

NEWSLETTER

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

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Call open: 7th Socialism on the Bench

Twelve years after the first conference in the series, the 7th Socialism on the Bench will be held in Pula on September 18–20, 2025. The application deadline is April 1. The complete call and application form can be found on the conference website in [English](#) and [Croatian](#).



The main conference theme is *Global Socialism and Non-Alignment*. Recent years have been marked by war conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, challenges of the pandemics, shifting roles among global powers and continents, as well as growing migration, social tensions and environmental issues. By focusing on global socialism, the conference seeks to explore the reach of socialist ideas, their impact over the past

century and a half, and their relevance to the present day, with particular emphasis on the period from the early 1950s to the late 1980s. This era saw socialism intersect with Cold War dynamics, decolonization and the rise of the Non-Aligned Movement. During this period, socialist ideas and revolutionary movements influenced societies across Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Progress, cooperation, internationalism and peace often

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coexisted with conflict and competition in political, economic, cultural and other spheres. While maintaining a focus on the discourse and practice of socialism and non-alignment, their histories and legacies, the conference aims to address policies, ideologies, manifestations and actions on the international, national and local levels, both within and beyond the blocs, in Europe and the Global South, from the global stage to individual interactions within societies.

CKPIS is glad to host three keynote speakers: Chiara Bonfiglioli (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), Tvrtko Jakovina (Faculty of Human-

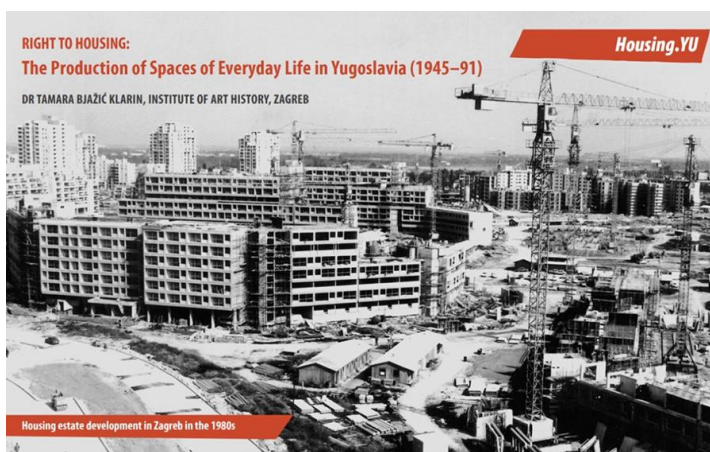
ities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb) and Paul Stubbs (The Institute of Economics, Zagreb). Since 2015, our partner has been Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Southeast Europe. Since 2021, the author of conference visuals has been Nikola Križanac.

We accept individual applications, but it is possible to indicate the desire to participate in a specific panel. It is also possible to suggest events like book launches and round tables. The conference languages are Croatian (and mutually understandable languages) and English. Apply by April 1!

ERC research project Housing.Yu



European Research Council (ERC) has approved the funding of the five-year project *Right to Housing: The Production of Spaces of Everyday Life in Yugoslavia (1945–91)* (more information: [Housing.Yu](https://www.housing.yu)), whose principal investigator is Tamara Bjažić Klarin from the Institute of Art History in Zagreb. A part of the research will be based in CKPIS with Igor Duda as a researcher and supervisor of a PhD student and a postdoctoral researcher. The project will explore the production of everyday living spaces in Yugoslavia (1945–1991), which still constitutes about 60–70% of



the current housing stock of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia. The project will employ a comprehensive, interdisciplinary and methodologically innovative approach to the actions of the state, urban planners, architects, contractors and citizen-users. The project aims to understand the critical phenomena of mass housing in the socialist state, including its production, policies, estate development, citizen participation and related knowledge exchange between Western and Eastern Europe.

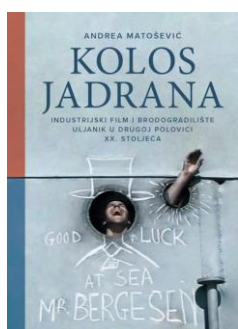
Two new publications



ZBORNIK PRAKSA aktivističkoga pjevanja. U povodu 10. obljetnice rada Zbora Praksa, co-edited by Ana Hofman and Lada Duraković, is the 24th volume of the CKPIS book series CeKaPISarnica, published by the ZRC SAZU Ljubljana and the University of Pula. The contributions discuss the practice of activist singing, while the lyrics of some 60 songs present the repertoire of the Praksa choir from Pula. The book can be downloaded from the website of [Biblioteka CeKaPISarnica](https://biblioteka.cekaapisarnica.hr/).



New issue of the journal [History in Flux](https://historyinflux.org/) (6/2024) brings [eight contributions on socialism](#) by Saša Hajzler, Dragan Popović, Milena Jokanović, Irena Šentevska, Lenka Krátká, Péter Vukman, Matea Radaković and Paul Stubbs. Most papers come from the 6th International Conference Socialism on the Bench: Crises and Reforms, held in Pula in 2023. This year *History in Flux* met all the requirements to be included in Elsevier's Scopus database. The volumes remain freely available through open access on Hrčak, the Croatian scientific and professional journals portal. Co-editors Igor Duda and Robert Kurelić remind that deadline for article submissions for the next volume is set for March 31, 2025.



Book Award

CeKaPISarnica's vol. 22 or Andrea Matošević's book *Kolos Jadrana. Industrijski film i brodogradilište Uljanik u drugoj polovici XX. stoljeća* (Srednja Europa, Zagreb, 2023) has been awarded by the Croatian Ethnological Society with the annual Milovan Gavazzi Prize. The author analyses industrial films on the Uljanik shipyard from Pula.



CONFERENCES AND CFP

CfA: Political Ecologies of Southeastern Europe: Legacies, Transformations, and Futures, special issue of Southeastern Europe

Political ecology – understood as an interdisciplinary endeavor to examine and theorize relations between societies and non-human environments – has not been central to scholarly discussions about Southeastern Europe. And yet, there are plenty of rich studies conducted in the region that shed light on the interplay between sociopolitical factors, economic forces, cultural practices, and the ecologies in which humans live. This special issue will bring together scholarship that enriches our understanding of the entangled political, economic, and social-ecological dynamics shaping Southeastern Europe in the hope of unifying a scholarly field within regional studies. What do the political ecologies of Southeast Europe look like? ([Read more](#))

Paper proposal deadline: 31 January 2025

60th ITH Conference: Workers and Worldmaking: Labor in the Era of Decolonization, Linz, 25-27 September 2025

The success of decolonization in the post-World War Two Global South depended greatly on the ability of national(ist) political leaders to rally local labor movements behind their cause. Similarly, solidarity with anticolonial movements, or the lack thereof, showed by the labor organizations and workers' political parties in the Global North, played an important role in the "battle for the hearts and minds" inside the metropolises. Labor movements in the center and periphery were not isolated, with rich exchanges taking place via political events, international conferences, delegation visits, and material aid. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 31 January 2025

Fifth Conference in Balkan Studies: Balkan matters! Material cultures in the Balkans, Marseille, 25-27 September 2025

While the material turn has been well known in the social sciences for at least twenty years, the vitality of these approaches varies according to cultural areas and disciplines. From the study of technical systems to the exploration of the social life of things and the transformation of environments, different theoretical currents seek to understand what connects us to material things (raw materials, artifacts, instruments, infrastructures, living entities, etc.). These fields of thought lead us to consider objects not as inert things, but as agents with an influence on individuals, societies and environments. They also question distinctions that are often problematic, such as material/immaterial, real/virtual, concrete/abstract. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 26 January 2025

Trading Zones: Art and Philosophy in Eastern Europe since 1945, Florence, 26-27 June 2025

This trans-disciplinary workshop will investigate the trading zone between artistic and aesthetic practice and philosophical ideas in Central and Eastern Europe. Which philosophical traditions and discourses have contemporary artists in or from Eastern Europe engaged with since 1945? How familiar and aware were theorists and philosophers from Eastern Europe with contemporary artistic trends, but also with the art of the past? Where have theorists or philosophers tended to conceive of art and aesthetic practice schematically, or with too much idealism? More generally speaking: to what extent can art and philosophy resist both all-encompassing formalism and ideological instrumentalization? ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 17 January 2025

**PUBLICATIONS**

Dženita Sarač-Rujanac, *Izgradnja u vrijeme obnove. Hidrocentrala u Bogatićima na rijeci Željeznici – od “općinskog trgovačkog preduzeća” do “objekta opštedržavnog značaja”* (Univerzitet u Sarajevu – Institut za historiju, Sarajevo 2024)

Autorica ovom studijom otvara vrlo važno, u dosadašnjoj bosanskohercegovačkoj historijskoj nauci u potpunosti zanemareno pitanje elektrifikacije i njenog značaja kako oslonca forsirane industrijalizacije koja je smatrana ključnom u sveobuhvatnoj transformaciji i modernizaciji države i društva. U njoj se govori o elektroenergetskoj situaciji nakon razarajućih ratnih dešavanja, stanju hidro i termocentrala i postojeće distributivne mreže, prvim konferencijama o energetskej privredi i elektroindustriji u DFJ/FNRJ, početnim elektrifikacionim planovima, prioritetnim objektima obnove i planskoj izgradnji, organiziranju i radu republičkog preduzeća za elektrifikaciju (Elektrobih), institucionalizaciji i centralizaciji 1940-ih u ovom važnom domenu te postupnoj republikanizaciji početkom 1950-ih. ([Read more](#))

Augusta Dimou, *Contesting Copyright: A History of Intellectual Property in East Central Europe and the Balkans* (CEU Press, Budapest 2024)

Augusta Dimou provides a thoroughly researched, interdisciplinary and comparative study of the historical development of copyright regimes in three countries – Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria. She examines the function and significance of copyright in the institutionalization, development, and regulation of modern culture in East Central Europe and the Balkans during the diverse political regimes of the modern era, and at the interface between the various nationalization and globalization processes of the 20th century. The bulk of the exposition deals with the first half of the twentieth century with a final chapter providing a summary history of copyright under communism. ([Read more](#))

Eric Ušić, *Zidovi pamte: vizualna etnografija političkih grafita iz Drugog svjetskog rata i poraća u Istri (Srednja Europa, Zagreb 2024)*

Putujući Istrom, prolazeći gradovima i selima, pažljivi prolaznik može primijetiti mnoge zapise na zidovima, natpise i simbole ispisane pretežno crvenom bojom, koji se mogu uočiti na oronulim pročeljima starih istarskih kuća. Neki od tih natpisa i simbola su fragmentirani, dok drugi natpisi, čija se boja s vremenom isprala i stopila sa starim fasadama, nalikuju blijedim i jedva vidljivim tragovima prošlosti. S druge pak strane, velika količina ovih zidnih natpisa je dobro očuvana, gotovo pa i netaknuta, a njihove su poruke još uvijek vidljive i čitljive u cijelosti. U knjizi Erica Ušića sagledana je evolucija, odnosno razvoj političkih grafita u Istri iz Drugog svjetskog rata i neposrednog poraća. ([Read more](#))



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

Visiting Fellowship, The Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz

The Centre for Southeast European Studies of the University of Graz is currently accepting applications for Visiting Fellows for the academic year 2025-26. The Centre provides research facilities for fellows, including a working place, access to the library and full participation in the activities of the centre for a period of one semester (4 months, either October-January or March-June). Visiting fellows are expected to present their work in a research seminar, discuss their research informally with members of the centre and contribute a working paper to the centre's working paper series and write a contribution to the research blog of the centre. Visiting fellows are also encouraged to contribute to seminars, classes and other teaching and research activities of the centre. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 8 January 2025

Early-Stage Postdoctoral Researcher, Leibniz ScienceCampus Europe and America in the Modern World (LSC), University of Regensburg

The successful candidate will be expected to develop a postdoctoral project, enabling applications for longer-term postdoctoral positions or other external funding. Drawing on the interdisciplinary approaches of contemporary area studies, the Leibniz ScienceCampus clusters researchers from various disciplines – including history, cultural and literary studies, law, economics and social sciences – to generate better understanding of the history of globality and of contemporary developments in transatlantic relations and entanglements. The LSC is interested in relations between the Americas and diverse regions of Europe in the period since the 19th century. The thematic focus of the LSC is on: (In-)Security and Sovereignty; Translating Knowledge and Cultures; Uneven Supply Chains; Refugee Worldmaking. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 12 January 2025



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Tina Filipović

Karlo Držaić is a doctoral student and a research assistant at the Centre for Theoretical Research in the Humanities, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. ([read more](#))



Karlo Držaić

During our doctoral workshops in Pula, you shared insights into some of the topics from your dissertation. What are the key issues you're tackling in your research?

Although the study of 19th-century socialist movements is traditionally a popular topic in European historiographies, the same cannot be said for the territory of Croatia, or rather, the then-provinces of the Habsburg Monarchy, Croatia and Slavonia. The socialist movement that emerged here at the end of the long 19th century, whose leaders predominantly aligned with the social-democratic faction rather than the communist one by the

end of World War I, has largely not been the subject of systematic research. This is the starting point of my doctoral dissertation. I argue that the socialist movement in Croatia and Slavonia was the first truly modern mass political movement in this province, and that its significance has been overlooked because it did not sufficiently fit into the dominant historiographical narratives of the past eighty or so years. I aim to approach the topic with less traditional theoretical and methodological frameworks, placing emphasis on language, culture, everyday life, and the broadly understood ideology of the movement.

You recently became part of the EU-UK project The Cartography of the Political Novel in Europe. What are your specific tasks within this project?

The idea of the project is to evaluate the political novel, a distinct aesthetic and social phenomenon, as a significant element of European social, political, and cultural heritage, and to examine how people in different national and cultural contexts interact with and express the political content of the novel, as the quintessential literary form of the modern world. In addition to conducting research, publishing papers, and participating in conferences, my specific role in the project is that of the editor of the [CAPONEU digital platform](#), which will be one of the more publicly visible outcomes. The platform will feature a cartographically presented, complex repository of 400 to 500

text portraits of the most important political novels of 20th-century Europe.

Shifting focus to another form of cartography – the one that emerged from the National Liberation Movement in Zagreb research project. What motivated you and the team to undertake such meaningful scientific and activist contributions?

The processes of erasing and destroying the memory of the anti-fascist struggle in the National Liberation Movement, which exploded in Croatia during the 1990s, also affected Zagreb. Almost all street and square names associated with the anti-fascist struggle were quickly changed to align with the new national narrative. This visible aspect of the erasure reflects the deeper revisionist processes institutionally supported and produced in post-Yugoslav states. Just as the erasure of memory from public spaces serves a political function, so too does historical revisionism in historiography. Both practices create and maintain a power structure that sanctions the current national, economic, and social system as not only correct but also the only viable option. In this context, it is essential to counter such processes by rejecting the traditional boundaries between the scientific or academic and the political. This does not imply abandoning the principles of scientific work or the, now popular, attempt to reduce politics to a domain exclusively for professionals and experts, but rather a deliberate and open positioning of the researcher and their work within the political sphere. We made a website kartografija-otpora.org, a book with a similar name, *The Cartography of Resistance: Zagreb*

1941–1945, the exhibition *Voices of Resistance*, and various public events.



At the 10th Doctoral Workshop (Pula, 2024)

Is there hope for Zagreb to gain a new museum dedicated to the domestic resistance movement?

The initiative to establish such a museum institution in Zagreb has existed for a couple of years. Several non-governmental organizations and individual researchers are working to bring this idea to fruition, but unfortunately, with little success so far. Despite significant knowledge accumulated through prior research, despite the concept being tested through several individual exhibitions, and despite various local government officials expressing interest, there has been little actual progress. It is important to highlight the problematic role often played by existing cultural institutions which perform a form of gatekeeping to maintain their conservative positions within the cultural field.

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