

NEWSLETTER

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

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CKPIS at Kliofest in Zagreb

Within the programme of the four-day history festival Kliofest, held at the National and University Library in Zagreb, a roundtable was held in occasion of the 10th anniversary of CKPIS. Snježana Koren and Branimir Janković, both from the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, commented on the Centre's research projects, publications and other activities, placing it all in the context of historiography and humanities in Croatia. On behalf of CKPIS, Igor Duda and Anita Buhin shared the facts and their impressions on the Centre's foundation and work. Moderator was Magdalena Najbar-Agičić. Video recording is available at the [Kliofest Youtube](#) channel.



Branimir Janković, Snježana Koren, Magdalena Najbar-Agičić, Anita Buhin, Igor Duda

Summer Semester: Literature and Music

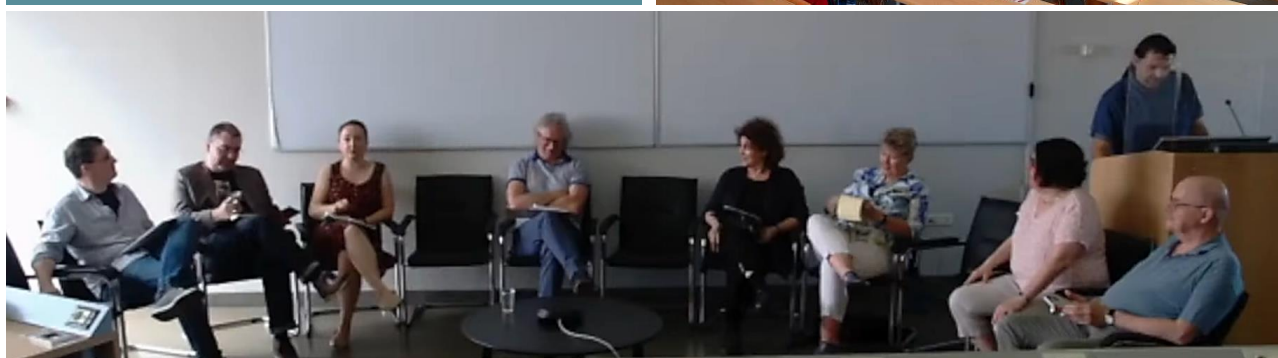
In May, CKPIS Summer Semester hosted Boris Koroman (*Mjesto pripovijesti i ne-mjesto stvarnosti*) and Lada Duraković (*Kako animirati „okorjele neprijatelje teške muzike“? Iz rada pulskog ogranka Muzičke omladine*), who presented their thoughts, results and research in the fields of literary studies and literary history, as well as in musicology and history. Announcements for the lecture series are available through CKPIS-INFO mailing-list, social media and our [webpage](#). There is only one event left and it is scheduled for June 7.

Everyday Life in State-Socialist Societies

From May 12 to 15, CKPIS was proud to host the conference *Everyday Life in State-Socialist Societies*, which was co-organized by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Southeast Europe (see full [programme](#)). Among some 25 participants there were three keynote speakers Martha Lampland, Marsha Siefert and Igor Duda, who all also took part at the final roundtable together with Goran Musić, Alina-Sandra Cucu, Ulf Brunnbauer, Eszter Bartha and Marcel van der Linden. Video recordings of keynotes and the roundtable are available on [Youtube](#).

The conference was announced in an interview with M. van der Linden and A. Cucu ([What Was Life Like in Socialism](#)). The local media, such as [Radio Rojc](#) and [Istra24](#) covered the event.

CKPIS wants to thank to the Faculty of Economy and Tourism “Dr. Mijo Mirković”, Faculty of Humanities and the computing centre SRIC.



Roundtable (from left to right): Igor Duda, Goran Musić, Alina-Sandra Cucu, Ulf Brunnbauer, Marsha Siefert, Martha Lampland, Eszter Bartha, Marcel van der Linden

Also in this issue at pp. 8-10: interview with Magdalena Najbar-Agičić

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

BORIS KOROMAN

Mjesto pripovijesti i ne-mjesto stvarnosti

utorak, 10. svibnja 2022., 18.00, <https://www.unipu.hr/ckpis/dogadjanja>

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

LADA DURAKOVIĆ

Kako animirati „okorjele neprijatelje teške muzike“?
Iz rada pulskog ogranka Muzičke omladine

utorak, 24. svibnja 2022., 18.00, <https://www.unipu.hr/ckpis/dogadjanja>

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: CHIARA BONFIGLIOLI

Interview by Tina Filipović

As a specialist in transnational women's and feminist movements, you have addressed gender issues from various perspectives, analyzing women's agency in different historical times, as well as in political, working, and private settings. Which topics and approaches have proven to be the most useful for exploring the position of women in Southeast Europe?

I first worked on transnational women's and feminist movements during my Masters dissertation, which was dedicated to the first international feminist conference held in socialist Yugoslavia, the well known *Drug-ca Žena* meeting that happened at the Student Cultural Centre (SKC) in Belgrade in October 1978. The conference is considered foundational for feminist genealogies in the

post-Yugoslav space, while it is largely forgotten elsewhere. I approached this theme mainly through oral history, interviewing some of the organizers from Belgrade, Zagreb and Sarajevo, and international guests, including extraordinary activists and intellectuals that are no longer with us, such as Dragan Klaić, Borka Pavićević, Luciana Viviani, and Carla Ravaoli. It was an incredible experience and the richness of those interviews, which often presented contrasting viewpoints, made me aware of the importance of transnational approaches to women's and gender history. I continued to use a transnational approach in my doctoral dissertation, which looked this time at the early Cold War era (1945-1957) and at the relations between Italian and Yugoslav

left-wing women's organizations, at a time in which numerous tensions shaped such interconnections. For my postdoctoral project, I ventured into the lives and experiences of current and former textile workers in Croatia, Serbia, North Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Slovenia. For the first time I interviewed working class women, who were struggling with very material issues such as unemployment and everyday survival. This project further convinced me that research in women's and gender history needs to be not only transnational, but also intersectional, taking into account issues of class, ethnicity, age, generation and other factors of social differentiation alongside gender.



Chiara Bonfiglioli ([read more](#))

What are your connections with CKPIS and experiences in researching women's history in socialist Yugoslavia and its post-socialist countries?

My first encounter with CKPIS happened in 2013, when I attended the Socialism on the Bench conference. Soon after that, CKPIS

agreed to host me as a Newfelpro fellow, and I moved to Pula at the end of 2014, starting my fellowship in February 2015 with Andrea Matošević as a supervisor. During my earlier CITSEE fellowship at the University of Edinburgh I had already done some research on textile factories in Štip, North Macedonia, Leskovac, Serbia and Bosanski Novi/Novi Grad, Bosnia-Herzegovina. When I arrived in Pula, the Arena knitwear factory was in bankruptcy and was being sold floor by floor. All its furniture and machines were also being sold for a pittance. I bought an old office desk for 70 kn, which followed me to Vienna and then to Cork. In Pula I started doing interviews with Arena workers, and then I did some more research in the rest of Croatia, and in Slovenia. Having a base in Pula and being able to discuss my findings with colleagues at the CKPIS was a fantastic opportunity, which led to the writing of my monograph, *Women and Industry in the Balkans*. I also learned a lot as a co-organizer of the Socialism on the Bench conference in 2015, and from the co-editing of the conference proceedings with Boris Koroman. The CKPIS team has created a very fruitful and interesting platform for scholarly collaborations, and for exchanges between scholars of different generations based in the post-Yugoslav region or interested in the region. It has been refreshing to be able to approach to the history of Yugoslav socialism from a critical perspective, while stepping out of a “totalitarian” paradigm.

Can you tell us more about the projects and research you're currently working on?

Recently I came back to my earlier interest in transnational women's activism during the Cold War, studying the participation of women to the Non-Aligned Movement. I am especially interested in the figure of Slovenian lawyer and politician Vida Tomšič, and in her transnational trajectory. I am currently working on a monograph provisionally titled *Vida's Vision: Women, Non-Alignment and the Global Cold War*, which will investigate more in depth the connections established between Yugoslav activists and activists in the Global South. I believe that the women active in the NAM were the precursors of intersectional feminist ideas, as they insisted on the interrelation between women's emancipation and social justice at the local and global level. I am also continuing my collaboration with CKPIS through the Microsocialism project (2018-

2023), funded by the Croatian Science Foundation and led by Igor Duda. Within the project, I am investigating the work of state socialist women's organizations in the municipalities of Duga Resa and Varaždin. In the past two years it was near to impossible to travel for archival research, with a small child at home and the restrictions brought by the pandemic. Once again, CKPIS network worked its magic and our colleague Sara Žerić assisted me in carrying out the archival research. I think that a microhistorical approach is very productive when it comes to investigating the impact of *aktivni žena* on the everyday lives of working class women, especially single mothers working in textile factories such as the Duga Resa cotton mill and the Varteks textile factory, which are the oldest in Croatia.

Ljetni semestar CKPIS-a
Ciklus predavanja povodom desete godišnjice rada

15. ožujka 2022.
ANDREA MATOŠEVIĆ
Kako da naš radni čovjek privuče pažnju dokumentarista?
Od trudbeničke homoerotike do kolektivnih uspjeha
1960-ih i 1970-ih na dokumentarnom filmu

29. ožujka 2022.
TINA FILIPOVIĆ
Političke prakse SUBNOR-a i lokalni aktivizam
boraca u kasnome socijalizmu

12. travnja 2022.
ANITA BUHIN
(Ne)uspjesi samoupravnog preobražaja
kulture na lokalnoj razini

26. travnja 2022.
SARA ŽERIĆ
Utjecaj gastarbajtera na gospodarski i društveni život
Imotske krajine (1968–1989)

10. svibnja 2022.
BORIS KOROMAN
Mjesto pripovijesti i ne-mjesto stvarnosti

7. lipnja 2022.
IGOR DUDA
Mjesne zajednice: samokritika u završnici
jugoslavenskog socijalizma

24. svibnja 2022.
LADA DURAKOVIĆ
Kako animirati „okorjele neprijatelje teške muzike“?
Iz rada pulskog ogranka Muzičke omladine

utorkom u 18 sati online <https://www.unipu.hr/ckpis>

CENTAR ZA KULTUROLOŠKA I POVIJESNA ISTRAŽIVANJA SOCIJALIZMA
CENTRE FOR CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF SOCIALISM
SVEUČILIŠTE JURJA DOBRILE U PULI

CKPIS Summer Semester: <https://www.unipu.hr/ckpis/dogadanja>



CONFERENCES AND CFP

Deindustrialization and Reindustrialization Re-Connected. Comparing Developments in the Global South and the Global North from the 1970s to the Present Day, Vienna, 31 May – 3 June 2023

Studies of deindustrialization in different parts of the world have pointed out that deindustrialization was often connected in intricate ways with forms of reindustrialization. Most obviously and commonly, deindustrialization at one particular place implicated industrialization somewhere else, often far removed from the place that industry had been located before deindustrialization hit. Sometimes, however, industries did not move all that far. And sometimes, the transformations associated with deindustrialization did not lead to complete devastation of the industrial cores and the abandonment of urban environments – a process most often associated with the rust belt of the United States and centers of heavy industry in formerly socialist countries.

[\(Read more\)](#)

Application deadline: 15 September 2022

(De)constructing Yugoslavia: migrants, exiles, and refugees, Glasgow, late February 2023

Migrations played a major role in the history of Yugoslavia – its creation, evolution and final collapse. Yugoslavia came into being after the First World War, but émigrés in Europe and communities of settlers of South Slav origins in the Americas played an important role in its creation. Considerable new diasporas came into being in the Americas and Western Europe, and affected the country's evolution in the interwar period, in economic, political and cultural terms. They once again played an important role in campaigning for different groups vying for political power during the Second World War and after. In the Cold War, policing diasporas became a major challenge for the Communist authorities, who had to combat new diasporas of fleeing political dissidents. To this was added the large worker emigration to Western Europe and Australia from the 1960s, a proportion of which returned to Yugoslavia following the recessions of the 1970s and 1980s. [\(Read more\)](#)

Application deadline: 15 July 2022



Biblioteka ✧ CeKaPISarnica



PUBLICATIONS

Dora Komnenović, Reading between the Lines. Reflections on Discarded Books and Sociopolitical Transformations in (Post-)Yugoslavia (Stuttgart: ibidem-Verlag, 2022)

Every major (socio-political) change starts with some discarding. Suffice it to think about the heaps of rubbish consisting of old furniture, cars, busts of famous communist leaders, badges and books on the streets of Eastern Europe in the fall/winter of 1989-90. Among the institutions which have the greatest amount of experience with discarding are certainly libraries: counterintuitive as it may seem, libraries (but also museums and archives) discard books as part of their job. In the wake of the collapse of communism in Europe stock revision was needed in libraries, but did it unfold in a “business as usual” fashion or was it a “bibliocide” (as it was labelled by some media in Croatia) or “the biggest destruction of books in the post-war period” (as it was characterized by a German journalist)? In other words, when does a standard library practice start attracting public attention? What happened in Croatia that there is even a Wikipedia page about “bookicide” in the 1990s?

[\(Read More\)](#)



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

Visiting fellowship at the Institute of Contemporary History in Ljubljana

The Institute of Contemporary History (Institut za novejšo zgodovino) in Ljubljana has launched a Visiting Fellowship program and is accepting applications for the Visiting Fellowship program starting from October 1, 2022. Scholars working in the field of contemporary political, social, economic history or related disciplines, as well scholars working in the field of digital humanities, are invited to apply for the fellowship of two to four months in the period between October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2023. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 June 2022

Visiting professorship at the Institute of History, University of Hradec Kralove

The expected length of the professorship is five months (February 2023 to June 2023). It involves teaching two courses (13 ninety-minute classes each) on topics of your choice and based on your field of expertise and offering individual consultations over the length of the semester to our students, allowing them to experience a unique one-time opportunity. Besides teaching, publishing at least one scholarly article is required, either in an academic journal indexed in Web of Science or SCOPUS databases, or in a chapter in a collection of essays published with a renowned publisher. The publication is to be affiliated to our institute and dedicated to the Visiting Professorship program. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 August 2022



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Nemanja Stanimirović

Magdalena Najbar-Agičić is a historian and an associate professor at the University North (Sveučilište Sjever). ([read more](#))



Magdalena Najbar-Agičić

In your book *U skladu s marksizmom ili činjenicama: Hrvatska historiografija 1945-1960*, you have demonstrated how history was put into service of the official ideology and how some notable historians of the time merely took up the rhetoric of the Marxist ideology but not the ideology itself. What has been the relationship between historiography and the official rhetoric since - both in later periods of SFRY and of independent Croatia?

Dealing with the development of Croatian historiography in the period after the Second World War, I confirmed the thesis, known from research in other countries, that historians, as well as members of other professions, in general tried to adapt to the

new ideology, mainly on a superficial level. At the same time, however, they did not become "true Marxists". Sometimes this was the result of conscious rejection of ideology, but sometimes intellectual laziness or even incompetence. On the other hand, there were few who fully adhered to the new ideology (out of conviction or conformism), and even fewer who were willing to openly reject Marxism and take oppositional positions towards the authorities. The latter were pushed in various ways to the margins of intellectual life or were prevented from working in their profession. But, as I mentioned earlier, we have very few recorded traces of such an attitude. The situation did not change significantly in this respect in the period of late socialism, except for the weakening of ideological pressure and a certain pluralization of permissible approaches. At the same time, the existing system influenced mainly the choice of research topics, but not the popularity of the Marxist approach. At the time of the fall of the communist regime and Croatian independence, historians were given a very important role in strengthening national identity and legitimizing and justifying the historical processes that took place at the time. Some were very willing to get involved in these activities. Majority continued their research with little or no methodological corrections, usually changing only the focus of the research.

In one of your articles comparing the early post-war media and journalism in Yugoslavia and Poland, you have noted

both the similarities between the two countries, namely in the monopolisation of informing by the Party, and the differences. What would the comparison look like if one were to extend the explored timeframe up to the end of the Communist Party rule? Furthermore, how did the self-managing of the Yugoslav society influence the development of the local media in the 1970s and the 1980s?

In my research I try to apply comparative methods. For me, this is even more important because I was born and raised in another country of the former Eastern Bloc, so the a priori emphasis on Yugoslav uniqueness is unacceptable to me, and in fact ridiculous. In fact, very little is known here about the situation outside Yugoslavia, and it is difficult to overcome stereotypes. Many things in Yugoslav socialism were similar to those in other countries under communist regimes, but some were different. Of course, the situation was not the same in all Eastern Bloc countries, each had its own specifics. If we look at Poland and Yugoslavia towards the end of the socialist period, the differences that arose from the events of the early 1980s in Poland will become more and more noticeable: I mean the development of the Solidarity movement and the introduction of the Martial Law. This was accompanied by the development of a kind of "parallel society", with a very rich illegal publishing activity. This paradoxically created a huge space of intellectual freedom in that country. At the same time, Yugoslavia is in a period of crisis, not only economic but primarily political, and during the 1980s the system loosened, allowing for some new phenomena, giving space to new ideas and

media ventures, which was most noticeable in Croatia on the example of youth media. This also applies to initiatives to launch youth media at the local level. The young adepts of journalism who took the first steps in them often defied the old skeletal system and pointed out its deviations. They acted legally though, sometimes maneuvering between party factions. This meant, however, that they did not question ideology as such, nor did they deal with political taboos like Tito's cult of personality, because that was an obvious border that could not be crossed. At the same time, in Poland, the illegal "underground press" was openly anti-communist.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of CKPIS, and you have had numerous collaborations with the Centre. How do you see the role of CKPIS in the academic community which deals with socialism, and has the Centre influenced your own research somehow?

I have been connected with CKPIS almost since the beginning of its activities. I participated in all Socialism on the Bench conferences held so far and I was a collaborator of its first project Making of the Socialist Man, as well as its current project Microstructures of Yugoslav Socialism. The establishment of the Center meant a great refreshment and truly a "new beginning" of research of the socialist period in Croatia. Ten years ago, when the Center was founded, dealing with everyday life in socialism, for example, was a real novelty. It meant a kind of "normalization" of the research attitude towards the socialist period, which was abruptly rejected in the early 1990s, and was seen only as a negative reference point. Then,

10 years ago, there were critical voices towards the idea of establishing the CKPIS precisely from these political and ideological positions. In my opinion, it is completely wrong: the goal is not an ideologically motivated revision of the view of Yugoslav socialism, but an attempt to broaden the horizons and better the knowledge of the period which - like all others - needs to be thoroughly researched. I think that in the 10 years of its existence, CKPIS has achieved a lot in that area, although it still has a lot of work to do. The multidisciplinary of the Center and its international connections certainly contribute to that.

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?

Research on contemporary history, including the history of socialist Yugoslavia, has been quite attractive to young researchers lately, for several reasons. First of all, these are topics that are very relevant in society today, and often provoke a lot of emotions. On the other hand, many topics are unexplored, and the sources are quite rich, which allows for exciting research. I mean archival material, in the possession of state archival institutions, but sometimes also in the possession of individuals, printed newspaper material, possible conversations with witnesses of the time and the like.

At the same time, all these reasons sometimes generate traps for young and inexperienced researchers. Certainly, an emotional, and ideologically marked approach can be extremely problematic. Therefore, as difficult as it is sometimes, it is necessary to carefully re-examine the assumptions created in advance and to avoid "taking sides" in the national public debate on the socialist period. The sources are often very extensive and difficult to access, and the archives are not sorted, so working on them is sometimes exhausting and tiring. Meeting with narrators in research based on oral history can lead to sensitive situations... Anyway, I would like to recommend young people to deal with topics from contemporary history primarily because of their relevance. And to try to apply the comparative approach as much as possible, because only in that way can events, phenomena and processes be fully understood. That is why I would recommend looking for relevant publications concerning the same topics someone is interested in researching in Yugoslav history, in other countries. For example, in my research on the development of the University of Zagreb after the Second World War, John Connelly's *Captive University* was quite helpful and inspiring.

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