

**MAP
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**MEMO
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**ON INTERETHNIC
SOLIDARITY
IN SOUTHEAST
EUROPE**

**OF
GOOD
WILL**

HUMBOLDT-
UNIVERSITÄT
ZU BERLIN



bpb

Bundeszentrale für
politische Bildung

The 20th century was marked by bloody wars in which the peoples of Southeast Europe often committed horrific crimes against one another—whether during the Balkan Wars, the two World Wars, or the conflicts of the 1990s. Despite the presence of many positive experiences of solidarity, friendship, and shared achievements among different (not exclusively ethnic) groups, these instances are largely overlooked and subjected to what can be termed “conscious forgetting.”

Both negative and positive personal memories, as well as historically documented events, can be harnessed to promote specific models of coexistence. While the strategic use of negative memories of hostilities to mobilize people for further violence and exclusion has been widely discussed, there is a notable gap in public debate regarding the activation of positive collective memories to foster interethnic solidarity.

To address this gap, the Project Group Central, East, and Southeast Europe of the Federal Agency for Civic Education and the Chair of Southeast European History at Humboldt University in Berlin have collaboratively explored how contextualized historiography, positive interethnic experiences, and shared memories of the past can be strategically mobilized to promote a culture of peace for the future.

The MAPPING Memories of Good Will conference will situate selected geographical and temporal conflict zones in Southeast Europe—such as the regions between Italy, Slovenia, Croatia; Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia; as well as Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Greece— within a broader historical context, in order to illuminate existing peace initiatives and creative mediation formats through an interdisciplinary approach.

In this context, the project consists of three modules, or ‘mappings of history’: a digital archive showcasing the biographies of individuals exhibiting civil courage during the Yugoslav wars, curated by historians Dubravka Stojanović and Radina Vučetić; a creative laboratory

exploring personal historical narratives, led by author Ivana Sajko; and this symposium, featuring historians and cultural workers from the region.

The project seeks to provide a platform and inspire a shift in perspective on how to approach the conflict-ridden past, particularly in regions affected by ethnic segregation and violence.

We invite you to rediscover and re-map the history and historical perceptions of Southeast Europe!

6 December 2024 | Humboldt University of Berlin

SYMPOSIUM ON INTERETHNIC SOLIDARITY AND TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

9:30 – 20:00 | Senate Hall - Main Building, Unter den Linden 6

PROGRAMME

09:30 ARRIVAL

10:00 – 11:30 PANEL

ESTABLISHING AND OVERCOMING A TRAGIC BORDER DEMARCATION

**Trieste and the Yugoslav, Slovenian,
and Italian Border Regions
from the 20th Century to the Present**

This panel focuses on a region that was the site of the Isonzo Front during World War I, where the subsequent demarcation of borders led to numerous ethnicised conflicts. These tensions flared again during the Second World War and in the immediate aftermath of 1945, marked by violent escalations and widespread expulsions and population displacements. The border between Italy and Yugoslavia remained politically charged for many years. How was it eventually overcome? How did social life begin to reconnect? What insights can the European Capital of Culture 2025 'Gorizia/Nova Gorica' offer on this process?

Panelists **Borut Klabjan, Jure Ramšak, Urška Strle**

Host **Hannes Grandits**

11:30 – 11.45 BREAK

11:45 -13:15 PANEL

CIVIL COURAGE AGAINST WAR VIOLENCE

The Wars of the 1990s in the Former Yugoslavia: New Perspectives, New Forms, New Stories

The panel will explore new ways of addressing the wars of the 1990s, with a particular focus on the forgotten heroes and heroines of these conflicts. Given that previous efforts to come to terms with the past have largely been ineffective, there is a pressing need to seek fresh perspectives, approaches, and forms of dialogue. In this spirit, the panelists will present potential methods for using exhibitions, interactive narratives, digital media, and film to engage a younger and broader audience in the complexities of the wars of the 1990s.

Panelists **Dubravka Stojanović, Dana Budisavljević, Igor Štiks**
Host **Radina Vučetić**

13:15 – 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 – 15:30 PANEL

TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST POLITICAL BLOCKADES

North Macedonia and Its Neighbouring Countries from the 2000s to the Present

In 2018/2019, the long-standing Macedonian-Greek name dispute was successfully resolved, removing a significant obstacle that had hindered North Macedonia's European integration efforts for nearly three decades. Prior to that, in the early 2000s, a flare-up of ethnic tensions within North Macedonia following the Kosovo War was effectively de-escalated. Despite these advancements, trans-

national blockades—such as those from Bulgaria—continue to impede political progress in North Macedonia.

This panel will explore how solutions have been found to overcome these obstacles and how transnational cooperation in cultural and economic spheres has become a vital aspect of daily life. This dimension of cooperation is often overlooked in international discourse. We will examine what this cooperation looks like in practice, particularly in relations with Greece, Albania, and (within) Kosovo.

Panelists **Irena Stefovskaja, Maja Bojadžievska, Carolin Leutloff-Grandits**

Host **Robert Pichler**

15:30 – 16.00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00 – 17:00 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

OPEN BORDERS

Facilitator

Borut Klabjan

The project “Open Borders” explores the development of transnational cross-border cooperation in the Alps-Adriatic region, a historical area now divided between Austria, Italy, Slovenia, and Croatia. During the Cold War, this region was split between socialist, non-aligned Yugoslavia; capitalist, neutral Austria; and NATO- and EEC-member Italy. The region’s evolution—from the “southern end” of the Iron Curtain in 1946 to becoming the “most open border” during the Cold War, and later a precursor to today’s Schengen Europe—offers a valuable case study for understanding alternative developments of borders and demarcations in Europe.

www.erc-openborders.eu

MUSEUM OF THE 90S

Facilitators

Dubravka Stojanović and Igor Štikš

Between the fall of the Berlin Wall and the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Balkans experienced a series of wars. Today, unresolved issues of nationalism, populism, and violence from that era continue to threaten regional and global peace, stability, and prosperity. The *Museum of the 90s* initiative is a collaborative effort involving individuals, experts, activists, and partner organisations from across the post-Yugoslav region. Its goal is to establish a regional centre for reconciliation, education, and future cooperation. The centre will provide a long-term, multifunctional, and multimedia platform—both online and in person—that is suited to our turbulent times.

www.museum90.com

17:30 – 18:30 EVENING PROGRAMME

FILM SCREENING: „THE MAN WHO COULD NOT REMAIN SILENT“

Palme d’Or 2024 OMU, ENGLISH + GERMAN

Followed by a discussion between **Dana Budisavljević** and **Ivana Sajko**

February 27, 1993, Štrpci, Bosnia and Herzegovina. A passenger train from Belgrade to Bar is stopped by paramilitary forces in an ethnic cleansing operation. As they haul off innocent civilians, only one man out of 500 passengers dares to stand up to them. This is the true story of civil courage and the devastating consequences of silence.

18.30 – 20.00 GET TOGETHER

PARTICIPANTS

MAJA BOJADŽIEVSKA is a Professor of Comparative Literature at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. She is the author of several non-fiction books, including *Androgyne: Utopia of the Perfect Sex* (1999), *Myth, Literature, Identity* (2002), *Fascism: Theory/Memory* (ed., 2015), and *Myths, Figures, Literature, Culture* (2018). Bojadžievska is also the founder and editor-in-chief of Sigmaphress Publishing House.

DANA BUDISAVLJEVIĆ is a renowned Croatian film director and producer, best known for her documentaries and hybrid works that explore themes of history and family. Her historical docudrama *The Diary of Diana B.* (2019) won several international awards. Dana is also the producer of the award-winning documentary series *Slumbering Concrete* (2017–2023), which examines the fate of modernist architecture in Yugoslavia.

HANNES GRANDITS is a Professor of Southeast European History at Humboldt University in Berlin. He teaches and conducts research on the history of Southeast and East Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. From 2013 to 2020, he directed a DAAD network program involving universities and partner institutions in Belgrade, Koper, Pula, Sarajevo, Skopje, and Zagreb. His most recent publication is *The End of Ottoman Rule in Bosnia: Conflicting Agencies and Imperial Appropriations* (London & New York: Routledge, 2021).

BORUT KLABJAN is a Professor of History specializing in the political and social history of Central and South-Eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. He currently leads the ERC Advanced Grant 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*.

CAROLIN LEUTLOFF-GRANDITS, PD Dr. phil., is a social anthropologist and senior researcher at the European University Viadrina. She explores borders and migration from a networked perspective, focusing on temporality and complexity, social security, family, and entrepreneurship. Her most recent publication is the monograph *Translocal Care across Kosovo's Borders: Reconfiguring Kinship along Gender and Generational Lines* (Oxford and New York: Berghahn, 2023).

ROBERT PICHLER ist wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter am Institut für die Erforschung der Habsburgermonarchie und des Balkanraumes der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Er ist Vorstandsmitglied der International Association for Southeast European Anthropology (InASEA) und Vorsitzender des Centers for Balkan Societies and Cultures (CSBSC). Als Fotograf arbeitet er an der Schnittstelle zwischen Dokumentar- und Kunstfotografie.

JURE RAMŠAK holds a PhD in history and is a senior researcher at the Koper Science and Research Centre. From 2018 to 2022, he led a research project exploring the relationship between Marxism and Christianity in Slovenia. His current project focuses on the social history of Yugoslav non-aligned internationalism. Since 2023, Ramšak has also been involved in the ERC project "Open Borders."

IVANA SAJKO has been a playwright, author, director, and performer since 2005. Her work explores the (geo-)political, historical, and social conditions of feminism, ecology, and cultural marginality. Her works are the result of extensive fact-based research, interviews, and art analyses, which she translates into text scores.

IRENA STEFOSKA is a professor at the Institute of National History at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. She has led numerous national and international projects focused on the study of nations and nationalisms in the Balkans, as well as historical and political myths in the region. Stefoska is a member of several internationally renowned committees and research institutions. She served as an independent member of the Macedonian Parliament from 2016 to 2020 and as Minister of Culture from 2020 to 2021.

IGOR ŠTIKS was born in Sarajevo and studied philosophy in Zagreb and France, as well as political science in Scotland. He received his doctorate from the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris and Northwestern University. His prose, literary criticism, poetry, and essays have been published both regionally and internationally. In recognition of his literary and intellectual achievements, he was awarded the title of "Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres."

DUBRAVKA STOJANOVIĆ is a Professor of History at the University of Belgrade. Her research focuses on the processes of modernization and Europeanization in Southeast Europe, the history of ideas, democratization in Serbia, the relationship between history and memory, and the representation of history in school textbooks. She is a member of several internationally renowned committees and institutions. She was awarded the French Order of the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite.

URŠKA STRLE is a historian specializing in contemporary history at the Science and Research Centre Koper and the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Her research interests include migration history, labor history, biographical studies, gender history, oral history, and memory studies, with a particular focus on the cultural and social history of the Second World War.

RADINA VUČETIĆ is a Professor of 20th Century History and the Head of the Center for American Studies at the University of Belgrade. She has authored six books, co-edited three monographs, and published numerous book chapters and journal articles on various aspects of Yugoslav history and the Cold War. Her research has been supported by multiple international grants.

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