

# NEWSLETTER

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

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## Sara Žerić Đulović on Gastarbeiters' Factories



On 10 April, CKPIS hosted a lecture by Sara Žerić Đulović, a PhD student and researcher at IOS Regensburg, where she is soon to defend her dissertation entitled *Gastarbeiters as agents of modernization in Socialist Yugoslavia (1968–1989)*.

Centar za kulturološka i povijesna istraživanja socijalizma poziva vas na predavanje

petak, 10. travnja 2026.  
18.00 sati  
Filozofski fakultet  
Negrijeva 6, Pula  
dv. 219 (1. kat, lijevo krilo)

**Sara Žerić Đulović**  
Leibnizov institut za istraživanje istočne i jugoistočne Europe (IOS), Regensburg

**Devizne tvornice i (ne)ostvareni razvoj: uloga migranata u socijalističkoj Jugoslaviji**

Sara is also an alumna of the University of Pula and an external associate of CKPIS. The lecture focused on hard-currency factories established in Yugoslavia through investments by Yugoslav migrant workers. Such factories influenced local development, modernisation, and the daily lives of the newly employed workforce.

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INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Tina Palaić (pp. 9-11)

## Reminder: 12<sup>th</sup> Doctoral Workshop



Application deadline:  
**15 May 2026.**

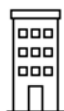
[The online application form and all information are available on the website.](#)

## Call for Papers: Right to Housing



In recent years, housing has re-emerged as one of the most pressing social and political issues, driven by rising real estate prices, declining affordability, shrinking dwelling sizes, and the deterioration of residential environments. As new models of affordable and public housing are once again being debated, the conference [Right to Housing: Projects, Policies, and Knowledge Exchange after the Second World War](#) revisits housing experiences from 1945 to 1991, when providing decent housing and improving everyday life were key goals across both Eastern and Western contexts. By approaching housing as a key site where political projects, expert knowledge, and everyday life intersect, the conference contributes both to historical scholarship and to current discussions on affordable housing.

*Right to Housing* is the first of two conferences organized within the ERC project Housing.Yu – Right to Housing: The Production of Spaces of Everyday Life in Yugoslavia (1945–1991). The conference will take place in Zagreb and is organized by the Institute of Art History in Zagreb and Juraj Dobrila University of Pula (CKPIS), from 22 to 24 October 2026. **Application deadline is 1 June 2026.**

**HOUSING.YU**

by Antun Dulibić

## Field Visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina



As part of the project's ongoing research activities, the Housing.Yu team spent six days in Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 9 to 14 April 2025, exploring socialist-era housing estates in Sarajevo, Zenica, Mostar, and Banja Luka. The visited neighbourhoods were developed during different phases of socialist Yugoslavia, with each city following its own distinct trajectory shaped by a particular set of local conditions. These included the

demands of heavy or light industry, significant demographic pressures driven by rapid urbanization, as well as the challenges posed by existing incomplete and inadequate urban environments that called for urgent housing solutions. Together, these factors produced a diverse and layered built landscape that reflects the complexities of socialist urban development across the region. Many of these built environments face the additional challenge of heritage preservation in the context of war damage, the consequences of which remain visible across the cities to this day.

The visit combined fieldwork with public engagement and oral history research. A public presentation of the project was held at the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, while recorded interviews were conducted with contemporaries of the period – including architects and urban planners whose work shaped the built environment of these cities. The fieldwork was carried out with the participation of CKPIS external associates Saša Vejzagić and Antun Dulibić.



# Students' Exhibition on Everyday Life in Socialism

The exhibition Memories of Everyday Life in Socialism (*Sjećanja na svakodnevicu u socijalizmu*) has been installed in front of lecture rooms 219 and 221, on the way to CKPIS, as part of the programme of the Week of the Faculty of Humanities in Pula. It originates from the course Croatian Everyday Life in Socialism, taught by Igor Duda within the MA programme in History. The students drew on family photographs and memories. Each photograph depicts an object or event that has remained in the recollections of parents, grandparents and other family members, while the accompanying text presents a short narrative obtained by the students using the method of oral history. The exhibition contributions were prepared by students Karlo Blagaj, Dilan Kontić, Marta Magaš, Melani Miljević, Marija Plivelić, Ivana Radić and Gabriel Šergo.



## The CKPIS Library is Growing

Recent acquisitions to the CKPIS Library include both editions of the Encyclopaedia of Yugoslavia (*Enciklopedija Jugoslavije*), published by the Lexicographic Institute in Zagreb. Although space is limited, it appears that we can still accommodate additional shelving.





## CONFERENCES AND CFP

### **Resilience, Realignment, and Renaissance: Regional Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe, Poznan, 14-16 September 2027**

Central and Eastern Europe is having to navigate geopolitical turbulence and economic realignment at the national level while recognising and operating through a complex mosaic of subnational regions with deeply varied prospects, vulnerabilities, and opportunities. Current developments – be they political, economic, demographic, or environmental – are producing highly differentiated territorial impacts. A sustained focus on regional and subnational dynamics reveals both the persistence of old divides and the emergence of new growth poles or lagging peripheries, calling for truly place-based strategies. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 12/19 May 2026

### **International MEPOST Project Workshop “Moral Emotions and the Memory of Industrial Transformations”, Vilnius, 5-6 November 2026**

This workshop intervenes in the rapidly expanding scholarship on the memories of (de)industrialization. Moving beyond the dominant focus on ruination and nostalgia, it explores the wide spectrum of moral emotions associated with the transformation of industry. It situates post-socialist transformations alongside industrial restructuring and economic shifts elsewhere, allowing for a comparative and transnational perspective on emotions and memory in social, cultural and political realms. It welcomes contributions on either locally or transnationally embedded experiences of industrial transformation, focusing on the ways in which their emotional repertoires and memory articulations often challenge, contest or exist on the margins of national narratives.

([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 10 June 2026

### **Those Who Serve: Service, Labor, and Social Hierarchies in Historical Perspective, Ljubljana, 12-13 November 2026**

From domestic servants and agricultural laborers to apprentices, soldiers, and clerks – countless people across history lived and worked in the service of others. This workshop explores service not merely as a job category, but as a lens for understanding dependency, authority, gender, and social negotiation in premodern and modern societies. The workshop particularly welcomes contributions addressing forms of service and servitude in Central European societies and the territories historically connected to the Habsburg lands, from the medieval period to the twentieth century.

([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 July 2026

**(Pro)Creating a Socialist Future - Knowledge, Politics, and Practices of Reproduction in Eastern Europe and the (post)-Soviet Space, Helsinki, 1-2 November 2026**

The workshop seeks to bring together scholars working on reproduction in Eastern Europe, the (post)Soviet space, and (former) socialist countries across the Global South to explore how (post)socialist societies negotiated their identities and futures through reproductive politics and practices. The aim is to analyze knowledge production, connections between government policies and individual reproductive choices as well as differences, entanglements and conflicting positions among the countries of the socialist bloc. Papers that focus on so-called peripheral regions and/or that address a transnational or global dimension of reproduction and/or its politics are especially welcome. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 30 May 2026

**Childhood in times of oppression, Prague, 15-16 June 2026**

Although the theme of the conference is ideologically linked to the above-mentioned exhibition, the contributions are intended to go beyond the scope of World War II. The organizers' goal is to provide a space for professional reflection on the experiences of children living under oppression, political violence, or ideological manipulation in various historical periods and geographical contexts. Contributions may focus not only on the Nazi occupation, but also on the history of childhood under communist regimes, during the authoritarian experiments of the 20th century, or in other forms of unfree social systems. The proposed thematic areas are adapted to this, divided into a section related to World War II and a broader section on childhood in times of oppression. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 10 May 2026

**Papering Over the Audiovisual Archives, Hilversum, 19-20 November 2026**

The symposium focuses on paper archives and their uses in media historical research. The aim is to foreground these discussions as points of departure for showcasing the value of paper archives in media historiography and their indispensable contributions to appraising and valorising audiovisual archival records. The symposium is open to media historians, archivists, artists and media professionals doing archive-based work. Papers that shine a light on the use of paper archives in the writing of media histories, and papers that showcase the theoretical and methodological versatility of paper archives in media historical research are particularly welcome. Contributions that deal with archived paper (paper preserved as historical records) as well as archival paper (catalogues, index cards, maps, etc.) are appreciated. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 31 May 2026

### **Gender and Violence in Historical Perspective: Social Practices and Discourses, Krakow, 3-5 December 2026**

The conference aims to provide an academic forum for the reflection on the multifaceted experiences of violence through the lens of gender categories. Spanning from the Middle Ages to the present day, the event will explore the evolving practices and understandings of physical and psychological aggression across both public and private spheres. Today, the histories of violence and gender have matured significantly, boasting advanced research into the public and private spheres, lethal and non-lethal acts, and both physical and psychological dimensions. Nevertheless, the fifty-year tradition of this scholarly intersection serves as an invitation to rethink the challenges currently facing the field. ([Read more](#))

**Application deadline: 15 June 2026**

### **CfA: TransBalkans: Visual and Spatial Trans Cultures in Southeast Europe**

This edited volume seeks to uncover the histories of visual and spatial trans cultures in Southeast Europe from the late nineteenth century to the present. It explores how trans individuals, groups, and communities have produced visual cultures both in relation to dominant cis-heteronormative regimes and beyond them, always in dialogue with the region's shifting socioeconomic and political landscapes and timescapes. How have trans individuals subjectivized themselves through visual media across the twentieth and twenty-first centuries? In what ways have they represented themselves, and how might these representations be understood within material-semiotic frameworks of semi-peripheral European embodiment? How do such visual practices engage with cis-heteronormative structures, and what forms of politics do they articulate? ([Read more](#))

**Application deadline: 30 June 2026**



## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Joža Pirjavec, *Jugoslavija 1918-1992* (Beletrina, Ljubljana 2025)**

Znanstvena monografija *Jugoslavija 1918-1992* priznanega zgodovinarja Jožeta Pirjevca je nastala in prvič izšla v času (1995), ko je skupna država že razpadla, na njenih tleh pa je prišlo do brutalnih spopadov med narodi, ki se iz grozot druge svetovne vojne in dolgega sobivanja pod Titovim režimom »bratstva in enotnosti« žal niso ničesar naučili. Odgovor na to vprašanje je avtor našel tako v kraljevi kot socialistični Jugoslaviji; prva namreč ni bila zmožna spoštovati raznolikosti kultur in identitet svojih narodov, niti ustvariti pogojev za usklajeno sožitje, druga pa ni ostala zvesta idealom socialne pravičnosti in enakopravnosti, ki jih je sicer glasno razglašala. ([Read more](#))

**Lorenz M. Lüthi, *The Iron Curtain: A Short History of Socialist Borders* (Cambridge University Press, 2026)**

The Iron Curtain remains an iconic representation of the Cold War. But what was it really on the ground? Fortified borders to prevent citizens from leaving emerged first in the interwar USSR and then in socialist post-WW II Europe. Fortifications occurred both at borders between socialist states and at their external boundaries to the non-socialist world, but not in all cases. The most well-known case – the Berlin Wall – was both an extreme example as well as a latecomer. But since 1947, Yugoslavia, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia had fortified their borders to prevent exit. When East Germany started to build walls around West Berlin and at its borders to West Germany in the 1960s, Yugoslavia was already dismantling its border regime and Hungary was granting passports and exit visas to its citizens. Fortified borders also appeared at external borders in northern and southeastern Europe, in the Caucasus, and in Asia. ([Read more](#))

**POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS****PhD Studentship within 'Cold War Socialism, Non-Alignment and Anti-Colonialism in the Yugoslav Press, 1961 - 1979' project: AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP)**

The project Cold War Socialism, Non-Alignment and Anti-Colonialism in the Yugoslav Press, 1961-1979 proposes an innovative investigation into Yugoslavia's multifaceted role during the Cold War, specifically its involvement with the Non-Aligned Movement and anti-colonial efforts. The project centres on Yugoslavia's global role in the Cold War, emphasizing its advocacy of non-alignment, anti-colonialism, and support for newly independent nations and liberation movements. The project will draw upon the recently digitised and largely unexamined Joint Translation Service (JTS) bulletins, a sole archive housed at the British Library. ([read more](#))

**Application deadline: 5 May 2026**

**Leibniz Fellowships "Value of the Past", Leibniz Research Alliance, Potsdam**

The interdisciplinary Leibniz Research Alliance "Value of the Past" examines the values that societies attach to the past. It focusses on processes of value creation as well as competing values in disputes over the past. In order to gain a deeper understanding of the relevance of the past for societies and the changeable historicity of values, the alliance analyses past and current practices of assessing, rethinking, raising, decreasing and harnessing the value of the past. The fellowship is intended to support academic work that can be assigned to one of the three overarching research foci that deal with "Regimes of Evidence", "Spatiotemporal Paradigms", and the "Past as a Public Resource". ([read more](#))

**Application deadline: 30 June 2026**



## INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Tina Filipović

### Tina Palaić is a Head of Curatorial Department at the Slovene Ethnographic Museum ([read more](#))



Tina Palaić

**You joined us twice, at the 7<sup>th</sup> Doctoral workshop in 2021 and last years' Socialism on the Bench conference to discuss non-European museum practices and heritage. What was the link between museums in Yugoslavia and decolonizing museums practices?**

During the era of socialist Yugoslavia, art galleries, as well as some historical and ethnographic museums, used their programming to support the ideals of anti-colonial struggles and Yugoslavia's active role within the Non-Aligned Movement. This was clearly evident at the Museum of Non-European Cultures in Goričane (near Ljubljana), which operated between 1964 and 2001 as a branch of the Slovene Ethnographic

Museum. Through international cooperation and bilateral agreements, the museum hosted numerous guest exhibitions from the Global South, often mediated by embassies and prepared by scientific institutes from those countries, thereby acting as a platform for international solidarity. However, despite emphasizing solidarity and friendship with the Global South, the museum in Goričane did not problematize its own role in constructing the image of the 'other' - an image deeply rooted in a colonial mental horizon that could have been addressed through the 19th-century collections frequently on display. In my view, the most significant decolonial aspect of this museum's practice was the collaboration with international students from other continents. They participated in the preparation of exhibitions, provided the museum in Goričane with additional information regarding the objects and their cultural contexts, and actively engaged in organizing various events. Such collaboration opened up opportunities for diverse encounters, the exchange of knowledge, and a deeper mutual understanding between different cultures.

**How many non-European collections and exhibitions emerged during the Non-Aligned Movement in Yugoslavia?**

Several institutions in Yugoslavia were involved in international collaborations, hosting ethnographic exhibitions and presenting works by artists from the Global South. Between the 1960s and 1980s, the Art

Pavilion Slovenj Gradec (now the Carinthian Gallery of Fine Arts) organized international art exhibitions under the auspices of the United Nations. In 1984, the Gallery of Art of the Non-Aligned Countries 'Josip Broz Tito' was established in Titograd (now Podgorica, Montenegro) specifically under the umbrella of the Non-Aligned Movement, dedicated to collecting and presenting the art and cultures of Non-Aligned and developing nations. The Museum of the Revolution of Yugoslav Nations (now the Museum of Yugoslavia, Belgrade) held gifts from foreign politicians, including those acquired during travels to Non-Aligned countries. In 1977, the Museum of African Art was founded in Belgrade, based on the collection of Veda and Dr. Zdravko Pečar. The Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb also hosted traveling exhibitions from the Global South, as did the Museum of Non-European Cultures in Goričane. Additionally, the International Biennial of Graphic Arts in Ljubljana played a significant role, hosting foreign artists since the 1950s, with their numbers increasing following the first Non-Aligned Movement conference in 1961. Precise figures regarding the total number of exhibitions across Yugoslavia are not yet available, as institutional activities in that period remain a subject of ongoing research.

### **What were the focal points of collecting and interpreting the non-European heritage in the Museum of Non-European Cultures in Goričane?**

The focal points reflected a complex tension between Yugoslavia's progressive foreign policy and the persistence of earlier, Euro-

centric understandings of non-European cultures. Based on my research, the connections with the Global South during this period contributed significantly to the acquisition of new museum collections. The primary source was collaboration with individuals – mainly diplomats and business representatives – whose professional paths took them to Non-Aligned countries. Additionally, some artifacts were acquired by the then-museum director and the curator for non-European collections during official visits and field research abroad.



The museum also benefited from international students who donated or sold objects, and from the Presidency of Yugoslavia, which distributed certain diplomatic gifts from Non-Aligned nations to Ljubljana. Between its opening in 1964 and the late 1980s, the Goričane site hosted 88 exhibitions of non-European artifacts, including 22 original exhibitions from the museum's own holdings, 10 developed with private collectors, and 34 international guest exhibitions. With its original and guest exhibitions, the Museum of

Non-European Cultures mobilised various discourses that reflected and simultaneously reinforced existing political and cultural tendencies. Five dominant discourses emerged: by addressing the significance of the national liberation struggle for Yugoslavia and other Non-Aligned nations and emphasising the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as by championing anticolonialism, the Museum fostered a sense of solidarity with the developing world. Simultaneously, it strengthened national identity by highlighting the role of Slovenian collectors, and contributed to the exoticization of the Other.

**Do you think that contemporary museums can learn something from Yugoslav experience of the Non-Aligned museology?**

Yugoslav experience offers an important lesson for contemporary museum work. It teaches us both the necessity of a critical stance toward inherited narratives and the potential for radical, local forms of inclusivity and co-creation. My research into the history of the Museum of Non-European Cultures in Goričane revealed that even within the anti-colonial framework of Yugoslavia, certain ideas from the 19<sup>th</sup> century persisted. This was particularly evident in exhibitions based on older museum collections, where narratives often continued to exoticize and stereotype other cultures. This observation is a crucial lesson for today: when staging exhibitions, we must maintain a critical stance toward the legacy of earlier eras that still lingers within museum inventory books, reports, and professional literature. Understanding this continuity is the first step toward tempo-

rary decolonial museum practice. However, beyond these inherited challenges, I was most inspired by the museum's practice of collaborating with international students. Although the curators of the time did not explicitly document the methods of this cooperation and the reasons for it, the scale and in some cases multi-year continuity of these interactions are fascinating. To my knowledge of Western museum history, such active involvement of "source communities" or international representatives was not common in the West during that period. The significance of this became clear to me when I met a lady from New Delhi who found her first job at the museum in Goričane. The museum provided her with direct contact with the local population and the opportunity to learn the language. This collaboration was life-changing; she eventually remained in Slovenia, even after her husband returned to India, and built a successful business here. Other former students echoed this sentiment, noting that the museum offered a valuable venue for cultural expression. For them, it was an important opportunity to inform the local community about the societies they came from. This demonstrates that museums could act not just as repositories of objects, but as active sites of social integration and international solidarity.

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