

NEWSLETTER

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

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Save the dates in 2025

7th Socialism on the Bench

Global Socialism and
Non-Alignment

Pula, 18-20 September 2025

Call in December 2024

Deadline 1 April 2025

[Previous conference](#)

11th Doctoral Workshop

Systems of
Governance

Pula, 27-30 August 2025

Call in March 2025

Deadline 1 May 2025

[Previous workshop](#)



Since October 2024 CKPIS is situated at the new university campus, Aldo Negri Street 6

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Mina Hristova (pp. 6-7)



CONFERENCES AND CFP

New Divisions, Struggles, and Solidarities in South East Europe, Belgrade, 13-14 June 2025

The socio-political landscape of South East Europe is characterised by a complex interplay of historical legacies, contemporary divisions, and new forms of solidarity. Historically, South East Europe has been a tapestry of diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural identities, yet the postsocialist transformation, accompanied by conflicts, nationalism, and authoritarianism, has revealed persistent fractures that influence contemporary dynamics. Against the backdrop of post-socialist transformation and contemporary global processes, Southeast Europe experiences specific challenges and adaptations related to reproducing old conflicts and struggles. At the same time, the same global, regional and local contexts set the foundation from which new forms of conflicts and social divisions emerge, as well as new forms of social solidarity. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 20 December 2024

Risk, Health, and State Socialism: Central and Eastern Europe, 1950s-1980s, Berlin, 1 May 2025 - 1 May 2026

Scholars exploring risk, health, and medicine under state socialism in Central and Eastern Europe are invited to join a working group. Through a series of 2-3 collaborative meetings, the aim is to investigate risk-related practices, ideas, and technologies in state socialist healthcare, with the goal of preparing a publication, such as a special issue. Potential research topics include prevention and self-prevention practices under state socialism; socialist medical innovation and emerging fields such as medical cybernetics; public health and environmental hazards; quantification, forecasting and computational technology in healthcare planning; risk, crime and control; health insurance and workplace safety. Other perspectives and research questions are warmly encouraged. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 31 January 2025

HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: The Humanities and Social Sciences Perspectives, Konstanz, 9-10 October 2025

The conference orients this call for building up theoretical work in the humanities and social sciences in relation to the HIV/AIDS pandemic towards Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This region has infamously been a hotspot of the pandemic in Eurasia, with the situation worsening steadily. UNAIDS reports foreground ideological rather than medical reasons behind the growing number of HIV-positive people in Eastern Europe. Since the very arrival of the virus in the region during the socialist era, local governments and religious authorities have played a crucial role in silencing the HIV/AIDS-related discourse, obscuring the situation from the public, or weaponized it. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 10 December 2024

Capitalist Transformations in Eastern and Central Europe, online, 19-23 May 2025

This is the third edition of the 'Capitalist Transformations' conference, an academic event that aims to create a space for discussion, debate and research of the social, political and economic changes taking place in the region. The conference celebrates the work of Karl Polanyi (1886 – 1964) and György Lukács (1885-1971), two intellectuals and political activists who played a key role in establishing a regional critical tradition analyzing global capitalism. One century later, their analyses are still relevant. The region has become a testing ground for radical neo-liberal reforms in the wake of the post-socialist advancement of capitalism, with that shift generating unprecedented recessions in peacetime, uneven development, social divisions and growing inequalities. ([Read more](#)).

Application deadline: 31 January 2025

**PUBLICATIONS****Zvonimir Stopić, Robert Niebuhr, David Pickus, *Yugoslavia, Nonalignment and Cold War Globalism: Tito's International Rise, Celebrity and Fall* (Routledge 2024)**

This book explores the emergence of Yugoslav globalism and how it was influenced by the early Cold War, the changes once Yugoslavia established itself as a nonaligned leader, and what the decline of Yugoslav globalism reveals about the waning Cold War and the history of internationalist diplomacy. Although Yugoslavia was correctly defined as a regional power, it is not true that Tito's influence was confined to the Balkans alone. Even before the 1948 split with Stalin, political elites and intellectuals imagined socialist Yugoslavia as a model for international comity and development. Subsequently, due to dramatic changes in the climate of international diplomacy, Yugoslav globalist outreach found an audience and altered the course of early and fateful superpower stand-offs. In turn, such globalism was a significant part of Tito's stewardship of nonalignment. ([Read more](#))

Davor Stipić, *U borbi protiv zaborava: Odnos prema Holokaustu u socijalističkoj Jugoslaviji 1945-1991* (Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije, Beograd 2024)

Predmet knjige je analiza društvenog, kulturološkog i političkog odnosa prema Holokaustu u Jugoslaviji 1945-1991 godine i kultura sećanja na stradanje Jevreja u Drugom svetskom ratu. Za hronološki okvir izabran je period postojanja socijalističke Jugoslavije, da bi se pratili proces formiranja kolektivnog i individualnog sećanja na Holokaust na čitavom jugoslovenskom prostoru, i promene u kulturi sećanja do kojih je dolazilo tokom čitavog socijalističkog perioda. Zahvaljujući ovakvom hronološkom okviru, dr Stipić je uspešno sagledao različite načine konstruisanja sećanja na Holokaust – od strane same jevrejske zajednice, kao i od države i društvenih organizacija, što mu je pomoglo da uočava promene do kojih je dolazilo u odnosu prema Holokaustu i prema Drugom svetskom ratu u različitim fazama jugoslovenske države. ([Read more](#))

Vladan Vukliš, *Jugosloveni i Španski rat* (Arhiv Republike Srpske - Čigoja štampa - Udruženje arhivskih radnika Republike Srpske, Banja Luka - Beograd 2024)

Radi se o dopunjenom tekstu doktorske disertacije odbranjene na Filozofskom fakultetu Univerziteta u Banjoj Luci 2022. godine, koji sada predstavlja prvu sveobuhvatnu monografsku naučnu studiju o učešću Jugoslovena u Španskom građanskom ratu i odnosu političkih elita i javnog mnjenja Kraljevine Jugoslavije prema ovom epohalnom događaju. Nastajući na materijalima koji se čuvaju u arhivskim ustanovama od Moskve, preko bivše Jugoslavije, do Amsterdama i Pariza, ovu monografiju čini 656 stranica knjiškog bloka sa bogatim naučnim aparatom. Izdanje je ilustrovano kartama i fotografijama. Struktura ove knjige je sljedeća: tekst je podijeljen u osam poglavlja, pri čemu prvo služi kao istorijski uvod, dok posljednje služi kao pregledni epilog, praćen kraćim zaključkom. ([Read more](#))

Zsófia Lóránd, Adela Hîncu, Jovana Mihajlović Trbovc, Katarzyna Stańczak-Wiślicz (eds.), *Texts and Contexts from the History of Feminism and Women's Rights: East Central Europe, Second Half of the Twentieth Century* (Central University Press 2024)

A compendium of one hundred sources, preceded by a short author's bio and an introduction, this volume offers an English language selection of the most representative texts on feminism and women's rights from East Central Europe between the end of World War Two and the early 1990s. While communist era is the primary focus, the interwar years and the post-1989 transition period also receive attention. All texts are new translations from the original. The book is organised around themes instead of countries; the similarities and differences between nations are nevertheless pointed out. The editors consider women not only in their local context, but also in conjunction with other systems of thought—including shared agendas with socialism, liberalism, nationalism, and even eugenics. ([Read more](#))

Sabrina P. Ramet, *Srednja i Jugoistočna Europa. Politika, kultura i društvo 1943-1991*. (Srednja Europa, Zagreb 2024)

Sabrina Ramet slikovito piše o ljudskim strastima i ne glumi da je nepristrana. Njezina objektivnost ne isključuje suosjećanje s onima koji su potlačeni. Ona prepoznaje zadivljujuću moć ideja i poziva čitatelja na fascinantno putovanje kroz neke od najdramatičnijih trenutaka druge polovice onoga što je povjesničar Eric Hobsbawm nazvao "dobom ekstrema": hladni rat, pojava "narodnih demokracija" u Srednjoj i Jugoistočnoj Europi, prkos jugoslavenskog vođe Tita prema Staljinovu imperijalizmu, nasrtaj Nikite Hruščova na Staljinov "kult ličnosti", poljski Listopad, Mađarska revolucija, Praško proljeće, rumunjski "nacionalni staljinizam", uspon alternativnih oblika monopolističkoj komunističkoj ideologiji... ([Read more](#))



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

Karl-Kaser-Visiting-Fellowship for Historical Anthropology, Center for the Study of Balkan Societies and Cultures (CSBSC), University of Graz

The Karl-Kaser-Visiting-Fellowship is aimed at early career researchers from the fields of history, social and cultural anthropology, ethnology, cultural studies and sociology. It aims at facilitating the transitory phase between the time following a PhD and the next academic career step. Applicants must have completed their PhD at a university in Southeastern Europe. The Junior Visiting Fellow will spend a semester in Graz to conduct and present research and collaborate with other researchers. The Visiting fellow is expected to hold a lecture and write a blog post on a topic of her/his choice related to Southeastern Europe. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 31 December 2024

Pre-doctoral fellowship “A small but fertile field: strengthening Southeast European Studies in Regensburg”, seeFField, University of Regensburg

The project “A small but fertile field: strengthening Southeast European Studies in Regensburg” (seeFField) was launched in July 2022 with the goal of strengthening Southeast European Studies in Regensburg. It is expected that within this funding period, and under the guidance of an academic supervisor, the pre-doc fellow will develop and design a doctoral research project that closely fits the seeFField profile, in preparation for an application for (external) funding. The key research disciplines are history, social anthropology, and linguistics. The pre-doctoral fellow will be invited to participate in all seeFField activities and those of its partner institutions in Regensburg. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 December 2024

Faculty Fellow in European and Mediterranean Studies, New York University

The Center for European and Mediterranean Studies in Arts and Science at New York University (CEMS/NYU) invites applicants for a Faculty Fellow position in the field of European Studies. CEMS/NYU seeks a scholar experienced in advising student research about Europe and specializing in one of the following disciplines: comparative European politics, international relations, sociology, contemporary European history, or anthropology. They are particularly interested in candidates whose research and teaching focus on the European Union; on political, economic and social developments in contemporary Europe; on European foreign affairs; or on identity and minorities in Europe. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 17 January 2025



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

By Sara Žerić Đulović

Mina Hristova is an assistant professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.
([read more](#))



Mina Hristova

Your research, about which you talked at the Doctoral Workshop in Pula in 2017, has since evolved into an award-winning book exploring the anthropological dimensions of borders and the construction of identities in the triborder region between Serbia, Macedonia, and Bulgaria. What were the key findings regarding how borders influence identity construction there?

"Who am I if I have a Macedonian cousin, another who is Serbian, and an uncle who is Bulgarian?" After transcribing almost 600 pages of interviews with participants, I found myself pondering this question. I want to

emphasise "rational," not "national(istic)." The strong migratory tendencies of young people on all sides of the borders are a part of everyday life. These processes impact social dynamics in both Serbia and Macedonia, highlighting the adaptation and strategic approach to the new "normal" status of being "Bulgarians by passport" and Macedonians by self-determination (in the latter case). I conceptualise that through chronotopic heterotopia, stand-by migration, and placebo identity. In the meantime, the Bulgarians in Serbia differentiate themselves from those in Bulgaria, which results in a "part Bulgarian and part Serbian" identification. It is there at the tripoint, where it's possible for Bulgarians, but not quite, half Bulgarians and half Serbs and Macedonians, but Bulgarians, to exist.

How challenging was it to conduct field research in this region? What specific obstacles did you face, and how did you overcome them?

During both the active and inactive phases of my ethnographic fieldwork, numerous events intensified the strained relations between Bulgaria and Macedonia. These issues were frequently debated openly on the streets and in cafes in Macedonia, sparking enquiries from the community directed at me. I was seen as belonging and yet an outsider. My familial connection to Pavel Shatev, a Macedonian national hero, while being Bulgarian, encapsulated the intricate interplay of narratives also felt by many Macedonians at

that time. They grappled with maintaining their Macedonian ethnic identity while holding a Bulgarian passport, which required them to falsely claim a Bulgarian connection, virtually making them Bulgarian citizens and effectively dissociating their civic and ethnic affiliation. While delving into the complexities of borders and community boundaries, I found myself to be a living boundary.

In the meantime, you have been engaged in another intriguing research project focused on refugees in Bulgaria.

The "REFUGE-ED" project, funded by the European Commission, aimed to provide education, mental health, and psychosocial support for refugee children in six European countries, specifically targeting unaccompanied minors in Bulgaria. Unlike adult refugees, children and adolescents undertake a perilous journey of thousands of kilometres, often facilitated by smuggling networks, to reach Europe, seeking to escape war and conflict. Coupled with political upheavals, natural disasters, and economic instability in their home countries, these factors create a highly uncertain situation that takes a toll on the children's mental health. In Bulgaria, they endured isolation, struggled to integrate, and bore the psychological weight of their irregular journey, all while in a state of limbo, as the country primarily serves as a transit point. We found that involving unaccompanied minors in co-creation activities and decision-making processes holds significant potential for their social inclusion and improving their overall social situation. Using various art forms to overcome

cultural, religious, and ethnic barriers can address the challenges posed by populist media, politicians, and conservative-nationalist actors.



At the 3rd Doctoral Workshop (Pula, 2017)

What are you currently working on, and what are your future research plans?

Since mid-2024, I've been delving into the social history of money in Bulgaria, exploring the symbolism of historical figures and "sacred geography" objects appearing in the context of national identity. Currently, I'm in the ethnographic fieldwork phase, having already developed sections of the text that integrate Bulgaria's social, political, national, and international contexts since its liberation in 1878 with the imagery on the currency. I hope the outcome will shed light on this topic in a crucial political-economic period for the country, providing a social history of the state and a point of view on nationalism that is currently lacking in our country.

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