

NEWSLETTER

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

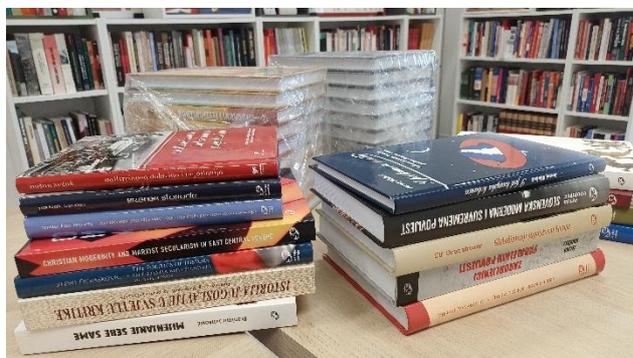
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Book donation

On 6 February, Srednja Europa from Zagreb, a long-standing publishing partner of CKPIS, donated 300 volumes to the Faculty of Humanities and CKPIS. Thirty titles in history and linguistics, ten copies of each, will find their place in the Faculty library, the CKPIS library, reading areas in the Faculty corridors, or will go directly into the hands of interested students and staff.



Alenka Barišić and Damir Agičić (Srednja Europa),
Eliana Moscarda Mirković and Igor Duda
(University of Pula)



Books which arrived to CKPIS

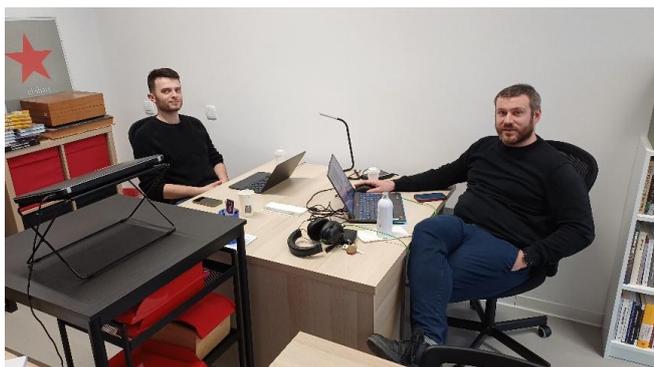
Articles on socialism in *History in Flux*



Three participants in the last two Doctoral Workshops, held in Pula in 2024 and 2025, have published their articles in the latest issue of [History in Flux](#), the journal of the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities in Pula. Gabriel Grabar (University of Zagreb) examines the Cominformist split among Yugoslav immigrants in Australia from 1948 to 1956; Petar Grubišić (Ghent University) discusses internal migration and self-identity in socialist Yugoslavia through the case of Dalmatian colonists in Vojvodina; while Tin Celner (University of Zagreb) analyses Petrova Gora as an example of the construction and role of monuments in the building of society. The call for articles for issue no. 8/2026 is open until 31 March.

PROJECT IN CONVERSATION: Brokers of Non-Alignment & Agustín Cosovschi (pp. 7-9)

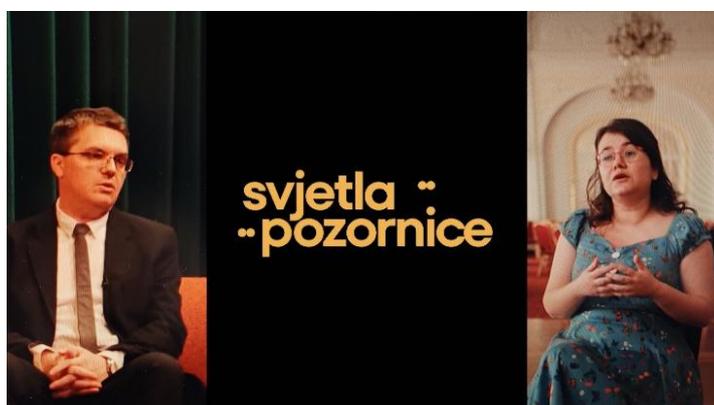
Housing.Yu researchers in Pula



The now complete team of historians within the ERC project *Right to Housing: The Production of Spaces of Everyday Life in Yugoslavia (1945–1991)* or *Housing.Yu* gathered for a working week in Pula at the end of February. The team consists of the PhD student and research assistant Antun Dulibić, postdoctoral researcher Saša Vejzagić and their supervisor Igor Duda.

Svjetla pozornice or Stage Lights

In November and December 2025, *Svjetla pozornice*, a new seven-episode documentary series, premiered on Croatian Radio Television (HRT). Created by Matej and Dubravko Merlić, it is one of Castor Multimedia's [projects](#). The series explores various aspects of popular culture in Croatia from the 1950s to the present day, by combining documentary footage, archival materials and studio performances with interviews featuring both figures from popular culture and academic experts. Among the latter were also CKPIS's Anita Buhin and Igor Duda. The series is remains available online via [HRTi](#).



12th Doctoral Workshop: call to be published soon



Keep your eyes open: the call for the 12th Doctoral Workshop, to be held from 26 to 29 August and organised by CKPIS and the Department of History, will be published in March. Look out for the call on the [workshop's homepage](#), in emails sent via the CKPIS-INFO mailing list, on our social media profiles and elsewhere. This year's theme is *Socialism and the Sea*, and we will be discussing their relationship in a wide range of historical and thematic contexts.

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CONFERENCES AND CFP

Experts in Transition: Political Epistemologies of 1980s–2000s East Central Europe, Ljubljana, 9–10 July 2026

Research on experts and expertise in state socialism has developed, in recent years, from national case studies embedded in overarching accounts of “Cold War expertise,” to transnational histories of knowledge production, to a renewed appreciation for thick descriptions of the political, social, and epistemological contexts of expertise as developed in and for the purposes of socialism. In particular, work in social history and the history of labor, the history of science, and intellectual history has been addressing the role of experts in the political economy and class structure of socialist countries in the region. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 March 2026

Framing Maturing and Ageing across the Iron Curtain, Sofia, 22-23 October 2026

Despite the insurmountable differences that the two opposing political models drew for themselves during the Cold War years, numerous global processes were crossing the established boundaries between them. One of these processes is undoubtedly demographic in nature, marked by changes in the age structure of the population and lengthening lifespan. The World Assembly on Ageing, held in Vienna in 1982, aimed to propose a joint plan of action by analysing a range of challenges faced by the older population across both so-called “developed” and “developing” countries. These included issues related to social and economic security, health and nutrition, employment, living conditions, and – last but not least – human dignity. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 22 May 2026

Exit-Voice-Labour: Reassessing Central and Eastern European Migration in a Transnational and Historical Perspective, Vienna, 16-18 November 2026

The spread of global approaches in the study of migration and diasporas at the turn of the century purportedly rendered Albert O. Hirschman’s traditional “exit, voice, and loyalty” model outdated. Nevertheless, this concept has recently gained renewed traction among migration scholars. Applied to the research of the interplay between migration and political circumstances, Hirschman’s original interpretation conceived “exit” and “voice” as irreconcilable options. Citizens of a nation-state could allegedly choose to express dissatisfaction with the authorities by migrating out of their country (exit) at the cost of articulating discontent domestically (voice). ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 18 May 2026

Summer School: Labour Regimes on the Fringes of Europe, Ljubljana, 15-19 June 2026

The summer school will explore transnational labour regimes and the ways in which they (re)shape workers' rights, opportunities, and everyday labour experiences across the societies of Southeastern Europe and beyond. These issues will be approached from a variety of connected disciplinary perspectives, including historiography, sociology, social anthropology and related disciplines. Through a week of lectures, workshops, film projections and discussions, we will address the gendered, temporal, legal and demographic aspects of labour regimes and observe them in both macroeconomic and microeconomic contexts. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 March 2026

Women in Late Socialism: Gender Orders, Agency, and Transnational Entanglements, Berlin, 17-19 September 2026

At the core of the conference are women as historical actors in late socialist societies, whose spheres of action oscillated between state control, institutional participation, and everyday self-assertion. The conference aims to examine how female agency under late socialism was shaped and enacted in the domains of political engagement and withdrawal, transnational Cold War spaces and networks, knowledge production, and the politics of the body. The conference examines how the broader problem of subjects' incorporation into socialist political regimes was articulated in women's lives, and how gender reshaped the dynamics of integration, regulation, and resistance.

([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 31 March 2026

Financing business in the history of Central and Eastern Europe, Prague, 24-25 September 2026

The relations between businesses and financing institutions (or between businesses and its financing in general) have been interpreted differently over time and historiography has repeatedly re-evaluated them. There is a consensus that the nature, intensity and consequences of these relationships have been shaped by the legal system, government, and numerous other formal and informal institutional factors, as well as by the specific characteristic of the industries and macro-regional factors (centre-periphery). Studying the patterns of development in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in a comparative perspective promises a deeper understanding of crucial determinants of economic life in this region. This also applies to the era of state socialism, i.e., under conditions of a centrally planned economy, where the terms of business financing differed fundamentally across time periods and between states, as well as to its potential legacies during the period of transformation. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 17 April 2026



PUBLICATIONS

Aida Ličina Ramić, Sarajevo u ritmu modernizacije: Urbana transformacija i njene posljedice 1970-ih i 1980-ih (Institut za historiju, Sarajevo 2025)

U ovoj se knjizi obrađuju procesi urbanizacije i modernizacije Sarajeva tokom socijalističkog razdoblja, s fokusom na 1970-e i 1980-e godine, kada se grad ubrzano mijenja i prostorno i društveno. Urbanizacija se posmatra kao višedimenzionalna transformacija koja, pored infrastrukture i prostornog širenja, zahvata način života, svakodnevne prakse i društvene odnose. Posebna pažnja posvećena je stambenoj politici, jednom od ključnih aspekata socijalističkog urbanog iskustva, kroz koju se jasno očituju ideološke, ekonomske i društvene okolnosti vremena. Knjiga prati i demografske promjene, migracije te transformacije porodičnih i rodnih uloga, uz razmatranje društvene stratifikacije u urbanoj sredini. ([Read more](#))

Ana Kladnik (ed.), Visions and Practices of Democracy in Socialist and Post-Colonial States (Palgrave Macmillan Cham, 2026)

This open access book explores how socialist and post-colonial states envisioned and practised democracy for themselves after the Second World War. While scholarship on democracy has tended to focus on Western political traditions, this book demonstrates that the alternatives to liberal parliamentary democracy were not only widely debated in the countries of the 'second' and 'third' world, but also put into practice. Contributing to a fertile area of research, this edited collection explores what democracy meant in socialist and post-colonial countries. The chapters focus on the period following the Second World War, when beliefs about democracy included the notion that popular sovereignty should extend beyond the nation-state, that social justice should be enhanced, and that working people were the true bearers of sovereignty. ([Read more](#))

Lucy Jeffery, Anna Váradi (eds.), Replaying Communism: Trauma and Nostalgia in European Cultural Production (CEU Press, 2025)

The volume adopts an interdisciplinary approach to extend debates on the lasting impact of the communist era across Central and Eastern Europe with chapters thematically threaded through concepts including curation, immersion, interaction, humor and authenticity. A 'trauma/nostalgia paradigm' emerges as the tissue connecting the plurality of post-communist efforts employed to address the region's contested pasts. Twelve original essays by contributors from both 'inside' and 'outside' the region detail how twenty-first-century cultural productions reengage the communist past. The impact of this past is seen as fundamental to understanding and shaping Central and Eastern European identities. ([Read more](#))

Bogdan Teodor, Jordan Baev, Mihaela Teodor, Matthew Crosston (eds.), *Three Centuries of Russian Influence in the Balkans* (Peter Lang, 2026)

The result of a research project by the Balkan Historical Association, this landmark edited collection explores various aspects of Russian influence in the Balkan region over the past three centuries. The concepts of Pan-Slavism and the Slavic brotherhood are well established due to long-established historical, religious and cultural ties. But relations between the Balkan countries and Russia have never been static. In this context, the authors of this volume aim to address Russia's changing interests in the Balkans, and the responses from Balkan countries and other Great Power competitors. Perhaps most importantly, what might this long and complex historical engagement mean for the future of the area and for possible conflicts to come? ([Read more](#))



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

Karl-Kaser-Prize for Historical Anthropology in Southeastern Europe

The Centre for the Study of Balkan Societies and Cultures CSBSC awards the Karl-Kaser-Prize for Historical Anthropology in Southeastern Europe (dissertation level and higher). In order to qualify as historical-anthropological research, works need to combine historical and anthropological approaches on a thematic and methodological level by: studying historical realities of life, experience, and everyday life, under the perspective of the agents under study; elaborating on subjects that deal with forms of human coexistence or fundamental experiences or historically relevant conceptions of this world and the hereafter in cultural anthropological contexts; applying inter- or transdisciplinary approaches that are anthropologically oriented in a historical, cultural, or social sense; combining historical methods with ethnographic methods (field research). ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 31 March 2026

Visiting Fellowship 2026/2027, Field of Excellence "Dimensions of Europe", Graz

During the academic year 2026/2027, the fellowship program will focus on topics related to the five research clusters of the Field of Excellence "Dimensions of Europe". Visiting Fellows will receive workspace and library access. They will be involved in the activities of the Field of Excellence "Dimensions of Europe" and participating institutes, as well as the Centre for Southeast European Studies. All fellows are expected to be physically present at the University of Graz during the four months of the fellowship, present their research during their stay, attend other presentations and contribute to the academic environment of the university. Fellows are expected to work on a specific publication during their stay and collaborate with a research cluster of their choice. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 March 2026

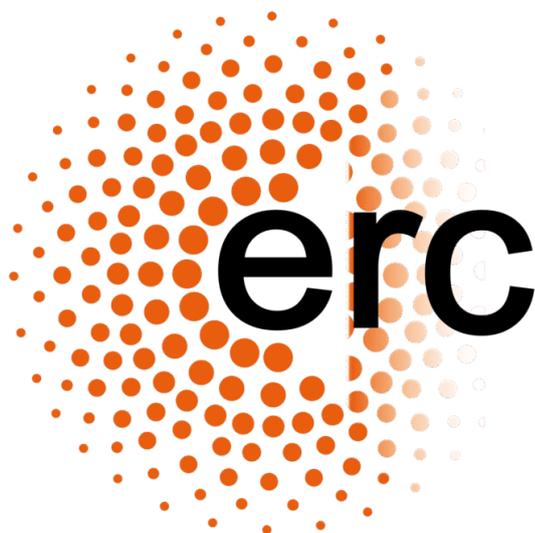


PROJECT IN CONVERSATION

by Sara Žerić Đulović

Brokers of Non-Alignment: Biographical and Network Approaches to the Making of the Third World ([read more](#))

This research is funded by European Research Council (ERC), Project code: 101220974.



Brokers-of-NAM analyses the history of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) through the lens of transnational political networks and relying on an innovative methodological approach combining biographical and network analysis. It studies the lives of five characters who played a central part in the global politics of non-alignment by crafting political networks across Latin America, the Balkans, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia, and by mobilizing political parties, movements, and trade unions on the basis of common ideas of neutralism, anticolonialism, and international solidarity during the Cold War.

CKPIS spoke with Agustín Cosovschi, Project Leader and a Research Associate at the Institute for Contemporary History in Slovenia.

The relationship between Yugoslavia and Latin America remains relatively little known. What first drew you to this topic, and why did you feel it was important to explore it?

When I started working on that topic about 8 years ago, the scholarship was very scarce. There had been some attempts to address the topic both by scholars of Yugoslavia and by scholars of Latin America, but what was lacking was a more detailed and systematic analysis of those connections putting together sources both in Spanish and the Yugoslav languages, and with a certain knowledge of both bodies of literature, which is what I set out to do after my PhD. My motivation was clearly personal and intimate. I was born and raised in Buenos Aires and I lived there steadily until I was about 25 years old. Even though I was trained during my MA and my PhD as a scholar of Eastern Europe and the Balkans, I never lost my interest for Latin American history, and I had the type of background knowledge that often only natives have. I was also moved by the many popular stories surrounding the image of Tito in Argentina, whom many there associate with the type of popular anti-imperialism once incarnated by Peronism; stories that even include rumours that Tito was in Argentina, that he became a communist there, that he built one of the most famous trains in the Argentine north, etc. The myths surrounding Yugoslavia and Argentina, and the symbolic importance of Yugoslavia in the Argentine anti-imperialist folklore moved me to start this

research. But it became more interesting when I understood that those stories were to a great extent unfounded; that relations between Yugoslavia and Argentina were complicated and very limited; and most importantly, that Yugoslavia's main interests in Latin America were for a long time across the Andes, in Chile.

Non-alignment plays a central role in your research. How did Yugoslavia's commitment to the Non-Aligned Movement shape its engagement with Latin America, particularly in contrasting cases such as Cuba and Chile?

Non-alignment has long been central to my research. At first, I assumed Yugoslavia's appeal in Latin America would rest mainly on workers' self-management and its model of social organization. Yet, as scholars such as Paul Stubbs have noted, Belgrade was generally less inclined than other socialist states to export a fixed blueprint. My research shows that in Latin America self-management attracted far less interest than non-alignment. Sympathy for Yugoslavia among sectors of the socialist and nationalist left stemmed primarily from respect for its international position, its opposition to both imperialisms, and its commitment to neutrality. During the 1950s and 1960s, Yugoslav initiatives in the region largely aimed to promote the emerging Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and draw governments, parties, unions, intellectuals, and students toward it. Non-alignment was the main guiding principle of these relations. Yet in Latin America, given its particular relationship with Washington, it functioned as a double-edged sword. It inspired parts of the left, such as Chilean socialists, and facilitated

ties with leaders like López Mateos in Mexico and Goulart in Brazil. At the same time, after the Cuban Revolution and the intensification of Cold War tensions, many saw non-alignment as unrealistic. U.S. interventionism and Cuba's own radical anti-imperialist turn limited Yugoslavia's influence and clashed with its more moderate, pragmatic understanding of equidistance between blocs.



Agustín Cosovschi

Your new ERC-funded project now expands this interest in non-alignment by bringing together cases from Cyprus, Lebanon, Chile, Burma, and Yugoslavia, with a focus on individual actors. What is the core idea behind this project?

My ERC-funded project, "Brokers-of-NAM," focuses on five key actors who helped develop the political networks of non-alignment beyond the sphere of official diplomacy: Veljko Vlahović from Yugoslavia, Kamal Jumblatt from Lebanon, U Kyaw Nyein from Burma, Oscar Waiss from Chile, and Vassos Lyssaridis from Cyprus. The project concentrates on how they fostered non-aligned ideas among political activists, trade unionists,

intellectuals, artists, and mid-ranking officials. In doing so, they built dense transnational networks that were essential to promoting the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on the ground, beyond the highly visible summit conferences. The choice to focus on these five individuals has several motivations. Over the years, they repeatedly appeared in my sources and drew my attention. At the same time, although they are not unknown figures, existing scholarship tends to frame their lives within national or regional histories rather than as part of the global history of non-alignment. A central ambition of the project is therefore to assemble a team capable of combining strong local knowledge with a global analytical lens. By doing so, we aim to show how non-alignment was shaped over time by individuals deeply embedded in national politics yet simultaneously active in constructing global political connections. Finally, the project reflects my broader commitment to global history. Following Sebastian Conrad's insight that globality involves not only connections but also shared structural conditions, we seek to move beyond narratives of circulation alone and incorporate comparison and parallel analysis into the study of the NAM and the wider "Third World project."

What advice would you give to younger researchers interested in transnational or global history, particularly projects that span multiple regions and archives?

The first one is a bit out of fashion in the age of LLMs, but I still think it's essential: learn

languages. Learning a foreign language is not only useful for operative reasons; it is also a process of intercultural connection that enriches your anthropological understanding of cultural diversity. A second advice: try to think outside of the narratives you've been taught. I am not a scholar of postcolonial studies, but postcolonial studies did shape my thinking during my training, and they did so also by encouraging me to provincialize the histories that I deemed central, and the other way around, to treat as central the histories that everyone had told me were provincial. And this applies not only to big global powers, but also to smaller spaces and minor actors with great ambitions, such as socialist Yugoslavia, a country that keeps on projecting an aura of prominence onto some of us. Last thing, which is some sort of corollary of the previous two: the issue of sources. In the era of global history, it is almost banal to say that multi-sited research is important, but still, I think it's worth stressing it. If you go to an archive in La Paz or Jakarta only to find proof of what you want to discuss with your colleagues in Belgrade and Zagreb, I think you're not doing it right. Knowledge is being produced in all geographies. Connecting different bodies of literature is perhaps one of the richest things there is, and I think it is often undervalued and eclipsed by the obsession with multiplying the archives.

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