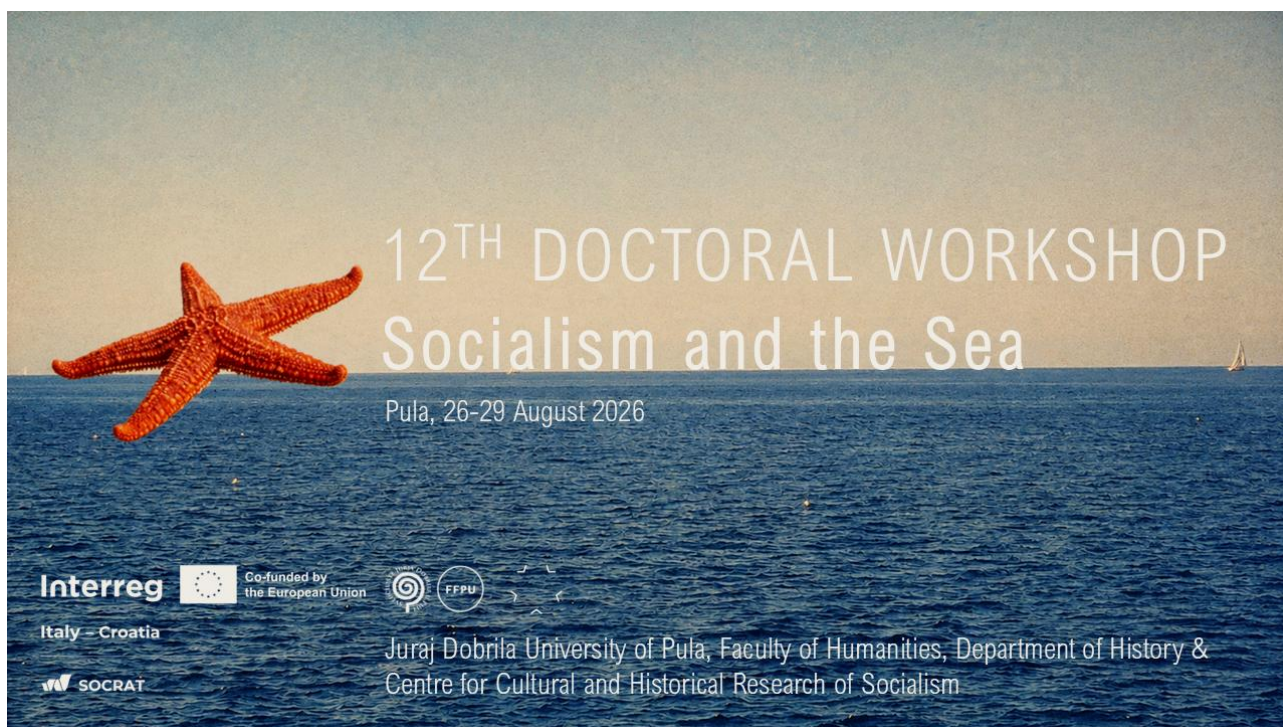


NEWSLETTER

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

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The End of August Brings the 12th Doctoral Workshop



For the twelfth summer in a row, the organising team at CKPIS is preparing the Doctoral Workshop, this year with the theme Socialism and the Sea. The [programme](#) includes fourteen doctoral students, who will present their papers and participate in discussion. The lectures will be delivered by Ruža Fotiadis (Humboldt University of Berlin), Iva Kosmos (University of Zagreb) and Anita Buhin (Nova University Lisbon), while Igor Duda (University of Pula) will take the participants on a walking keynote to Fažana and its surroundings. As last year, we will cooperate with Kino Katarina and Marta Baradić, whose guests will screen films on relationship between socialism and the sea. Moreover, we have established cooperation with the SOCRAT project. You can read more about it in the interview that follows on the next pages, originally published earlier this month in Croatian in the Pula daily newspaper *Glas Istre*.

LOOK FOR CKPIS.UNIPU ON INSTAGRAM



LOOK FOR CKPIS.UNIPU.HR ON FACEBOOK



ARTistra, Glas Istre, 8 July 2026 by Vanessa Begić

SOCRAT PRESENTS: IGOR DUDA, HEAD OF THE CENTRE FOR CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF SOCIALISM (CKPIS)

Socialism and the Sea as the Theme of This Year's Doctoral Workshop

This year, doctoral researchers attending the workshop are coming from universities in Belgrade, Koprivnica, Lisbon, Ljubljana, Munich, Paris, Poznań, Tokyo, Zadar, and Zagreb.

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ARTistra
Glas Istre, 8. srpnja 2026.

SOCRAT PREDSTAVLJA: IGOR DUDA, VODITELJ CENTRA ZA KULTUROLOŠKA I POVIJESNA ISTRAŽIVANJA SOCIJALIZMA



»Socijalizam i more« tema ovogodišnje doktorske radionice

Ove godine doktorandi dolaze iz Beograda, Lisabona, Koprivnice, Ljubljane, Münchena, Pariza, Poznańa, Tokija, Zadra i Zagreba

Principala Vanessa: BEGIĆ

M

U okviru projekta Socrat predstavlja Igor Duda, voditelj Centra za kulturološka i povijesna istraživanja socijalizma (CKPIS). Duda je jedan od najpoznatijih stručnjaka u ovom području i vodi radionice za doktore iz različitih zemalja. Radionice su prilika za razmjenu iskustava i znanja između doktora iz različitih zemalja. Duda je jedan od najpoznatijih stručnjaka u ovom području i vodi radionice za doktore iz različitih zemalja. Radionice su prilika za razmjenu iskustava i znanja između doktora iz različitih zemalja.

Biografija
Igor Duda je rođen 1962. godine u Zagrebu. Završio je Fakultet za društvene znanosti na Sveučilištu u Zagrebu. Poslije je radio u raznim institucijama, uključujući CKPIS. Duda je jedan od najpoznatijih stručnjaka u ovom području i vodi radionice za doktore iz različitih zemalja. Radionice su prilika za razmjenu iskustava i znanja između doktora iz različitih zemalja.

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Projekti CKPIS-a prepoznatljivi u
Hrvatskoj i inozemstvu

Centar za kulturna istraživanja socijalizma (CKPIS) je jedan od najpoznatijih stručnjaka u ovom području i vodi radionice za doktore iz različitih zemalja. Radionice su prilika za razmjenu iskustava i znanja između doktora iz različitih zemalja. Duda je jedan od najpoznatijih stručnjaka u ovom području i vodi radionice za doktore iz različitih zemalja.



Radionice koje su organizirali CKPIS-a i Odbor za povijest i kulture, u suradnji s Hrvatskim kulturnim centrom, u Puli.

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Radionice koje su organizirali CKPIS-a i Odbor za povijest i kulture, u suradnji s Hrvatskim kulturnim centrom, u Puli.

Glas Istre, Pula, 8 July 2026

Among the collaborators in the SOCRAT project – Socialising Craft & Contemporary Art for Sustainable Tourism (Interreg Italy-Croatia 2021-2027), implemented by the Istrian Region's Administrative Department of Culture and Heritage – are the Centre for

Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism (CKPIS) and the Department of History at the Faculty of Humanities, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula. Part of this collaboration took the form of workshops on developing new cultural tourism routes, held on 30 June at the

University's Faculty of Humanities. The partnership continues through this year's CKPIS Doctoral Workshop, which is traditionally held in August. On this occasion, we spoke with Igor Duda, Head of the Chair of Modern and Contemporary History in the Department of History at the Faculty of Humanities, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, and Head of the Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism.

The Sea: From a Boundary to a Space of Encounter and Exchange

The Doctoral Workshop organised by the Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism and the Department of History at the Faculty of Humanities, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, will take place from 26 to 29 August 2026 under the theme "Socialism and the Sea". What is the focus of this year's workshop?

This year, the lecturers and doctoral researchers are exploring the many ways in which socialism intersected with the sea and coastal regions, considering them as places of events or driving forces behind historical events and processes. When drafting the call for participants, we highlighted, for example, the role of the sea in international relations. In different historical contexts throughout the twentieth century, states sought to secure access to the sea through military force and diplomatic negotiations, while the sea itself offered opportunities for economic growth and became an important element of national identity and pride. It also created new possibilities for cooperation and communication between allies and rivals, as well as

between their cultures and economies. We also encouraged participants to consider the profound social changes that took place in post-war Europe, where peasants rapidly became industrial workers and, in the next stage, discovered seaside holidays as tourists. Fishing developed into a major industry, shipbuilding produced ocean-going vessels, and the sea assumed global importance as a route for energy supplies. Processes of littoralisation gave rise to vibrant port cities, while smaller settlements close to the coast often modernised at a much slower pace. Within the context of these wider social transformations, we are interested in how socialist states, as well as socialist and communist parties and movements across Europe and other parts of the world, formulated and implemented their maritime policies. We are interested in the sea both as a source of external threat and as a catalyst for internationalism and solidarity; both as a boundary and as a space of encounter and exchange. The maritime imaginary, of course, encompasses both danger and freedom.

A Stimulating Academic and Intellectual Environment

This is a doctoral workshop that is unique on the international stage. What makes the Pula CKPIS workshops distinctive?

Our concept combines the formats of a summer school and an academic conference. Doctoral researchers have the opportunity to present their own work while learning from more experienced invited speakers. At the same time, the programme includes a range of additional activities, opportunities for infor-

mal networking, and occasions to step beyond the confines of university buildings and conventional academic settings. More-over, the Doctoral Workshop has been held continuously since 2015, making this summer's edition the twelfth. There is certainly nothing comparable for early-career historians in Croatia, and no similarly long-running and specialised event in the wider region that shares our contemporary history. In terms of its atmosphere, I would compare it to the Zagreb School of Slavic Studies, which has been held in Dubrovnik for more than half a century and where I have had the pleasure of participating as a lecturer. In strictly academic terms, our workshop resembles any small scholarly conference that is not divided into parallel sessions. However, all participants are accommodated in the same place – usually the student dorm – and we share all our meals together. This creates a stronger sense of community and perhaps even evokes something of the atmosphere of an English college. Overall, we occupy a productive space shaped both by the relaxed character of summer and by serious academic engage-

ment. Experience has shown that this combination can be intellectually highly stimulating.

**Who will be attending this year's workshop?
Who is it intended for, and how is it organised?**

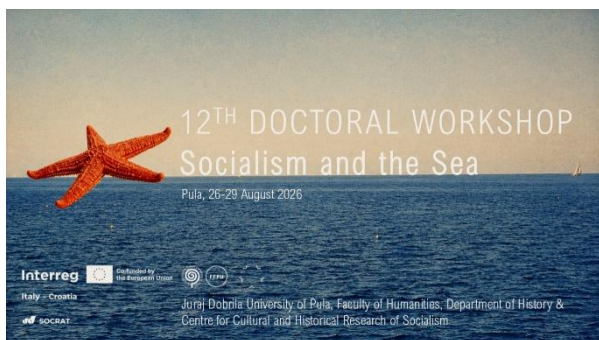
The workshop is intended for doctoral researchers in history, as well as in other disciplines of humanities and related social sciences. As a result, historians are sometimes joined by cultural studies scholars, cultural anthropologists, sociologists, political scientists, philologists, musicologists, and researchers from other fields, both among the doctoral participants and the lecturers. Each participant contributes to the programme through a written paper, an oral presentation, and discussion of their research. This year, around fifteen doctoral researchers are joining us from universities in Belgrade, Koprivnica, Lisbon, Ljubljana, Munich, Paris, Poznań, Tokyo, Zadar, and Zagreb. The lecturers are more established scholars. Each delivers a one-hour lecture, attends the doctoral presentations, and provides comments and feedback. This year's lecturers are Iva Kosmos

from the University of Zagreb, Ruža Fotiadis from Humboldt University of Berlin, Anita Buhin from NOVA University Lisbon, and myself. Their lectures will focus respectively on the social role of Adriatic fish-processing factories and their female workforce, the donkey as a pack ani-



11th Doctoral Workshop, 2025

mal in the context of post-1945 socio-economic transformation, and the romantic image of the Adriatic in popular culture. The workshop is an academic training event rather than a public programme for a wider audience. Nevertheless, we are always pleased to welcome guests who wish to attend individual sessions, and interested members of the public occasionally join us. Our BA and MA students are always encouraged to participate, as the workshop offers them an opportunity to engage with researchers only a few years ahead of them in their careers while experiencing an inter-national academic environment at their own university.



Strengthening Professional Networks

This year marks the twelfth consecutive edition of the CKPIS Doctoral Workshop in Pula. How would you assess the results achieved so far? What themes have been explored in previous workshops, and how have they been approached?

The workshop has now been running long enough for some of its earliest participants to have completed their doctorates, become assistant professors, and returned as lecturers. Several of my own former students, who first attended the workshop while completing their undergraduate degrees in Pula, have also since earned their PhDs. It is particularly

gratifying if the workshop helped inspire them at an earlier stage of their studies. In that sense, it fulfils one of its most important purposes: fostering a stimulating academic environment at the Faculty of Humanities in Pula, which does not offer doctoral programmes in the humanities. For many years, I have organised the workshop together with my colleagues Anita Buhin, Tina Filipović, and Sara Žerić Đulović. All three studied history in Pula before pursuing doctoral studies elsewhere, both in Croatia and abroad. They all presented their work at the Doctoral Workshop and have since established successful research careers. Anita is now based in Lisbon, Sara in Regensburg, while Tina joined the Department of History in Pula as a member of staff a year ago. I am currently collaborating on a European research project with Saša Vejzagić, another former student from Pula, who also participated in the workshop both as a doctoral researcher and later as a lecturer. I regularly meet many former participants at conferences or at their universities and institutes. Those who have not yet had the opportunity to attend are warmly invited to come to Pula. We also regularly welcome colleagues from the doctoral programme in Modern and Contemporary History at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, where I have been teaching as an external lecturer for the past fifteen years. All of this contributes to strengthening professional networks within the discipline. In addition, every participant has the opportunity to submit their paper to *History in Flux*, the Department of History's academic journal, which we launched in 2019.

Over the years, the workshop has explored twelve themes relating to the history of socialist Yugoslavia and the wider European context, covering the period from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present day. Among the topics we have addressed are the concept of the new man, the phenomenon of 1968, industrial societies, solidarity, microhistory, the idea of Europe, and systems of governance. These themes have reflected both the research interests of the organisers and the projects we have been involved in, including those funded by the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).



10th Doctoral Workshop, 2024

At the same time, we pay close attention to the research interests of doctoral students themselves, seeking to ensure that each year's theme provides a platform capable of attracting them and bringing them together.

Sustainable Tourism and Historical Themes

This year's Doctoral Workshop is also linked to the SOCRAT project – *Socialising Craft &*

Contemporary Art for Sustainable Tourism (Interreg Italy–Croatia 2021–2027), implemented by the Istrian Region's Administrative Department of Culture and Local Heritage. Could you tell us more about this collaboration?

Thanks to the initiative of Sandra Ilić, the project's coordinator, we were offered an interesting opportunity to connect with SOCRAT during the final months of its implementation. We agreed to collaborate on two activities: workshops devoted to developing new cultural tourism routes and this year's Doctoral Workshop. As a project focused on sustainable tourism and Croatian–

Italian cooperation, SOCRAT was broad enough in scope to connect naturally with our historical theme, *Socialism and the Sea*, which inevitably encompasses the Adriatic, the development of mass tourism, and the wider heritage of the socialist period. As for the tourism routes,

they provide an excellent opportunity to test the relationship between ideas emerging from the academic community and the realities faced by professionals working in the cultural and tourism sectors.

At the end of June, CKPIS also organised three workshops aimed at strengthening the capacities of tourism and cultural professionals within the SOCRAT project, with the objective of providing scholarly support for the development of innovative cultural

tourism routes. How do you assess this collaboration?

For these workshops, we invited Aljoša Vitasović, a professor at the Faculty of Economics and Tourism in Pula, who spoke about tourism, the tourist experience, visitor engagement, and added value from the perspective of economics. Unfortunately, opportunities for this kind of interdisciplinary exchange remain relatively rare, even within academia itself. On this occasion, however, we succeeded in bringing together different disciplines before an exceptionally engaged audience of professionals working in culture and tourism on a daily basis. Representing the humanities, Eric Ušić from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka contributed cultural insights through his research on WWII and post-war political graffiti in Istria. He already has experience in



leading guided walks through Vodnjan, a town particularly rich in historic graffiti. Tina Filipović, whom I mentioned earlier, spoke about Istria's anti-fascist heritage and presented a proposal for a possible cultural route through Pula. My own contribution drew on my earlier research into social tourism in Fažana, which, together with its surrounding area, was once home to numerous workers', children's, and youth holiday resorts. I have taken students and doctoral researchers on field visits through this landscape on several occasions, but I

believe it has the potential to become something much more substantial. I am certainly planning to take this year's participants in the Doctoral Workshop along the same route, thereby bringing our collaboration within the SOCRAT project to a fitting conclusion.

The title of your contribution to these workshops was *The History of Social Tourism: Holiday Resorts in Fažana and Its Surroundings*. In your opinion, to what extent are themes from the social history of socialist Yugoslavia, such as this one, recognised today by those developing new trends in sustainable and experience-based tourism, particularly in Istria? More broadly, how closely does the tourism sector collaborate with the academic community?

As far as academic historians are concerned, collaboration with the tourism sector remains minimal. There is a lack of initiative on both sides. Attempts have been made – I have also tried – but there has been little real response. When it comes specifically to the social history of Yugoslavia, the gap is even more pronounced. It is easy to gain the mistaken impression that this history is already all around us because it forms part of living memory, our own experiences, and everyday public debate. Yet there is still a notable absence of thoughtfully designed historical routes, exhibitions, and short publications that would be accessible to everyone in terms of content and price. Since the 1990s, Istria has devoted considerable attention to rediscovering and presenting its pre-modern identity. Only in recent years has there been growing public awareness that, not so long ago, the region also possessed a highly developed

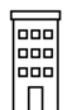
industrial sector and that there is a neglected railway network. Factories and railways are powerful symbols of modernity and social emancipation. If we add ideas such as *factories to the workers, technology to the people, science to the people, or tourism for all*, the social history of the socialist period begins to emerge much more clearly. In short, the familiar pastoral image of pre-modern Istria needs to be complemented by electricity, universal literacy, and the bustle of urban life. The history of Istria from the end of the Second World War to the present reflects more faithfully than anything else the experiences, aspirations, and

achievements of its current living inhabitants and their immediate predecessors. Yet this is all too often overlooked. Fažana itself could certainly be presented through the lens of its former industry and social tourism, a sort of tourism which was understood primarily as a social rather than merely an economic value. Unfortunately, the nearby Brijuni Islands also do too little and in outdated ways to interpret their heritage from this period, despite having served, in effect, as Yugoslavia's second capital and as an important venue for high-level international diplomacy.

CKPIS Projects Recognised in Croatia and Internationally

Founded in 2012, the Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism (CKPIS) is a research centre within Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, bringing together scholars from the humanities, social sciences, and interdisciplinary fields. Through its research projects, international collaborations, publishing activities, the *Socialism on the Bench* conference series, the Doctoral Workshop, public lectures, and other initiatives, CKPIS has established a strong reputation both in Croatia and internationally, particularly among scholars researching Yugoslav socialism and related topics. Among its most significant research projects in recent years are *The Making of the Socialist Man* and *Microstructures of Yugoslav Socialism*, both funded by the Croatian Science Foundation. At present, much of the Centre's work is carried out within two projects funded by the European Research Council (ERC). CKPIS collaborates with the *Open Borders* project, based at the Science and Research Centre Koper (ZRS Koper), and it is a partner to the Institute of Art History in Zagreb on the *Housing.Yu* project. The 2027 Doctoral Workshop will be organised in connection with the latter and will focus on the history of housing construction and everyday housing. Through the *Housing.Yu* project, the Centre has welcomed two new researchers: Saša Vejzagić and doctoral student Antun Dulibić, both of whom I supervise and whose work is partly based in Pula. The Centre's recent relocation to the University campus in Negri Street has finally provided it with premises that match its needs, giving fresh impetus to its research and academic activities, points out Igor Duda.

Igor Duda is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History in the Department of History at the Faculty of Humanities, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, where he has been a member of staff since 2001. He graduated in History and Croatian Language and Literature from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, in 2000, before completing his MA in History in 2004 and his PhD in History in 2009 at the same institution. His research focuses on the history of everyday life and the social history of socialist Yugoslavia. Among other publications, he is the author of four books (all in Croatian): *In Pursuit of Well-Being. On History of Leisure and Consumer Society in Croatia in the 1950s and 1960s* (2005); *Well-Being Found. Everyday Life and Consumer Culture in Croatia in the 1970s and 1980s* (2010); *Today when I Become a Pioneer. Childhood and the Ideology of Yugoslav Socialism* (2015); and *Socialism on the Doorstep. Local Community and the Everyday Life of Social Self-management in Yugoslavia* (2023). He is Head of the Chair of Modern and Contemporary History in the Department of History and Head of the Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism.


HOUSING.YU

by Antun Dulibić

Study Trip to London and Stockholm

From 5 to 15 July 2026, the Housing.Yu team undertook a study trip to London and Stockholm, two cities whose postwar housing exerted a direct and lasting influence on the built environment of socialist Yugoslavia. Its architects, urban planners, administrators and mayors travelled to these very estates, studied them on the ground, and carried what they saw back into their own planning

practice and housing policy. Revisiting these sites therefore allows the project to trace, at first hand, the channels through which international ideas and models entered Yugoslav housing.

In London, the team was guided by Professor Miles Glendinning of the University of Edinburgh, director of the Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies and author of *Mass Housing: Modern Architecture and State Power – a Global History* (Bloomsbury Visual Arts, 2021), and met the writer and photographer Thaddeus Zupančič, whose *London Estates: Modernist Council Housing 1946–1981* (FUEL, 2024) is a comprehensive photographic record of the city's postwar estates.

In Stockholm, attention turned to the housing of the Swedish



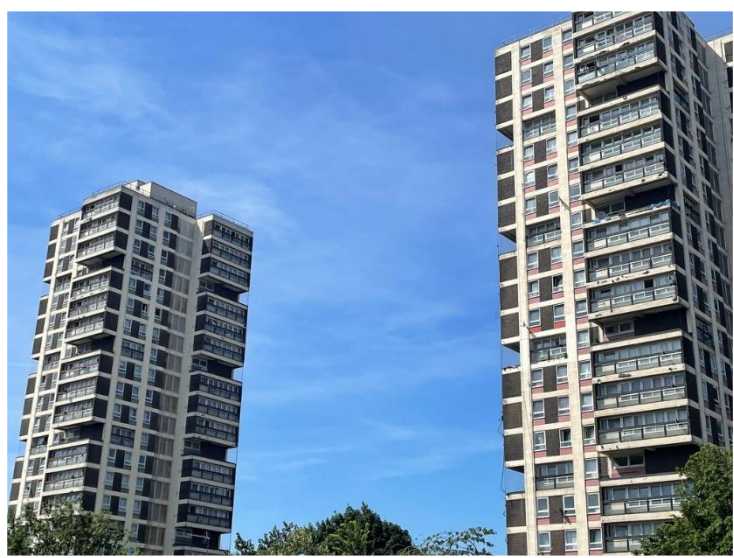
The team in Tanto neighbourhood, Stockholm

welfare state, whose cooperative and collective developments gave built form to the ideal of the folkhem, or "people's home". Over ten days the team toured housing estates built between the 1930s and the 1980s and visited several museum institutions in both cities. The trip was led by principal investigator Tamara Bjažić Klarin and carried out with the participation of CKPIS external associates Saša Vejzagić and Antun Dulibić.



Barbican, London

Social housing in Stockholm



London



Tensta
neighbourhood,
Stockholm



CONFERENCES AND CFP

Life Cycles under Socialist Regimes: Managing Gender Relations, Aging, and Health, Ljubljana, 16 February 2027

The workshop will explore how socialist states sought to manage human life cycles through scientific knowledge, administrative practices, and institutional interventions. Focusing on gender relations, aging, and health, it will examine these fields as central dimensions of socialist biopolitics and as sites where broader models of governance and technocratic management were developed. Bringing together perspectives from conceptual, institutional, and political history as well as the social sciences, the workshop will investigate how socialist regimes attempted to organize social reproduction, welfare, health, and individual life trajectories between the 1950s and 1991. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 September 2026

BASEES 2027 Annual Conference, Cambridge, 9-11 April 2027

The British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) invites proposals for panels, roundtables, papers, and book discussion roundtables for its 2027 annual conference. BASEES welcomes paper, panel, and roundtable proposals with an area-specific focus as well as positioned within disciplinary and interdisciplinary frameworks. These disciplines and areas include, but are not limited to: Politics; History; Sociology; Geography; Film and Media; Languages and Linguistics; Literatures and Cultures; Anthropology; Economics; Baltic Studies; Polish Studies; Ukrainian Studies. Proposals that help push forward efforts to decentre and decolonise the study of the region are particularly welcomed. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 5 October 2026

Photographic Communities: How People Collaborate with Images, Rome, 15-19 March 2026

With our everyday practices of viewing, making, using, and circulating photographs, we continually renew an experience that has shaped the history of photography since its inception: photography is fundamentally a collective endeavor. Even a cursory glance at nearly two centuries of photographic practice reveals countless instances in which the interplay of multiple actors has proven constitutive for the production, circulation, reception, and social efficacy of the medium. Such constellations range from the complex divisions of labor characteristic of commercial studio photography to the dense social networks formed by learned societies, amateur clubs, and photographic associations. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 31 August 2026

Historical Media Across Languages and Modalities, Paris, 28-30 October 2026

This datathon brings together an international group of researchers curious about the computational analysis of historical media collections across languages and modalities and offers them tools, data, models, and expert support. The event will rely on English as a shared language. Participants will work in small teams on self-defined research questions, drawing on BnF's collections and Impresso resources: a multilingual media corpus, derived datasets, NLP and vision models, and the Impresso Datalab. The Impresso team will be present throughout to guide, support, and collaborate. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 August 2026

**PUBLICATIONS****Branka Bogdan, *The New Yugoslav Woman: Reproductive Regulation in Socialist Yugoslavia* (Indiana University Press 2025)**

The New Yugoslav Woman provides a social and cultural history of how Yugoslav communists used reproductive regulation to build a platform of socialism through self-management and to position the country as a conduit between the global North and South. Author Branka Bogdan traces reproduction as a central facet of socialist Yugoslavia's state formation through the nation's laws, medical infrastructure, technological growth, and state-run sex education programs. Bringing this history to the present day with a discussion of more than two dozen interviews with Yugoslav patients and medical professionals, Bogdan reveals how these recollections show key continuities with the past rather than an abrupt break between the socialist and post-socialist worlds. ([Read more](#))

Xavier Bougarel, *With Tito's Partisans: Communists and Peasants in War-Torn Yugoslavia, 1941-1945* (CEU Press 2026)

This book enables readers to discover them through a meticulous reconstruction of their everyday life in the liberated territories. How did the Partisans stop interethnic violence? How did they foster the political participation of young people and women? What was the role of the Communist Party? What were the principles of the economy in the liberated territories? What were the Partisans' views on justice, revenge and forgiveness? These are just some of the questions the author seeks to answer. The book also goes further, however, showing what makes up a resistance or revolutionary movement in the extreme conditions of war – where everyone must prove themselves, or perish. ([Read more](#))

Tanja Petrović, *Utopija uniforme. Afektivni život Jugoslovenske narodne armije* (Akademska knjiga, Novi Sad 2026)

Obavezni vojni rok u Jugoslovenskoj narodnoj armiji (JNA) stvarao je među mladim muškarcima veze koje su nadilazile etničke, verske i društvene podele. Ove veze opstale su čak i nakon užasnog nasilja devedesetih godina, kada su se mnogi od tih muškaraca našli na suprotnim stranama linije fronta. U knjizi *Utopija uniforme*, Tanja Petrović se oslanja na sećanja i arhive desetina bivših vojnika JNA da bi pokazala kako je iskustvo vojnog roka oblikovalo ideje o budućnosti, forme kolektivnosti i odnose između države i pojedinca koji se suštinski razlikuju od onih koji preovlađuju u postjugoslovenskoj realnosti.. [\(Read more\)](#)

Maria Todorova, *The Balkans: Mission Impossible* (Amsterdam Univeristy Press 2026)

In this incisive book, Maria Todorova revisits the region she famously theorized, asking not only what has changed in the past thirty years but whether the conceptual tools used to understand the Balkans still make sense. Treating the Balkans as a historically contingent and ultimately transient construct, Todorova traces their rise, transformations, and anticipated exhaustion, while confronting long-standing silences – especially around race. She then turns a critical eye to Balkan studies itself, examining its institutionalization and the allure, limits, and misapplications of post- and decolonial frameworks. Subtle, unsparing, and deeply reflective, this book reopens the epistemological question of the Balkans at a moment when easy paradigms have become impossible to sustain. [\(Read more\)](#)

Augusta Dimou, *Contesting Copyright: A History of Intellectual Property in East Central Europe and the Balkans* (CEU Press 2025)

The study of the evolution of copyright helps understand and adjust the regulation and commercialization of creative labor. Augusta Dimou provides a thoroughly researched, interdisciplinary and comparative study of the historical development of copyright regimes in three countries – Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria. She examines the function and significance of copyright in the institutionalization, development, and regulation of modern culture in East Central Europe and the Balkans during the diverse political regimes of the modern era, and at the interface between the various nationalization and globalization processes of the 20th century. [\(Read more\)](#)

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POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

Pre-doctoral fellowship in Regensburg for 2027

The project “A small but fertile field: strengthening Southeast European Studies in Regensburg” (seeFField) was launched in July 2022 with the goal of strengthening Southeast European Studies in Regensburg. A call for applications for 2027 pre-doctoral fellowship to start on 1 May 2027, with a maximum duration of six months is now opened. It is expected that within this funding period, and under the guidance of an academic supervisor, the pre-doc fellow will develop and design a doctoral research project that closely fits the seeFField profile, in preparation for an application for (external) funding. The key research disciplines are history, social anthropology, and linguistics. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 30 September 2026

Thyssen@KWI Fellowship, Essen

The Thyssen@KWI Fellowship addresses excellent researchers from the humanities, cultural studies, and the social sciences. International researchers are invited to apply as well as scholars of German nationality, provided they demonstrate outstanding international work experience and contacts. Applications from research fellows who have completed their PhD and have already gained several years of post-doctoral research expertise (R3 level) are welcomed. Project proposals should address KWI's research agenda. The KWI (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut) in Essen provides fellows with modern infrastructure, office space, technical support, and offers a library service, event and research management as well as any administrative and communicative support. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 17 August 2026

FRIAS Early Career Fellowship Programme 2027/28

The Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS) invites researchers with a completed doctoral degree and a maximum of eight years of post-doctoral experience to apply for the FRIAS Early Career Fellowship Programme 2027/28. The fellowships are available to researchers from any nationality and discipline based in Freiburg, Germany and abroad. The programme offers access to the resources, networks, and academic community of the University of Freiburg, enhancing your research through new perspectives and collaborative opportunities. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 18 September 2026

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