

NEWSLETTER

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

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Visiting Fellowship at CKPIS



The Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism (CKPIS) at Juraj Dobrila University of Pula welcomes visiting scholars for stays ranging from one week to a full semester. Since its foundation in 2012, the Centre has hosted numerous guests for research, lectures, round tables and discussions. Now, after relocating to a new address, we are launching a formal call in the hope of encouraging more colleagues to join us and become part of our visiting fellows' group.

We are pleased to host scholars from all disciplines related to the Centre's research focus, including the humanities and social sciences, particularly history, ethnology, anthropology, cultural studies, literary studies and musicology. The thematic scope covers the period between 1945 and 1990 in Croatia, Yugoslavia and globally, as well as nineteenth- and early twentieth-century socialist and communist ideas and post-socialist transitions. We welcome applications from doctoral candidates, post-doctoral researchers, early-career and senior scholars. Additionally, we encourage BA and MA students interested in our research fields to apply, as they can also participate in courses offered by the study programmes in history, literature and other related disciplines.

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Helena Stolnik Trenkić (pp. 7-8)

Visiting fellows are expected to contribute to the Centre's activities during their stay in Pula. This includes participating in meetings, workshops, conferences and other events, delivering a lecture, and contributing to the CKPIS Newsletter by presenting their research. There is also the possibility of publishing in the journal *History in Flux*. Arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis, depending on the length of stay and work experience.

We offer workspace at the new University campus (Aldo Negri Street 6, Pula), access to the Centre's library and the University Library, a friendly working environment, and opportunities for long-term collaboration in research, publications and other projects. While we can arrange discounts at the University restaurants and assist with booking short-term accommodation at the

student dorm, we regret that we are unable to provide or cover the cost of accommodation, travel expenses or financial support during the stay in Pula. We encourage applicants to seek funding through national or international scholarships and mobility grants.

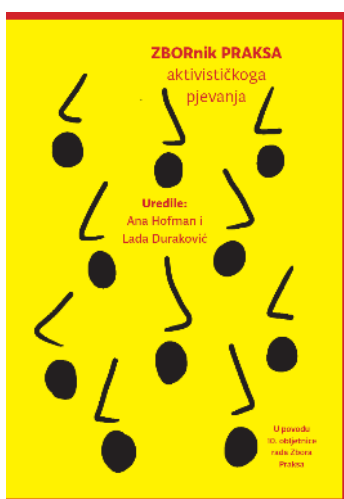
For the time being, this call will be repeated annually, with no fixed deadlines. However, due to limited workspace, we can host up to two scholars at a time for longer stays. We therefore encourage applicants to apply early in their mobility planning.

Application requirements: a CV, a one-page research plan, and a one-page motivation letter. Students and doctoral candidates must also provide a recommendation letter. For further information and applications, please contact us at ckpis@unipu.hr.

Reminder



[7th Socialism on the Bench](#)
Pula, September 18-20, 2025
Application deadline April 1



ZBORNIK PRAKSA
aktivističkoga pjevanja
[Biblioteka CeKaPiSarnica](#)



[History in Flux](#)
Vol. 6, 2024
Open access

11th Doctoral Workshop, Systems of Governance, August 27-30, 2025, call in March 2025



CONFERENCES AND CFP

Transforming Representations of Aging in Southeast European Literature and Film, Graz, 25-27 September 2025

In Southeastern Europe, cultural perceptions and personal experiences of aging and old age, although ambivalent and multifaceted, are embedded in a general discourse of catastrophe: The region is at the forefront of a global trend in population aging. Southeast European countries are also among those EU member states with people's lowest life expectancy. While increasing longevity is one of the main drivers of demographic aging in Western Europe and North America, a key factor in Southeastern Europe is the high out-migration of younger people. This development fuels fears and leads to what critical gerontologist Stephen Katz refers to as "alarmist demography." ([Read more](#))

Paper proposal deadline: 15 February 2025

Connected histories of economic planning in Southern Europe 1945-1989, Lisbon, 17-18 June 2025

The impact of the 2007-2008 financial crisis has sparked a renewed interest in the role of state intervention, bringing back into the contemporary debate numerous subjects that had become marginal in both mainstream academia and the public sphere. Industrial policy, in particular, has become a topic of inquiry across various disciplines, encouraging scholars to revisit the period that followed the Second World War, when economic planning seemed to hold the keys to unlock the future. Driven by a strong belief in the possibilities opened up by scientific knowledge and technical expertise, social scientists and engineers dedicated themselves to the collection of data, designing models to ensure the optimal allocation of resources and devising ambitious schemes for agricultural and industrial development. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 31 March 2025

Revolutionary Technocracy: The State and Mass Organizations in Socialist Governance since the 1950s, Ljubljana, 17 June 2025

The workshop will focus on the role of the state and "civic" organizations – trade unions, cooperatives, youth and women's organizations, and other state-controlled associations – in technocratic governance under state socialism. It will investigate the concepts, institutions, and practices central to socialist governance of the state since the 1950s, with a focus on the accumulation and application of scientific knowledge, expertise, and data within the party, government bodies, and research organizations. In particular, the workshop will address technocratic approaches to law, diversity management, self-government, state-related planning and reforms, crisis management, and nomenklatura recruitment. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 28 February 2025



PUBLICATIONS

Vladimir Unkovski-Korica, Saša Vejzagić (eds.), *Socialist Entrepreneurs? Business Histories of the GDR and Yugoslavia* (Routledge 2025)

This book breaks new ground, taking business history where it has only reluctantly gone in the past. The introduction reviews the small, but growing, literature, based on fresh archival materials, which investigates the history of business organisation in the Global East, or the Second World in the Cold War. It argues that there is already a great variety of approaches that go beyond the view of the Soviet-style firm as primarily a production function. Focusing on East Germany and Yugoslavia, seven chapters showcase new directions in the field, and demonstrate that the combination of business history with other historical and disciplinary approaches can help unpack the diversity of historical experiences, explain geographical variances, and offer new avenues for synthesis. ([Read more](#))

Iva Jelušić, *Gender and World War II in the Yugoslav Media* (Routledge 2025)

This book presents an analysis of the cultural memory of women's participation in the Yugoslav People's Liberation Struggle (1941–1945), with a particular focus on the figure of the female soldier. It examines how this subject was treated in socialist Yugoslavia's popular printed press and how it contributed to the creation of the figure of the Yugoslav New Woman. By examining four popular magazines, this volume aims to reveal the variety of understandings of women's unprecedented level of wartime engagement and its relevance in creating the conditions for the emergence and development of the New Woman in socialist Yugoslavia. The book delves into the roles and societal impact of these women as portrayed in the printed press from the end of World War II until the watershed moment of socialist Yugoslavia's history: the death of Josip Broz Tito in 1980. ([Read more](#))

Tomislav Anić, *Da nam živi, živi rad. Propaganda i udarništvo u Hrvatskoj 1945-1952* (Srednja Europa, Zagreb 2025)

Knjiga je posvećena fenomenu socijalističkog radnog takmičenja koji se promatra tijekom sedam formativnih godina hrvatskog i jugoslavenskog komunizma, točnije od kraja Drugog svjetskog rata i uspostave nove socijalističke vlasti do svršetka prvog petogodišnjeg plana 1945-1952. nakon kojeg se trebala procijeniti učinkovitost samog projekta. Autor fenomenu socijalističkog takmičenja pristupa kompleksno, ukazujući na njegovu dvostrukost. U takmičenju gleda i pokret i metodu kojima se htjela povećati produktivnost gospodarstva ali i ustoličiti nove društvene vrijednosti, primjerene novom nadolazećem društvu. Usavršavanje radnog procesa tako je ispravno postavljeno u vezu s ostvarivanjem najvišeg društvenog cilja novog režima: stvaranja socijalističkog čovjeka koji je trebao biti vođen društvenim, a ne privatnim interesom. ([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. U knjizi su sagledani različiti načini konstruisanja sećanja na Holokaust – od strane same jevrejske zajednice, kao i od države i društvenih organizacija. ([Read more](#))

Ulf Brunnbauer et al., *In the Storms of Transformation: Two Shipyards between Socialism and the EU* (University of Toronto Press, 2025)

In the 1990s, states in what would become the eastern edge of the European Union transformed their political systems and economies, leaving state socialism behind for liberal democracies and free markets. In the ensuing decades, two shipyards that were once the pride of their cities – in Gdynia, Poland, and Pula, Croatia – went bankrupt, unable to withstand global competition. Through an interdisciplinary study of these two shipyards, *In the Storms of Transformation* brings together a team of researchers to re-evaluate the shift from state socialism to market capitalism and offer a new periodization. With perspectives from social anthropology, sociology, and business history, the book argues that this transformation began with the oil crisis of the early 1970s and ended with EU accession – in 2004 in Poland and in 2013 in Croatia – highlighting the EU competition laws and global competition that pushed the shipyards into bankruptcy and diminishing the role of the revolutions of 1989. ([Read more](#))



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

Master's Programme in Southeast European Studies, University of Graz and University of Belgrade

The English-taught Master's Programme in Southeast European Studies is a full-time master's programme. The mission of the Joint Master Programme in Southeast European Studies is to provide an international and interdisciplinary master programme in social sciences and humanities of highest quality, which enables participants to effectively understand the interrelationship between history, law, politics, economics and culture with strong emphasis on the region of Southeastern Europe. The programme offers two focus areas, one in Southeast European History and one in Law and Politics in Southeastern Europe. While Belgrade is running the joint interdisciplinary programme, in Graz the programme offers two focus areas, one in Southeast European History and one in Law and Politics in Southeastern Europe. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 25 March 2025

The Bracewell Travelling Scholarship, UCL SSEES

The Bracewell Travelling Scholarship is funded by a gift from SSEES Emeritus Professor of History Wendy Bracewell, whose research examines South Slav history, and travel writing in and about eastern Europe. The Scholarship honours the long tradition of mutual curiosity between the UK and eastern, central and southeastern Europe by supporting PhD students from and studying in the SSEES region (excluding Germany and Russia) who wish to spend time at UCL working with SSEES academics, pursuing their own research and contributing as appropriate to the intellectual life of the School. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 31 March 2025

Shared Horizons' Project: Call for young researchers SHS Western Balkans

As part of a project to strengthen public debate and research on contemporary issues in the Western Balkans (October 2024-October 2026), the Institut français (the cultural operator of the French Foreign Affairs Ministry) would like to bring together early career researchers from the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia) and French researchers, to reflect on the opportunities offered by collectively researching and writing history, as well as by new methods of dissemination and mediation. The early career researchers must be doctoral students and/or PhDs (thesis defended less than five years ago) and must be English-speaking (level C1), taking care to ensure parity by country. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 10 February 2025

**EXHIBITIONS****Ideologija i planska industrijalizacija 1947. – 1952., Muzej grada Zagreba, Zagreb, 6 February – 27 April 2025**

Je li prvi petogodišnji plan (petoljetka) bio isključivo polazište za modernizaciju socijalističke Jugoslavije, u čijem je sastavu bila Hrvatska od 1945. do 1991. godine? Kako je funkcionirala modernizacija u jednopartijskom sustavu s monopolom odlučivanja male skupine ljudi te razgranatom državnom birokracijom? Je li primjena sovjetskog modela bila opravdana i izvediva u Jugoslaviji? Koja su obilježja industrijalizacije i stanogradnje tijekom petoljetke? Na navedena pitanja izložba nudi odgovore oslanjajući se na šest studija slučaja interpretiranih u širem kontekstu. Ekspozate za izložbu te arhivsko gradivo i muzejsku građu za izložbu u digitalnim presnimkama ustupilo je četrnaest muzejskih ustanova, arhiva i tvrtki iz Hrvatske i inozemstva (Bosna i Hercegovina, Republika Slovenija, Republika Srbija). ([read more](#))



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Sara Žerić Đulović

Helena Stolnik Trenkić is a PhD Candidate in History at the University of Cambridge ([read more](#))



Helena Stolnik Trenkić

For your doctoral thesis, you are researching vernacular and contesting articulations of the human right to self-determination in socialist Yugoslavia. Can you tell us a bit more about the topic?

Self-determination concerns a group's struggle to control its destiny. Anglophone studies on self-determination in Yugoslavia limit themselves to 1991, when the right legitimised Slovenian and Croatian secession. This reinforces a simplified 'Helsinki narrative' of the Cold War: that the 1975 Helsinki Accords introduced a new language of human rights to people in socialist countries, and triggered communism's collapse. But self-determination was central to Yugoslavia from the start: the 1946

Constitution framed its creation as an expression of self-determination. So, if this was not a new idea, how did it transition from being used for socialist state-building, to liberal-democratic or ethno-nationalist campaigns to secession? I look at how answers to these questions developed over time, and according to different actors. I look at contributions by the Yugoslav delegation to the UN; how various student movements in 1966-71 proposed different rights-bearing groups; its impact on debates over federalism and the national question; and the tension between internal and external self-determination in 1980s reform movements. I hope to use Yugoslavia to broaden the history of self-determination, and use self-determination as a lens to broaden histories of Yugoslavia.

In addition, you are researching student activism in Yugoslavia and its role in the Non-Aligned Movement. How did you decide to focus on this topic, and what contributions did student activists make to Yugoslavia's non-aligned solidarity efforts?

Our neighbour once picked me up from Zagreb airport, near the end of my undergraduate studies, and we spent the drive home discussing nostalgia for non-alignment. It was the 'sexy' topic as I began my MPhil, so my dissertation investigated the inculcation of non-alignment through education, culture, and action. The latter section noted that state actors approved of

some student actions, but deemed others unsuitable and destabilising. I come back to it in my PhD after noticing that solidarity for anti-colonial struggles sometimes fed domestic debates on Yugoslavia's national question. It was great to present on this at the CKPIS Doctoral Workshop in 2022.

You are an activist yourself. How has that experience shaped or influenced your academic work and research approach?

My research has only strengthened my commitment to the universal human rights system, whose notable faults and flaws only demonstrate that the system should be strengthened, not dismantled. The idea that human rights are a 'Western imposition' holds no ground when you've studied Global South actors working in these underappreciated, technical corners of history to institutionalise a universal, enforceable human rights system. Hierarchies existed, of course, but it's simply not a story of European rule-makers and passive rule-takers. These actors fought hard to make history, and now face the injustice of being written out of it. Progressives who critique human rights must acknowledge that, yes, universalism was exploited by imperialists – but we should not abjure it tout court. Without a sense of some fundamental common human dignity, how can one derive any form of social critique or demand for a better world? In research practise, I pay close attention to intellectual motivations. I refuse to be totally cynical: sometimes, people really do act out of moral conviction, and believe in ideologies very different to mine. Simultaneously, many actors adopted arguments not

because of their philosophical content, but their strategic advantage. Parsing the difference requires examining an individual's intellectual context, practical considerations, and development over time.



At the 8th Doctoral Workshop (Pula, 2022)

Abortion rights are one of your key activism themes. Looking at the history what lessons can we draw from those struggles for reproductive rights today?

I've been advocating for reproductive rights at international and national women's rights conferences for years now, and co-founded an initiative at Cambridge to educate and campaign on the issue. There's a lot to learn from history. For one, the evidence that abortion bans have never reduced rates of abortion – just made them less safe. I'll always favour seeking support from a broad coalition of actors to build non-partisan movements. History shows the importance of finding common ground where we can.

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