how we managed to publish an article together (*Working Class Women's Activism in Socialist Yugoslavia: An Exploration of Archives from Varaždin, Croatia*). I think we work well as a team. Currently, we are working on another article related to the abortion and contraception rights in Yugoslavia, based on the examples from Karlovac and Varaždin. Since I am now part of the academy myself, it means a lot to me having the support like Chiara's.

You are currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Regensburg and a research associate at the IOS Regensburg, working on your doctoral thesis *Gastarbeiters as agents of modernization in Socialist Yugoslavia (1968-1989)*. Which are the research questions that arise at this stage of your work? Have you already recognized some exemplary case studies of modernization triggered by *gastarbeiters* in Yugoslavia?

Regensburg is not a random place for me to be, since I stayed at IOS twice as a guest scholar, in 2018, and 2019, as a part of the already mentioned project Remembering and Forgetting Industrial Labor in the Adriatic. Back then, I learned about the work of the Institute and felt that it would be a place to which I would like to return, so I started my doctoral studies there in October 2021. In my dissertation project, I research how *gastarbeiters* used their savings to improve the local community they came from. We all know stories about Mercedes, houses with

three or more floors, or various goods that *gastarbeiters* brought from Germany that were not available yet in Yugoslavia.



Sara Žerić ([read more](#))

However, I am interested in the background of these stories. That's why I focused on the so-called remittances factories (*devizne tvornice*) – factories that were opened thanks to the investments of *gastarbeiters* savings. I've recognized several case-studies that can cover the major part of Yugoslavia. Some examples of successful modernization would be the Hypos Muta factory in the Slovenian town of Radlje ob Dravi or the Tigar Tyres factory from Pirot in Serbia. Due to the bad way of investment, I would single out the Pionirka factory in Imotski (and its surroundings) as an unsuccessful example of modernization. Its plant in the village of Aržano was the first remittances factory in Croatia and Yugoslavia, and it stood out in the media as a “miracle”. However, after not even ten years, it closed. Certainly, my research is still in the very beginning and there are many questions to be answered in the upcoming years.



CONFERENCES AND CFP

Geographical Imaginaries in Central and Eastern Europe: Space in politics, history, culture and religion after 1989, Lund, 26-27 May 2023

Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) has come a long way in terms of redefining its spatial dimensions. Since the ground-breaking geopolitical changes of 1989-1991, some states have disappeared, others have appeared and still others have made a reappearance. These processes laid the foundations for deeper reconfiguration of politics, society, and economy, partly through successful and unsuccessful Euro-Atlantic integration. The aim of this workshop is to track discourses about different perceptions of space in Central and Eastern Europe: how they have contributed to forging and pursuing political agendas and how they influence public imaginations of territory. It seeks to put them in the context of changing perceptions of nations and other large groupings of people as imagined communities. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 20 November 2022

Doctoral Retreat 'Europeanization Processes in Southeastern Europe', Retzhof, 5-6 December 2022

The Centre for Southeast European Studies of the University of Graz coordinates the Doctoral Program "Europeanization Processes in Southeastern Europe". It offers regular doctoral colloquia and events for students and researchers at the University of Graz working on Southeastern Europe. The Doctoral Program is organizing its 6th annual doctoral research retreat on 05. and 06. December 2022 at the Retzhof in southern Styria. We are interested in critical approaches on how to study the ideas, influence and ways in which Europe and notions of Europe are shaping Southeastern Europe. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 11 November 2022



PUBLICATIONS

Hajrudin Hromadžić, *Leksikon tranzicije* (Disput : Zagreb 2022)

Leksikon tranzicije uspostavlja dijagnostičke orijentire procesâ koji traju posljednjih tridesetak godina i lucidno odgovara na pitanja gdje smo, što smo, odakle smo krenuli i kamo idemo. Uspostavljen obilnim abecedarom od gotovo 150 natuknica, organiziran je u tri tematsko-problemske cjeline – političkoj, ekonomskoj i kulturnoj. Uz autorov izvrstan uvodni tekst, kojim se čitateljima predstavlja problem, leksikonska obrada fenomena aktualnih za tranzicijske procese nudi analitičko-dijagnostičku liniju središnjih i naoko perifernih aspekata društvenog života u hrvatskom, postjugoslavenskom i komparativno-globalnom okviru. Dinamika tranzicije obuhvaćena je stoga svim kategorijama koje su bile u optjecaju, svim pojavama koje ju obilježavaju i zavidnom količinom znanja koje je o njoj proizvedeno. ([Read More](#))

Adis Sultanović, *Bosanskohercegovački imami u vrijeme socijalizma. Društveni položaj i djelovanje imama u Bosni i Hercegovini od 1945. do 1971. godine* (El-Kalem – Udruženje ilmije, 2022)

U knjizi *Bosanskohercegovački imami u vrijeme komunizma* tretira se društveno-političko stanje socijalističke Bosne i Hercegovine i Islamske zajednice, kao i društveni položaj i djelovanje imama u socijalističkoj Bosni i Hercegovini u periodu od dvadeset i šest godina, odnosno od 1945. godine, kada je završen Drugi svjetski rat. Istraživanje se završava sa 1971. godinom, kada je finalizirana priča o nacionalnom priznanju Bošnjaka pod imenom Muslimani, što je verificirano popisom stanovništva iste godine. Studija prostorno posmatra teritoriju NR/SR BiH, jednu od republika Federativne Narodne Republike Jugoslavije/Socijalističke Federativne Republike Jugoslavije (FNRJ/SFRJ). [\(Read More\)](#)



Biblioteka CeKaPISarnica
[COLLECTION HOMEPAGE](#)

FESTIVAL
ZGODOVINA NA SPICI / HISTORY ON THE EDGE

16. 6. 2022 | INZ, Privoz 11, Ljubljana, SEJNA SOBA (v živo) | CONFERENCE ROOM (live) • via ZOOM

10:00 – 12:00 LECTURE
IGOR DUDA (Pula)
"We are all good people." Local Communities in Yugoslavia between Action and Bureaucracy i "Mi smo vsi dobri ljudi." Mjesne zajednice u Jugoslaviji između akcije i birokracije
Moderator: Ana Kladrnik (Ljubljana)

14:00 – 16:00 PANEL
Socijalistično samoupravljanje u obćini i Municipal Socialist Self-Management
Tina Filipović (Pula)
"Prisutni u svim zbivanjima"; SUBNOR u političkom i društvenom životu općine u kasnom socijalizmu
Anita Buhin (Pula)
"Kulturološki fenomeni jednog giganta": samopravni preobražaj kulture u brodogradilištu Uljanik
Jelka Piškurić (Ljubljana)
"Tu smo - vaši smo": razvoj lokalnih skupnosti s pomoćju mehanizma samoprispjevka
Moderator: Blaž Stangelj (Ljubljana)
Komentator: Juraj Madalin (Ljubljana)

Registracija ni potrebna | Registration is not required.
Povezava do Zooma (dostupna na dan događaja) | Link to Zoom-Livestream (available on the event day)
<https://www.facebook.com/HistoryOnTheEdge/>
Predavanja su na engleskom na YouTube kanalu | Lectures are available on the YouTube channel:
[Zgodovina na Spici / History on the Edge - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Kontakt | Contact
Ana Kladrnik
ana.kladrnik@inz.si

FILIPOVIĆ **BUHIN** **DUDA**

AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE BY SISTORY.SI



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

EUI History and Civilisation PhD Program, Florence

The call for applications for the fully-funded PhD program at the European University Institute (EUI) will open on 1 November 2022. The Department of History and Civilisation offers a distinctive four-year Ph.D. programme of transnational and comparative European history supported by a uniquely international and multicultural faculty. Ph.D. researchers are encouraged to think beyond boundaries, offering them exceptional opportunities to study global connections within early modern and modern European history. The department encourages a culture of conversation among researchers and faculty. Professors and researchers work together to develop ideas and each year we invite experts from around the world in numerous fields to visit our department to discuss their research. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 31 January 2023

Visegrad Scholarship (Open Society Archives), Budapest

The current call is part of a reflexive-research program at OSA interested in connecting past issues related to oppressive regimes, censorship, violence and information manipulation to current phenomena. We would like to assess the potential of a genealogical project linking the contemporary epistemic and political crisis of democracy to past modes of inquiry and activism. OSA invites historians, researchers, political scientists, sociologists, and socially engaged artists to reflect on the Lessons from the Cold War by taking cues from the Blinken OSA collections. The applicants are encouraged to reflect on the connections as well as on the differences between current times and the past by following some recommended sub-topics. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 November 2022

Doctoral Researcher Position on the project "Transforming Anxieties of Ageing in Southeastern Europe. Political, Social, and Cultural Narratives of Demographic Change", IOS Regensburg

The position is part of the international research project "Transforming Anxieties of Ageing in Southeastern Europe. Political, Social, and Cultural Narratives of Demographic Change", which will be funded by the Volkswagen Foundation in the framework of their program "Challenges for Europe: The Greying Continent". The doctoral researcher will specifically do research on the project carried out by IOS on "Socialist legacies and ambivalent transitions". The successful candidate will pursue a PhD project on discourses and policies of ageing in Southeastern Europe, looking in the socialist as well as early post-socialist periods. The PhD project should ideally be comparative, exploring at least two different countries. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 20 November 2022



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Nemanja Stanimirović

Ivana Dobrivojević Tomić is a senior research fellow at the Institute for Contemporary History in Belgrade. ([read more](#))



Ivana Dobrivojević Tomić

In most of your previous work you have explored the modernization processes in post-war Yugoslavia, and especially dived into the relationship between the city and the countryside. What would you say has defined that relationship to a greater extent - ideological or economic factors?

At the end of the World War II Yugoslavia was one of the least industrialized countries in Europe. A very high average birth rate, substantial agrarian overpopulation, subsistence agriculture and limited employment opportunities, both in towns and villages, had created a vicious circle of poverty. In such circumstances, the industrialization, urbanization and modernization of the whole society represented an economic inevitability. The

rapid post-war industrial development caused major socio-economic changes in Yugoslav society. The rural population tightly knitted to the land and agriculture, voluntarily and also through coercion by Party officials, permanently or temporarily abandoned its traditional occupation, employing in factories. According to the census conducted in 1961, the total migration, not only towards the cities, included about seven million people, or as many as 38% of Yugoslavia's population. The split with the USSR and changes in economic policy led to reduction of the investments in heavy industry. In the years and decades that followed, the quality of life in Yugoslavia significantly improved. Large-scale investment in urban infrastructure, the construction of new apartment blocks, and the development of the tertiary sector, especially in larger cities, were the most obvious signs of change. The attitude towards the industrial work was changing, and the employment at factories, which, several years after liberation was considered degrading was, especially from early 1960s, becoming more and more popular. It turned out that the rural - urban migration that started involuntarily, couldn't be stopped or controlled. Thus, in the first post-war years the relationship between the city and the countryside was mainly influenced by ideological factors. From mid-1950s economic ones prevailed. Employment in industry was the only way to escape poverty, since the agricultural policies, and particularly the introduction of compulsory quotas and collectivisation, had led to impoverishment of the countryside.

Elsewhere, you have also touched upon on the question of family planning in Yugoslavia, especially on the issue of abortion. With the more recent events stemming from the USA (i.e. overturning of the Roe vs. Wade case), the topic of abortion has again been hotly debated within most post-Yugoslav states. How can the history of Yugoslavia on this issue inform us about current debates, and how would you compare the state of women's rights during SFRY and today?

The deliberate termination of unintended pregnancy was a major social and medical problem that affected demographic trends throughout Yugoslavia (1918–1991). Abortions, first illegal and then legal, were a simple form of family planning which, despite the social modernization, was gaining in popularity even as late as the 1970s and 1980s. Changes in the national family planning policies managed to decriminalize abortion and, through legalization, allowed almost all abortions to be done in gynecological clinics, under optimal medical conditions. However, bigger improvements were impossible to make. The emancipatory and modernizing role of the state in the field of family planning, just like in many other fields, only went halfway. Although the Federal Assembly Resolution on Family Planning (1969) established the societal obligations to develop the conditions for the acquisition of knowledge and to provide the necessary resources for family planning, the achieved results were modest. The use of modern contraceptives remained poor and was strongly influenced by shortages in Yugoslav pharmacies. The attempts to introduce sexual education in schools provoked discomfort and resistance, and the introduction into biology curricula of topics

such as puberty, sexually transmitted diseases and protection against unintended pregnancy did not produce the desired results. In modernized Yugoslav society, sex and sexuality were to remain a taboo, and those young people who had already started an intimate relationship were unable to obtain adequate knowledge either at school or at home. The number of adolescent pregnancies was increasing year in year out, and abortion remained one of the favoured methods of family planning. However, despite a huge number of abortions, accurate statistics were missing. According to the incomplete data, the number of abortions reached the approximate number of 350,000 in 1980, which averages out to over 900 abortions per 1,000 live births. Since the socio-economic situation is significantly different, it is very hard to compare current debates on abortion with the debates in a socialist society. Although Yugoslav society reached a partial general agreement towards family planning by the end of the 1960s, many physicians still believed that an abortion should be performed for medical reasons only. Skepticism was expressed towards contraception and there were requests heard that contraceptives should only be spared for the married women or women over 40. Representatives of the Roman Catholic Church demanded a complete ban on abortion, even when medical reasons were present. The aforementioned objections and resistance did not delay or change the legislature's intention to liberalize abortion without any restrictions. Already in 1969, a General Law on Termination of Pregnancy was adopted, which contained all kinds of indications for the termination of pregnancy, including an individual one. Five years later, the right of a

person to freely decide on the number of offspring was incorporated into the Yugoslav constitution (1974) and later into the republic and provincial constitutions. When it comes to women rights, I would say that position of the women is significantly improved, both in the public and in the private sphere. Of course, this has nothing to do with the collapse of socialism as a system, but with modernization changes and changes of attitudes across region (and other European countries as well). Today's generation of women is more educated, and thus more likely to participate in the workforce than the generations raised during the 1950s and early 1960s. In the intimate sphere, marriage ceased to be 'a must' and most women can freely decide whether they want to get married, stay single or raise children on their own. The patriarchal norms that existed during socialism are almost non-existent nowadays.

What are you currently working on?

I have just finished the book *Između nebrige i neznanja. Žene, seksualnost i planiranje porodice u Jugoslaviji 1918 - 1991*. It is about to be published by Arhipelag & Institute for Contemporary History. I expect it to be available in bookstores in November or early December at the latest.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the CKPIS. How do you see the role of CKPIS in the academic community which deals with socialism, and has the

Centre influenced your own research somehow?

In my opinion, CKPIS has a very important role in disseminating results of various research done by the colleagues interested in history and practices of socialism. Through conferences, newsletters and other less formal activities, CKPIS managed to strengthen the collaboration in and outside the region. Through CKPIS, I had to opportunity to meet some of the colleagues in person and learn more about their work.

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

It is very hard for me to single out just one book that deals with Yugoslav socialism. Each year, at least several very good books are published dealing with the various aspects of Yugoslav history. Thus, as a start, I would probably recommend classic, but yet very useful book written by Dušan Bilandžić (*Historija SFRJ. Glavni procesi 1918 - 1985*) or Branko Petranović (*Istorija Jugoslavije 1918 - 1988*).

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<https://www.unipu.hr/ckpis/en/newsletter>