

NEWSLETTER

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



Marko Miljković's talk in Pula



After Hanna Stein and Marta Harasimowicz, on June 12 our guest was Marko Miljković, a historian from the Institute of Economic Sciences in Belgrade, focusing on the history of science and technology, automobiles, nuclear programmes, and the Cold War. The topic of his talk was the Yugoslav nuclear programme 1948–1970, based on his dissertation completed at the CEU in 2021.

[\(more information\)](#)



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Aidan Ratchford (pp. 5-6)

Our books available online



Our webpage [Biblioteka CeKaPI Sarnica](#) now allows you to download the edited volumes containing selections of papers from the biennial conferences *Socijalizam na klupi* – *Socialism on the Bench*, held between 2013 and 2021. It is also possible to download the volume *Radionica za suvremenu povijest* (2013). Since several years ago, downloadable have been the three books (2015, 2017), which are results of the project *Socialist Man*. All of these publications can still be purchased as proper books at our co-publisher Srednja Europa (scroll to the bottom of the page linked above).



Juraj Dobrila University of Pula,
Faculty of Humanities, Department of History &
Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism

10TH DOCTORAL WORKSHOP

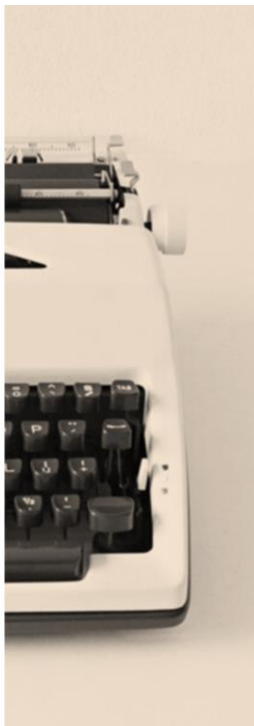
WHY SOCIALISM MATTERS? APPROACHES TO RESEARCH OF THE POLITICAL IDEA AND THE HISTORICAL PERIOD

Pula, Croatia, August 28-31, 2024



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CONFERENCES AND CFP

Film Festivals: Borders, Identities, Solidarities, Venice, 4-6 November 2024

This symposium aims to explore how the issues of borders, identities and solidarities have been tackled by and through film festivals. As a repetitive practice happening in regular intervals and at the same place, film festivals operate as 'places of memory' of a particular kind (Nora, 1984 [1997]). As such, they provide an institutional framework for the cultural memories they preserve and produce through their programmes. By the default of cultural memory creation (Assmann, 1995), their influence becomes long-term and wide encompassing, moving far beyond from their actual time and place. In addition, thanks to the engagement of diverse festival actors (journalists, critics, industry representatives, politicians, etc.) the narratives that they create reach diverse categories of society, not limited to those present at the screening. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 5 July 2024

Antifascism(s) from 1989 to the present. Actors, Meanings, Practices and Circulation, Reggio Emilia, 28-30 April 2025

The conference will focus on the last 35 years to answer the following questions: What forms, meanings and practices has anti-fascism taken in Italy and beyond? Which actors have picked up its tradition? What horizon of meanings can it open up in the present? What are the potential seeds of a future anti-fascism and where must we look for them? The conference has an interdisciplinary approach. It is aimed at scholars from all human and social sciences, in particular history, sociology, anthropology, political science, law, political philosophy, literature, pedagogy, linguistics, arts and media studies. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 September 2024

London Memorandum of 1954. The beginning of the Eternal peace in the Northern Adriatic?, Zagreb, 14-15 November 2024

The Conference organized on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the London Memorandum, jointly organized by the Doctoral Program in Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in European and Global Contexts, Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, and the Institute for Historical Studies, Science and Research Centre Koper and Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe (MIREES) program of the University of Bologna, aims to clarify the multifaceted repercussions of the end of the war in Venezia Giulia and Istria, Slovenian Littoral, Kras, and Gorizia, situating them within the broader tapestry of European history and geopolitics. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 July 2024



PUBLICATIONS

Martin Nodl, Piotr Węcowski, Dušan Zupka (eds.), *Marxism and Medieval Studies: Marxist Historiography in East Central Europe* (Brill, 2024)

This volume is a unique publication as it examines the Marxist attitudes in East Central European historiography and archaeology for the first time, with an emphasis on the co-existence of Marxist and other methodologies between the 1950s and 1970s in the local historiographies in question. Its approach is to distinguish between pseudo-Marxism as an ideological tool on the one hand, and Marxism in the form of historical materialism as a way to interpret the medieval world on the other. ([Read more](#))



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

Seed funding for junior post-doctoral scholars, seeFField, University of Regensburg

The project “A small but fertile field: strengthening Southeast European Studies in Regensburg” (seeFField) aims to strengthen Southeast European Studies in Regensburg by integrating and critically examining various forms of knowledge production and knowledge transfer in academic as well as nonacademic fields. This programme targets junior post-doctoral researchers, particularly (but not exclusively) from Southeastern Europe, in the disciplines of history, anthropology, linguistics, and/or cognate disciplines. It aims to provide financial support to kick-start new and innovative research projects of up to 4,000 € per application. The funds will be awarded on the condition that the project idea is feasible and follows the intellectual agenda and profile of seeFField. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 19 July 2024

Thyssen@KWI Fellowship, The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI), Essen

The Thyssen@KWI Fellowship addresses excellent researchers from the humanities, cultural studies,

and the social sciences. International researchers are invited to apply as well as scholars of German nationality, provided they demonstrate outstanding international work experience and contacts. We invite applications from research fellows who have completed their PhD and have already gained several years of post-doctoral research expertise (R3 level). Project proposals should address KWI's research agenda. The KWI (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut) in Essen provides fellows with modern infrastructure, office space, technical support, and offers a library service, event and research management as well as any administrative and communicative support. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 13 September 2024



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Sara Žerić Đulović

Aidan Ratchford is a PhD Researcher in Economic and Social History, and a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Glasgow ([read more](#))



Aidan Ratchford

Since we don't often have the opportunity to interview historians who specialize in Cuba, can you tell us about the current state of research on Cuba? Is there a growing interest in this field, and what are some of the key areas being explored by historians today?

I believe there is a growing interest within Cuba studies currently. Cuba is arguably a unique case study as it continues to develop socialism despite the pernicious effects of the US blockade. Following the collapse of the USSR, Cuba has – necessarily – adapted new ideas and industries in order to survive, notably in agroecology. Its survival into the

21st century has prompted reevaluations of Cuba's relationship with the wider Socialist bloc during the Cold War, and many of Cuba's most fundamental socialist ideals, such as medical internationalism, are as important as ever today. Cuba's market openings, juxtaposed with steadfast commitment to state control of key services, makes the country an interesting area of research for ongoing developments as well as historical processes.

Which sources do you use in your research, and which ones would you single out as the most interesting or valuable?

Most of the sources I use in my research are Cuban sources: archival documents, contemporary accounts and publications that are only published on the island, meeting transcripts, interviews, and, most importantly for me, public and private writings by Che Guevara. My most interesting archival discovery was Guevara's Africa Notebook, an account of his meetings with various African leaders during his 1964 goodwill mission around the continent. The notes have never been published or worked on, and they offer an original and interesting insight into Guevara's trip. It is a key source that helps us to understand the nature of Cuban-African diplomacy, and also contributes to our understanding of Guevara's role in the Cuban Revolution – as well as his decision to leave in order to fight in other guerilla struggles.

What are you researching for your PhD thesis?

I am researching three international trade and diplomatic missions led by Che Guevara between 1959 and 1965 on behalf of the Cuban government. In total, he visited 26 countries on these trips, mainly from the so-called 'underdeveloped' and socialist worlds. I am specifically considering the impact of these missions on the Cuban Revolution, and Guevara's role within it. These trips have been overlooked in the literature, but they help us understand how Cuba was transformed from a semi-colonial, dependent, capitalist nation to an independent socialist country and a leading member of the 'Third World'.

A year ago, we had the opportunity to hear you at the 9th Doctoral Workshop in Pula where you presented Che Guevara's views on Yugoslavia. Can you elaborate on the relations between Yugoslavia and Cuba during the Cold War?

Relations between revolutionary Cuba and Yugoslavia properly began with Guevara's visit to the republic in August 1959, and his meeting with Josip Broz Tito. The two countries had a lot in common; both governments had emerged from guerilla warfare, and both became independent socialist nations with leading roles in the 'Third World'. Naturally, therefore, relations began well, but soon enough there were increasing tensions in the Cuban-Yugoslav relationship, particularly to do with ideological disagreements, conflicting Third World strategies, and competing efforts for

leadership within the Non-Aligned Movement. Nevertheless, both nations offer fascinating case studies for socialist transition and non-aligned trade and development.



At the 9th Doctoral Workshop (Pula, 2023)

What topics do you believe deserve more attention in the research of the history of Cuba, Yugoslavia, and the countries of the Eastern European bloc?

While there is much historiography on the economic relationships between Cuba and the Eastern bloc, I believe there is a lot more to uncover about the ideological, diplomatic, and cultural histories between Cuba and Yugoslavia, and between Cuba and other East European nations outside of the USSR. From my own perspective, I would be greatly interested in the views from within Yugoslavia on Cuba's changing economic system and development of socialism throughout the 1960s.

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