

NEWSLETTER

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

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10th Doctoral Workshop in Pula



Our tenth annual summer workshop for doctoral students was held in Pula on August 28-31, with the theme [*Why Socialism Matters? Approaches to Research of the Political Idea and the Historical Period*](#). Seventeen doctoral students from a dozen of European universities presented their papers, while the four keynote speakers were professors **Ankica Čakardić** (University of Zagreb), **Hannes Grandits** (Humboldt University of Berlin), **Branimir Janković** (University of Zagreb), and **Katarina Peović** (University of Rijeka).

The Doctoral Workshop of the CKPIS and the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, is a combination of an academic conference and a summer school. Since 2015, it has been providing a four-day advanced training opportunity for doctoral students in history and related fields of humanities and social sciences. The workshop facilitates the exchange of knowledge and ideas, participation in stimulating discussions, and networking among young researchers, while also mapping trends in research, particularly at the doctoral level. For Pula BA and MA students, the workshop offers insight into postgraduate research, and some are inspired by this experience to pursue doctoral studies.

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Dora Tot (pp. 9-10)

So far, the Workshop has focused on various themes in contemporary history, the history of socialist Yugoslavia and wider European context: *The History of Everyday Life in Socialist Yugoslavia* (2015); *Yugoslav Socialism: Similarities and Exceptionalities* (2016); *A New Man for the Socialist Society* (2017); *Yugoslavia and the Global 1968: Contexts, Perspectives, Echoes* (2018); *Industrial Societies of Late Socialism: European Comparisons* (2019); *Cooperation, Exchange and Solidarity in Europe 1945-1990* (2020); *Microhistories of Socialism* (2021); *Microhistories of Socialism and Postsocialism* (2022); *What Was Europe? Perception, Division and Integration, 1940s-2010s* (2023). The themes have often been linked to research projects at CKPIS, such as two multi-year projects funded by the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ), or to collaborations within the network centred around the Chair of Southeast European History at Humboldt University of Berlin, supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

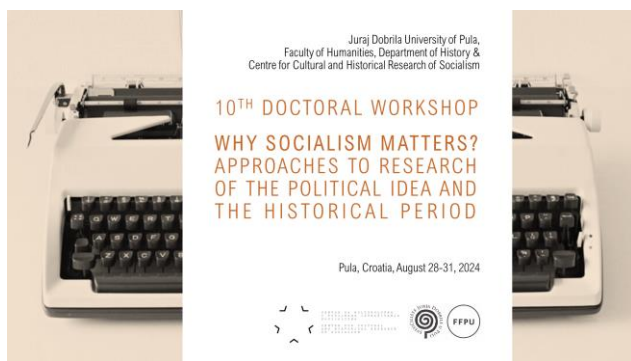
Over the past years, the Workshop has received an excellent response, with PhD students and lecturers coming from various universities and other institutions (Belgrade, Berlin, Bielefeld, Birmingham, Bochum, Bologna, Budapest, Cologne, Cork, Durham, Florence, Ghent, Giessen, Glasgow, Graz, Hamburg, Iași, Konstanz, Koper, Lisbon, Ljubljana, Montreal, Munich, North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Nottingham, Oxford, Paris, Potsdam, Prague, Princeton, Regensburg, San Diego, Sarajevo, Skopje, Sofia, Split, Tübingen, Turku, Vienna, Warsaw, Warwick, Zagreb and Pula). The list continued to grow this year (Basel, Duisburg-Essen, Frankfurt, Genoa, Halle, Rome, Zadar), bringing the total number of universities to 50.

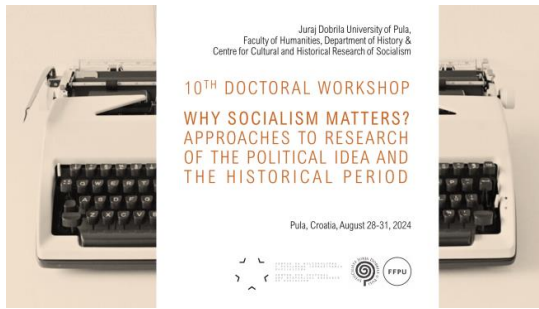
The programs of the ten workshops include around 130 presentations by doctoral students and the names of about 40 invited lecturers and discussants. Among the

lecturers, those from Croatian and international universities are equally represented, while among the doctoral students, around 90 of them study at foreign universities. Several colleagues have returned to the workshop after their first participation. Among the invited lecturers there were Rory Archer, Chiara Bonfiglioli, Ulf Brunnbauer, Amir Duranović, Tvrtko Jakovina, Husnija Kamberović, Ana Kladnik, Hrvoje Klasić, Boris Koroman, Andrea Matošević, Maroje Mrduljaš, Magdalena Najbar-Agičić, Ivan Obadić, Tanja Petrović, Nemanja Radonjić, Paul Stubbs, Pieter Troch, Saša Vejzagić, Radina Vučetić, Dean Vuletic and Marko Zubak. There are four more this year, and the organisers sometimes also take the role of keynote speakers.

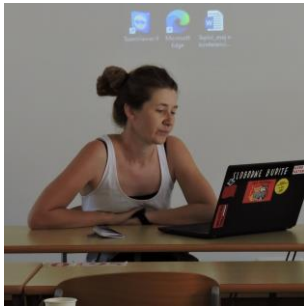
Since the beginning, the workshop has been led by **Igor Duda**, now a full professor at the Department of History and in CKPIS, but also an associate of the doctoral programme in modern and contemporary history at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. **Anita Buhin** (now Nova University Lisbon) has been a permanent member of the organizing committee, while in the last years its members are also **Tina Filipović** (now EUI Florence, committee member in 2015 and since 2019) and **Sara Žerić Đulović** (now IOS Regensburg, committee member since 2021). **Tin Celner**, MA student, helped a lot in the last few years.

The workshop is supported by the University of Pula and the Faculty of Humanities. The Student Centre and the Historical and Maritime Museum of Istria have also been our partners. Many others have supported us in one way or another, one year also the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education. As organisers, we thank them all. Our special gratitude goes to all the participants.

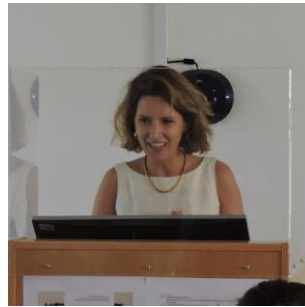




KARLO DRŽAIĆ



MARTA BARADIĆ



OTTAVIA DAL MASO



JELENA TEŠIJA



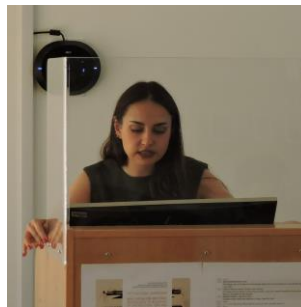
PAVLE ANTONIJEVIĆ



MAGNUS NEUBERT



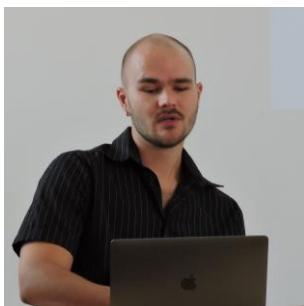
MELVIN BERNARD



MARTINA BOBINAC



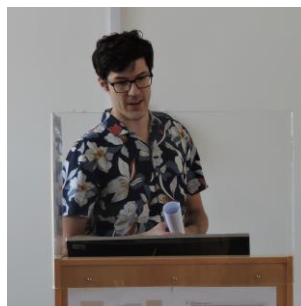
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IVAN BUBALO



GABRIEL GRABAR



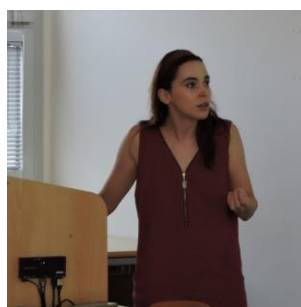
JULIAN SANDHAGEN



PRISKA KOMAROMI



MARTA HARASIMOWICZ



SAŠA HAJZLER



EETU LAUSTELA



CONFERENCES AND CFP

'Mixed' Couples during Conflict: Comparing Cases and Approaches, Amsterdam, 24-26 February 2025

The aim of this workshop is to compare the coping mechanisms of 'mixed' couples and their networks during both historical and contemporary cases of conflict, war, and genocide. The workshop will explore how (the threat of) persecution affected family structures and intimate bonds as well as the role of kin support during crises. There will be a particular focus on multi-disciplinary analytical and theoretical concepts that are helpful to understand 'mixed' couples' resilience (on an individual, family, or group level) and coping and survival strategies. Moreover, to better understand how outside pressure impacts the emotional bonds between partners in a 'mixed' union, scholars who work on the intersection between the history of emotions and ethnic and conflict studies are also encouraged to apply. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 October 2024

9th Annual Meeting of the Memory Studies Association: Beyond Crises: Resilience and (In)stability, Prague, 14-18 July 2025

Organized in the shadow of the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, the rise of populist and authoritarian tendencies all over the world, imminent climate collapse and humanitarian crises including ones in public health, Beyond Crises invites a multifaceted discussion on what memory scholars can learn from the memory of earlier crises and how that knowledge might be used to deal with ongoing political and social standoffs. Looking at shared and divided memoryscapes and the voices of marginalized communities, the conference will make a major contribution to the understanding of how societies remember and learn from crises. The conference seeks to study, across different cultures and regions, the complex dynamics between remembering and forgetting, and between inclusion and exclusion, that take place in the aftermath of crisis. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 October 2024

Jewish Experiences and Post-Socialist Transitions, 1980s -1990s, Dubrovnik, 27-29 April 2025

This conference seeks to explore and re-evaluate the complex history of Jews in Eastern, East Central and South-Eastern Europe from 1985 to 1995 – a period marked by significant political, social, ideological, and cultural shifts, as well as war, violence, and population movements. By focusing on Jewish actors and communities in the crucial years of post-socialist transition, our conference will offer a fresh comparative perspective on the experiences, challenges, and transformation of Jewish lives in Late/Post Communist Europe. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 October 2024



PUBLICATIONS

Balázs Trencsényi, Lucija Balikić, Una Blagojević, Isidora Grubački (eds.), *East Central European Crisis Discourses in the Twentieth Century: A Never-Ending Story?* (Routledge, 2024)

The term “crisis,” with its complex history, has emerged as one of the pivotal notions of political modernity. As such, reconstructing the ways the discourse of crisis functioned in various contexts and historical moments gives us a unique insight not only into a series of conceptual transformations, but also into the underlying logic of key political and intellectual controversies of the last two centuries. Studying the ways crisis was experienced, conceptualized, and negotiated can contribute to the understanding of how various visions of time and history shape political thinking and, conversely, how political and social reconfigurations frame our assumptions about temporality and spatiality. This project is also in dialogue with a number of recent transnational attempts to rethink political and intellectual history with regard to the recurrent epistemological frames that structure the political and cultural debate. ([Read more](#))

Ivo Goldstein (ur.), *Zbornik radova: Prilozi za povijest Drugog svjetskog rata i kulturu sjećanja (Savez antifašističkih boraca i antifašista RH: Zagreb, 2024)*

U nakladništvu Saveza antifašističkih boraca i antifašista RH objavljena je knjiga Zbornik radova: Prilozi za povijest Drugog svjetskog rata i kulturu sjećanja. Knjigu, obima 202 stranice uredio je prof. dr. sc. Ivo Goldstein, a sadrži tekstove osam autora iz Hrvatske (5) i van Hrvatske (3). Zbornik je temelj i najava znanstvenog časopisa koji bi se pod imenom Prilozi za povijest Drugog svjetskog rata i kulturu sjećanja u godišnjem ritmu počeo objavljivati 2025. godine. Svrha i cilj Zbornika i budućeg časopisa jest prikupljanje originalnih znanstvenih tekstova prominentnih članova akademske zajednice iz Hrvatske i inozemstva na jednom mjestu. Jedan od bitnih razloga za pokretanje tog projekta sadrži se u zajedničkom suprotstavljanju reviziji i iskrivljavanju povijesti iz razdoblja Drugog svjetskog rata. ([Read more](#))

Walter Benjamin, *Understanding Brecht* (Verso Books, 2024)

In this volume we find collected together Benjamin's most sensitive and probing writing on the dramatic and poetic work of his friend and tutor Bertolt Brecht. Benjamin's work still exerts an influence over philosophical and cultural thinking today. In *Understanding Brecht* we find collected together Benjamin's most sensitive and probing writing on the dramatic and poetic work of his friend and tutor. Stimulated by Brecht's oeuvre and theorising his particular dramatic techniques – such as the famous ‘estrangement effect’ – Benjamin developed his own ideas about the role of art and the artist in crisis-ridden society. This volume contains Benjamin's introductions to Brecht's theory of epic theatre and close textual analyses of twelve poems by Brecht (printed in translation here) which exemplify Benjamin's insistence that literary form and content are indivisible. ([Read more](#))

Marco Bresciani, *Learning from the Enemy: An Intellectual History of Antifascism in Interwar Europe* (Verso Books, 2024)

The book is a first comprehensive history of Italian revolutionary group Giustizia e Libertà. When democracy is under threat from authoritarianism, models of resistance must come to the fore. Giustizia e Libertà, founded by the Italian thinker and activist Carlo Rosselli in 1929, is one intriguing historical example. Operating both in exile and as part of a clandestine network at home, the organization fought against fascism and Nazism, while criticizing Stalinism. To defeat the enemy, the group aimed to go beyond the Marxist notion of class and to assert fresh concepts of nationhood and Europe. The book traces the group's trajectories and debates and follows its legacy to the present. ([Read more](#))



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

International Visiting Research Fellowship Programme, seeFField, University of Regensburg

seeFField ("A small but fertile field: strengthening Southeast European Studies in Regensburg") is pleased to announce a call for applications for 2024/2025 International Visiting Research Fellowship Programme. Early career scholars from South-Eastern Europe, historians, anthropologists, linguists, and scholars of cognate disciplines are encouraged to apply. Fellows are expected to conduct research that resonates with the project's intellectual profile, particularly developing comparative and trans-regional research perspectives. Fellows will be offered the opportunity to spend one month in Regensburg, using the IOS library, consulting colleagues at UR and IOS, attending talks and seminars, and presenting their research in our research seminar. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 30 September 2024

2024 Visiting Scholars Program of the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) Regensburg

The Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg is an independent research facility with close links to the University of Regensburg. IOS conducts interdisciplinary research on the history as well as the economic and political development of Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Together with the University of Regensburg, the IOS has established the LeibnizScienceCampus "Europe and America in the Modern World. Frictions and Transformations of Globality since the 19th Century." Within the framework of its Visiting Research Fellow Program, the IOS encourages applications from historians, economists and political scientists as well as scholars of cognate disciplines. The fellows are expected to conduct research relevant to the research profile of the institute. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 30 September 2024

IEG Fellowships for Postdocs, Mainz

The IEG awards postdoctoral fellowships to young academics from Germany and abroad who have completed their doctoral dissertations and are pursuing a new research project. This fellowship is intended to help you develop your own research project in close collaboration with scholars working at the IEG and to contribute to its ongoing research activities. This includes the possibility of developing a perspective for further cooperation with the IEG. Applicants should have been awarded their doctorate no more than three years before the beginning of the proposed fellowship (non-academic activities are not relevant to the application). ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 October 2024

One-year scholarship program sponsored by the Free State of Bavaria for graduates of Central, Eastern and Southeastern European states for the funding year 2025/26

For the academic year 2025/26, the Free State of Bavaria will once again be awarding one-year scholarships to graduates (with appropriate citizenship) from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine. The scholarship is intended to finance postgraduate studies (i.e. Master's programs), PhDs or one-year research stays at a state or state-funded higher education institution in Bavaria. The one-year scholarship can generally be extended twice for up to 3 years. The one-year scholarship program promotes academic exchange and scientific cooperation between Bavaria and Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 December 2024

Free online course Politics and Narratives at European Borderlands: Rethinking Balkans for Ukraine, CEU/IUFU

Central European University's Invisible University for Ukraine program and IFDT Belgrade is inviting interested participants to enroll in an international interdisciplinary online course on comparing European borderlands, with a special focus on the Balkans. The course is free of charge and in English language. It seeks to bring together students from Southeast Europe, Ukraine and other countries, to discuss the politics, society, history and culture of the region, develop academic and human solidarity and think about parallels and connectivity between the European borderlands. The course consists of weekly interactive seminars held in late afternoon, by prominent lecturers and specialists focused on Southeast Europe and Ukraine. Students can also participate in small-team mentoring sessions offered by doctoral and postdoctoral researchers. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 20 September 2024



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Tina Filipović

Dora Tot is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Florence ([read more](#))



Dora Tot

Last year, you defended your doctoral thesis at the University of Bologna, which focused on the labour mobility of Yugoslav technical cooperation experts in postcolonial Algeria. Tell us how the Yugoslav state encouraged and promoted the mobility of highly skilled experts and what underlying political and economic goals motivated this support?

Unlike the Gastarbeiter program in the West, mobility to the South was much less focused on the inflow of foreign currency in the form of remittances from Yugoslavs abroad. Rather, the Yugoslav government regarded experts principally as “unofficial ambassadors” working on expanding political and especially economic ties with the host countries. Experts not only embodied the ideas of solidarity with

the non-aligned world but by demonstrating Yugoslav modernisation achievements, facilitated the entry of globally oriented Yugoslav enterprises into Third World markets. Initially, the Institute for International Technical Cooperation (ZAMTES or YUZAMS), a body responsible for recruiting and dispatching skilled labour within international technical cooperation programs, incentivised these people with substantial financial rewards to spend their time overseas. Plus, many people wanted to seize the opportunity for international travel – a prestigious endeavour in a country with restricted passport issuance. ZAMTES ensured that the selected candidates, often chosen based on personal connections or reputations, represented the best of Yugoslavia on the international stage.

In your presentation at the 8th Doctoral Workshop in Pula, you described the technical collaboration between the Zagreb-based construction and engineering company Hidroelektra and Algeria's Ministry of Hydraulics, Environment, and Forestry in the 1980s. What did microhistory disclose about the experts' everyday experiences?

I decided to use the case of eight (former) Hidroelektra employees to explain why the expert programme failed and why most Yugoslavs left Algeria much before the expiration of their contracts. Extensively covered in the archival records, the story was

especially suitable to describe the special status of “technical cooperation experts”, whose living and working experience very much differed from workers temporarily posted abroad to accompany investment projects of their enterprises overseas. Instead, workers in service of the expert programme became employees of the Algerian ministries and had to terminate their contracts with Yugoslav firms to do so. Separated from their colleagues and countrymen after being sent to remote construction sites, people had to deal with loneliness and a lack of social life. Also, ZAMTES had dispatched them abroad with minimum or no preparation and provided almost no support in dealing with the local bureaucracy and other everyday issues.



At the 8th Doctoral Workshop (Pula, 2022)

Have you ever had the opportunity to do research or present your primary findings in Algeria?

Since my submission date was scheduled before the end of the pandemic, I didn't have

time to conduct research in the National Archives in Algiers. However, the Algerian perspective is still strongly present in my dissertation through their point of view as expressed in Yugoslav archival records, such as the minutes of joint meetings and official correspondence. In 2022, I was invited by the Algerian Ministry of Veterans to Algiers to give a presentation on the support that Yugoslavia provided to the Algerian National Liberation Movement.

What is your postdoctoral project about?

My postdoctoral study within the ERC HumanEuroMed project focuses on the complex interplay between humanitarian aid, decolonization and international relations. I examine the Yugoslav (humanitarian) aid policy to the Third World and how it balanced internationalist ideals with commercial interests. The main topics include the role of socio-political organizations, operating under the Socialist Alliance of Working People of Yugoslavia (SSRNJ), in shaping Yugoslav aid policies in maintaining the tradition of humanitarianism and counterbalancing the more pragmatic government considerations of economic profit. My study aims to demonstrate how these grassroots initiatives were essential in financing and sustaining humanitarian efforts through widespread societal mobilization in solidarity and humanitarian campaigns.

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