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University of Southampton
School of Humanities



Filozofski
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Sveučilišta u
Zagrebu

University of Zagreb
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Doctoral programme of Modern and
Contemporary Croatian History in European
and World Context

Doctoral conference

NEW RESEARCH ON MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

22 May 2021



Programme

Join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81546170523?pwd=RHdZL241eTJnbnN3cU5aSWNoTitNUT09>

Meeting ID: 815 4617 0523

Passcode: 649978

10.00 Central European Time, **Conference opening**, Mark CORNWALL, Iskra IVELJIĆ

Panel 1

10.15 Esther KNIGHT, 'My future is not how you see it' – the Development of one Woman's Agency in late 19th century Habsburg North Bohemia

10.35 Mirjam VIDA BLAGOJEVIĆ, Commercialization of the Female Body and Sexuality in Croatian Women's Interwar Magazines

10.55 Emily HOOKE, Resisting the 'Myths of Resistance' in Frenchwomen's Post-war Writings

11.15 Discussion

11.25 -11.40 Break

Panel 2

11.40 Valentina KEZIĆ, The Role of the Labor Press in Shaping the Political Culture of the Croatian Working Class at the End of the Nineteenth Century

12.00 Karlo DRŽAIĆ, Socialist Political Practices in Croatia and Slavonia from 1870s to 1914

12.20-12.40 Discussion

Break

Panel 3

14.00 Emma HATTO, Korošec in Caricature: Dr Anton Korošec Through the Eyes of the Slovene Opposition Press, 1924-25

14.20 Dora VRKIĆ, The Foreign Office and the Question of Croatia, 1918-1921

14.40 Discussion

Panel 4

15.00 Daniel BAKER, Rituals and Propaganda: an Emotional Training in Violence in *la Milice Française* during the Vichy Regime (1943-44)

15.20 Daniel RAFAELIĆ, Nazi Germany's Propaganda War on the Pharaonic Heritage

15.40 Discussion

16.00-16.15 Break

Panel 5

16.15 Vedran MUIĆ, „Prevlaka“ Nuclear Power Plant Project in Croatia: Nationalism, Ecology, Science and Ideology

16.35 Karlo JURAK, The Long „Triple Transformation“ in Croatia

16.55 Discussion



SUMMARIES

Esther Knight

‘MY FUTURE IS NOT HOW YOU SEE IT’ – THE DEVELOPMENT OF ONE WOMAN’S AGENCY IN LATE 19TH CENTURY HABSBURG NORTH BOHEMIA

The case study of Johanna Šamánková, nee Nerrad (1848-1912) provides a fascinating basis for an examination of the relationships between the Czech and German speaking communities and of individual identity fluidity in late 19th century Reichenberg/ Liberec North Bohemia.

How did she, born into a privileged German identifying bourgeoisie family, come to reject her family’s values and expectations; and marry a Czech identifying military doctor. What were the influences that contributed towards this personal transformation?

The paper considers the factors that may have influenced the early part of her journey during the years 1848-1875, towards becoming active within the Czech national movement herself.

It begins by outlining the social and economic circumstances in Reichenberg/Liberec in the mid-19th Century before considering her family’s identity, their values and expectations for her. This paper then considers distinct public & private spheres & gender-based roles prevalent at the time; her schooling and the purpose of her education.

The significance of someone in her position learning the Czech Language, and other factors, including the Czech national revival and the developing Czech women’s movement are considered. Finally, a particularly close and potentially influential family relationship is outlined.

Mirjam Vida Blagojević

COMMERCIALIZATION OF THE FEMALE BODY AND SEXUALITY IN CROATIAN WOMEN'S INTERWAR MAGAZINES

The emergence of consumer culture in the interwar period caused a change in body perception. The earlier Christian tradition celebrated the aesthetics of the soul, portraying everything bodily as sinful, suppressing the sexual side of the body. On the other hand, in consumer culture, the pressure of commercial interests and medical discourse has led to a shift from the established shameful stigma of the body, and the female body ceased being limited merely to its reproductive role. It took on the commercial role of beauty and sensuality and became the research subject of sexology, preventive medicine, and commercial sciences. In this paper, the body, gender, and sexuality will be analyzed through the prism of consumer society to show how modernization and public discussions have affected the perception and control of the female body. Moreover, the aim is to elucidate how the female magazines in the 1920s and 1930s (*Naša žena/Our Woman; Svijet/The World; and Ženski list/Women's Journal*) gave prominence to the body's appearance while popularizing it as a means of pleasure, hedonism, leisure, and self-expression. To this end, textual and visual sources found in aforementioned magazines will be analyzed and interpreted. The focus will be put on photographs, advertising posters, and art paintings designed to present the trends, public opinion, and media coverage of popular topics related to female sexuality and the commercialization of the female body.

RESISTING THE ‘MYTHS OF RESISTANCE’ IN FRENCHWOMEN’S POST-WAR WRITINGS

In 1945 and 1946 two histories of the resistance that emphasised the role of women were published: Lucie Aubrac’s *La Résistance: Naissance et Organisation* and Élisabeth Terrenoire’s *Combattantes sans uniforme*. Both Aubrac and Terrenoire had been in the resistance themselves, with Aubrac one of the founders of key resistance movement Libération-Sud, while Terrenoire – who was left permanently disabled as a result of polio in the late 1930s – played a more auxiliary role alongside her husband and father. Despite their different wartime experiences, they both appeared to marginalise their personal experience in their historical writing, although this paper will argue they nevertheless drew upon personal experience to assert that women’s resistance was important in contributing to the Liberation of French Territories. These two publications therefore stand out amidst a cultural and historical backdrop that centred male, military, resistance in post-war France. This paper explores Aubrac and Terrenoire’s publications and argues that they used their historical writing to push back against the male-centred discourses. Indeed, it contends that Terrenoire used her book as a way to interject within contemporary political debates about women’s role within the French armed forces and to argue that women resisters should be commemorated at the Liberation. As such, it borrows from the work of James C. Scott to posit history-writing as a ‘weapon of the weak’ through which women could participate in – and challenge – the contemporary discourses about the resistance, while still adhering to traditional feminine notions of modesty.

Valentina Kezić

**THE ROLE OF THE LABOR PRESS IN SHAPING THE POLITICAL
CULTURE OF THE CROATIAN WORKING CLASS AT THE END OF
THE NINETEENTH CENTURY**

Depending on the development of the labor movement in particular countries, the working-class newspapers had, mostly since the mid-nineteenth century, become a transnational phenomenon and a medium through which the working class expressed its political views. The first initiatives to start the labor newspapers in Croatia and Slavonia can be traced back to the end of the 1860s, but they were unsuccessful. It was not until October 1874, mostly at the initiative of the Zagreb artisans, that the first bilingual general workers' paper obtained the publishing permission. From then on until the end of the First World War, the working-class newspapers would be published continuously, presenting various ideological concepts present in the international labor movement such as lassallism and marxism. Given the small number of literate and (politically) uneducated workers in Croatia during that time, the labor press would also emphasize its educational function. With this in mind, in my doctoral research I will attempt to analyze its role in shaping the political culture during the first (1867 – 1889) and the second (1890 – 1917) period of the development of the labor movement in Croatia.

Karlo Držaić

SOCIALIST POLITICAL PRACTICES IN CROATIA AND SLAVONIA FROM 1870S TO 1914

Although the 'spectre of socialism' found its way to Croatian lands already in the revolutionary 1848, first workers' societies and socialist papers were established twenty years later. It took another twenty years for the workers' movement to transform itself into a full-fledged socialist party, but when in 1894 the Social-democratic party of Croatia and Slavonia was founded it quickly joined the first ranks of the opposition and managed to build an influential mass organisation.

History of the workers' movements and social democratic parties of the European periphery was a somewhat neglected topic of research but it recently regained popularity especially after Maria Todorova's *Imagining Utopia*. Contemporary theoretical perspectives are now being implemented to reevaluate the history of workers' and social democratic organisations of the European periphery in 'the long nineteenth century' but this research is yet to be carried out in the case of Croatia and Slavonia. Therefore, this paper will outline the transformations of the political practices of socialists (social democrats) from the 1870s until 1914. This will be done by analysing the dialectical relationship between the historical conditions and the modifications of socialist ideology in the local contexts of Croatia and Slavonia. The central premise of the paper is that different practices of the political struggle of workers' and social democrat organisations emerged as a synthesis of this dialectical relationship.

**KOROŠEC IN CARICATURE:
DR ANTON KOROŠEC THROUGH THE EYES OF THE
SLOVENE OPPOSITION PRESS, 1924-25**

As leader of the Slovene People's Party (SLS) from 1917 until his death in 1940, Dr Anton Korošec was undoubtedly the most significant Slovene politician of interwar Yugoslavia. He took on various ministerial posts throughout the 1920s, as well as spending periods within an anti-centralism opposition bloc in the Skupština. Korošec's SLS dominated the 1920s Slovene political scene, consistently winning over the Slovene electorate with its grassroots, autonomist, Christian socialist stance. The Slovene Liberal branch of the Independent Democrats constituted its main opposition within the Slovene constituencies, along with the Independent Agrarian Party in Slovenia (SKS). These parties failed, however, to seriously challenge the SLS's dominance of Slovene politics.

My paper will examine the Slovene Liberals' and SKS's criticisms of Korošec's policies and Belgrade-based political interactions as presented through these parties' newspaper publications in the period 1924-25. Focusing on their use of caricatures and political satire, it will explore these parties' main criticisms of Korošec's conduct and how his vision of the Slovenes' place within the SHS Kingdom differed from their own, before asking why the SLS continued to hold such strong appeal for the Slovene electorate.

Dora Vrkić

**THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE QUESTION OF CROATIA,
1918-1921**

The Croat Question was undoubtedly one of the most intractable problems that shaped the political life of the interwar Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Indeed, not only was the question of the status of the Croatian lands central to the country's formative constitutional debates but would become the source of almost all conflicts in both royalist and Tito's Yugoslavia. It is thus hardly surprising that the Croat Question also had a tremendous impact on the development of British policy towards Yugoslavia. Accordingly, this paper will explore British perceptions of the Croat Question in the period between the unification in December 1918 and the adoption of the Vidovdan Constitution in 1921. Since the Croat Question was treated almost conterminously with the pursuit of a federal settlement, it will analyse how the evolution of British attitudes towards the concept of Croatian nationality impacted the Foreign Office debates on the best constitutional solution for a united Yugoslavia. Additionally, this paper will also briefly discuss British views of the key political figures in Croatia, with particular focus on how personal sympathies of British officials influenced the narrative on the state-building abilities of certain Croatian politicians and the viability of their constitutional proposals.

Daniel Baker

**RITUALS AND PROPAGANDA: AN EMOTIONAL TRAINING IN
VIOLENCE IN LA MILICE FRANÇAISE DURING THE VICHY
REGIME (1943-44)**

Established in January 1943, the Milice française, a far-right armed Militia - quickly became known for its violent repression. For five hundred and fifty-five days, the Milice instated its own “reign of terror” over France, assisted by the Waffen-SS. The Milice themselves were preparing for “civil war” and their repressive techniques are now infamous. Summery executions and torture were commonplace. This paper will answer two questions. Firstly, how did the Milice justify acts of violence against its enemies? Secondly, how did the Milice, as an organisation, use rituals, hierarchy and propaganda to give its miliciens an ‘emotional training in violence’, and utilise it for group cohesion and to encourage the expression of violence?

Daniel Rafaelić

NAZI GERMANY'S PROPAGANDA WAR ON THE PHARAONIC HERITAGE

Around 10 % of the films produced in Germany from 1933 to 1945 based their scripts on antisemitic, anti-British and anti-Slavic propagandistic guidelines.

Based on Alfred Rosenberg's ideas, the Nazi state firmly promoted research of Pre-history, in order to prove material and intellectual superiority of the Nordic "pure" race, as opposed to the Mediterranean one, "contaminated with foreign influences". Among the targeted civilizations was ancient Egypt.

Average cinema goer was thus instructed through propaganda how to perceive local and international historical-archaeological heritage. Specific relationship of the Third Reich Cinema to ancient Egypt was, however, extremely susceptible to the changes in propaganda matrix and political situation. Several feature films, *Kultur-films*, documentaries, and newsreels bear witness to the Nazi government's presentation and interpretation of ancient Egypt on film. On top of that, the issue of repatriating the famous Nefertiti Bust began to burden the relationship of Germany and Egypt. However, variety of actions taken by the Propaganda ministry and Ministry of foreign affairs came into question when Joseph Goebbels visited Egypt in 1939.

**„PREVLAKA“ NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PROJECT IN CROATIA:
NATIONALISM, ECOLOGY, SCIENCE AND IDEOLOGY**

Historiographies of former Yugoslavia have so far paid scant attention to its ambitious civil nuclear energy programme, chiefly regarding it as a side note to the older military programme. In the 1980s Yugoslav federal leadership pushed for implementation of a plan to build four nuclear plants until 2000. These ambitions were inspired by emphatically Marxist belief in science as a solution for all socio-economic problems, and were backed by influential members of academia, numerous scientists, as well as industry and energy officials. However, they first had to surmount bitter conflicts between constituent republics regarding how to realise this exorbitantly expensive programme. Chernobyl disaster and subsequent popular anti-nuclear campaigns further delegitimised proponents of the project and, consequently, the ideology and very science behind it. The case of Croatian Nuclear Plant project “Prevlaka” will be studied within this context. It was the second half of an agreement between Croatia and Slovenia to jointly build two plants, a flagship project that was to pave the way for other Yugoslav plants, coming close to official approval. Internal crisis of Yugoslavia and the ban on construction of new nuclear plants in 1989 finally put a stop to these ambitions.

THE LONG „TRIPLE TRANSFORMATION“ IN CROATIA

Political sociologist Claus Offe conceptualized the recent transitions in Central Eastern Europe as the „triple transformation“ which encompasses three system levels of the political universe: economic order (allocation of resources), constitution (regime) and nation building (identity). These three levels will be analysed on the example of Croatia, which seceded from Yugoslavia. In order to understand the transformations from the so-called self-managing economic system to the market economy, from the socialist constitution to the liberal-democratic one, and from economic nationalism which stemmed from relatively autonomous position of Yugoslav republics, to ethno-nationalism in independent Croatia, we have to take a look at the years when disintegration of Yugoslavia started. It began with economic crisis which corresponded with the crisis of legitimacy of the state system. Therefore, the long „triple transformation“ seems an appropriate term. There are however some complex issues that have to be thoroughly analysed, such as the entanglement of continuity and discontinuity. Can the market economy, political regime and national identity in present-day Croatia be understood without insights in their transformations during the Yugoslav disintegration in the early 1980s?

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

Daniel Baker is a postgraduate researcher in the School of History at Cardiff University, where he researches Violence, Emotions and the Vichy Regime in the context of his thesis on the *Milice française* during the German Occupation of France. He undertook undergraduate studies at the University of London Institute in Paris and holds a master's degree in Modern History from King's College London.

Karlo Držaić is a student of the Doctoral programme of Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in the European and World Context at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. He graduated history, anthropology and comparative literature at the same Faculty. His main research interests are history of the socialist and workers' movements in the 'long 19th century', history of ideas and cultural history.

Emma Hatto is a graduate of the University of Southampton and University College London. She is currently a PhD student of University of Southampton. Her research focuses on the Slovene politician Dr Anton Korošec's Yugoslav career, and the balance he maintained between his dual Slovene and Yugoslav political personalities in the period 1918-1928. She is particularly interested in themes of national identity- specifically how Korošec perceived Slovene identity within a Yugoslav context, and how this shaped Slovene National Party (Slovenska ljudska stranka) policy under his leadership and his interactions with non-Slovene colleagues on the Belgrade political scene.

Emily Hooke is a graduate of the University of Southampton and the University of London in Paris (ULIP), where she specialised in French history. Her recently submitted doctoral thesis, 'Gender, Subjectivity and the Writer's Voice: Historicising the Resistance, 1940-1970s' explores the interrelations between gender, genre and subjectivity in shaping the narratives about Vichy-era Resistance that emerged in the post-war period. The thesis draws on archival and published sources, with a special focus on the production of testimonial sources for the Commission d'Histoire de l'Occupation et de la Libération de la France (CHOLF) project. It argues that by embracing and adapting the traditional 'female' roles of remembering and memorialising from the margins, women, who played a key role as interviewees for CHOLF, became key participants in the historicization of the French resistance.

Karlo Jurak (1992) is a doctoral student of postgraduate doctoral programme Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in the European and World Context at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. He graduated in philosophy and general linguistics in 2017 at the same Faculty. During his studies he was the participant and the organizer of many scientific conferences and meetings related to various topics from the field of social and political philosophy, philosophy of language and history of ideas. He is now editor in several journals and author on some academic portals. The main areas of his interests are: history of political ideas, social and political history, history of southeastern Europe.

Valentina Kezić (Osijek, 1996) is currently a PhD student at the postgraduate study of Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in the European and World Context at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. She has received her BA and MA degrees in History and Croatian Language and Literature from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Osijek. Her research interests include the social, cultural, and gender history of the nineteenth century, with a particular focus on the labor movement and the labor press in the nineteenth century. She has authored professional papers and book reviews, co-edited a collection of student papers, and participated at several foreign and domestic scientific conferences.

Esther Knight's background is in Economics, with a first degree in Economics from Cambridge University, and latterly in adult learning with a Master's degree in Coaching and Mentoring Practice from Oxford Brookes University. Her professional life has been in administration and funding, with a track record in the fields of economic regeneration, funding and project delivery, Regional and European Policy in the local government and university sectors. She developed her PhD research proposal over a number of years and was able to pursue it more fully when she was awarded an Honorary Visiting Research Fellowship at Staffordshire University in 2018; taking part in modules relevant to her research area such as 'Interrogating the modern' and 'Gender History: Femininity, Masculinity and Sex'. To be able to carry out her research she has been, since late 2019, learning Czech, both self-guided and more recently twice weekly sessions with a Prague based tutor. Since February 2020 she has been a PhD candidate at Southampton University on a part time basis; examining the late 19th Century Czech national movement in North Bohemia, with a working title of 'The Czech national movement, gender and identity; a case study of Johanna Šamánková (née Neradt)'.

Vedran Muić was born in Bjelovar in 1986, where he finished primary and high school. After enrolling at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb in academic year 2007/08, he graduated in 2013 in the field of contemporary history. In 2016 he passed the archivist's professional exam after spending a year as a trainee at the Croatian State Archives. He currently works in Croatian State Archives, as archivist in the Section for supervision of records outside archives. His research interests encompass subjects such as nationalism studies, Habsburg Military Frontier in Croatia and Slavonia as well as theoretical and methodological problems in historiography.

Daniel Rafaelić is a PhD candidate of Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in the European and World Context at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. He also has a certificate in Egyptology (University of Manchester). He is co-author of *Cinema and the Swastika: the International Expansion of Third Reich Cinema* (Palgrave: MacMillan, 2007) and *A History of Egyptology* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), and the author of the book on the cinematography in Croatia during WWII (*Kinematografija u NDH*, 2013).

Mirjam Vida Blagojević graduated in history and Croatian language and literature at the Faculty of Philosophy in Osijek in 2009. From 2009 to 2013, she worked as a history teacher and Croatian language and literature teacher in various high schools in Osijek. From 2014 to 2019 she worked as a jazz and rock singer in the United States. She enrolled in the doctoral study of Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in 2012 but interrupted it in 2013 due to moving to the United States. She returned to her studies in 2019, and her area of

interest is women's and gender history and the history of medicine with an emphasis on the interwar period.

Dora Vrkić is a second year PhD student at the University of Southampton. She completed her MA in the same discipline at UCL's School of Slavonic and East European Studies in 2019. Her PhD thesis examines the evolution of British foreign policy towards Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia between 1918 and 1938, focusing primarily on British views of federalism as the political device for the stabilisation of their internal affairs. Her other research interests include the history of the late Habsburg Empire and right radical movements in interwar East Central Europe.

