

NEWSLETTER

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Open Borders in Pula and Brijuni



The international scientific workshop *Cross-Border Practices and Regional Connectivity in the Alps-Adriatic Area: Historical Perspectives*, jointly organised by the Science and Research Centre Koper (ZRS Koper) and the Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism at the Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, was successfully held from 23 to 25 September 2026 in Pula and the Brijuni Islands.

The workshop brought together researchers from several European countries to discuss different forms of cross-border interaction, connectivity, and regional cooperation in the

area between Austria, Italy, and Yugoslavia during the Cold War. Across twelve presentations, participants explored a wide range of cross-border practices and forms of cooperation, including regional diplomacy, industrial cooperation, infrastructure projects, media, tourism, youth sports exchanges, mountaineering associations, as well as hunting and fishing. Particular attention was devoted to the activities of the Alps-Adriatic Working Community, which provided an important framework for regional cooperation across different political and state borders.

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Bраниmir Janković (pp. 8-10)

The workshop opened with an inspiring keynote dialogue between Pamela Ballinger and Sabine Dullin, which brought together micro- and macro-level perspectives on the borderland and encouraged participants to



reflect on the ways in which borders were experienced, negotiated, and transformed at different levels. The workshop concluded with an insightful discussion held on the Brijuni Islands, which brought together several of the broader themes raised during the workshop. The discussion also highlighted the complexities and ambiguities inherent in the functioning of border regimes, particularly in relation to local populations and the development of cross-border cooperation in this part of Europe.

The workshop was organised as part of the ERC-funded project *Cold War Europe Beyond Borders. A Transnational History of Cross-Border Practices in the Alps-Adriatic Area from World War II to the Present* (Open Borders), led by Borut Klabjan from the Institute for Historical

Studies of the ZRS Koper. The project examines the development of transnational cross-border cooperation between the so-called “East” and “West” from the end of the Second World War to the present, with the

aim of reconsidering the history of Europe during the Cold War and moving beyond the traditional image of a politically divided continent. The project focuses on the Alps-Adriatic region, a historical space that today encompasses parts of Austria, Italy, Slovenia, and Croatia.

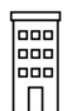
During the Cold War, the region was divided between socialist and non-aligned Yugoslavia, capitalist and neutral Austria, and Italy, a member of NATO and the European Economic Community. The coexistence of different political, economic, and social



systems within this relatively small geographical area offers a unique opportunity to explore how cross-border contacts, cooperation, and regional connections developed despite political divisions and state borders.

This workshop provided an important opportunity for exchange and discussion among researchers working on the history of borders, borderlands, and cross-border cooperation, while further strengthening academic collaboration within the Open Borders project. CKPIS is involved in the project through the research of its associate,

Tina Filipović, under the mentorship of Igor Duda. Both researchers participated in the workshop, presenting their respective research: Igor Duda on the Alps-Adriatic Youth Games, and Tina Filipović on relations between Italian visitors and Istrian hosts in the context of cross-border tourism. (T.F.)



HOUSING.YU
by Antun Dulibić

At the EAUH Conference in Barcelona

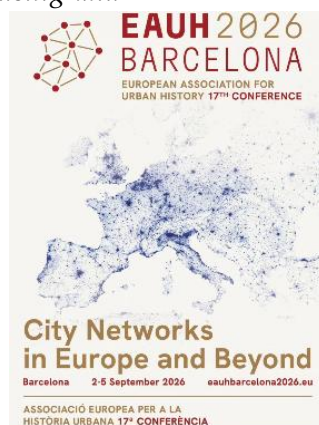


Several members of the research team of the ERC project [Housing.Yu](#), presented papers at the 17th Conference of the European Association for Urban History (EAUH), *City Networks in Europe and Beyond*, held in Barcelona from 2 to 5 September 2026. Among them were CKPIS members Igor Duda and Antun Dulibić who presented their joint paper *Decentralising socialist Yugoslavia: housing and the structures of self-management in the 1960s and 1970s* in the session The Networked City: Between Collectivity and Individuality (19th-20th Centuries). The paper focuses on the decentralisation of socialist Yugoslavia and on how the Socialist Alliance of Working Peo-



ple of Yugoslavia (SSRNJ) and the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities of Yugoslavia (SKGOJ) enabled it.

Also presenting were Lidija Butković Mićin (*Spaces of Negotiation: Social Housing and the Spatial Politics of Self-Management in Late Socialist Yugoslavia*), Mejrema Zatrić-Šahović (*Beautiful Regionalist Housing as Seen through the Cloud of Smog: Landscape and Territory in the Early Urban Planning of Socialist Yugoslav Zenica*) and Hana Bečević (*From the Neighbourhood Unit to the Self-Managed Housing Community: Local Urban Strategies and Transnational Transfers in Yugoslavia during the 1950s*).





CONFERENCES AND CFP

IOS Annual Conference 2027: Recentering the Margins of the World Economy in Past and Present – Natural Resources, Commodity Frontiers and Political Ecology in Eurasia, Regensburg, 20-21 May 2027

The 14th IOS Annual Conference approaches the making and unmaking of commodity frontiers from a peripheral vantage – one whose resources were often central to the world economy yet marginal to its history. It attends to the disturbed metabolism between society and nature, between labour and land; to the regimes of work, property, and expertise through which resources were rendered legible, governable, extractable and turned into commodities; and to the exhausted frontiers, ruined landscapes and marginalized communities left in their wake. It addresses these questions in a multidisciplinary manner inviting scholars from various disciplines such as history, economy, political sciences, sociology and social anthropology. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 December 2026

Everyday Labour, Scientific Practices and the Making of Knowledge, Munich, 25-26 February 2026

The workshop will focus on the role of labour in making knowledge and scientific practice. This includes the labour of people who did not see themselves as 'scientists' or 'natural historians', such as sailors who collected natural-history specimens, artists who sketched plants and animals, and Indigenous peoples who, among other things, enabled scientific expeditions to survive in unfamiliar environments, operate their instruments and trace changes of climate. Additionally, papers examining the work of artists and artisans in both shaping and disseminating this knowledge will be considered. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 October 2026

Animals as Protein Factories: A History of European Livestock across the East-West Divide (1950s – present), Berlin, 15-16 June 2027

This workshop explores how industrial livestock farming (whether for pigs, cows, chickens, or salmon) transformed animals as well as human diets on both sides of the Iron curtain, reshaped working communities, and caused massive environmental damage by altering landscapes and agricultural infrastructure. It also examines the upheaval in the relationships between humans and non-humans in the production of livestock, while considering aquaculture as an extension of the boundaries of the industrial domestication of living beings. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 18 October 2026

European colonialism, Soviet communism, and Fascism – Exploring the memory triangle, Brussels, 3-4 June 2027

The proposed workshop intends to analyze how memories of European colonialism, Soviet communism, and fascism have become intertwined, and with what effects. It intends to provide new impulses and launch more comprehensive explorations. To close the analytical gap, we shall aim to combine approaches from intellectual and conceptual history with those in the interdisciplinary field of memory studies; further approaches, or combinations of them, are most welcome too. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 30 October 2026

Alternative National Movements for the Southern Slavs, online, 12-13 March 2027

While myths of a primordial nation and its “thousand-year dream” of statehood still dominate political rhetoric and state-sponsored textbooks, serious scholars of nationalism have grown weary with teleological narratives of “national awakening.” What would a non-teleological narrative of nationalism look like? Starting from the observation that many national concepts attracted both “scholarly interest” and “patriotic agitation” without becoming “mass national movements,” this project seeks to restore contingency to narratives of national awakening. It specifically focuses on national movements that were unsuccessful, or alternatively on movements that have not yet been successful. ([Read more](#))

Application deadline: 1 December 2026



PUBLICATIONS

Ognjen Tomić, Ana Radaković, Nikola Koneski (ur.), *Nova istraživanja jugoslovenske prošlosti: perspektive sa postjugoslovenskog prostora 2* (Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije: Beograd 2026)

U okviru zbornika objavljena su ukupno 24 rada, podeljena u pet poglavlja koja predstavljaju različite delove istorije Jugoslavije: I Kraljevina Jugoslavija: politika, društvo i kultura; II Kultura sećanja: između suđenja i sećanja; III Ekonomska istorija: izazovi samoupravljanja; IV Jugoslavija u međunarodnim odnosima: od Koruške do Kube; V Nakon Jugoslavije: stvaranje postjugoslovenskog prostora. Zbornik, naravno, ne pretenduje na to da obuhvati celokupnu istoriju Jugoslavije: ipak, ovakva struktura pokazuje, već drugu godinu zaredom, veliku širinu tema kojima se bave mladi istraživači iz regiona. Zanimljivo je primetiti da su neke tematske celine, poput ekonomske i diplomatske istorije, zadržale svoje mesto u zborniku, dok su druge (poput istorije ideja), ove godine bile manje zastupljene. Novina je i veći broj radova koji se bave poslednjim periodom jugoslovenske istorije. ([Read more](#))

Dunja Dobaja (ur.), *Sistem skrbi in izobraževanja senzorno oviranih otrok od leta 1895 do šestdesetih let 20. stoletja: Ljubljana in Zagreb = Sustav skrbi i obrazovanja za gluho i slijepu djecu od 1895. godine do šezdesetih godina 20. stoljeća: Ljubljana i Zagreb* (Inštitut za novejšo zgodovino: Ljubljana 2026)

The history of education for people with sensory impairments represents an important, yet long-neglected chapter in the history of schooling, social welfare, and social inclusion in Slovenia, Croatia, and the wider Yugoslav region. Research into the development of institutions for blind, partially sighted, and deaf children provides insight not only into changing pedagogical practices and legislative frameworks, but also into broader social perceptions of disability, difference, and the role of the state in ensuring equal opportunities for all children. ([Read more](#))

Nathalie Clayer, Fabio Giomi (eds.), *Les Balkans contemporains* (CNRS Editions 2026)

Are the Balkans forever destined to be seen as Europe's "powder keg"? A region condemned to territorial fragmentation, recurrent "crises" and seemingly endless "delays"? A place where national and ethnic identities are assumed to dictate the lives of its societies? A peripheral world, dependent on a supposedly dynamic West to drive change? This book offers a very different way of looking at Southeastern Europe. Far from being a marginal or fragmented space, the region emerges as a world of shifting borders, shaped by complex political and social forces and crisscrossed by people, ideas, practices and institutions. Its history has unfolded at the crossroads of empires and diverse political movements, and through the profound transformations brought about by socialism and post-socialism. ([Read more](#))

Sven Spieker, Polly Savage, Bojana Videkanić, Christene d'Anca (eds.), *Curating Socialism: A Handbook of International Art Exhibitions 1947-1989* (University of Toronto Press: Toronto 2026)

The handbook examines the mechanisms, relationships, and international agreements that enabled the organization of officially sponsored and state-organized art exhibitions after the Second World War. Apart from viewing such exhibitions as instances of Cold War diplomacy and propaganda, this book proposes a shift in the way readers view the Cold War, away from an emphasis on separation and opposition to a focus on cultural exchange and international solidarity. Throughout the book, art historians and visual culture experts provide contextual information about the main institutional actors who were responsible for organizing these exhibitions, and the personal as well as institutional or diplomatic channels involved in their hosting and curation. Despite their many differences, the shows explored in this book gesture to the notion of a socialist curatorial aesthetic in the shadow of the Cold War. ([Read more](#))



POSITIONS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

2 Research Fellow Contracts, project FLUIDCURT (Danube during the Cold War), University of Trento

The Department of Humanities at the University of Trento invites applications for two research contracts within the project "Fluid Curtain: Managing the Danube River During the Cold War" (FLUIDCURT), led by Dott. Francesco Magno. The project examines Danube governance across the politically divided Europe of the Cold War (1948-1989), combining environmental history, New Cold War History, political geography, and digital humanities. Subproject 2, "Yugoslavia and the Danube" focuses on Yugoslav efforts to develop the Danube for inland waterway transport and hydroelectric power, including the Iron Gates plants and/or Morava-Vardar Canal project. Requires strong command of Serbo-Croatian and documented research experience in archives of the former Yugoslavia. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 15 October 2026

Max Weber Fellowships, European University Institute

The Max Weber Programme at the European University Institute is a unique postdoctoral programme in the historical, humanities and social sciences. It is open to applicants who are within 5 years from the completion of their PhD, from anywhere in the world, regardless of nationality. A cohort consists typically of around 65 Fellows across the different academic units of the EUI (Economics, History, Law, Political and Social Sciences, the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies or the Florence School of Transnational Governance). Preference is given to applicants who have only just completed their doctorate and have not had a postdoctoral fellowship before. Selected Fellows will benefit from the stimulating combination of a global programme located in the heart of Europe offering a broad menu of multidisciplinary and disciplinary activities. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 16 October 2026

Jean Monnet Fellowships, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI

The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies offers one-year Jean Monnet Fellowships to scholars who have obtained their doctorate more than five years prior to the start of the fellowship. The Fellowship programme is open to post-docs, tenure-track academics and those wishing to spend their sabbatical at the Centre. They are expected to actively participate in the academic life of the Centre and contribute to the activities of the project or programme they are associated with. They can take part in the activities of the EUI postdoctoral programme and are encouraged to collaborate with researchers, other postdocs and EUI academic staff. ([read more](#))

Application deadline: 23 October 2026



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

by Tina Filipović

Branimir Janković is an associate professor at the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb ([read more](#))



Branimir Janković

Your research approaches historiography as a form of intellectual history. Could you tell us more about how historians in late socialist Yugoslavia contributed to the transformation of the discipline? What were the most significant methodological and conceptual shifts in the 1970s and 1980s?

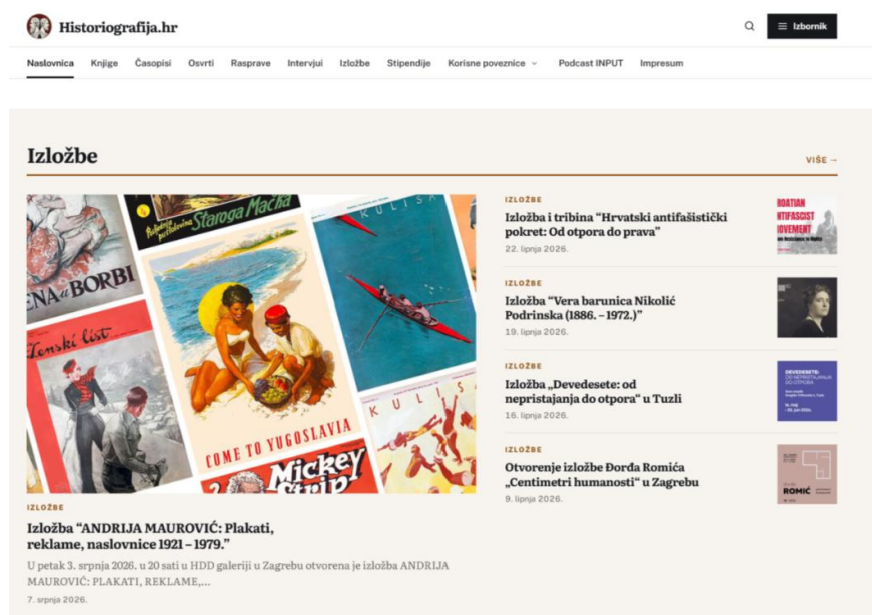
I have tried to show that the period of Yugoslav socialism, which is usually portrayed by the Croatian public and a significant part of Croatian academic circles through the lens of totalitarianism and repression, also represents one of the major breakthroughs in Croatian historiography. Croatian historiography, like Yugoslav

historiography in general, was shaped not only by political and ideological pressure but also by socialist modernisation. I was particularly interested in the theoretical and methodological changes in historiography promoted by historians themselves. This transformation took place in the 1970s and 1980s, when historians led by Mirjana Gross and others argued in numerous polemics for social history and, more broadly, for a new history. They were influenced by the Annales school, German and British social history, unorthodox Marxism, and similar currents in East-Central Europe. For these Yugoslav historians, this was not only a methodological but also a political issue, as they sought to establish alternatives to national historiography and nationalism in general. As we all know, this had only limited reach.

What happened to the historiographies of the post-Yugoslav states after the 1990s?

Despite supra-national Yugoslav projects, historiographies in Yugoslavia remained largely mono-nationally oriented, a tendency that intensified after the collapse of socialist Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Although post-Yugoslav historiographies adopted new methodological approaches, such as the history of everyday life and, in the 2010s, the history of emotions and public history, the figure of the predominantly national historian has prevailed. This remains the case today in the post-Yugoslav countries, without any loss of intensity. Historians are therefore expected

to defend their own national “truths”. In Croatian historiography, this means insisting that Yugoslav and Croatian identities were supposedly incompatible. Consequently, the vast number of factory workers from Borovo to Uljanik, as well as other topics of the “difficult heritage” of the socialist revolution, are not particularly welcome.



Historiografija.hr

Given your active role in public debates on Croatian history and as the editor of the scholarly web-portal Historiografija.hr, do you think we are “overwhelmed by the past,” or do we have instead a more superficial relationship to history?

Both statements apply. As a post-war society, deeply marked by the “age of extremes” (Hobsbawm) of the 20th century, we are undoubtedly “overwhelmed by the past” and locked in constant memory wars. Moreover, since the past is an important resource for national identity in Croatia and neighbouring countries, it is continually subject to political use and abuse, including blatant manipu-

ation. As a result, historians are repeatedly confronted with the problem of how to maintain professional standards when discussing politicised history in public, whether in relation to history textbooks and curricula, or the politics of memory and commemorations. Beyond this public dimension, some historians in Croatia and

across the region are also advocating transnational history as a way to overcome historiographical nationalism.

What kinds of research are you currently working on, and what can we as readers look forward to in your future work?

I am working on several projects. I could mention research on the transition of historians during the collapse

of socialist Yugoslavia and the wars of the 1990s, followed by a few topics related to intellectual history. The most important of these concerns books on Soviet Russia, the Gulag and the October Revolution that became political bombs in socialist Yugoslavia, ranging from André Gide’s *Return from the USSR* to Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s *The Gulag Archipelago*. Although recent, very important studies on global Yugoslav socialism focus on Yugoslav connections with the Global South, I will try to show, through this history of books, that the Soviet Union remained the key point of reference for Yugoslavia. Moreover, we can speak of a Yugoslav “Soviet century”.

10th Doctoral Workshop (Pula, 2024)

If you had to recommend one indispensable book for historians interested in intellectual history and the history of ideas, what would it be?

The field of intellectual history and the history of ideas have been revived in recent decades and has become a very exciting area of research. As a result, production is numerous. *A Companion to Intellectual History* (2016), *Rethinking Modern European Intellectual History* (2014) and *The Routledge Handbook of the History and Sociology of Ideas* (2025) are certainly good starting points. However, if I had to choose just one book, I would recommend *Global Intellectual History* (2013). I believe that it can arouse interest not only in intellectual history but also in transnational and global history, which I consider extremely important for the predominantly nationally oriented Croatian and other post-Yugoslav historiographies. There is also a great deal of very interesting new research on the intellectual history of Yugoslav socialism.

Colleagues from Serbia are working on intellectual biographies of Milovan Đilas, Mitra Mitrović and Dobrica Ćosić. In Croatia, Dejan Jović has written about Predrag Matvejević and Jovan Mirić. Ankica Čakardić has published a book on the Praxis School from a feminist perspective. There are interesting works on the intellectual history of Marxism in Yugoslavia, women's intellectual history and intellectual exchanges between Yugoslavia and the Global South. As far as intellectual history is concerned, we are certainly moving forward in an exciting direction. What is still missing, however, is a comprehensive history of Yugoslav intellectuals (both men and women) – a task I am sure will be accomplished sooner or later.

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