



12TH DOCTORAL WORKSHOP Socialism and the Sea

Pula, 26-29 August 2026



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

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

12th Doctoral Workshop
SOCIALISM AND THE SEA
Pula, Croatia, 26–29 August 2026

CALL FOR PAPERS

Oriented towards PhD students in history, as well as in other fields of the humanities and social sciences, this year's workshop will explore the relationship between socialist systems and policies on the one hand and the sea and the seaside as stages of historical events and processes on the other. Once secured by military power or political agreements, access to the coastline and to international waters offered opportunities for rapid economic development and became a source of national pride. Moreover, it opened new possibilities for cooperation and communication with foreign cultures and counterparts, whether statesmen, sailors, merchants, or travellers. Within a country, workers were turned into tourists, traditional fishing developed into an industry, shipbuilders learned to construct ocean liners, and windmills were replaced by power plants and pipelines. In its various forms, modernisation transformed villages into towns and cities, and dusty roads into highways. While migration brought people together into new urban structures, rural areas and the nearby hinterland often remained abandoned and forgotten, though sometimes ecologically preserved. How did socialist states, as well as socialist and communist parties and movements across Europe and elsewhere, deal with their maritime policies? Was the sea perceived primarily as a source of foreign threat or as a bridge to internationalism and solidarity? Ranging from its role as a dangerous divider in conflicts and disputes to a romantic setting enabling pleasure and encounters between like-minded people, the sea and its history reveal much about societies shaped along their shores. The workshop therefore invites contributions that examine coastal societies, maritime economies, littoral and land-locked perspectives, and various cultural and intellectual imaginaries of the sea in socialist discourse and practice.

The expected four keynote speakers include both guests and hosts: RUŽA FOTIADIS (Humboldt University of Berlin), IVA KOSMOS (University of Zagreb), ANITA BUHIN (Nova University Lisbon) and IGOR DUDA (University of Pula).

So far, the Workshop has focused on various topics in contemporary history, the history of socialist Yugoslavia and wider European context: *The History of Everyday Life in Socialist Yugoslavia* (2015); *Yugoslav Socialism: Similarities and Exceptionalities* (2016); *A New Man for the Socialist Society* (2017); *Yugoslavia and the Global 1968: Contexts, Perspectives, Echoes* (2018); *Industrial Societies of Late Socialism: European Comparisons* (2019); *Cooperation, Exchange and Solidarity in Europe 1945–1990* (2020); *Microhistories of Socialism* (2021); *Microhistories of Socialism and Postsocialism* (2022); *What Was Europe? Perception, Division and Integration, 1940s–2010s* (2023); *Why Socialism Matters? Approaches to Research of the Political Idea and the Historical Period* (2024); *Systems of Governance* (2025). The themes were often connected to the research projects at CKPIS or with the cooperation network around the Chair for South-East European History at the Humboldt University of Berlin. Over the past years, the Workshop has received an excellent response, with PhD students and lecturers coming from various universities and other institutions (Basel, Belgrade, Berlin, Bielefeld, Birmingham, Bochum, Bodø, Bologna, Bratislava, Bremen, Budapest, Cologne, Córdoba, Cork, Duisburg-Essen, Durham, Florence, Frankfurt, Genoa, Ghent, Giessen, Glasgow, Graz, Halle, Hamburg, Iași, Konstanz, Koper, Lisbon, Ljubljana, Mainz, Manchester, Montreal, Munich, Naples, North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Nottingham, Oxford, Paris, Potsdam, Prague, Princeton, Regensburg, Rome, San Diego, Sarajevo, Skopje, Sofia, Split, Tübingen, Turku, Vienna, Warsaw, Warwick, Zadar, Zagreb and Pula). Information on past workshops is available on our website.

Our objective is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas among PhD students, as well as foster participation in stimulating discussions. We aim to enhance networking and collaboration among young researchers and identify emerging research trends, particularly at the doctoral level.

Please, submit the online application form by 15 May 2026. The form includes the abstract (max. 200 words) and a short biographical note (max. 200 words). Acceptance notification will follow by the end of May. By 10 July the elected applicants are expected to send a short paper (max. 1,800 words), based on their dissertation or another research. The workshop language is English. Based on the paper, each presentation should last up to 15 minutes and will be followed by an immediate discussion. A certificate will be issued to PhD students confirming their participation and the value of 2 ECTS credits.

Participants are expected to arrive by late afternoon of Wednesday, August 26, when the workshop starts. The programme ends by noon on Saturday. The workshop venue is the University campus in Aldo Negri Street 6.

The participation fee is 130€. Payment information will follow after the selection process. As organisers, we will be able to cover accommodation (three nights, single rooms at the new student dorm in the city centre), a meal per day and coffee breaks. The participants should organise their travel to Pula and cover its cost, hopefully with the support of their universities or other sources.

The online application form and all information are available on the website:

https://www.unipu.hr/ckpis/en/doctoral_workshop/2026

For any questions, please contact Tina at tina.filipovic@unipu.hr.

We are looking forward to your applications!

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Prof. Igor Duda, PhD (University of Pula), Tina Filipović, PhD (University of Pula),
Anita Buhin, PhD (Nova University Lisbon), Sara Žerić Đulović (IOS Regensburg),
Tin Celner (University of Zagreb), Antun Dulibić (Institute of Art History, Zagreb)

