

NEWSLETTER

No. 60, Pula, October 2021

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF SOCIALISM



NEWS FROM CKPIS

CKPIS

Winter Semester

This academic year the series of online public lectures *CKPIS Winter Semester* will start in November and continue until January. There will be four guest lecturers: Marko Zubak (Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb), Ana Rajković Pejić (Croatian Institute of History, Slavonski Brod), Ildiko Erdei (Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade) and Nebojša Jovanović (Academy of Performing Arts, Sarajevo). Lectures will be announced via CKPIS-INFO mailing list, Centre's webpage and Facebook.



Socialism on the Bench: plenary sessions available online



A month ago the 5th conference Socialism on the Bench was held, this time with the theme Antifascism. Book of abstracts and programme are available at the conference homepage ([English](#) and [Croatian](#)). All plenary sessions are available on CKPIS [Facebook](#) page and [Youtube](#) channel.

TURN TO LAST PAGES FOR OUR NEW SECTION

A series of four interviews

Thanks to the Erasmus+ Traineeship, Nemanja Stanimirović, MA in Nationalism Studies at the CEU, stayed at CKPIS in Pula from early June to early September. One of his many tasks was to prepare four interviews for the Newsletter. For this issue he talked to Brigitte Le Normand.



CONFERENCES AND CFP

CFP: Material culture and everyday politics in the Balkans (19th-21st century)

The Laboratory of Folklore and Social Anthropology at Democritus University of Thrace (Greece) and the Balkan History Association (Romania) are preparing a volume dedicated to Balkans, history, geopolitics, language, culture, and society. The volume, entitled “Material culture and everyday politics in the Balkans (19th-21st century)” aims at an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach to the cultural past and present of the Balkans from the perspective of material culture, from the 19th to the beginning of the 21st century, and its contribution to the construction of real or symbolic identities of Balkan societies. Special emphasis will be given on exploring the various ways that objects are connected to people and participate in the configuration of social relations, values, identities, and otherness in the wider Balkan region. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 10 November 2021

Popular Music, Populism and Nationalism in Contemporary Europe, University of Oldenburg, 7-9 April 2022

It is undisputed that the recent rise of populist-nationalist and far-right parties poses a challenge to democracies, not exclusively, but also in the European Union. However, “populism’s toxic embrace of nationalism,” as Lawrence Rosenthal calls it, is more than a party-political or economic phenomenon. It also has a cultural dimension, which remains largely unexplored. Regarding music as a ubiquitous cultural practice, this conference addresses this cultural dimension from three music-oriented perspectives: First, we examine the ways in which European populist and nationalist parties and political actors employ musical strategies. Second, the political significance of music is not limited to its function in party politics. Third, as popular music is often received as one aspect of intermedial performances (in music videos, films, computer games, in social networks, etc.), we also need to address the intermedial and digital dimension of populist and nationalist performances. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 November 2021

Fourth Conference in Balkan Studies: “Connected Balkans”, Marseille, 30 June - 2 July 2022

The Fourth Conference in Balkan Studies, organized by the French Association of Balkan Studies (AFEBalk), will be held at the MuCEM in Marseille between June 30 and July 2, 2022. This conference aims to pursue the work carried out during previous meetings and to bring together the driving forces of research on the Balkans around a transversal theme. This year, the theme “connected Balkans” will allow a general conference in area studies open to all relevant disciplines

of the Humanities and Social Sciences. It encourages critical reflection on regional approaches and on the organization of knowledge, by engaging both with comparative and multi-scaled analysis. This perspective is at the heart of the objectives set by the association since its revival in the 2010s: revealing social processes rooted in the Balkan countries, while demonstrating that they can also represent broader dynamics. This approach aims both to withdraw societies from stigmatizing particularities such as their political and social instability as well as to decompartmentalize Balkan studies. This can be achieved by examining regional processes in dialogue with observations made on other regions, both near and far, whether in the current period or in the early modern and modern periods. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 7 January 2022

Crossing the Political Divide: Transborder Workers during the Cold War between Eastern, Western and Southern Europe, Madrid, 24-25 March 2022

During the Cold War, and despite the contrary image of relative seclusion suggested by states and political Blocs, diverse groups of workers crossed for professional reasons not only national borders, but also moved from one political system to another. For shorter or longer periods of time, all kinds of workers crossed from Communist states in Eastern Europe or from right-wing dictatorships in Southern Europe to Western Europe, but also from Western Europe to Eastern and Southern Europe. These workers, while not carrying the political authority of either diplomatic representation or political exile, were indeed part of transnational networks across otherwise (relatively) closed political borders. They can be interpreted both as seemingly unpolitical in the ordinariness of everyday work life and as extraordinary in their defiance of the political order of national isolation. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 November 2021



Biblioteka ✨ CeKaPISarnica



PUBLICATIONS

Duško Dimitrijević, Jovan Čavoški (eds.): *The 60th Anniversary Of The Non-Aligned Movement*, (Belgrade: Institute of International Politics and Economics, 2021)

Institute of International Politics and Economics published edited volume dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the Belgrade Conference and the foundation of the Non-Aligned Movement. Edited by Duško Dimitrijević and Jovan Čavoški, 17 authors from various countries deal with different aspects of history and politics of the Non-Aligned Movement and offers a meaningful contribution for understand the history of and the role of the movement today. ([Read More](#))

Leda Papastefanaki, Nikos Potamianos (eds.): *Labour History in the Semi-periphery: Southern Europe, 19th-20th centuries* (Belgrade: DeGruyter Oldenbourg, 2021)

This collective volume aims at studying a variety of labour history themes in Southern Europe, and investigating the transformations of labour and labour relations that these areas underwent in the 19th and the 20th centuries. The subjects studied include industrial labour relations in Southern Europe; labour on the sea and in the shipyards of the Mediterranean; small enterprises and small land ownership in relation to labour; formal and informal labour; the tendency towards independent work and the role of culture; forms of labour management (from paternalistic policies to the provision of welfare capitalism); the importance of the institutional framework and the wider political context; and women's labour and gender relations. ([Read More](#))

Martin Previšić (ed.): *Breaking Down Bipolarity: Yugoslavia's Foreign Relations during the Cold War* (DeGruyter Oldenbourg, 2021)

This book is aimed at presenting fresh views, interpretations, and reinterpretations of some already researched issues relating to the Yugoslav foreign policy and international relations up to year 1991. Yugoslavia positioned itself as a communist state that was not under the heel of the Soviet diplomacy and policy and as such was perceived by the West as an acceptable partner and useful tool in counteracting the Soviet influence. ([Read More](#))



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

Scholarships for three PhD candidates and two Pre-doctoral researchers, GS OSES, University of Regensburg

The Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies is an interdisciplinary and cross-faculty collaborative research network of the University of Regensburg. Since 2020, the

interdisciplinary and structured doctoral program in the field of East and Southeast European Studies has been financed by the University of Regensburg and the Bavarian State Ministry for Science and the Arts. With its primary regional focus on East and Southeast Europe, the Graduate School collaborates across the following disciplines: History, Literary, Language and Cultural Studies, Social Anthropology, and Law. Research at the GS OSES focuses particularly on interrelations and interdependencies between East and Southeast Europe and other parts of the world. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 28 November 2021

New Europe College 2022/2023 fellowships

New Europe College-Institute for Advanced Study in Bucharest (Romania) launches the annual competition for the 2022/2023 NEC Fellowships. Romanian and international scholars (at postdoctoral level) in all fields of the humanities and social sciences (including law and economics) are invited to apply. Fellows are expected to work on their projects and take part in the scientific events organized by NEC; presence at the weekly seminars discussing the work in progress of the Fellows is compulsory. At the end of their Fellowship, Fellows are expected to hand in a research paper, reflecting the results of their work over the duration of the Fellowship. The papers will be included in a NEC publication. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 10 January 2022

Leibniz Summer Fellowships at the ZZF Potsdam

The Leibniz-Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam / Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF) is pleased to invite applications for two Leibniz Summer Fellowships “German and European History in the 20th century” for the academic year 2022 to study German and European History in the 20th century. Founded in 1992, the ZZF covers a broad scope of Contemporary European History with currently four research departments “Communism and Society”, “Economic Live”, “Regimes of the Social Sphere” and “Contemporary History in the Age of Media and Information”. The ZZF invites postdocs with an outstanding academic record to pursue their own research at the ZZF. However, applicants whose interests relate to the research departments of the ZZF will be preferred. Fellowship holders will be assigned to a research department and asked to present their current project in a seminar or colloquium. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 30 November 2021



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Nemanja Stanimirović

Brigitte Le Normand is an Associate Professor in History at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University, and at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan. ([read more](#))



Brigitte Le Normand

Your previous book, *Designing Tito's capital: Urban planning, modernism, and socialism in Belgrade*, presented the New Belgrade story as a part of the global urban planning literature, and the main bulk of it ends with the 1960s. Meanwhile your latest book, *Citizens Without Borders: Yugoslavia and Its*

***Migrant Workers in Western Europe*, deals with a per-se global phenomenon of migration, and mainly hits off with the 1960s. What would you say is the relationship between these two books, and what do these two topics present for your overall scientific interest?**

Both books deal in some way with Yugoslavia as a modernization project, with a focus on how it impacted people's everyday lives and shaped their relationship with the Yugoslav state. My first book was really focused on a modernization project per se; that of transforming the capital city of Yugoslavia, and creating a socialist urbanism more generally – along with all the challenges and unexpected consequences of those efforts. This book deals with another facet – expectations for a rising standard of living that were nurtured by the state and embraced by Yugoslav citizens. But because many of Yugoslavia's citizens were obliged to pursue that dream by leaving the country, it left many wondering just how successful, or sustainable, the Yugoslav modernization project was. But *Citizens Without Borders* also deals with a variety of different questions – in particular, the different ways in which migration and migrants were framed, and the ways in

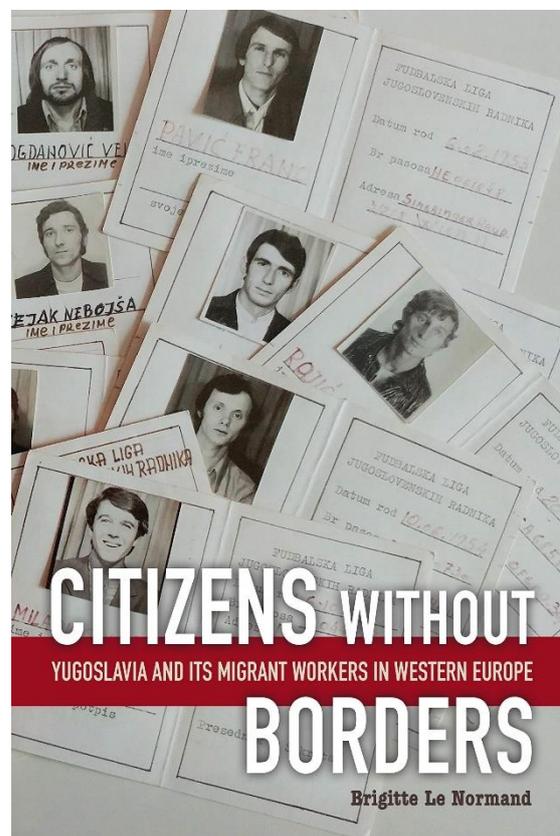
which different Yugoslav state actors deployed the idea of homeland to cultivate a relationship with their citizens living abroad.

In your book on Yugoslav labour migrants, you acknowledge that the Yugoslav state was not a single, rational actor, and that there was a complex web of relationships between state institutions and migrants. What are the difficulties of deciphering such multifaceted and multi-level actors, and how did you manage to get around it?

The irony is that most of what I learned about the diverse actors involved in migration policy, I learned from two archives (the Archive of Yugoslavia in Belgrade, and the Croatian State Archives in Zagreb), and only a few archival fonds – namely, fonds relating to SSRNJ, to Matica hrvatskih iseljenika, and to specific committees focused on migration. This means that most of what I know about a number of institutions, such as consular offices and bodies charged with developing educational policies, I had to piece together from disparate items that ended up in these main archival fonds. It was a real act of putting a puzzle together, guided by detective work and serendipity. There are still pieces missing; I'm hoping future researchers can fill those in.

What was the ideological and what was the material utility for the Yugoslav state in distinguishing between

economic and political migrants, distinction having been achieved with the invention of the construct “our workers temporarily employed abroad”? To what extent did the care



Brigitte Le Normand, *Citizens without Borders: Yugoslavia and Its Migrant Workers in Western Europe*, University of Toronto Press, 2021

for the regime’s domestic popularity outweigh the concrete economic benefits of having migrants send foreign currencies remittances?

Ultimately Yugoslav state actors did what all state actors do – try to figure out some workable categories that allowed it to govern its citizens. Political migrants were a problem; a threat to the state. They designed policies to neutralize that group. Permanent migrants that were not hostile to Yugoslavia were deemed potential

advocates for Yugoslavia in their countries of settlement; they got their own policies to advance that agenda. But “our workers temporarily employed abroad” were seen as normal citizens, who should be encouraged to continue to participate in Yugoslav society and eventually return. And, of course, continue to send remittances in valuable foreign currency back to Yugoslavia. But we should be careful not to be too cynical – it was not just about “using” migrants – they were valued as members of the Yugoslav community. This comes out clearly in the archival documentation.

You have mentioned that hitherto scholars failed to explore the implications the Yugoslav federal structure’s decentralisation had on the state’s relationship with migrants. Mainly in the second part of the book with numerous examples you depict how this relationship evolved. Could you briefly and from a macro perspective outline how did the main structural shifts influence the changes in the approaches to the labour migrants?

My first point about decentralization, is that different state actors sought to cultivate a relationship with migrant workers, and they instrumentalized different notions of homeland to do so. While the federation sought to promote brotherhood and unity – for example, mandating the creation of all-national

Yugoslav workers’ clubs – Croatian Republican institutions and local institutions took a different tack. I show, for example, how the newspaper *Imotska Krajina* promoted at first a very local idea of homeland, and then, during the Croatian Spring, intermeshed this with a Croatian nationalist agenda. Interestingly, Hrvatska Radio Televizija generally eschewed identity issues, preferring to see migrants as modern consumers. My second point about decentralization is that the implementation of federal level policies required a great deal of complicated coordination between lower-level bodies – this is quite evident with education.

Building on other authors’ claims of the open-border labour migrant policies existing prior to the Communists acquisition of power, you have placed the Yugoslav hybrid approach much closer to the Southern European than to the Eastern European examples. Firstly, how different were other socialist countries at the time?

Speaking in very general terms – there are of course nuances – other socialist states continued to maintain much more restrictive border regimes. Citizens of Eastern Bloc states only worked abroad in the context of very specific programs, in particular in the context of aid programs to the Global South. So Yugoslavia really does stand out with its openness to

providing labour for the West European economic boom.

Indeed, you are dealing with a global topic which has multiple implications for transnational history, however, what would you say are main contributions of your book for the understanding of the domestic events and processes in Yugoslavia? You have focused on the archival sources to deconstruct the state's overall approach, thus, what do the results tell us about the Yugoslav policy makers over time?

Citizens without Borders contributes to the growing literature on Yugoslav migration by highlighting the construction of the category of the *gastarbajter* or “naši radnici privremeno zaposleni u inozemstvu,” and how it shaped the two-way relationship between migrants and Yugoslavia. It shows that, while they weren't always effective in responding to the challenges faced by migrants, Yugoslav policy makers cared deeply about this group of citizens, and were actively involved in trying to maintain a good relationship with them. Those efforts took many forms, and depending on the level of government that was designing and implementing these policies, they sometimes worked at cross-purposes – something that becomes clear during the Croatian Spring. But

whatever the shortcomings and inconsistencies of these policies, they remain impressive in their scope and ingenuity, and were remarkably effective in mobilizing a significant number of workers and their family members.

Finally, what book would you recommend to a young student who has just started becoming interested in the Yugoslav history or history of socialism, and why?

There is so much good work coming out right now, it's hard to choose! We are experiencing a veritable renaissance in exciting work on socialist Yugoslavia. Chiara Bonfiglioli's book *Women and Industry in the Balkans: The Rise and Fall of the Yugoslav Textile Sector* is a great introduction to the Yugoslav modernization project, and is quite innovative in putting women at the center of the story, privileging the voices of women themselves. It also examines the fate of the textile sector after the end of state socialism, and contextualizes these changes in broader global trends. I think it's a great place to start thinking about the everyday experience of state socialism in Yugoslavia.

NEWSLETTER

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