

Workers beyond Socialist Glorification and Post-Socialist Disavowal: New Perspectives on Eastern European Labour History.

Vienna, 24-27 May 2018



Conference Location: Alte Kapelle, Uni-Campus, Spitalgasse 2, 1090 Vienna

(marked 2.8. on the map below)



Workers beyond Socialist Glorification and Post-Socialist Disavowal: New Perspectives on Eastern European Labour History is convened by Rory Archer (UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies, r.archer@ucl.ac.uk) and Goran Musić (CEU Budapest, musicg@ceu.edu)

Thursday, 24 May 2018

15:00-16:00 Registration

16:00 Introduction

16:15-17:15 Roundtable – Workers, nations, borders – sketching a research agenda

Goran Musić (CEU Budapest/CSEES, University of Graz) & **Rory Archer** (UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies/CSEES, University of Graz) *Between class and nation: Working class communities in 1980s Serbia and Montenegro*

Sabine Rutar (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg) *Revisiting Labour and Communism across the Italo-Yugoslav Border*

Adrian Grama (Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg) *Lineages of Cheap Labor. The Longue Durée of State Socialism in Eastern Europe*

Moderated by Florian Bieber (CSEES, University of Graz)

17:15-18:30 Keynote address

Diane P. Koenker (UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies) *Bonuses, bribes, and tips: the status of Soviet service work in the 1960s*

18:30 Reception

Friday, 25 May 2018

09:00-11:00 Panel 1 – Forms of work and its organisation

Chair: Rory Archer (UCL SSEES/CSEES University of Graz)

Alissa Klots (European University, Saint Petersburg) *Just Like Any Other Worker? Regulating Paid Domestic Labor in Early Soviet Russia*

Kateryna Burkush (EUI Florence) *Inglorious Heroes of Labour: Seasonal migration and labour relations in the late Soviet Union (1960-80s)*

Agné Rimkutė (CEU Budapest) *Workers' Council as Means of Inclusion and of Exclusion: Some Considerations on Contractual Labor Relationship in Yugoslavia*

Peter Wegenschimmel (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg) & **Andrew Hodges** (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg) *Restructuration, Reorganization, Transformation: The Existential Crisis of Enterprises in Late Socialism*

Discussant: Ivan Rajković (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle)

11:00-11:15 – Coffee break

11:15-13:15 Panel 2 – Proleterianisation, industrialisation, migration

Chair: Susan Zimmerman (CEU Budapest/University of Vienna)

Olsi Lelaj (Department of Ethnology, Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Arts Studies, Academy of Albanian Studies, Tirana) *Sites of proletarianization during state socialism: Insights from Albania*

Mara Marginean (Romanian Academy, Cluj) *Industrial Youth, Migration and Socialist Expertise in Late Socialist Romania*

Maria Voichita Grecu (University of Nantes) *"The mine chooses its men". An out of sync ethnography of the socialist industrialization in Romania*

Márton Czirfusz (Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences) *Conceptualising Labour's Spatial Fix: Socialist Hungary in 1980*

Discussant: György Földes (Political History Institute, Budapest)

13:15-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:30 Panel 3 – Labour weakness, labour in crisis

Chair: Michael Huberman (University of Montreal)

Pieter Troch (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg) *Workers' self-management in an unprofitable enterprise during the Yugoslav economic reforms of the 1960s: The wood processing enterprise Kosmet Šper in Mitrovica in Kosovo*

Annina Gagyoiva (University of Regensburg/Charles University of Prague) *Show me your watch, and I'll tell you where you work: Obtaining scarce goods via the workplace in 1960's socialist Hungary*

Denys Gorbach (MaxPo, Paris) *Post-Soviet Unionism: Beyond 'Labour Weakness' and 'Socialist Legacies'*

Sven Cvek (University of Zagreb) **Snježana Ivčić** (Organization for Workers' Initiative and Democratisation, Zagreb) & **Jasna Račić** (Center for Peace Studies, Zagreb) *Workers' Strikes and Nationalist Politics around 1990: The Case of Croatia*

Discussant: Florian Bieber (University of Graz)

16:30-17:00 Coffee break

17:00-18:30 Panel 4 – The archivist perspective

Dragoş Petrescu (University of Bucharest) *Incidents, Shortages, Bottlenecks: The Securitate Files as Labor History Sources, 1968-1989*

Vladan Vukliš (Archives of the Republic of Srpska, Banja Luka) *Retracting Labor in Yugoslav Socialism: Towards Research and Archival Processing Strategies*

Marta Madejska (Research Center in Museum of Art, Łódź) *Silence, echo, scraps – searching for voices of women textile-workers from Łódź, Poland*

Nikolina Rajković (BRID and CRRP, Zagreb) *Archive of the Labour Unrest – Revising the History of Post-socialism in Croatia*

Moderated by Ulf Brunnbauer (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg)

18:30-18:40 Srdjan Atanasovski (Institute of Musicology, SASA, Belgrade) *Workers' Singing in Socialist Yugoslavia and postsocialist, alternative choirs (a contextualisation of the Alternative Choir Festival)*

Saturday, 26 May 2018

09:00-11:00 Panel 5 – Representations (of self) and subjectivities

Chair: Anna Calori (University of Exeter)

Anna Delius (Freie Universität Berlin) *When workers write: Repression and everyday conflicts in illegal workers' magazines in State Socialist Poland and in Francoist Spain in the 1960s and 1970s*

Chiara Bonfiglioli (University College Cork) *"Woman, mother, worker": textile workers' portraits in socialist Yugoslavia*

Stefan Gužvica (CEU Budapest) *Model (Self-) Managers: A Comparative Analysis of Worker and Manager Biographies in a Yugoslav Factory Newspaper*

Wiktor Marzec (CAS Sofia) *Working out Socialism. Labor and Politics in Socialist Autobiography in 20th century Poland*

Discussant: Dragoș Petrescu (University of Bucharest)

11:00-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-13:15 Panel 6 – Working cultures, cultures of work

Chair: Dean Vuletić (University of Vienna)

Eszter Bartha (ELTE Budapest) *Working-class life and culture in the 1970s in Hungary: Science and politics*

Marijana Mitrović (Humboldt University, Berlin) *They Tell Me I Sell Air, but I Tear up My Lungs": Narratives of Kafana Singers in Serbia*

Mikhail Piskunov (Novosibirsk State University) *Where were borders of Soviet working class?*

Ognjen Kojanić (University of Pittsburgh) *"We're All Here for the Salary:" The Legacy of Socialist Labor and Debates Regarding Wages in a Worker-Owned Company in Post-socialist Croatia*

Discussant: Marsha Siefert (CEU Budapest)

13:15-14:15 Lunch

14:15-16:15 Panel 7 – Cross-border and global encounters

Chair: Marsha Siefert (CEU Budapest)

Marcia C. Schenck (Humboldt University, Berlin) *Doing Work, Making Meaning: The Working Life of Angolan and Mozambican worker-trainees in the German Democratic Republic 1979-1990*

Balint Tolmar (University of Exeter) *Sweatshops under State-Socialism? Cuban Temporary Workers in the Hungarian Textile Industry during the 1980s*

Anna Calori (University of Exeter) & **Ljubica Spaskovska** (University of Exeter) *A Non-Aligned Business World? -The Global Socialist Enterprise between Self-Management and Transnational Capitalism*

Benjamin Kindler (Columbia University, New York) *Producing a Chinese socialist proletariat – factory recreation and the proletarian body in the decade of Sino-Soviet friendship*

Discussant: Alex Lichtenstein (Indiana University, Bloomington)

16:15-16:45 Coffee break

16:45-18:15 Panel 8 – Reflecting on the state-of-the-art: Concluding discussions

Ulf Brunnbauer (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg)

György Földes (Institute for Political History, Budapest)

Alex Lichtenstein (Indiana University, Bloomington)

Susan Zimmerman (CEU Budapest/University of Vienna)

Moderated by Goran Musić (CEU Budapest/CSEES, University of Graz)

Auxiliary events

Saturday, 26 May 2018 Festival of Alternative Choirs ([FAC](#)) – initiated by Hor “29. Novembar” from Vienna invites you to Festsaal at the Ernst Kirchweger Haus, Wielandgasse 2-4, 1100 Wien (U bahn Keplerplatz, U1) from 19:30.

Sunday, 27 May 2018 - Morning tour of Karl Marx-Hof housing complex (“Red Vienna”).

Workers beyond Socialist Glorification and Post-Socialist Disavowal: New Perspectives on Eastern European Labour History is organised as part of the activities of the research project “Between class and nation: Working class communities in 1980s Serbia and Montenegro”. Since 2014 the project has been based at the Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz and has been supported by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF project no: P27008). The project leader is Florian Bieber and the researchers are Rory Archer and Goran Musić.

The conference is generously supported by:



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