

# NEWSLETTER

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

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## Expecting the call for the 10<sup>th</sup> Doctoral Workshop in Pula

Since 2015, CKPIS and the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, University of Pula, or the group of colleagues around Igor Duda and Anita Buhin, have been organizing a summer workshop for PhD students. In March 2024 the call for the 10<sup>th</sup> workshop will be published. The planned dates are August 28-31. Meanwhile, here is a visual reminder on some of the past workshops.

SOČIALISTIČKI ČOVJEK — SLOBODNA STVARALACKA LIČNOST  
**DOKTORSKA RADIONICA**  
**Novi čovjek za socijalističko društvo**  
Pula, 30. kolovoza – 2. rujna 2017.  
**DOCTORAL WORKSHOP**  
**A New Man for the Socialist Society**  
Pula, August 30 – September 2, 2017

Juraj Dobrila University of Pula  
Faculty of Humanities, Department of History &  
Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism  
**Doctoral Workshop**  
**Yugoslavia and the Global 1968:**  
**Contexts,**  
**Perspectives,**  
**Echoes**  
Pula, August 29 – September 1, 2018

Suradnja, razmjena i solidarnost  
u Europi 1945–1990.  
**Cooperation, Exchange and Solidarity**  
in Europe 1945–1990

Juraj Dobrila University of Pula  
Faculty of Humanities, Department of History &  
Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism  
**Doctoral Workshop**  
**Industrial Societies of**  
**Late Socialism:**  
**European Comparisons**  
Pula, August 28–31, 2019

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

Juraj Dobrila University of Pula,  
Faculty of Humanities, Department of History &  
Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism  
**9th Doctoral Workshop**  
**WHAT WAS EUROPE?**  
**PERCEPTION,**  
**DIVISION AND**  
**INTEGRATION,**  
**1940s–2010s**  
Pula, Croatia, August 23–26, 2023

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Nemanja Radonjić (pp. 5-6)



## CONFERENCES AND CFP

### **Cold War Internationalisms of/in the Decolonizing World, Geneva, 5-6 June 2024**

The Global Sixties: An Interdisciplinary Journal invites submissions for a workshop and an ensuing special thematic issue on Internationalism of the Decolonizing World in the Cold War. In recent decades, Cold War historiography has paid growing attention to the autonomy and agency of the players beyond the US-Soviet dichotomy. In the wake of Westad's seminal *The Global Cold War* (2005), scholars have increasingly explored the episodes, events, and institutions that demonstrate the agency of the Global South. From the Bandung Conference to Pan-African networks, the so-called Third World assumes a pivotal role in the latest historiographies. Newly independent states, among others, are recast as actors in their own right and not mere pawns in a game played by two superpowers. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 30 March 2024

### **Changing Perspectives on Resistance during the Second World War, Antwerp, 18-20 September 2024**

Almost eighty years after the end of the Second World War and after the resistance to the fascist and nazi occupiers emerged from its shadows, this conference aims to unite the wealth of perspectives and insights generated by resistance historiography during these past decades. Over the past eighty years of resistance historiography, many nations have struggled to create a sustainable and inclusive history of resistance to fascist and nazi occupation. Immediately after the war, the focus lay almost exclusively on resistance organisations and activities as they existed at the time of the liberation, and studies emphasized the professionalism of these organisations. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 March 2024

### **Iron Curtains or Artistic Gates? Communism and Cultural Diplomacy in the Global South (1945-1991 and Beyond), Vienna, 19-20 September 2024**

How did cultural interaction since 1945 unfold outside the realm of Western dominance, shaping omitted global narratives? While Cold War studies have long acknowledged the role of culture and the arts as instrument of „soft power,“ scholars have traditionally framed this role within a binary East-West narrative. More recent studies have highlighted the necessity of a complex, interconnected, and global view of this conflict, with a particular focus on the decolonization process. This workshop will explore cultural interactions between state socialist countries in Europe and those in the Global South, with the aim of challenging and deconstructing traditional Cold War narratives. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 31 March 2024

**Summer school: Our Many Easts, Ljubljana, 24-30 August 2024**

Our Many Easts summer school is organized by Moderna galerija in Ljubljana in partnership with ZRC SAZU (the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts) as part of L'Internationale project Museum of the Commons. The 2024 summer school will continue to focus on themes related to Eastern Europe, with a special emphasis on the expanded notion and understanding of the East, its arts, artists, art collectives, and the social and political contexts that have defined the geopolitical-social-cultural East(s) over the last decade. This broad theme will cover topics such as the legacy of the Eastern European avant-gardes, archives as tools of emancipation, the new "non-aligned" networks, art in times of conflict and war, ecology and the environment.

[\(Read more\)](#)

Application deadline: 15 March 2024

**PUBLICATIONS*****Dunja Jelenković, Festival jugoslovenskog dokumentarnog i kratkometražnog filma, 1954–2004.: od jugoslovenskog socijalizma do srpskog nacionalizma (Filmski centar Srbije: Beograd 2023)***

Prva detaljna kritička studija o jednom od najstarijih festivala u Evropi, knjiga Dunje Jelenković nudi analizu programa Kratkog metra od osnivanja 1954. do zvaničnog završetka njegovog jugoslovenskog perioda 2004. godine, kada se otvara za strane filmove i menja ime u Beogradski festival dokumentarnog i kratkometražnog filma. Tekst ispituje kako festival učestvuje u procesu izgradnje nacionalnog identiteta u dve države rođene iz rata neposredno pre, odnosno tokom njegovog dugog postojanja – socijalističkoj i post-socijalističkoj Jugoslaviji. Budući da publika često dokumentarni film shvata kao verodostojni izraz stvarnosti, a ne kao njeno umetničko tumačenje, knjiga ispituje koje su verzije „stvarnosti“ predstavljane publici u dramatičnim društvenim i političkim okolnostima dvaju razmatranih perioda. [\(Read more\)](#)

***Lea Horvat, Harte Währung Beton: Eine Kulturgeschichte des Massenwohnungsbaus im sozialistischen Jugoslawien und seinen Nachfolgestaaten (Böhlau, 2024)***

Der Massenwohnungsbau war eine Antwort auf den durch Industrialisierung und Urbanisierung verursachten Mangel an Wohnraum in Jugoslawien und prägt bis heute das postjugoslawische urbane Gewebe. Die Studie erzählt eine Kulturgeschichte des jugoslawischen Massenwohnungsbaus entlang von Diskussionen in der Fachöffentlichkeit und in der Populärkultur – von den ersten architektonischen Entwürfen in den 1950ern über die Ausweitung der Massenwohnkultur in den 1960ern und der zunehmenden Kritik in den 1970ern und 1980ern bis hin zur Zerstörung in den Jugoslawienkriegen in den 1990ern und den fiktionalen Umdeutungen in den 2000ern. [\(Read more\)](#)

**Tanja Petrović, *Utopia of the Uniform: Affective Afterlives of the Yugoslav People's Army* (Duke University Press, 2023)**

The compulsory service for young men in the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) created bonds across ethnic, religious, and social lines. These bonds persisted even after the horrific violence of the 1990s, in which many of these men found themselves on opposite sides of the front lines. In *Utopia of the Uniform*, Tanja Petrović draws on memories and material effects of dozens of JNA conscripts to show how their experience of military service points to futures, forms of collectivity, and relations between the state and the individual different from those that prevailed in the post-Yugoslav reality. Petrović argues that the power of repetitive, ritualized, and performative practices that constituted military service in the JNA provided a framework for drastically different men to live together and befriend each other. ([Read more](#))

**POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS****PhD position in History (100%): *The Microcomputer as a Medium of Communication Within the Eastern Bloc and Across the Iron Curtain*, The University of Lucerne**

This position is part of a project funded by a Starting Grant Fellowship of the Swiss National Science Foundation titled «The Microcomputer as a Medium of Transformation, 1980–2000». The team, consisting of three persons, aims at analysing the role of the microcomputer in the political, economic and social upheaval in the 1980s and 1990s in East and West Europe from the perspective of cultural, economic and media history. The PhD position constituted the sub-project "The Microcomputer as a Medium of Communication". Based on archival sources, contemporary publications and oral history interviews, the PhD project should explore the role microcomputers played in practices of communication within the Eastern Bloc or across the bloc divide. ([read more](#))

**Application deadline: 11 March 2024**

**Visiting Fellowship 2024/2025: "Dimensions of Europe", Karl-Franzens University of Graz**

The Field of Excellence is supporting five junior fellows (post-doc and early career) and five senior fellows (tenured professors and equivalent) to spend one semester (October-January, March-June) in Graz to conduct and present research and collaborate with researchers from the Field of Excellence. Applications are being sought for the five research clusters of "Dimensions of Europe" for the 2024/2025 academic year: European literatures and their interrelationships, Cultural memory and cultural heritage in Europe in the context of digital transformation, Migration, borders and mobility in, around and through Europe, Inequalities in the context of social transformation processes (focus on Southeast and Central Europe), and Knowledge transfer and concepts of Europe. ([read more](#))

**Application deadline: 15 March 2024**



## INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Sara Žerić Đulović

**Nemanja Radonjić is an assistant professor at the Department of History, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, and a research associate at the Institute for Recent History of Serbia. ([read more](#))**



Nemanja Radonjić

**You often return to the Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism – both for the Doctoral Workshop and for Socialism on the Bench conference. However, you are one of the few who came to the first Doctoral Workshop held in 2015 and have been returning to Pula ever since. Back then, as a doctoral student, you presented your doctoral dissertation project titled “Image of Africa in Socialist Yugoslavia (1945–1991)”. What are your memories of 2015?**

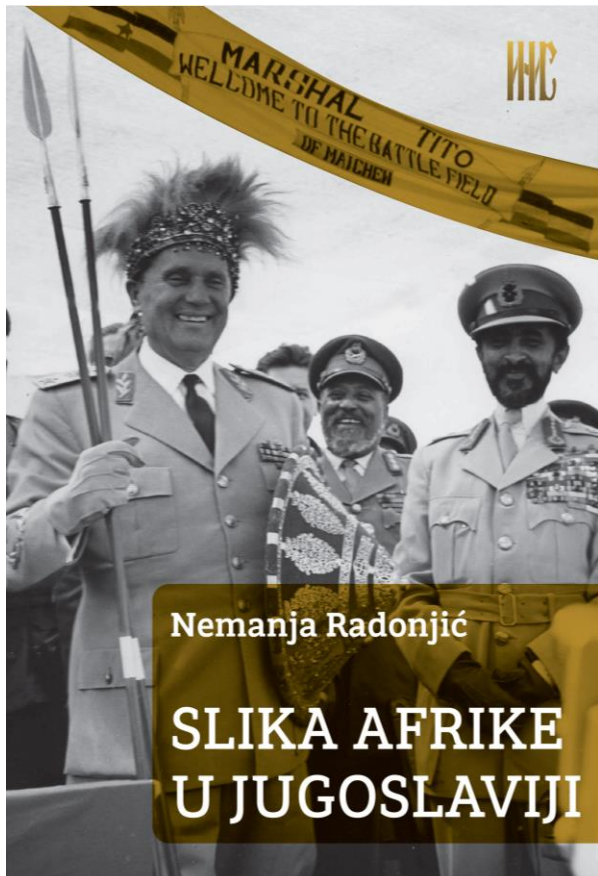
Just starting my PhD, it was great to be almost immediately immersed into a whole bunch of my peers, from various backgrounds,

countries and disciplines. A summer of discovery, just venturing into the “hard science” part of the PhD life. Pula, which I visited for the first time that year, and the faculty, as well as the CKPIS, were quite different and unorthodox for my standards. Instead of huge buildings and thousands of students striving to found out about various subjects, I found a small and dedicated group of likeminded individuals which dealt with, in this way or the other, Yugoslavia and socialism. Being that the Workshop assembled experts from different Universities, it was in 2015 in Pula that I got the most important research question from the audience. Commenting on my presentation, professor Hannes Grandits from the Humboldt University, asked: “Did Africa have a specific space on the Yugoslav ‘mental map’?” It took me five years, but the answer to that question brought me where I am now.

**So, what kind of space Africa had on that mental map? You must have a clear view now after finishing your PhD and publishing your first book last year.**

Africa was, as it turned out, the space globally, where Yugoslavia proved herself, to herself and its Others. The righteousness of its authentic revolution, the various paths to socialism, the glorified Yugoslav modernity - it all found confirmation on the wide areas of the African continent. Political ties, successful business ventures, humanitarianism and cultural exchange that did not need the moderators in Paris and London, it all meant a lot for Yugoslavia, both on the level of self-image and on the very practical level of political support

and economic gain. And on the level of the global imaginaries, Yugoslavia could now boast, a whole continent now stood by her choices, which it could not say for Europe, not by far.



Nemanja Radonjić, *Slika Afrike u Jugoslaviji* [Image of Africa in Yugoslavia], INIS, Beograd, 2023.

**You returned in 2016 as a guest and again in 2018 as a participant at the Doctoral Workshop when, as a part of the anniversary of 1968 events, you presented a paper titled “Demonstrations in Yugoslavia in 1968 and symbols of the Third World: From the Third World, for the Third World”. Was cooperation with the CKPIS a factor in your research during your PhD?**

Cooperation with the CKPIS gave my research an additional “boost”. I could test my ideas, even for specific subchapters, and other forays

of research. This meant I could think over some of my hypothesis “on the go” and not wait for the official thesis defense.

**At the last Doctoral Workshop held in 2023, you were no longer there as a doctoral student, but a lecturer. You gave a lecture “Afropeans in Yugoafrika - Yugoslavia as an example of a post-colonial utopia?”. Not long after that, your book “Image of Africa in Yugoslavia” was published as a result of your doctoral thesis. How would you describe your path from a young researcher, a doctoral student, all the way to a lecturer?**

It was an exciting journey, that I am still on! It was a strange, but positive experience. It kind of signified a long, arduous, but very rewarding path I took towards scientific achievement. I was glad to present some of my findings to a new group of fresh-faced doctoral students, and even in some way to present to them that the path is worth it!

**And finally, what is your message to the new generations who are coming to doctoral workshops?**

My recommendations would be to use this workshop to test their ideas in a “safe space”, but also build networks with other PhD students. This is especially important being that the mutual support of the students, their common struggle with the ideas and the process of writing, but also their latter careers might again converge. The ties created in Pula are still very important to me scientifically and personally.

## NEWSLETTER

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