

NEWSLETTER

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

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Microsocialism meeting

The 4th meeting of Microsocialism research team was held in Pula, April 8-9. The final research phase and dissemination were discussed. Our [publications](#) are available online, and there is more to come until the end of the project in April 2023.

Project team: Anita Buhin, Magdalena Najbar-Agičić, Tina Filipović, Chiara Bonfiglioli, Saša Vejzagić, Tomislav Brandolice and Igor Duda

Summer Semester: Culture and Gastarbeiters

CKPIS Summer Semester, this year composed of lectures by CKPIS members, continues. In April, Anita Buhin talked about the self-managerial transformation of culture, based on her research within the project Microsocialism. Sara Žerić, a doctoral student at the University of Regensburg, a Pula graduate and the youngest associate of our Centre, presented her research on Gastarbeiters' influence and investments in the region of Imotski, in Dalmatian hinterland. Announcements for the lecture series are available through CKPIS-INFO mailing-list, social media and our [webpage](#).

10 2012 2022

Ljetni semestar CKPIS-a
Ciklus online predavanja povodom desete godišnjice rada

KULTURA

Kultura i udruženi rad (6)

KULTURO, GDJE SI?

Anita Buhin

(Ne)uspjesi samoupravnog preobražaja kulture na lokalnoj razini

utorak, 12. travnja 2022., 18.00, <https://www.unipu.hr/ckpis/dogadjanja>

10 2012 2022

Ljetni semestar CKPIS-a
Ciklus online predavanja povodom desete godišnjice rada

SARA ŽERIĆ

Utjecaj gastarbajtera na gospodarski i društveni život Imotske krajine (1968–1989)

Ana nekad
Ani sada

utorak, 26. travnja 2022., 18.00, <https://www.unipu.hr/ckpis/dogadjanja>

Also in this issue at pp. 7-10: interview with Tanja Petrović

CKPIS was founded in July 2012 as a new unit of the University of Pula. We will celebrate the Centre's 10th anniversary throughout this year. There will be a series of lectures within the *CKPIS Summer Semester*, a round table and, here on the *Newsletter* pages, short interviews with our researchers. Moreover, in the section *Interview of the Month*, month after month, we hope to present colleagues with whom we have closely cooperated.



TEN YEARS OF CKPIS: LADA DURAKOVIĆ

Interview by Tina Filipović

As an associate professor at the Academy of Music in Pula, you wrote numerous academic papers, a few monographs, and the musicological textbook for students. What is your connection with the study of socialism?

For several years I have been dealing with the history of music education, more precisely, the connection between ideology and the school system on the example of music classes in Croatian primary schools in the first twenty years after the World War II. My research was focused on aesthetic education, namely education through art disciplines as one of the main postulates of educational politics in socialism. My goal was to investigate the role of teaching material (textbooks and teaching guides) as possible means for the promotion of ideology, its level of presence in teaching practices (symbols,

school ceremony rituals), and the interconnection of educational authorities' volition and pupils' and teachers' capacities. For this purpose, I directed my research to mass communication media and specialized music publications of the early post-war period to closely interpret the needs of a new social reality. I was eager to answer how all of these had contributed to stimulation of music art, motivating creativity, forming and promoting "desirable artistic tendencies", enhancing music life, suppressing the difference between elite and some other cultures. The research detected concepts that enabled the transmission of ideological messages in journalistic texts on music in the early post-war years.

Recently, your last two books came out – *Forgotten Music: Pula 1900-1950*, and *Franz*

Lehár – Chaplain of the Imperial and Royal Navy in Pula (1894-1896), co-authored with Marijana Kokanović Marković from the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad. Has this shift from the recent topics in your academic work proved to be a valuable detour?

The music life of Pula used to be very intense, and music was, in a way, used as a channel for the cultural construction of the city, shaping it into an urban area. Marijana and I worked on reconstruction of Lehár's work and analysed the compositions he wrote while he lived in Pula. After many years of interdisciplinary research, it allowed me to return to "pure" musicology and boost my music theory skills that had become a little rusty. The *Forgotten music* was in the making for a long time, for some twenty years. Finally, it's composed of notes, some sort of stage directions that gave me the opportunity



Lada Duraković ([read more](#))

to systematically explore various aspects of the music life of Pula. I've recorded many interesting episodes from the city's music

history, details from the work of less famous people that had marked the daily life of music but have been long forgotten. The statement that Pula is in fact a city with a rich music tradition can hardly be substantiated without taking a deeper look into the work of these composers. The highlight of my activity was to find several beautiful compositions and put the effort to have them restaged.

How much did CKPIS contribute to your affinities for new research and the popularization of music research in general?

It seems to me that the ten years I have spent working in the Centre were crucial for the selection of the topics I'm focused on, and I believe this will continue in the future. Numerous papers and the monograph *Music as Educational Mean in the forming of the "socialist man": Music Education in Primary Schools in Croatia 1945-1965* are the results of the years I've spent working on CKPIS's project "The Making of the Socialist Man. Croatian Society and the Ideology of Yugoslav Socialism", funded by the Croatian Science Foundation. I think that CKPIS was crucial for my research experience, and that gave me the opportunity for networking and additional learning thanks to the successful conferences and many public lectures it has hosted, as well as to the abundant library it had formed over the years. The Centre is also an excellent platform that can be used to motivate our peers, especially younger generations of researchers, to explore the topics that have been unfortunately successfully ignored by Croatian musicology so far.



CONFERENCES AND CFP

The Balkans and the East: Dominant Discourses, Intercultural Communication and (Anti)globalization, Banja Luka, 30 September – 1 October 2022

Through the critique of Balkanist discourse many authors have pointed to important issues concerning the patterns of intercultural communication in the Europe/West-Balkans relationship, but also between the Balkan peoples (Milica Bakić-Hayden, Maria Todorova, Vesna Goldsworthy, etc). However, despite the immeasurable contribution to the deconstruction of essentialist notions of the identity/identities of the Balkan people, the results of most previous research in the field of Balkan studies are mostly relevant only in the field of theory and political debate. In this context, the respective topic of this scientific conference aims to simultaneously shift the analytical focus from the Balkans-West relationship to the Balkans-East relationship, i.e., from theoretical to empirical research. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 8 May 2022

Music and Censorship in the 20th and 21st Centuries, online, 10-12 February 2023

The word 'censorship' when referring to music immediately brings to mind the dictatorships of the twentieth century, although the practice has also always existed within democracies in various forms and for different reasons (moral, political, ideological, religious, or related to copyright). Usually, censorship means a form of control by third parties acting on the thoughts, works or actions of individuals. Yet, even in the absence of legislated repression, composers, performers, or music critics have often 'self-censored' themselves to adapt to forms of censorship that are not framed in law but are nevertheless enshrined in society, institutions or the media. Starting therefore from a reconsideration of the meaning of censorship in music, the present symposium seeks to investigate the different objectives of music censorship during the 20th and 21st centuries.

([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 13 November 2022

44th Annual Conference of the Irish Association for Russian, Central and East European Studies: 'Populism and Illiberalism in East, Central and Southeast Europe', Maynooth, 15-17 September 2022

This year's annual conferences of IARCEES, asks what are the ideologies that support and strengthen the implementation of the illiberal democratic rule? Are these ideologies new or do they draw from a legacy of a particular period in the past? What world do these ideologies envision and what world do they condemn? And in what way are the illiberal democratic tendencies similar and different across the CEE region? We want to investigate the role of organisations, institutions and grass root movements assisting the illiberal populist governments in implementing these ideologies. Are they of local or global outreach? Whose interests do they serve? What new phenomena can be seen emerging that directly oppose or undermine the illiberal rule? ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 July 2022



PUBLICATIONS

Branislav Radeljić, Carlos González-Villa, *Researching Yugoslavia and its Aftermath: Sources, Prejudices and Alternative Solutions* (Springer, 2022)

In *Researching Yugoslavia and its Aftermath*, a common thread is the authors' path through the time and space context in which fieldwork has taken place. Accordingly, this collection tackles problems that have always existed but have not been dealt with in a single volume. In particular, it examines a range of methodological questions arising from the contributors' shared concerns, and thus the obstacles and solutions characterising the relationship between researchers and their objects of study. Being an interdisciplinary project, this book brings together highly regarded historians, sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, cultural and social theorists, as well as experts in architecture and communication studies. They share a belief that the awareness of the researcher's own position in fieldwork is a precondition of utmost significance to comprehend the evolution of objects of study, and hence to ensure transparency and ultimate credibility of the findings. ([Read More](#))

Martin Pogačar, *Fičo, auto za sve: zvijezda jugoslavenskog automobilizma između cesta i uspomena* (Zagreb: Srednja Europa, 2022)

Zašto su nam stari automobili toliko privlačni da neki pod njima satima leže, drugi nježno glade svježe ulašteni lim, a treći s karoserije ljušte podbuhlu hrđu i plijesan? Zato što sa sobom nose ostatke popularne kulture, slave hrabrosti, avanturizma, mladosti i otpora? Tragove kolomaza i mirise benzina? Život fiće nakon Jugoslavije otvara niz pitanja o "friziranim" sjećanjima na jugoslavensku prošlost, ali i o zanimljivoj povijesti i tehničkoj i industrijskoj baštini. Uključimo brisače (samo da rade!) i obrišimo kapljice (n)ostalgije. Dignimo poklopac, zagledajmo u stroj tog fenomena. Pokušajmo ustanoviti zašto je najpopularniji domaći automobil danas ujedno i jedan od glavnih označitelja proteklog razdoblja i predmet kroz koji vidimo da su i materija i sjećanja i šuplji i trajni. ([Read More](#))



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POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

6 Postdoctoral Researchers, 9 Doctoral Students and 1 Knowledge Transfer Officer, NCCR on the move, The migration-mobility nexus, Switzerland

The NCCR on the move is hiring 6 Postdoctoral Researchers, 9 Doctoral Students and 1 Knowledge Transfer Officer. The Postdoctoral Researchers and Doctoral Students will contribute to one of the NCCR – on the move projects at one of the eight partner universities in Switzerland. The Knowledge Transfer Officer will work at the NCCR Network Office at the University of Neuchâtel. The descriptions of the positions with more information on the projects and employing universities, as well as on the research orientations and qualifications required can be found on NCCR – on the move/jobs.. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 30 June 2022

Professor of Southeast European History and Anthropology, University of Graz

The professorship encompasses the entire field of Southeast European history in its largest geographic extent and historical depth. A focus should be on historical-anthropological approaches. It is expected that the post holder will play an important role in the field of excellence “Dimensions of Europeanisation” and cooperate closely with other institutions at the university focusing on SE Europe (i.e., Institute of Slavic Studies, Centre for Southeast European Studies). In addition to developing and conducting third-party funded research projects, the post holder should also maintain and develop academic contacts and networks in SE Europe. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 18 May 2022

Two fixed-term predoc positions, Women's and gender history in Southeast Europe in the 20th Century, CSEES University of Graz

The project will highlight how oral history, ethnographic and biographical approaches can help us challenge a simplified understanding of gendered transformations during the socialist period and in its aftermath, and to integrate ongoing debates about intersectional, postsocialist and post-colonial approaches and interpretations within women's and gender history in Southeastern Europe. Two project assistants without a doctorate will closely collaborate with the Senior Fellows and the other Incoming Junior Fellow. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 18 May 2022

FIAS fellowship Programme 2023-2024, France

The French Institutes for Advanced Study Fellowship Programme offers 10-month fellowships in the six Institutes of Aix-Marseille, Loire Valley (Orléans-Tours), Lyon, Montpellier, Nantes and Paris. It welcomes applications from high-level international scholars to develop their innovative research projects in France. The call is open to all disciplines in the social sciences and the humanities (SSH) and all research fields. Research projects in other sciences and in arts that propose a strong interaction and dialogue with the SSH are also eligible. Some host IAS have scientific priorities that need to be taken into full consideration before applying. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 2 June 2022



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Sara Žerić

Tanja Petrović is the head of the Institute of Culture and Memory Studies ZRC SAZU and a professor at the ZRC SAZU Postgraduate school. ([read more](#))



Tanja Petrović

As a linguist and an anthropologist, you research the culture of memory in the republics of the former Yugoslavia. In your research, you often break stereotypes about Yugonostalgia as just an "escape into the past." Why is the study of (Yugo)nostalgia important today?

More than in culture of memory (which presupposes some kind of cultivating, selecting, and managing memory), I am interested in memory as the way in which we connect the socialist past to our present, and also our future, and how the experience of socialism and memory of it structure and complicate the relationship between these

three temporal frames. Feelings and affective attachments to the Yugoslav socialist past, usually labelled (Yugo)nostalgia, play very important role in this structuring of political time, as they challenge the idea of definite and unquestionable pastness of the past and divert attention to what is continuous, persistent and capable of unsettling the givenness of the present. In contrast to many, I firmly believe that nostalgia for socialism is relevant not only epistemologically, but also politically. The anthropologist Dominic Boyer has warned us more than a decade ago that we need to take nostalgia for socialism seriously. If taken seriously, nostalgia for socialism recalls a self-perception and forms of agency, sociality and collectivity which are lost in "transition" and made impossible not only to practice, but also to imagine in the present sociopolitical reality. The unwillingness to take nostalgia for socialism seriously and its easy and nonchalant dismissal are a symptom of this impossibility. What those who are marked (Yugo)nostalgic usually have to say about the socialist past is that then they believed in the values of collectivity, equality and solidarity and were investing labour and efforts into common good. However, their insistence on the meaningfulness of such labour and belief in the ideals of common good is met today with suspicion, ridiculed, and rejected as inauthentic, and they are cynically looked down as naive and politically immature. So, the important question one should ask is why we are unwilling and unable to take them seriously, why we do not believe them.

You edited the monograph "Made in YU 2015" together with Jernej Mlekuž. In this monograph, you approached the memories of socialist Yugoslavia through "materialization", i.e. through objects and products. What are these products and what do they tell us about the memories of Yugoslavia, and what about the history of the state itself?

This book also resulted from the belief in the necessity to understand the experience of Yugoslav socialism and memories of it beyond the simplified and banalizing interpretations that ultimately picture the "owners" of this experience and memories as naive, irrational subjects stuck in the idealized past. Understood as a banal feeling, (Yugo)nostalgia is usually discussed through what is most accessible and visible, and these are material objects from socialism, including food and drinks. This way, nostalgia of former Yugoslavs is reduced to the consumerist and consumption practices and relationships. In "Made in YU" we do not only argue that this nostalgia is much complex than that, but also show that the objects from the socialist period and the way people engage with them and think the world through them are far from banal and shallow. These objects have an important reflexive and political dimensions and work as prisms through which we observe and make sense of social, political, and historical processes. With this book we wanted to point to the fact that the discussion on the history of Yugoslav socialism and its meanings for the present has to be more open for a variety of narratives, including those personal, affective and deeply intertwined with bodily and sensorial experiences.

In one of the last published works, you dealt with the memory of the coexistence of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and the citizens of Pula in socialism. What results did you come up with in that research and what is the attitude towards Pula's military heritage today?

In this paper I tried to outline the modalities in which Pula and the Yugoslav army cohabitated, lived together, interacted and shaped each other during the period of Yugoslav socialism. While in the ongoing process of Pula's urban transformation, in which several military and industrial facilities, complexes, and areas still wait for their new functions and new owners, the city's military nature and its liminal character defined by the existence of vast spaces that simultaneously belong and do not belong to the city, have been identified as a problem by authorities and policy makers. They see the material and immaterial traces of the presence of the military in the city as an "unwanted heritage." The same is true for the remnants of Pula's industry. In opposition to the view that Pula's military (and industrial) heritage is a problem to be overcome/eliminated, the citizens of Pula perceive this heritage as closely related to their city's multicultural and working-class tradition and engage with it in the process of creation of meanings, values, histories, and memories.

For many years you have successfully cooperated with CKPIS. You were a guest in Pula as a lecturer, a participant in the conference Socialism on the Bench, and together with Andrea Matošević, you are participating in the project The Work of

British-Yugoslav Association: Shock-Labour Institutionalization, Touristic Promotion and the idea of Disalienation from 1945 to 1965. How do you see the role of CKPIS, in terms of research of socialism in the international academic community and in your own research?

The Institute of Culture and Memory Studies at ZRC SAZU in Ljubljana where I work and CKPIS have a long lasting and very intense cooperation. We completed a bilateral project dedicated to histories and regimes of labour in socialist Yugoslavia. We also organize joint workshops in which we discuss our ongoing research. The volume *Pruga/Duh pruge* published in 2020 edited by Andrea and myself was one of the results of this intense cooperation. It comprises a translation of *The Railway: An Adventure in Construction*, a collection of impressions by Edward P. Thompson and his comrades from the Youth Labor Action Šamac-Sarajevo in 1947, and a collection of texts by researchers reflecting on *The Railway* and the meanings of voluntary labour both in the moment of the post-war reconstruction and from the vantage point of the present. CKPIS is one of rare institutional centres that are explicitly dedicated to the research of Yugoslav socialism and postsocialism. As such, it plays a crucial role both regionally and in broader international context, serving as a hub for encounters of researchers and generation and exchange of knowledge. With its various activities (the conference Socialism on the Bench, the doctoral workshop, series of lectures, publications, research projects), CKPIS made itself internationally recognizable, but also opened a space for discussions and connecting among the researchers from the

region, making their research more visible and their voices more present in scholarly debates about Yugoslavia and its socialism. This latter aspect extremely important and I am personally very grateful for it.

Finally, what book would you recommend to a young student who has just started becoming interested in Yugoslav history or the history of socialism, and why?

Most of my research is driven by the persuasion that it is important to ask not only why to research socialist Yugoslavia, but also how to do it; not only what to learn about Yugoslavia, but also what to do with that knowledge. Three decades after Yugoslavia dissolved in violent ethnic conflicts, we are witnessing increasing academic interest for its political history and everyday life. There are numerous publications, research projects, doctoral dissertations dealing with Yugoslav socialism. Amidst this growing body of research and scholarly production which shapes the contours of (post)Yugoslav studies as an academic field, it is necessary to keep asking about the nature of the produced knowledge, in the similar way Richard Johnson insisted in the mid-1980s, when cultural studies were being constituted as an academic discipline, that cultural studies must remain “a process, a kind of alchemy for producing useful knowledge”. As I see such reflexive approach crucial for the studies of Yugoslavia as well, and believe that it should characterize thinking, teaching and research, my recommendation for a book would be unlikely and seemingly a strange one, as it is not about Yugoslavia at all (although there are so many great historiographic, ethnographic, sociological,

and other studies of Yugoslavia published in the last decades). It is David Scott's *Omens of Adversity: Tragedy, Time, Memory, Justice* (Duke University Press, 2014). It is a book about socialism on Grenada, a small island state in the Caribbean Sea, who had its own socialist revolution in 1979 and a short-lived socialist project that ended traumatically and violently. This book, in which Scott places tragic events on Grenada and the way they are dealt with in the aftermath, into a broader context of the end of the Cold War, the disappearance of political alternatives and their replacement by liberal democracy as the

only possible framework of political action, is very relevant for the history of Yugoslav socialism and the ways we think about it. It offers a universalist lens to look at this particular history, and greatly helps understand constraints the prevalent understandings of the socialist project pose on our own thinking and writing about the Yugoslav socialism.

NEWSLETTER

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



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

8th Doctoral Workshop MICROHISTORIES OF SOCIALISM AND POSTSOCIALISM

Pula, Croatia, August 24–27, 2022



Application Deadline: **May 15, 2022.** [Find out more!](#)