

NEWSLETTER

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

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From local communities to local committees



After the premiere book launch at the University of Pula in late September, on January 25 the Community Centre Rojc organized and hosted the second Pula-based promotion of Igor Duda's book *Socijalizam na kućnom pragu*. This time the author was accompanied by Saša Vejzagić, historian and researcher at the recent project Microsocialism, and Karlo Držaić, PhD student in late modern and contemporary history at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. The conversation among the three participants was followed by Q&A in the interaction with the audience. High interest in former local communities (*mjesne zajednice*) was partly motivated by the elections for the local committees (*mjesni odbori*) in the City of Pula which are planned for February 18. The promotion was broadcasted by Radio Rojc.

Kolos Jadrana by Andrea Matošević (Srednja Europa, Zagreb, 2023) will be presented in Zagreb on February 1, 19.30, Knjižnica i čitaonica Bogdana Ogrizovića
Participants: Reana Senjković, Damir Agičić and the author ([Read more](#))

10th Doctoral Workshop in Pula, August 28-31, 2024 - CALL IN MARCH

Starting with this issue of NL we publish interviews with former participants.

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Oskar Opassi (pp. 4-5)



CONFERENCES AND CFP

IOS-Jahrestagung 2024: Getting Old in Eastern Europe. Social, Political and Economic Dimensions of Ageing in the Past and Present, Regensburg, 27-29 June 2024

The 2024 Annual Conference of the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies will investigate ageing today and the historical dimensions of this process from multiple perspectives. It seeks to highlight the economic, social, and political aspects while also inviting contributions that address future scenarios. The conference aims at cross-disciplinary dialogue. Proposals are invited from different social sciences, including history, economics, social anthropology, political science, public health, and sociology, that address the central questions of the conference. While the focus is on East and Southeast Europe, comparative and transregional perspectives are also encouraged.

[\(Read more\)](#)

Application deadline: 15 February 2024

3rd IN THE PALACE ISFF Conference: Short Film in the Balkans and Eastern Europe: Archive, Memory and Transnational Histories, Pernik, 4-5 July 2024

After World War II, films were used as a way of stimulating collaboration and solidarity between the socialist Eastern European and Balkan countries and the communist and socialist movements of (post)colonial states and societies. With the end of communism, a major part of this film heritage was deemed propaganda. Nevertheless, the films remain topical today, because discourses and events which marked the history of Eastern Europe and the Balkans echo the imperial and colonial politics prevalent in other parts of the world. The goal of this conference is to reconsider such films, in order to explore the memories and limits of decolonial politics in state-socialism and beyond.

[\(Read more\)](#)

Application deadline: 22 March 2024

The Chorus of the Crowd: Culture, Power, and Identities in Football Fandom, Lisbon, 5-6 September 2024

This conference arises from the desire to promote a dynamic, interdisciplinary, and revitalized discussion on football fandom and supporter culture. The objective is not merely to share case studies deepening the understanding of these social practices already outlined into the advocated four key areas of focus, but also to reflect on the intricate ways in which they interact with various aspects of the current world. Shifting the initial analytical focus to fans' commitment and involvement with their clubs can offer a fresh perspective on what can be perceived as the constitutive processes of contemporary communities. [\(Read more\)](#)

Application deadline: 28 March 2024



PUBLICATIONS

Jože Pirjevec, *Partizani* (Srednja Europa: Zagreb 2024)

Slovenski povjesničar i akademik Jože Pirjevec u ovoj je monumentalnoj knjizi prikazao partizanski pokret otpora protiv nacista i fašista te njihovih domaćih pomagača na području raskomadane jugoslavenske države u Drugom svjetskom ratu. Riječ je o djelu nastalom nakon višedesetljetnog iščitavanja bogate memoarske i druge literature o partizanima, ali i proučavanja bogate znanstvene produkcije i opsežne izvorne građe iz arhiva diljem Europe i Sjedinjenih Američkih Država. Autor se ne bavi samo unutarnjom vojno-političkom dinamikom oslobodilačkog pokreta, već svoju priču stavlja u širi kontekst posvećujući značajnu pozornost međunarodnom aspektu partizanskog pokreta, njegovu prihvaćanju u antifašističku koaliciju te balansiranju između Sovjetskog Saveza i zapadnih saveznika. ([Read more](#))

Danijel Kežić, Vladimir Petrović, Edvin Pezo, eds., *Continuities and Discontinuities in Coping with the Infrastructural Challenges of the 20th Century* (Institut za savremenu istoriju - IOS Regensburg; Beograd - Regensburg, 2023)

This book is the result of close cooperation between the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg and the Institute for Contemporary History in Belgrade. From the outset, the goal was to experiment with fairly novel historical approaches inspired by the spatial turn in order to shed light on Yugoslav history from a new angle, and to question that history's entrenched periodization. Without questioning the importance of war for understanding the Yugoslav experience, the aim was to point out that such cycles overshadow a number of *longue durée* phenomena which transcend the realm of politics, and belong also to the domain of social history. ([Read more](#))

Vedrana Adamović, Marina Ljubičić Bogunović, *U borbi rođene: Doprinos žena Kozare Narodnooslobodilačkoj borbi* (Muzej Kozare u Prijedoru - Nacionalni park Kozara - Arhiv Republike Srpske - Udruženje arhivskih radnika Republike Srpske, 2023)

Monografija Vedrane Adamović i Marine Ljubičić Bogunović predstavlja veoma važno istorijsko svjedočanstvo o promjeni uloge žena u periodu i nakon Drugog svjetskog rata. Autorke su uspjele da osvijetle ovaj istorijski period dajući nam brojne nove istorijske podatke i upoznavajući nas sa hrabrim ženama čija je uloga uglavnom, uz rijetke izuzetke, bila zanemarena u dosadašnjim istraživanjima. Neobjavljena arhivska građa dopunjavana je saznanjima iz bogate periodike, literature, elektronskih izvora i dokumentarnih filmova, privatnih porodičnih fondova kao i brojnim razgovorima sa relevantnim sagovornicima. ([Read more](#))



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Tina Filipović

Oskar Opassi is an assistant researcher at the Science and Research Center (ZRS) Koper.
([read more](#))



Oskar Opassi

We had the opportunity to meet at the 8th CKPIS Doctoral Workshop “Microhistories of Socialism and Postsocialism” in 2022, present at the joint panel at the 54th ASEES conference in Chicago later that year, and meet again in Pula at the 9th Workshop last year discussing, in brief, what Europe was. What are you working on in your doctoral research, which is nearing completion?

My doctoral research examines the development of the economy of the Slovenian Littoral between 1954 and 1991, focusing on the synergy of political, economic, demographic and social aspects in the development of the coastal towns and their hinterland. I look at the formation and

development of key industries and the agents of this development within the region during the selected period. I focus on companies in the maritime sector (Port of Koper, Splošna plovba), industry (Droga, Delamaris, Tomos) and the connections between transport and tourism (Slavnik). As my PhD research is overview oriented, I have so far focused on smaller case studies, presenting for example at the doctoral workshop in Pula: “Self-Management Is a Joke: Social Criticism in Jokes Published in Delamaris Company Newsletter” (2022) and “Visions of international cooperation of the Port of Koper in the socialist period” (2023).

As a young researcher at the Science and Research Center Koper, how successful are you at balancing dissertation writing with other responsibilities? What are your typical tasks, and how does your position help you with your frequent research stays, international conferences, networking, or knowledge and skill development?

The balance of commitments can be challenging at times, but being part of a dynamic research team allows me to learn skills in preparing and conducting research projects and attending conferences abroad. As far as networking is concerned, I would like to mention my colleagues Jure Ramšak and Borut Klabjan, who were particularly helpful in making contacts with foreign researchers. My tasks include, among others, helping to organize events, such as international conferences and organizing the stay of visiting foreign researchers. In addition, I was involved in various projects at the Research

Center. Currently I am a member of the *Rendering a Globalization Otherwise*, a project led by Jure Ramšak. The project focuses (to simplify) on the need to rethink the prevailing views on the homogeneity and unidirectionality of modernization processes and the role played by Yugoslavia. I am looking forward in being more active in the project after the completion of my PhD.



Doctoral students appear to benefit the most from doctoral workshops, where they receive many useful remarks and insights. So, how did you hear about our workshop program, what led you to apply again, and what value(s) do you see in this four-day meeting with colleagues in Pula?

I found out about the doctoral workshop by following CKPIS activities, as a regular reader of this newsletter. I applied for the first time because I was very drawn to the microhistory approach. And, I applied again because I got a lot of useful feedback from the participants the first time and I really enjoyed the overall experience, by meeting people working on similar topics and thus being able to exchange

experiences on research approaches. That is why I find the CKPIS doctoral workshop highly rewarding for any PhD student interested in the socialist period.

In addition to all you have mentioned, did you also manage to have some fun?

Of course! Pula's summer evenings in great company are always a wonderful experience.

What key takeaways from your PhD journey may you share with current and future colleagues?

I recommend to everyone to use a citation manager (for example Zotero) and to store their own notes digitally, which I realized a bit too late (I recommend the app Obsidian). I would also like to mention that it is important for doctoral students to take time to look after their own wellbeing, by maintaining a good work-life balance and having support from friends. Because, as many studies show, PhD students are much more likely to develop depression, anxiety, and other mental disorders than the general population. To unwind, I like to watch films and go for a run. After finishing my PhD, I am really looking forward to planning a trip to Iceland.

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