

NEWSLETTER

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

No. 90
Pula
April
2024
ISSN 2806-9625

Cooperation Pula – Belgrade & Pula – Skopje



In February and March this year, CKPIS has signed cooperation agreements with the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade (IFDT), and the Institute of National History, University of Skopje (INI).

Ways of cooperation are the same as in previously signed agreements with the Institute for East and

Southeast European Studies (IOS) in Regensburg, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research (IEF) and Croatian Institute of History (HIP) in Zagreb, Department of Cultural Studies of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Rijeka (FFRI), Department for Interdisciplinary Research of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU) in Ljubljana, and the Centre for the Study of Popular Culture (CSPK) in Prague. Many of these partnerships were established in 2013.

Without special agreements, CKPIS's project cooperation has been including partners such as the Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz (CSEES), and Chair for Southeast European History, Humboldt University of Berlin (IfG). In research projects, cooperation with the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ) was extremely important for CKPIS, while in organizing the conferences Socialism on the Bench the key partner has been the German foundation Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Southeast Europe (RLS).

Moreover, at the moment there are around 300 scholars and PhD students in the international CKPIS network. [You are welcome to join us!](#)



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Lea Horvat (pp. 7-9)



Anita Buhin's book in Pula

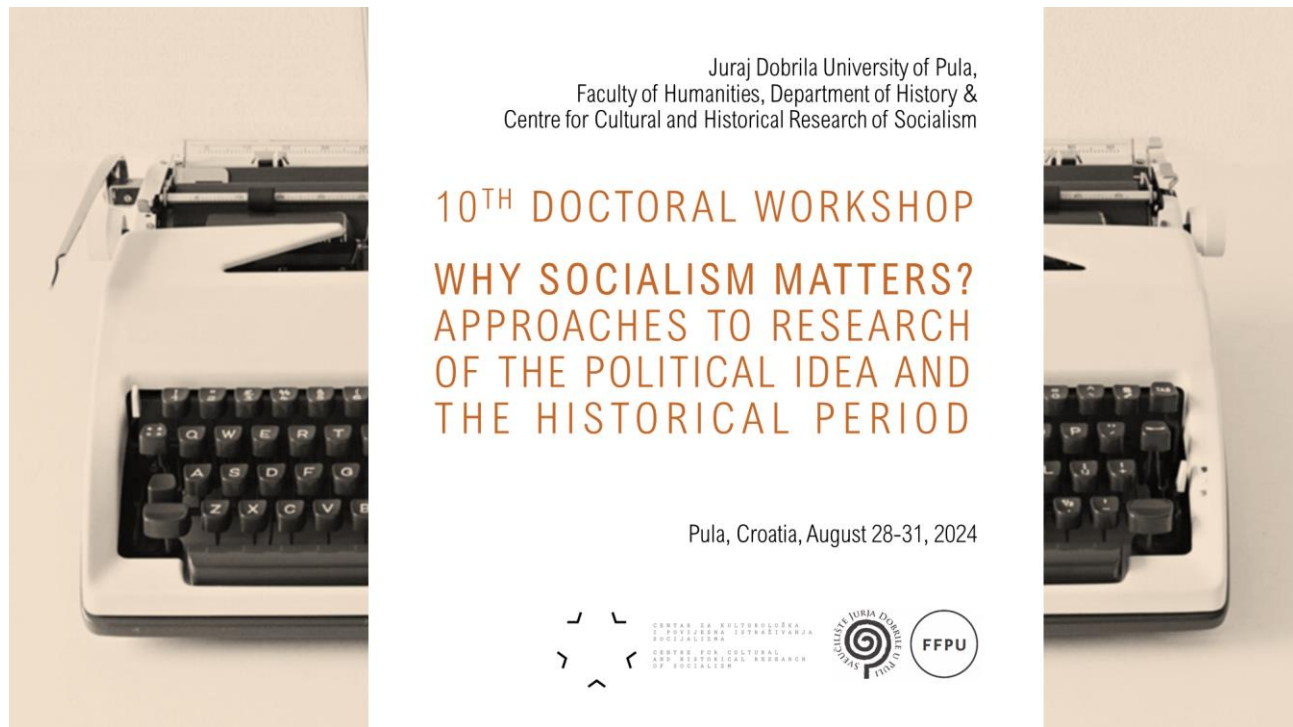
After Zagreb in late March, on April 4 Anita Buhin's book *Jugoslavenški socijalizam „sa okusom mora, sa okusom soli“*. *Mediterranizacija jugoslavenske popularne kulture pod talijanskim utjecajem 1950-ih i 1960-ih* (first published in 2022 in English as *Yugoslav Socialism „Flavoured with Sea, Flavoured with Salt“*) was presented in the Pula City Library, which co-organized the event together with CKPIS. Mišo Kapetanović (Austrian Academy of Sciences) and Igor Duda (University of Pula) had the pleasure to share their thoughts on the book and take part in conversation with the author.

Find more information about both the English and the Croatian versions of the book, as well as on all other CKPIS's publications, on the webpage of [CeKaPISarnica](https://www.ckpis.hr/).



10th Doctoral Workshop: **DEADLINE** May 15

Our tenth annual summer workshop for doctoral students, to be held in Pula on August 28-31, aims to intertwine the themes of previous workshops and possibly raise them to a different level, thereby enabling discussion on the relevance of socialism in historical and contemporary social contexts, as well as in the research practises and epistemology of social sciences and humanities... Application deadline is in two weeks. [Please, find the call and more information on our website.](#)



Hanna Stein will be visiting Pula in May

If in Pula, on May 8 join us at Hanna Stein's talk on Yugoslav amateur filmmaking. Our guest is a PhD student and affiliated researcher at the Section for Southeast European History and Anthropology, University of Graz ([more information](#)).

Centar za kulturološka i povijesna istraživanja socijalizma
poziva vas na predavanje



Srijeda, 8. svibnja 2024., 18.30 sati
Filozofski fakultet, Matetića Ronjgova 1
Dvorana Slavka Zlatića (dv. 11, prizemlje)





CONFERENCES AND CFP

Displaced, Exiled: Thinking and Making Europe through the Experience of Exile and Displacement (20th–21st century), Clermont-Ferrand, 25-27 November 2024

The conference will explore the role of displaced and exiled populations in the construction of Europe, whether they came from European countries or other regions of the world. Taking a resolutely multi-disciplinary approach, it will especially focus on the period that began with the Spanish Civil War and the outbreak of the Second World War, although it will not exclude looking at earlier periods. The central question will be to examine how these populations conceived of and made Europe – how they contributed to its construction, or on the contrary to its failure. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 June 2024

Confronting Decline - Challenges of Deindustrialization in European Societies since the 1970s, Esch-sur-Alzette, 25-27 June 2025

The conference will focus on the European particularities of deindustrialization since the 1970s – in Western and Eastern Europe, with an East-West comparison over the epochal years 1989/90, and in terms of entanglements among European states and beyond. What distinguished Europe from the US and Canada, from the North American experience of deindustrialization? To what extent did European reactions to deindustrialization differ from one country to the next? Did the Cold War resonate in deindustrialization policies, in the ensuing political mobilization or in personal experiences? In what ways did deindustrialization leave its mark on the co-transformation process after 1989/90, both in the East and in the West? ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 30 June 2024

Istorija Jugoslavije: perspektive mladih istraživača sa post-jugoslovenskog prostora, Belgrade, 16-18 October 2024

Mlađe generacije historičara koji se bave 20. vekom na prostoru bivših jugoslovenskih republika nisu dovoljno povezane, uprkos zajedničkom predmetu istraživanja – istoriji Jugoslavije. Jedan od ciljeva ovog skupa je upravo podsticanje upoznavanja mladih historičara, razmene informacija, iskustava, mišljenja i ideja, sagledavanja prostora za zajedničke projekte i saradnju u istraživačkom procesu. Učesnici će predstaviti istoriju Jugoslavije kroz prizmu svojih istraživanja i naučna i šira javnost će tokom ovog skupa uvideti perspektive mladih historičara. U skladu sa time, ciljevi skupa su i predstavljanje naučnih dostignuća mladih historičara na post-jugoslovenskom prostoru, otvaranje novih tema i istraživačkih mogućnosti, kao i sagledavanje istorije Jugoslavije iz različitih uglova. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 May 2024



PUBLICATIONS

Ruža Fotiadis, Vladimir Ivanović, Radina Vučetić, ur., *Bratstvo i jedinstvo za kuhinjskim stolom. Hrana u socijalističkoj Jugoslaviji (Srednja Europa: Zagreb 2024)*

Pitanje nacionalnih kuhinja i konstrukcija jugoslavenske kuhinje uvode u ključno pitanje – jesu li bratstvo i jedinstvo postojali za kuhinjskim stolom, odnosno je li hrana pripremljena u jugoslavenskom loncu, loncu kuhinja jugoslavenskih naroda i nacionalnih manjina, služila ujedinjavanju, odnosno podjeli stanovništva zemlje; je li prikazivala siromaštvo ili obilje; bilo da je podsjećala na kotao sovjetske domaćice u kojem se kuhao boršč ili je više sličila loncu neke zapadnoeuropske domaćice u kojem je krčkala bogata i začinjena mješavina mesa i povrća. ([Read more](#))

Nenad Bukvić, *Gastarbajteri pod nadzorom Službe državne sigurnosti, Odabrani dokumenti (1977.-1990.)* (Zagreb: Hrvatski državni arhiv, 2024)

U knjizi se objavljuju odabrani dokumenti koji otkrivaju metode rada Službe državne sigurnosti (SDS), razmjere obavještajne i protuobavještajne djelatnosti prema gastarbajerima iz Hrvatske, ali i iz drugih jugoslavenskih republika u razdoblju od 1977. do 1990. godine. Kao i u prijašnjem razdoblju, djelatnost SDS-a bila je usmjerena na saznavanje informacija o aktivnostima „neprijateljske“ emigracije u inozemstvu, planiranim akcijama u zemlji te povezivanju gastarbajtera s tom emigracijom i stranim obavještajnim službama. U fokus jugoslavenskih vlasti i njezinih službi sve više dolazi i druga generacija, tj. djeca koja su se iselila k roditeljima iz Hrvatske/Jugoslavije, odnosno djeca rođena u zemljama u koje su njihovi roditelji iselili zbog posla. ([Read more](#))



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

Postdoctoral Fellowship for Yugoslavian Testimonies, Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, Yale University

The Fortunoff Video Archive will offer a fellowship to a visiting postdoctoral scholar fluent in Serbian, Croatian, or Bosnian language, with expertise in the history of Yugoslavia, Sephardic Jewish history, and a particular focus on the 20th Century history of Jews in the former Yugoslavian lands during the Holocaust. The fellowship is offered for between six months and one academic year – depending on experience, career position, and needs. For instance, a more senior scholar may require a six-month position to complement a sabbatical. Scholars and researchers from around the world are invited to apply. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 June 2024

Postdoctoral Researcher (x2) - ERC Project, Balkans Case Studies, Building Conceptual and Methodological Expertise for the Study of Gender, Agency and Authority in Islam (BILQIS), Irish Centre for Human Rights, Galway

The project will engage in a comparative study how Muslim women in Europe have navigated agency and authority over time from the long 19th century to the present day across diverse European peripheries, specifically the Ottoman Balkans, the post-Ottoman Balkans, and the territorial spaces that are currently governed by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Norway, and Sweden. The successful candidate will work study and advance knowledge on gendered aspects of Islamic family laws during 19th and 20th century political, social, and legal transitions across the Balkans, with a specific focus on the national contexts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, and Greece. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 16 May 2024

Visiting Fellowship, Institute of Contemporary History, Ljubljana

Scholars working in the field of contemporary political, social, economic history or related disciplines, as well as scholars working in the field of digital humanities, are invited to apply for the fellowship of two weeks, one month, or two months. Applications from doctoral candidates, early career researchers, and senior academics are welcomed. Some fellows will be invited to hold a lecture at the Zgodovina na Špici/History on the Edge lecture series organized by the Institute. More generally, through this exchange, the goal is to foster long-term institutional cooperation, to orient towards the Institute's long-term vision of international institutional cooperation in Europe and beyond, and to broaden the methodological, thematic, and geographical scope of the research conducted at the institute. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 July 2024

Visiting Research Fellowships "Violence in East and West", University of Konstanz

The Chair of East European History at the University of Konstanz offers Visiting Research Fellowships in the framework of its strategic programme 'Violence in East and West - Towards an Integrated History of 20th Century Europe' funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. The Fellowships last between 1 and 3 months and are to be taken up between October 2024 and February 2025. The fellowships are open to scholars at any career level after the PhD. Fellows are expected to be resident in Konstanz for the duration of the fellowship and to carry out a research project related to the programme's subject. While any topic on the history of violence in the 20th century Europe is welcome, special consideration will be given to projects with a significant comparative and transnational European dimension. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 May 2024



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Sara Žerić Đulović

Lea Horvat is a postdoctoral lecturer at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Department of Cultural History and Cultural Anthropology ([read more](#))



Lea Horvat

Since your new book, *Hard Currency Concrete: A Cultural History of Mass Housing in Socialist Yugoslavia and Its Successor State*, was recently published, I believe it is appropriate to begin the interview by discussing the topics addressed in it. What does mass housing say about Yugoslav socialism and self-management?

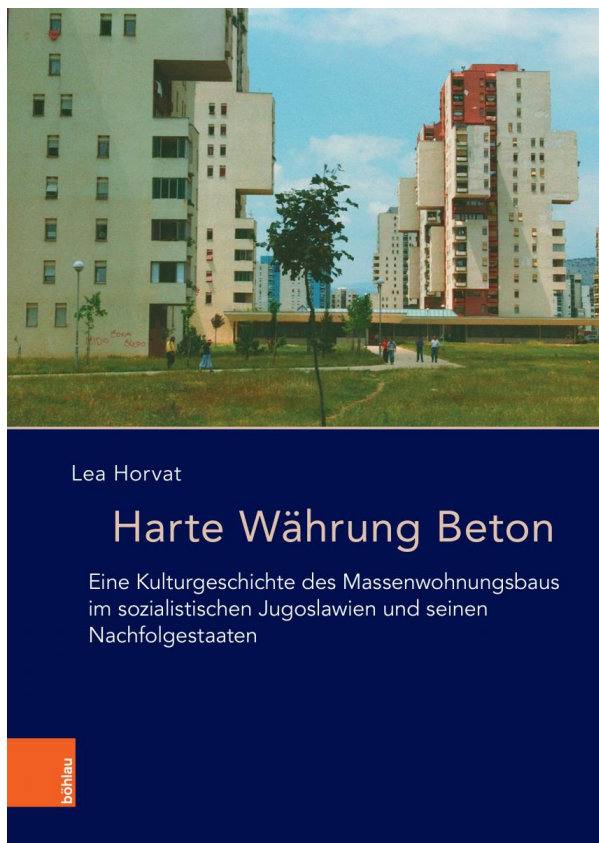
Yugoslav mass housing defies the tired stereotype of uniformity and drabness often associated with such developments. Thanks to decentralized organization and self-management, Yugoslav mass housing boasted

remarkable diversity. Instead of pursuing a single prototype for widespread adoption, Yugoslavia embraced a polycentric approach, fostering a mosaic of construction companies and institutions. This facilitated architectural competition and sparked lively public debates on mass housing. The usual distribution of apartments through workplaces also sheds light on the social security provided by employers, a concept unimaginable for my generation born after socialism.

You thoroughly explored socialist “cityscape” and its various components, including public space, green space, and landscape. Conducting your research across cities situated in different former republics, what similarities and differences did you observe in Yugoslav cityscape and its mass housing?

I focused particularly on issues of visibility in the media landscape. Knowledge production on mass housing in Yugoslavia was dominated by Ljubljana, Belgrade, and Zagreb, cities boasting the oldest universities and publications with a continuity predating socialism. Nevertheless, I contend that mass housing served as a unifying element of socialist urbanity. In every major city of socialist Yugoslavia, from Ljubljana to Prishtina, one can find mass housing estates characterized by ubiquitous modernist features: generously proportioned public spaces, high-rises, and a range of public

facilities serving the neighborhood. Remarkably, none of these neighborhoods were abandoned after the collapse of socialism. Today, they all face pragmatic challenges such as the need for adequate renovation and future-proofing.



Lea Horvat, *Harte Währung Beton. Eine Kulturgeschichte des Massenwohnungsbaus im sozialistischen Jugoslawien und seinen Nachfolgestaaten*, Böhlau, 2024

Could you elaborate on your approach to this research from the perspective of a cultural historian?

My book is a history of mass housing as a conversation topic. I was primarily interested in public debates on mass housing: who was interested in this issue, why, and what issues did they address? I argue that by tracking the epicenters of discourse, we can gain prime insights into mass housing, an issue strongly

influenced by media images and popular perception. I examined both popular culture (e.g. movies, women's magazines) and expert discourse (e.g. architectural press, anthropological and sociological studies).

In addition to your academic work, you are also very active in popularizing academic discourse, such as leading the online project Women* Write the Balkans. Can you tell us more about this online platform? Moreover, could you discuss the challenges involved in managing such projects alongside your regular academic responsibilities?

I envisioned Women* Write the Balkans with Ana Sekulić as a platform where experience and expertise intersect. We are interested in compelling narratives that transcend the often dry and schematic academic language. We are dedicated to the principles of slow scholarship and take time to work with our authors through multiple drafts. Operating without additional infrastructure, our publishing schedule remains unpredictable. Nevertheless, many encounters and unintended good things from projects fueled by passion rather than strict rationale.

At the moment, you are a postdoctoral lecturer at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena. Can you outline the similarities and differences in the approaches to researching socialism, particularly Yugoslav socialism, in Germany and Croatia?

One of my main challenges in Germany has been to convince institutions of the relevance of the Yugoslav case. Fortunately, my PhD funding from the German National

Scholarship Foundation provided a substantial budget for fieldwork, allowing me to conduct research in various Yugoslav republics—a task that would have been much more difficult as a PhD student in Croatia. I am currently working on my habilitation on

coffee, gender, and labor in the southern Slavic region of the Habsburg Empire. This shift in focus, unusual in German academia, is tough but often unexpectedly rewarding. Currently, I am particularly excited about early labor activism.



Aida Ličina Ramić, Lea Horvat, Marko Fuček and Igor Duda at the 2nd Doctoral Workshop in Pula in 2016



Workshop participants on excursion to Brijuni, 2016

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