

NEWSLETTER

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

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Ten years of CKPIS

On June 14, the University Library in Pula hosted the celebration of CKPIS's tenth anniversary. As soon as Lada Duraković greeted the guests at the Libraray's larger reading room, they were addressed by the following speakers, all representatives of crucial partners during the Centre's first decade: Robert Matijašić, the University Rector in 2012; Ante Matan, current Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Humanities; Dario Lečić, Coordinator of Research Grants at the Croatian Science Foundation; and Krunoslav Stojaković, Head of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Office for Southeast Europe.



Boris Koroman, Andrea Matošević, Lada Duraković, Tina Filipović, Igor Duda, Sara Žerić, Anita Buhin

In the second part of the programme, Igor Duda presented the Centre's research and other activities, with an emphasis on the research projects, employment possibilities for young researchers, publishing, Socialism on the Bench conference, Doctoral Workshop, CKPIS

international network and Newsletter, as well as more than a hundred public events that have been organized by the Centre so far.

Round table Perspectives of Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism was the third part of the programme, composed in a manner similar to the first public presentation of the Centre in October 2012. This time the participants were Damir Agičić (publishing house Srednja Europa, Zagreb), Tvrtko Jakovina (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb), Tanja Petrović (Institute of Culture and Memory Studies, ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana), Ines Prica (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb), and Andrea Matošević as moderator.

CKPIS would like to thank the University Library for its hospitality, to the guests and audiences for their participation, and all the colleagues for their congratulations.



Also in this issue at pp. 8-10: interview with Peter Wegenschimmel

CKPIS Summer Semester: local communities in the last years of socialism



In June, *CKPIS Summer Semester* reached its seventh and final talk. Igor Duda, the PI of the Microsocialism project, presented the debates on the local communities that occurred in the late 1980s, and were focused on self-criticism and search for new solutions. Announcements for the *Summer Semester* were available through CKPIS-INFO mailing-list, social media and our [webpage](#).

Project Microsocialism at the Institute of Contemporary History

On June 16, Anita Buhin, Tina Filipović and Igor Duda, three researchers on the Microsocialism project, were hosted by the Institute of Contemporary History in Ljubljana, in its programme History on the Edge. The event started in the morning when I. Duda gave his talk titled *"We are all good people." Local Communities in Yugoslavia between Action and Bureaucracy*. In the afternoon, the Croatian-Slovenian panel *Municipal Socialist Self-Management* was held, with three speakers: T. Filipović (*"Prisutni u svim zbivanjima": SUBNOR u političkom i društvenom životu općine u kasnom socijalizmu*), A. Buhin (*"Kulturološki fenomeni jednog giganta": samoupravni preobražaj kulture u brodogradilištu Uljanik*), and Jelka Piškurić (*"Tu smo - vaši smo": razvoj lokalnih skupnosti s pomoćju mehanizma samoprispevka*). The panel discussant was Jurij Hadalin, and moderator Blaž Štangelj. The moderator of the lecture was Ana Kladnik, who kindly invited a part of the Microsocialism group to Ljubljana.



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: TINA FILIPOVIĆ

Interview by Sara Žerić

You are currently an assistant at the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities in Pula, and the Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism. However, even as a student, you were active in CKPIS. In which activities did you participate then and did one of the projects shape your academic path?

Everything started in 2013 when some of my fellow colleagues and I volunteered as guides at the exhibition hosted by the Archeological Museum of Istria, *Reflections of Time 1945-1955*, together with the public lectures organized by CKPIS. A modern exhibition setting caught my further attention and therefore I decided to take a closer look at one of the topics from the exhibition and to graduate on that very subject. By volunteering at the 1st CKPIS Doctoral Workshop in 2015, I got the chance to meet many young researchers and associates of the

Centre, some of whom became my colleagues and professors, or just became good friends. A month after graduation, I was lucky enough to participate in the DAAD project Changing Representations of Socialist Yugoslavia with a working paper based on my master thesis. That one-month research stay in Berlin felt very inspiring for any potential future research in academia, therefore I tried to follow CKPIS activities during my one-year professional training at the local museum in Labin. Finally, in 2018 an invitation to join the HRZZ project Microsocialism arrived, led by Igor Duda, who once again became my supervisor, but this time on the doctoral level. It was hardly possible to ignore CKPIS and its stimulating and friendly vibe.

Within the project Microsocialism you are researching SUBNOR by analysing the history of its two municipal organizations -

Labin and Sisak. How much has the history of the partisan veterans' organization in Croatia been researched and why have you selected particularly these two case studies?

I would say that the previous research has only scratched the surface of the history of the Yugoslav partisan veterans' association. The most valuable contribution to addressing this topic and setting out some basic postulates in the research of SUBNOR came from Heike Karge and her book on shaping the culture of memory of the National Liberation War in Yugoslavia, *Steinerne Erinnerung – versteinerte Erinnerung? Kriegsgedenken in Jugoslawien (1947-1970)*. Foreign historiography has already produced significant work on veterans' internationalism, politics, welfare, veterans' status in society, (de)militarization processes, shared memory, etc. Therefore, the research on the history of SUBNOR is even more important, but also quite challenging because of the lack of previous research and a systematic approach to this subject. Labin and Sisak appeared as interesting case studies worth studying and comparing because the research on local history in socialism was almost non-existent, while they were well-known industrial and multiethnic towns during socialism. The two ideologically powerful historical events that happened at the very beginning of the working-class movement and anti-fascist resistance in Croatia exceeded their local significance – emerging of the Labin Republic in 1921 and the 1st Sisak Partisan Detachment in 1941. Therefore, Labin and Sisak share some similarities in creating the culture of memory of the war. In short, an intensive

activity of SUBNOR is expected at such places.



Tina Filipović ([read more](#))

What are the similarities and differences in the influence of war veterans (*borci*) of the National Liberation Struggle on the socialist society, and war veterans (*branitelji*) of the Homeland War on today's society?

First, it's quite difficult to compare these two veterans' associations of different character acting in different times, politics, and societies. The type of organization, their anticipated role and place in a society, level of integration in the civil society and non-veterans-like activities, internal differences and harmony, as well as the ideological platform and approach to building a shared memory and identity, differ from one another. Still, some similarities in their programs, goals, patterns of political behaviour, influence on the politics, and the degree of socio-material security by generous state benefits can hardly be denied. This raises many new research questions that will hopefully be addressed in the future.



CONFERENCES AND CFP

The 16th Serbian Political Science Association Annual International Conference 'Social justice in Post-communist societies, Belgrade, 24-25 September 2022

Over 30 years have passed since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the start of political and economic transformation of the communist world. Is it the right time to take stock of the phenomena? Granted, post-communist societies are different from communist ones. Are they also more just? We look into one particular aspect of the post-communist transformation – just society from a political, economic, and social point of view. Dominant ideas of 1989 were derived from the success of the market in the US and the UK. Central and Eastern Europe was supposed to imitate the West and catch up with it by implementing their political and market institutions. The introduction of private property and the market would create not only an efficient economy and prosperity, but also a more just society. The idea of a just society in the post-communist world was derived from the ideas of meritocracy, positive selection, and market justice. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 August 2022

Transforming State Socialism in East-Central Europe: Historical Sociology of the Long Change, Warsaw, 30 September – 1 October 2022

This international conference aims to promote and strengthen sociohistorical research on the transformations of state socialism in East-Central Europe (ECE). It will advance the knowledge on the sociogenesis of contemporary societies in East-Central Europe by focusing on the continuities and change. It should also contribute to our understanding of the dynamics of integration with the capitalist world system and how ECE countries place within the structures of global dependencies. Following this aim, we seek to pursue several questions: what was state socialism in comparison with capitalism? Where did the impulses for changing the socialist system come from? How new research on state socialism change our perception of the regime change of 1989? How to integrate the socialist experience into the framework of global history? ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 July 2022

Utopias of Nonviolence. Ideas, Regulations, and Blindspots in Europe since 1945, Zurich/online, 1-2 December 2022

This international workshop aims to engage with the history of nonviolence in Europe in the second half of the 20th century. In diverse social and political spheres, different forms of violence have been delegitimised, and nonviolence has become a guiding principle. Has there been a paradigm shift regarding ideals of nonviolence in politics, social relations, and public discourse in Europe? Ideals of nonviolence have been central in shaping European societies after World War 2. Nonviolence has become a guiding principle in social and political spheres as diverse as conflict resolution or education. At the international level, the United Nations' emphasis on peacefulness as a first recourse supports assumptions that violence has mainly become delegitimised in conflict situations. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 August 2022



PUBLICATIONS

Jovan Čavoški, *Non-Aligned Movement Summits: A History* (Bloomsbury, 2022)

Using newly declassified documents from Serbian, British, Indian, Chinese, Myanmar, U.S., and Soviet archives, *Non-Aligned Movement Summits* shows how the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) gradually evolved into the third force of Cold War politics, enveloping most of the post-colonial and non-bloc world. Jovan Čavoški follows the evolution of the NAM through its summits and other gatherings, during which major political decisions pertaining to the destiny of the Third World were made. These events were scrutinized by all major powers and had a corresponding effect on their policies. From the Belgrade Conference in 1961 until 1989, all major Third World and non-bloc nations met to demonstrate to the Eastern and Western Blocs that they were independent, active and respected participants in world affairs. Čavoški shows how these summits were also closely related to events occurring in the relationship between the two blocs, providing opportunities for non-bloc actors to influence the global balance of power. ([Read More](#))



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

Two 3-year postdoctoral research fellowships (Socialist medicine), Humboldt University, Berlin
SOCMED (2021-2026), funded by an ERC Starting Grant brings the socialist world into the history of global health. It identifies health cultures produced by socialism (in all its variety) and explores the impact of socialist internationalism in co-producing global health in the 20th century. The project pioneers a new history that will not only transform our knowledge of historical processes, but will further our understanding of ideas, practices and processes that current global health structures have been built on. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 25 July 2022

Liebnitz Institute of European History Fellowships for Doctoral Students, IEG, Mainz

The Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG) awards fellowships to young academics (doctoral and postdoctoral researchers) from Germany and abroad. Funding is provided for both doctoral and postdoctoral research dealing with the religious, political, social and cultural history of Europe from the early modern period to 1989/90. Comparative, transnational and transfer-historical research projects are particularly welcome, as are projects which deal with topics of intellectual, theological or church history. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 August 2022

Postdoctoral positions in Central Eastern European Church-State relations history, Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest

The Institute of History of the Research Centre for Humanities, Hungary's leading non-university research facility, is inviting applications for positions of Postdoctoral Research Fellow to collaborate on a ERC project, *Negotiating Sovereignty: Challenges of secularism and Nation Building in Central Eastern Europe since 1780*, led by Dr. András Fejérdy. The project SOVEREIGNTY is the first comparative investigation of the combined history of the conflicts between transnational institutions and modern states with a claim to sovereignty in the Habsburg Monarchy and its successor states (Austria, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Romania) between 1780 and 1990. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 21 August 2022



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Sara Žerić

Peter Wegenschimmel is a historian, currently affiliated at the Lower Saxony State Archives.
([read more](#))



Peter Wegenschimmel

You were one of the researchers on the bilateral project *Remembering and Forgetting Industrial Labour in the Adriatic: The Case of Istria*, by IOS Regensburg and CKPIS. As a result, you wrote the essay *The ontological Status of a factory Wall: The Social Boundaries of Uljanik*. What was the main goal of this research?

It is a platitude to claim that VW plays a formative role in the city life of Wolfsburg, Beyer in Leverkusen or, indeed, Uljanik in Pula. In my micro-study, I use the wall separating the factory site from the public sphere of the city as a lens to examine the transformation of the interaction of these two non-hermetically sealed domains since the 1970s. Interestingly, the end of self-

management socialism and the establishment of Uljanik as a joint-stock company initially led to the hardening of this boundary and heavily regulated exchange. Uljanik became a black box. Already before the insolvency of Uljanik, there were first ideas from city developers and business consultants to soften the border by selling first plots from the company premises to the city. In a way, the liquidation is the radicalisation of this idea, the occupation of the factory site by city. If the space is sold again afterwards, however, this does not lead to a restoration of the old border between the shipyard and the city, because the site is parcelled out again – the outer border is multiplied inside.

Today, the situation with Uljanik is different than at the time of writing of your essay. Precisely because of this, your work could get a sequel. Can we conclude that the collapse of shipbuilding shows the final position of post-socialist states for which shipbuilding is an unsustainable industry?

In fact, I believe that temporality should be given a much greater role in the historical discourse. Master narratives systematically hide this contingency factor. Today, energy prices are high, there is a lack of LNG tankers – Uljanik could have found an outlet here and got back on its feet. In business history, failure is usually plausibilised by fallible entrepreneurs – but this is only partly comprehensible. Even if Gianni Rossanda had already predicted the boom of LNG tankers in 2015, which bank would have given him a loan for this idee fixe? I argue that the fate of companies remains largely

contingent in the face of market cycles and segments. As a discipline, business history offers space to reflect this contingency. My thesis is therefore not deterministic: it is by no means the case that post-socialist shipbuilding had no chance of survival in principle – perhaps the shipyards of this region were simply unlucky.



Peter Wegenschimmel, *Zombiewerften oder Hungerkünstler? Staatlicher Schiffbau in Ostmitteleuropa nach 1970* (de Gruyter, Berlin 2021)

Moreover, you worked on *Transformation from below*, a larger project on the labour relations and their changes in two shipyards, in Pula and Gdynia (Poland) since the late 1970s. Why these two cities, and what connects them? What was the enterprises' relation to the local community and regional authorities?

A proper comparison requires a few similarities with a limited number of

differences – they can be investigated as influencing factors in the context of a comparative case study. Both cities were dominated by shipbuilding. Although the city of Gdynia is many times larger, at their peak the shipyards both had a workforce of around 10,000. However, the local embeddedness in the city differs significantly. While Uljanik is located in the historic centre of the Mediterranean city, Gdynia Shipyard is hidden in an industrial district in the north of the city. But there are also other differences such as the organizational structure of the shipyards – the centralised socialist large-scale enterprise versus the shipyard in Pula fragmented into atomized micro-enterprises. I examine the entanglements vis-à-vis the local communities in the last chapter of my book *Zombiewerften oder Hungerkünstler? Staatlicher Schiffbau in Ostmitteleuropa nach 1970*. In this field, the parallels were particularly striking. Both are characterised by a permeability of the company boundary to the local environment. This is not only meant in material terms; the logics of the environment invade the shipyards. They take on non-production functions – community work, so to speak. They maintain buildings, train people, maintain sports facilities for the general public. In this way, interdependencies are created which considerably complicate and prolong the liquidation of the companies in both cases. Such an organism, which has grown together with the city, cannot simply be operated out of economic calculation. In both cases, you can therefore observe how a process of disentanglement precedes the liquidation – I argue in my book

that it is even the precondition for a clean liquidation.

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?

Young students need to develop a special sensitivity for coupling moments of different political systems and transnational overlaps. This rare talent for condensation is what distinguishes Brigitte Le Normand's book *Citizens Without Borders*. Just like Uljanik's business history, labour migration offers a transnational field of research in which Yugoslav historiography becomes globally connectable. Le Normand succeeds in

combining different perspectives into a comprehensible book: politics and migrant actors, homelands and host countries. She reveals the long-hidden problem of socialist unemployment and keeps an eye on the unintended consequences of state-approved emigration policies. It does not gloss over these contradictions, but makes them concisely transparent.

NEWSLETTER

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



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8th Doctoral Workshop MICROHISTORIES OF SOCIALISM AND POSTSOCIALISM

Pula, Croatia, August 24–27, 2022

