Between Ruptures and Persistence.
The Question of Dis-/Continuities
in the History of Southeastern Europe.

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ABSTRACTS

Contents

Babić, Petra (University of Zagreb)
History and/or imagination. Intentional formation of national continuities through historio-graphical narratives

The ideas of continuity of statehood, as well as of territorial and political continuity, were particularly important in the processes of formation of national identities in the 19th century. And, they were disseminated, among other things, through historiography. Furthermore, in the process of strengthening of national identity, important noble families, distinguished individuals, or state functions that symbolized the statehood of a particular country (which in the context of the Croatian-Hungarian Kingdom were both ban and palatine) were often highlighted as bearers of historical continuity.

In this report, using the examples of two case studies, I will show the formation of collective memory and historiographical narrative from the Middle Ages/Early modern period to the 19th century and their use in 19th-century historiography, the purpose of which, in addition to informing about the past, was also to form or strengthen national identity.

One of these examples is the collective memory of Nikola Zrinski and the battle of Siget. It conveyed the memory of a powerful Croatian magnate family (almost in lieu of a national dynasty), whose members often held the honour of Croatian ban, and which, due to the outstanding actions of some of its representatives (namely, Nikola IV, and brothers Petar IV and Nicholas VII) in Croatian collective memory came to be perceived as defenders of Croatian interests and statehood. The second example is the Hungarian palatine and Slavonian ban Bánk of Bár-Kalán. He participated in the assassination of Queen Gertrude in 1213, but the historical reality and the collective memory of that event differ thoroughly. Although modern historiography believes that the conspiracy was motivated by the political dissatisfaction of a group of Hungarian nobles, the collective memory interprets it as revenge for the fact that the queen's brother raped Bánk's wife. In that narrative, the memory of Bánk conveyed the idea of Hungarian resistance to foreign (German) rulers exploiting the country, and his wife came to symbolically represent an exploited and abused Hungary that needed to be defended.

The collective memory of Nikola Zrinski and the Battle of Siget saw almost no changes or additions, but was only "condensed" from the 16th to the 19th century, while the collective memory of the assassination of Queen Gertrude was in complete contrast to historical reality - and as such was a phenomenon historians of the 19th century tried to deal with in various ways. However, both of these narratives fulfilled their functions in the context of national movements in the 19th century.

Beghelli, Michelle (Johannes-Guttenberg-Universität Mainz)
Continuity and "discontinuity" (?) in the market for stone objects, 6th-9th centuries

Certain Roman and Late Antique processes in the production-distribution system of sarcophagi, architectural elements, and household stone objects ceased completely in the Early Middle Ages. Others, new ones, developed as a response to the changes in the market for stone products, which, in turn, depended of course on the general, overall changes in the economy of the period. After the 9th-10th centuries, during the High and Late Middle Ages, some aspects of the Roman and Late Antique production-distribution system were again resumed.

This sequence of transformations has at times been interpreted as just another sing of decadence during the Dark Ages, seen as the "discontinuous" anomaly in an otherwise harmonious path of evolution developing from the Roman to the Late Medieval periods.

But in this specific field of studies, is this view of continuity and discontinuity as sorts of "historical on-and-off-switches" really accurate? Were the Early Medieval production processes just a temporary declining interlude, or were they intelligent strategies to profitably adapt to a new socio-economic and political context? Were they "discontinued and forgotten" in the High and Late Middle Ages, or did they shape and influence the evolution of the future market for stone items?

Although the same phenomena in the long run can be observed in almost all the regions formerly belonging to the Roman Empire, South-Eastern Europe represents a very convenient case to try to answer these questions. Croatia, in particular, stands out as for the quality, abundance and variety of archaeologically documented stone objects, which are even more significant because they allow to follow the production system of these items throughout a constantly changing political background between Byzantines, Slavs, Franks, and local secular and religious powers.

Bilogrivić, Goran (University of Rijeka)
(Dis)continuities Between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages in the Eastern Adriatic - What Exactly Are We Talking About?

In the early days of modern historiography and archaeology in Croatia a strong discontinuity has been posited between the end of Antiquity and the beginnings of the Early Middle Ages. This was seen as a veritable and thorough break on practically all levels. The most obvious was political, but that also entailed dramatic economic and social changes. The latter in turn meant ethnic, which were of course coupled with cultural. The main reason for this was usually seen in the arrival of new Slavic groups, among them especially Croats, and the break was set in the first half of the 7th century. This view persisted for a large part of the 20th century, too, but was slowly challenged in its later part. First chronologically, when a proposition to move the time of the discontinuity to ca. 800 emerged, which was then followed with more and more views on continuity in the preceding centuries. In fact, in the last few decades there has been a strong shift towards identifications of various strands of continuity, especially in terms of population, settlement and certain cultural aspects. The contesting views of course lead to a justifiably much more nuanced picture of the period. Although a general consensus is not something to be expected here, or even desired, what stands open for discussion is the nature of the perceived (dis)continuities. If a (dis)continuity in one of the mentioned segments can be proven, is the same necessarily applicable to others as well? Do the marked political transformations, discontinuities in burial sites, or changes in grave goods have to be connected with ethnic ones? Are a few archaeological finds from the transitional centuries at a certain settlement truly evidence of its continuous habitation? These are some of the questions which will be discussed in this paper, with the aim of shedding more light on the wider topic of (dis)continuities between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages.

Brunnbauer, Ulf (IOS Regensburg)
The Visible Hand of the State: Continuities in the Post-socialist Transformation

The end of communist rule is often presented as a caesura, not only in the political realm but the economy as well. Neoliberalism is said to have followed state socialism, quickly deregulating the economy, privatizing state companies, and atomizing society. Economists recommended "shock therapy" as the safest way to overcome inefficiencies and return to a pattern of economic growth. Critics of this

approach deplored social dislocation and high unemployment but agreed to the assumption of a neoliberal hegemony and clear break with the past.

In my contribution I will question these assumptions. By taking shipbuilding in Croatia and Poland as examples, I will highlight continuities in economic policy making and in business strategies. The 1990s appear not so much as a clear break than a continuation of earlier practices of muddling-through. The hand of the state, for example in form of subsidies, remained very visible, and both businesses and workers expected protection by the state. I will argue that the real break with regard to the relationship between state and business came only with accession to the European Union: stringent EU competition rule made the long-entrenched symbiosis between state and big business (shipyards) untenable.

Deaconu, Ștefan-Marius (University of Bucharest)
Transitioning Trajectories and Discontinuous Paths: A Comparative Analysis of Technical Higher Education Graduates Outcomes in Romania during the Market Liberalisation from Planned Economy (1980s –1990s)

The present paper undertakes a comparative analysis of the outcomes of higher education graduates in the final decade of the communist regime in Romania, as well as the initial post-socialist decade. As other socialist states, Romania developed a system of work assignment for graduates (*Repartizare*), which provided each graduate with a job placement. In the 1980s, the system was not vigorously pursued for several reasons: (1) there were limitations due to the weak connection between manpower needs and planned economic development; (2) technical intelligentsia sought to enhance their social reproduction and consolidate their power rather than implement political decisions, (3) the closure of the "largest city" and overcrowding of major industrial plants occurred. The aforementioned factors will be examined in greater detail in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the perspectives of these graduates, including an analysis of the adaptive strategies they employed. Furthermore, in 1989/1990, 69.57% of graduates had pursued technical studies.

The transition towards a capitalist system was rapid, while the growth of the private sector was relatively gradual. Although some of the initial cohorts of the 1990s were able to reorientate themselves towards the service sector, a significant proportion of those had to switch to alternative career paths to those initially projected, particularly those who had enrolled prior to the 1990s. This paper will examine this decade starting from three key areas: (1) the evolution of the legal framework, (2) labour market developments, and the (3) economic and industrial transition into capitalism and its impact on technical higher education institutions. In addition, it will consider the impact on the number of study places allocated to technical fields of study. The conclusions will present an overview of the discontinuous academic and professional pathways pursued by graduates of technical higher education institutions during the period under analysis.

Djokić, Dejan (National University of Ireland, Maynooth)
Do nation states have history? Some thoughts on the problem of dis/continuity in the history of Serbia

How to write a history of a European nation state – a modern era phenomenon – through centuries? Do nation states have (pre-)history or did they emerge solely within the post-French Revolutionary

context, with the advent of modern politics, industrialisation, literacy and German/Central European Romanticism? And, once formed, do nation states remain static (ideologically, identity-wise, etc) or do they continue to evolve, change more or less radically, even disappear, only to sometimes reappear, thus offering the historian ample opportunity to observe discontinuity, while thinking about continuity? These are some of the questions I asked myself as I embarked upon writing a history of Serbia from the early Middle Ages to the present day. In this paper, I share some of the methodological concerns, challenges and strategies which informed my work, as I sought to construct a coherent narrative while questioning continuity, and in the process interrogating and rethinking the national framework.

Dukić, Davor (University of Zagreb)
The problem of discontinuity of imagotypical representations of geocultural spaces

The concept of 'discontinuity' in comparatist imagology is related to the question: How is it possible that a certain imagotypical representation of geocultural space (hereinafter IR-GCS) is suppressed and then reappears in another historical period? Traditional imagology (the so-called Aachen School of H. Dyserinck) gives an answer to this question based on the ontology of Karl Popper: IR-GCSs belong to "world 3", i.e. to the realm of "objective contents of human thought" stored in the texts of science, literature and art. IR-GCSs can always be reactivated from this "Popperian library". If we agree with this premise, the question remains: what causes changes or the reactivation of forgotten IR-GCSs? It seems that the idea of a relatively autonomous system of IR-GCS should be discarded and that changes should be sought under the influence of the real, historical world. These assumptions are analysed in this paper using examples from Croatian history, the imagotypical representations of the Ottoman Empire (Turks), the Republic of Venice and the French.

Heinrich-Tamaska, Orsolya (GWZO, Leipzig)
Decline versus Transformation in the Danube Provinces during the Late Antiquity

The lecture will focus on the periodisation of the time from the late 3rd to the 8th century AD in the individual historical disciplines. Influenced by national research traditions this half century is labelled with various termini, such as 'Late Roman', 'Late Antique', 'Migration Period', 'Early Byzantine' or 'Early Medieval Period'. They are associated with concepts that suggest Continuity (=Transformation) versus Discontinuity (=Decline) in historical development and try to separate or connect individual time era. Such disciplinary boundaries not only determine the length of individual periods but also produce temporal overlaps between disciplines. To find a compromise between chronological cornerstones and structural time-depth, the term 'period threshold' (*Epochenschwelle*) has become established in German-speaking research. This should make easier to conceptualise long-term processes that can be defined as periods of transition. It should enable us to set out the minimum conditions for establishing what is 'not before' and 'not thereafter'. Selected archaeological examples from the Danube Provinces will help to discuss these concepts in detail.

Hofmann, Nina (Science and Research Centre, Koper)
Natural dis-|continuities. Environmental protection on the Slovenian-Croatian border

Advertising portals praise Slovenia's unspoiled nature, with pure rivers and green forests. The country has recognised its tourism potential. Nature and environmental protection in the form of waste management became a new task for the young country when Slovenia became independent in 1991. This task was pursued more intensively, particularly with the country's entry into the EU in 2004. At the same time, the amount of waste per head increased due to changes in consumer behaviour. Government measures, such as the introduction of the waste management ordinance, packaging ordinance and disposal tax, had a positive effect on the major problem of household waste, which until the 1990s was disposed in uncontrolled dumping grounds, often in the forest.

Empirical data from a micro-study in the Upper Kolpa Valley indicate a worsening of municipal waste management. Illegal waste disposal in nature is widespread here and has led to the regular collection of waste in the river, on the banks and in forests on the initiative of citizens and clubs. In addition, container stations for collecting separated waste have been dismantled.

This article deals with a discontinuity in the development of local waste management in the Upper Kolpa Valley. The role of the border formed by the river between Slovenia and Croatia is considered. The presentation is a contribution to environmental history and border research.

Hoxha, Artan R. (Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of Albania/IOS Regensburg)
20th Century's Continuities in Albania: Overcoming the Ontology of the Political Ruptures

Like its other Balkan siblings, Albanian historiography has conceived the twentieth century as a series of important historical ruptures that have marked the transition from the Ottoman imperial context to the national one. Albanian historians have broken down the national history in a series of other ruptures, which, more specifically are: the interwar era, the communist period, and lastly the so-called "years of post-communist transition." Based on the findings of my micro-historical research in Albania, this paper will argue that these historical caesuras are mainly constructions that largely correspond to political changes and transitions from an imperial to a post-imperial international environment dominated by nation-states. However, political organization and system of government and control over society are not the only constants that we should consider when exploring the historical continuities and transformations. When it comes to projects of transforming society and the world, many of the Balkan nation-states borrowed practices and ideas from their imperial predecessors. Those ideas were conveyed from the interwar-era authoritarian regimes to the communist states, who implemented such projects, while simultaneously erasing the origins of those projects they implemented. Looking back, we can see a series of important continuities from the late 1800s to the late 1900s: they are related to anthropocentric enterprises strongly related to making the region modern. It was the fall of communism and the full integration of these Balkan states into the second wave of globalization that marked an important rupture with the previous model of development, inherited from the late 1800s and reinforced through the 1900s

Iancu, Bogdan (University of Bucharest)
"Return to Europe": Continuities and Discontinuities in Romanian Constitutionalism

When the post-communist Constitution of Romania was adopted in 1991, emphasising continuities with the pre-communist past was initially avoided. Although the pre-communist past was the only historical point of reference for a post-totalitarian constitutional-liberal transformation, the context (e.g., recirculation of post-communist elites) made this acknowledgment politically unfeasible. At the 2003 revision, long after the Constitution had entered into force, a phrase was inserted in the first, prefatory article, specifying that supreme value would be interpreted (also) "in the spirit of the democratic traditions of the Romanian people". Taking positive law as a starting point, my paper will provide an overview of constitutional continuities and discontinuities in Romanian post-communism.

Klabjan, Borut (Science and Research Centre Koper)
Wind of change? Cross-border cooperation along the Italo-Yugoslav (Slovene) border before and after 1989

It is commonplace in contemporary academia that the year 1989 is considered a starting point of profound social, economic, and cultural transformations in East-Central Europe that subsequently paved the way into the European enlargement of 2004. Despite these valuable studies, the case of cross-border cooperation along the Italo-Yugoslav (Italo-Slovene border after 1991) will demonstrate how continuities not less than discontinuities accompanied European modern history. Drawing on Cold War studies, the history of European integration, social history, and borderland studies, which have rarely found any common ground in the past, this paper will illuminate the transideological attempt at cooperation on the part of the different socio-political systems which existed before 1989, aiming to spin a linear narrative of European integration.

The area of the northern Adriatic borderland represents an ideal example to respond to the appeal to reframe the question of European division. In fact, this case enables us to overcome traditional chronological lines and to see 1989 not (only) as an *annus mirabilis*, but as part of a long-term process in overcoming Cold War divisions going back to the very beginning of European post World War II order. By examining the region over the longue durée, including the pre- and post-Schengen era, this case addresses certain features continuity and rupture missed by most scholarship when concentrating on single periods and events.

Klimo, Arpad v. (The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC)
Eastern Europe in the Global History of Football: From Periphery to Periphery?

The history of association football (soccer) offers insights into a number of historical problems: The history of everyday life, especially media and entertainment of wider strata of the population, but also political history, and a general view on the representation of nations and regions within a global perspective. My paper will focus on this last problem: How has the image of Eastern Europe changed over time on the stage of global football? What is the historical background for these developments and changes?

The paper will discuss five different historical periods to analyse the position of Eastern Europe in the global system of modern sports with a focus on soccer.

(1) The last third of the 19th century, when the "English game" evolved as part of a global, autonomous system of modern sports. German sociologist Tobias Werron has developed a theoretical framework for this. According to this model, the modern sport system evolved as a part (or sub-system) of modern, industrial society in the last third of the 19th century in North America and Britain. Eastern Europe remained outside of the process due to its delay in industrialization and urbanization.

(2) In the two decades before World War I, different parts of Eastern Europe entered the global, autonomous system of modern sports and football in various ways. The first areas were the urban zones of the Habsburg Empire, where liberal elites and some elements of the working classes took on the "English game". Other parts of Eastern Europe slowly followed this development after world war I.

(3) Interwar period: Outside of Russia which was devastated by civil wars and ideological conflicts after the Revolution, Eastern Europe was quickly integrated into the modern, global football system in the Interwar period. But while Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, rose to the elite of the game during that time. Poland, Romania, and Yugoslavia ranked lower, but fully participated in the international scene.

(4) After 1945: The Soviet Union first attempted to create an alternative, proletarian, international sports system in the 1930s, but gave this up after the second world war, and became fully integrated into the international FIFA, and, since the 1950s, UEFA, competitions. Soviet teams, especially Dynamo Kyiv, rose to the highest standards of the game between the 1960s and 1980s. The state amateur system contributed to strong performances in international competitions.

(5) After 1989, most Eastern European football entered into a deep crisis, probably with the sole exception of the Croatian national team which entered the ranks of the best in recent times.

Koulouri, Christina (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens, Greece)
The civil war as a proof of national continuity: the Greek case

The idea of historical continuity has been an integral part of the construction of national identity since the nineteenth century. Romantic historians articulated a national narrative claiming the perennial, uninterrupted existence of their nations; a narrative which survives even today in Southeastern Europe, mainly in public history. Evidence of national continuity was sought in different fields such as language, manners and even physical appearance. Very often, especially in the nineteenth century, national character was invoked as a proof of the continuity of the nation throughout the centuries. In the Greek case, civil strife could be seen as undermining the image of unity and continuity, and for this reason, in an imaginative device, it was incorporated as an organic element in the national character. From the Peloponnesian War to the Greek Civil War (1946-1949), Greek national history grounded the notion of continuity in the vice of discord.

Kralj, Lovro (University of Rijeka)
(Dis-)Continuities of Antisemitism in the Ustaša Movement (1930-1941)

This paper provides a reinterpretation of the importance of antisemitism in the Croatian fascist Ustaša movement. The historiography has often treated the Ustaša antisemitism as a peripheral ideological concept, giving it disproportionately little attention. Due to such approaches, the importance of anti-semitism has been downplayed and reduced to pure imitation of German Nazism without real roots in the Ustaša movement. Such interpretations ultimately fail to explain the causes of the Holocaust in the Independent State of Croatia.

This paper analyses the evolution of Ustaša antisemitism from its earliest adoption in its movement phase during the interwar period to the regime phase when its policies aimed to destroy the Jewish community in the Independent State of Croatia. It tackles the question of continuity and discontinuity of various antisemitic ideas and practices within the Ustaša movement. One of the central arguments in this study is that the Ustaša adopted antisemitism as one of the most important means in the fascis-tization of the movement on the organizational and ideological levels.

Kušter, Tihana (University of Zagreb)
(Dis)continuities of Socio-Legal Praxis at the Social Site of Early Modern Varaždin

More than 5000 entries from the City Records of the Free Royal City of Varaždin (1587-1715) act as a potential window into the history of a city - its inhabitants, their kinship and social ties, legal disputes, spatial movements, and their economic capital. This presentation explores the socio-legal praxis of early modern Varaždin through a historical network analysis of over 1000 entries from the City Records of the Free Royal City of Varaždin (1587-1621). Historically, these records have been underutilized, and have never been used for an extensive serial or quantitative analysis due to their diverse and discon-nected entries.

The presentation introduces a data model based on the City Records (1587-1621) and shares prelimi-nary results from a historical network analysis. By conceptualizing early modern Varaždin as a social site, a concept that stems from Theodore Schatzki's social ontology, the network analysis aims to test numerous hypotheses to reconstruct the city's socio-economic and legal arrangements and praxis. The interpretation of the results will address the matter of their continuities and discontinuities.

The aim is to present a model that not only improves the understanding of (dis)continuities of socio-legal praxis but also to present a model suitable for future research conducted in digital and serial history.

Le Normand, Brigitte (Maastricht University)
Socialist Yugoslavia and the quest to break free from the (semi) periphery

The lands that were joined to create Yugoslavia can be characterized as a periphery or semi-periphery of the global order, in a dependent and often precarious economic and political relationship to Europe and Russia over the longue durée. As Robertson has recently argued, socialist Yugoslavia itself can be understood as an attempt to create a mediating space uniting diverse South Slavic peoples into a unit large enough to challenge its subordinate place in the global order. Following the break with Stalin,

Yugoslavia was forced to shift its strategy, which had previously been to pursue rapid industrialization with the aid of the Soviet bloc. In my contribution, I examine two strategies that Yugoslavia deployed in its efforts to upgrade its position within global capitalism: the export of labour, and the investment into becoming a regional cargo transportation hub. I explore the assumptions and reasoning underlying these strategies, and then I consider how they played out in practice, and why they failed to fundamentally resituate Yugoslavia in the global order.

Magdić, Matea (University of Rijeka)
Continuity and Discontinuity of the Zrinski Myth: Examining the Battle of Szigetvar

Many theorists argue that in the early 19th century, the era of celebrating and worshipping heroes as individuals who could shape history came to an end (see Carlyle, 1897, p. 15). The 19th century shifted its focus to the natural course of events and the significance of time and space, moving away from the singular emphasis on a hero's talent. (Carlyle, 1897, p. 15). The shift mentioned can be observed in the vivid literary depiction of the Battle of Szigetvar in 1566. The Croatian-Hungarian hero Nikola Šubić Zrinski, once renowned, ironically outlived the battle in which he died, and in the 17th century became part of the much wider spread myth of "*antemurale Christianitatis*" that had significant output in creating the Croatian national ideology. Zrinski continued to be seen as a hero in Croatian literature and culture, but the way he was portrayed changed significantly according to the evolving national context. This analysis will try to determine the underlying politics of literary texts depicting Nikola Šubić Zrinski and the battle of Szigetvar on the one hand, as well as to highlight how the way of narrating the story of the siege of Szigetvar changed when the shift from individual to national took place in Croatian national revival on the other.

Matasović, Ranko (University of Zagreb and Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts)
Continuity and Identity of Languages in Southeast Europe

This paper will discuss the question - what is a language in a historical sense and what gives it identity over time? In Europe we find examples of languages that had different names in different historical periods, e.g. *ilirski*, *slovinski* and *hrvatski* for Croatian, *lingua toscana* and *lingua italiana* for Italian, or *kranjski*, *štajerski* and *slovenski* for Slovene: our intuition and the philological analysis of written sources show us that in each of those cases a single idiom is denoted by different names, yet it is quite a challenge to make explicit the criteria of historical identity of languages.

Languages are not physical objects, so their identity over time does not depend on any specifiable set of physical features that they must have. Rather, their identity is tightly tied to the continuity of their use by a community of speakers. However, the identities of "communities of speakers" over lengthy periods of time are also difficult to define, as identities of ethnic groups and other communities are often fluid, and individuals within groups can have multiple identities. Therefore, the first part of this paper will be dedicated to methodological issues. We will discuss a set of criteria that can be used (and have been used) to establish the identity of languages over time, like the following ones: (1) forms of language L1 used by the community C1 at time T1 are derivable (by regular sound development) from forms of language L2 used by the community C2 at time T2. (2) Language L1 used by the community C1 at time T1 has the same name as the language L2 used by the community C2 at time T2. (3) Texts

recorded in the language are the language L2 used by the community C2 at time T2 are intelligible to speakers of the language L1 used by the community C1 at time T1.

After using several examples to show how such criteria are less clear than usually imagined and that they can, moreover, contradict each other – we shall argue that they can nevertheless be fruitfully applied to languages of SE Europe and that prototypical cases, in which different criteria agree to a remarkable degree, should be distinguished from "outliers", for which historical continuity is more difficult to establish. However, we shall insist that the same criteria must be used consistently for all languages, including those, such as Italian or Dutch, whose identity over long stretches of history is apparently uncontroversial, as well as those, such as Croatian, whose historical identity has often been challenged.

Milivojević, Feđa (University of Rijeka)
Exercising Roman Authority in Illyricum from the Late Republic to the Early Empire: Continuity or Discontinuity?

One of the most complex questions in the study of Roman history in general is the extent to which we should view the transition from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire as a continuity or discontinuity of certain political practices. Was the Empire created by Augustus merely a reformed Republic or an entirely new system that bore no resemblance to earlier political norms and behaviour? As always, the answer lies somewhere in between. The political and social reforms of Augustus brought significant changes to the administration of the *imperium populi Romani*, but the fundamental difference lay in the way Rome now exercised its direct authority in the provinces. A new system was introduced, numerous colonies were established, a new territorial division based on provincial assizes was created, a division of who exactly governs the provinces was made, etc. Due to the extent of these reforms, the reorganisation of the provinces by Augustus was long regarded as something completely new, but recent research suggests a revision of these views. Although various aspects of exercising Rome's authority in the provinces were indeed newly created, some organisational features were already present in the Republic and were retained in their complete form or slightly modified in the early imperial period. To illustrate this, we will look at Illyricum, one of the least known Roman provinces – an area where Rome struggled to maintain control and where a clear (dis)continuity can be seen in various aspects of exercising Roman authority from the Late Republic to the Early Empire.

Murgescu, Bogdan & Gabriela Biliga-Nisipeanu (University of Bucharest)
Discontinuities in the transition from communism to post-communism. Case-study: Changing patterns of access to higher education in Romania after 1990

Our presentation investigates the significant transformations in access to higher education in Romania following the fall of the communist regime in 1989. Under the communist regime, the state firmly controlled access to higher education, allocating a limited number of study places for each study program and each university. Quite more, during the 1980s, the communist regime diminished the overall number of study places, despite growing generations of young people eligible to continue their studies at university level. The central planning deliberately discarded the preferences of would-be students & their families and allocated most of the study places to technical study programs, also increasing the share of evening study places, although these were less popular with candidates.

After the collapse of the communist regime in December 1989, this pattern became untenable. There was a substantial social demand for opportunities to access higher education, which combined with requests from the state-run higher education institutions that wanted to expand and from local notables who intended to establish new universities. In the context of political liberalization, several private universities were founded, which attempted to provide study opportunities for those without access to state-run programs. The numerous cohorts born in 1967-1989, which gradually came to the age of attending tertiary education in the 1990s and 2000s, combined with large numbers of people from older generations who had been denied access to university studies during communism, and fuelled a vast quantitative expansion of the higher education system in the first two decades of the post-communist transition. Under the combined pressure of declining cohorts being born after 1990, of diminishing numbers of youngsters acquiring the baccalaureate (which is a necessary pre-requisite to access higher education), and of exhausting the reservoir of mature people who chose to complete their education after the fall of communism, the phase of expansion ended in 2009-2011. It gave way to a phase of contraction that mainly hit the private universities.

Our paper will outline not only the overall quantitative trends, but also the changes determined by the liberalization of access to higher education in the candidates' choice of study programs. It will also discuss the ways the ministry tried to steer the evolutions, the limits of public policies, and the relationship of changes in access to higher education with the dynamics of the post-communist economy and society.

Opassi, Oskar (Science and Research Centre Koper)
Market Reforms in Socialist Yugoslavia as an Agent of (Dis)continuity: a Historiographical Overview

In the economic historiography of socialist Yugoslavia, market reforms are often at the forefront of the analysis of the country's development policies. In my paper, I will present contemporary historiography's treatment of these changes, focusing on the conception of market reforms as agents of (dis)continuity.

When discussing the effects of the (dis)continuity of market reforms in Yugoslavia, two positions emerge from the various analyses. They are very explicit in their assessment of the market economy, but from diametrically opposed positions. These two positions are: that the reforms carried out lacked market elements and were therefore unsuccessful and, on the other hand, that any market reform is a sign of failure of socialist economies. The concept of (dis)continuity of market reforms within Yugoslavia's economic development will be examined from these two contrasting positions.

Pelc, Milan (Institute of Art History, Zagreb)
Das Konzil von Trient und die Kunst in den kroatischen Regionen des 17. und 18. Jahrhunderts: Wendepunkt oder Kontinuität in neuem Gewand?

Das Konzil von Trient gilt aufgrund seiner reformatorischen, oder besser gesagt gegenreformatorischen Wirkung als Wendepunkt in der Geschichte der katholischen Kirche, die als geistliche, soziale und religiös-politische Autorität die historischen Gebiete des heutigen Kroatiens entscheidend geprägt hat. Im Rahmen der nachkonziliaren Bemühungen, die Frömmigkeit im Einklang mit den traditionellen

kirchlichen Lehren zu steuern und zu kanalisieren, spielten Bilder eine enorme Rolle. Große Bedeutung wurde der Verehrung wundertätiger Gnadenbilder beigemessen, die durch ihre, wie man glaubte, besondere, übernatürliche Kraft die Gläubigen schon immer anzogen: Sie galten als mystische Zuflucht inmitten der Wirren und Trübsalen dieses Lebens. Das Phänomen der Gnadenorte und der Massenpilgerfahrten, das das Christentum seit seinen Anfängen kennt, ist entweder mit solchen Bildern oder mit Reliquien, bzw. mit beiden, eng verbunden. In dieser Hinsicht ist der nachkonziliare Gebrauch von Bildern fest mit der vorkonziliaren Tradition verbunden. An der Intensivierung der Verehrung von Gnadenbildern waren Vertreter der katholischen Kirche und der weltlichen Obrigkeiten gleichermaßen beteiligt. Einer der wichtigsten Gnadenorte, an dem das wundertätige Gnadenbild Mutter Gottes verehrt, befindet sich ausgerechnet auf Trsat bei Rijeka. Als eine Art pars *pro toto* zeigt das Beispiel von Trsat die Stärke der traditionellen Kontinuität der katholischen Frömmigkeit und die Wichtigkeit, die den Gnadenbildern in ihrer Rolle als „geistiges Bindemittel" zwischen den Gläubigen und der Kirche zukommt. Eine wichtige Rolle im Rahmen der Förderung der Massenfrömmigkeit nach dem Konzil spielten grafische Darstellungen und reich illustrierte gedruckte Publikationen. Durch sie wird die Kraft des Gnadenbildes an die breitesten Schichten der Gläubigen vermittelt. Es handelt sich dabei um ein relativ neues Vehikel medialer Promotion, das in der frühen Neuzeit den visuellen Kontakt mit einem Gnadenbild auch für diejenigen ermöglicht, die es in Wirklichkeit nie gesehen haben. Auf diese Weise wird die wundersame Kraft des Bildes in virtueller Form durch Raum und Zeit übertragen – bis heute.

Pinar, Joan (University of Hradec Králové)
Tradition and Innovation in Jewellery Production between Antiquity and the Middle Ages around the Adriatic

A collaboration between the Universities of Hradec Králové and Turin during 2021-23 has led to the investigation of several deposits of gold jewellery of the turn of the 5th and 6th centuries found within the boundaries of the early Ostrogothic kingdom (ca. 493 – 526). The artefacts have been studied with non-invasive diagnostic techniques such as XRF and FORS, in order to gain information on the source of raw materials and on the production centres.

The results processed so far show some interesting common trends, such as the use of different, yet standardized types of gold alloys and the presence of gemstones of different provenances. Recurring, quite specific features are the relatively frequent use of European garnets (both Bohemian and Portuguese) and the combination of older and newer components in these jewellery sets. These aspects introduce the issue of the continuity and discontinuity between production centres, distribution chains and fashion trends throughout the 5th and 6th century CE.

Repe, Božo (University of Ljubljana)
Continuity or discontinuity in the history of Slovenia and Yugoslavia in 1941 and in 1991

After the occupation and partition of Yugoslavia in 1941, Yugoslavia ceased to exist for the invaders and the Axis powers. For the anti-fascist coalition, however, it continued to exist through the government-in-exile in London and the Chetnik units. With the victory of the anti-fascist coalition, this interpretation prevailed. Due to the successful development of the resistance movement led by the communists and Josip Broz Tito, a new, internationally recognized Yugoslavia emerged, which became known as AVNOJ Yugoslavia.

The question of continuity and discontinuity resurfaced in 1991 with the dissolution of Yugoslavia, when Slovenia declared its independence. At the international level, the thesis that Yugoslavia had dissolved and that all former republics had become its successors prevailed. Nevertheless, Italy and Austria raised the question of continuity with regard to international treaties (Treaty of Osimo of 1975, Austrian State Treaty of 1955).

Slovenia's internal problem was that its independence was based on republican statehood, which resulted from the decisions of the AVNOJ. At the same time, for ideological reasons, the new authorities wanted to present the AVNOJ decisions as "revolutionary law" and claimed that Slovenia, as a newly founded state with a multi-party system, had no legal and political continuity with the former Socialist Republic of Slovenia.

In both cases, 1941 and 1991, the question of continuity and discontinuity is complex and involves internal and external factors, and it extends over a longer period of time. One of the challenging questions is how much continuity has been preserved and still exists today, both in the idea and nature of Yugoslavism and in the (alleged) specific mentality that was pejoratively labelled "Balkanism" by the West at the beginning of the 20th century.

Sarantis, Alexander (Leibniz Center for Archaeology, Mainz)
Shining Light on a 'Dark Age': The Resilience and Adaptability of Balkan Communities, 626-750

Following a period of endemic raiding by the Avars and the Sklaveni in the late 6th to early 7th c., and the gradual withdrawal of the Byzantine armies and administration, the Balkans experienced a major economic decline across the 7th and 8th c. In most regions, urbanism, monetary exchange, and long-distance commerce came to an end, elites vanished, and populations declined. In addition to military and political pressures, these developments were driven by repeated bouts of bubonic plague and climatic changes. Modern accounts of this period are typically gloomy, emphasising barbarian violence, including the murder and or ethnic cleansing of 'Byzantine' populations, wide areas entirely denuded of their inhabitants, and the impoverishment of those unfortunate to remain. Accordingly, the general population are cast as inevitable victims of these crises, with little or no agency. At the same time, many historians and archaeological neglect this period which tends to fall into a black hole between the better studied Late Antiquity (3rd to 6th c.) and the Middle Ages (9th-11th c.).

This paper will provide a more nuanced, positive view of the fates of local populations in the 7th to 8th-c. Balkans. It will draw on recent archaeological evidence from urban and rural settlements, palynology, and a closer analysis of contemporary historical accounts such as the Miracles of Saint Demetrius, to stress the various ways in which the inhabitants of the Balkans adapted and were resilient to climatic, economic, and political pressures. This included the adoption of new less intensive and more flexible agricultural practices, reaching new trading agreements with surviving centres of Byzantine administration, the reuse and combination of material cultures to establish new local centres of political power, and the repurposing of structures and spaces within former cities and fortifications for industrial purposes. Bearing in mind the reduction of rental and fiscal pressure and the lower levels of warfare and violence with the collapse of the Byzantine state and elites, along with reduced competition and land pressure at a time of smaller populations, life was in many ways better for those who continued to inhabit the region. All of these points will be framed and interpreted with the help of modern theories of resilience drawn from the fields of prehistoric archaeology, the social sciences, and psychology.

Savova, Slava (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

Exotic Past, Demolished Present: The Discordant Waters of Ottoman Public Baths in 20th- and 21st-century Bulgaria

What historical continuities and discontinuities are ingrained in the physical transformations of inherited monuments? The materiality of a specific type of civic water infrastructure is the central axis of this study. This paper explores how changing notions of value revolve around it while drawing the fractured trajectory of its continuous existence.

The public baths from the Ottoman period are simultaneously tools for water stewardship, shelters for social exchange, and projections of the benevolence (or its lack thereof) of governing entities. They were important civic nodes within the hierarchy of the built environment, their construction and maintenance requiring advanced technological knowledge. Since the turn of the 20th century, the Ottoman public baths in present-day Bulgaria have become the unlikely territory of political contestation – demolished, abandoned, or expropriated, sometimes "modernized" or their function absorbed into newer buildings. Through a series of case studies and historical architectural idiosyncrasies, I link the changing notions of natural and cultural value, to the uneven preservation of these monuments. Taking an entangled history perspective and further drawing on critical heritage studies I uncover different strains of continuity transversing a "Europeanization" process still unfolding since its onset in the late 19th century in Bulgaria.

Şendrea, Bianca Elena (University of Bucharest)

Discontinuity in practicing agriculture: landownership, property structure and agricultural production in Transylvania before and after 1918

Until 1918, Transylvania was a province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, being under Hungarian administration. However, after the Great War, the province became a part of Romania in December 1918, and this fact caused important transformations at the political, social, administrative and economic levels.

The most important economic measure that affected agriculture was the land reform applied through the Agrarian Law of 1921 for Transylvania, because its application modified the agrarian regime in this province. As any other land reform, the one issued for Transylvania expropriated the rural properties owned by landowners, companies, churches and the State and redistributed land in small plots to peasants. In this context, the surface and the number of large estates diminished, the number of landowners and small plots increased and the agricultural production in the first interwar decade did not achieve its pre-war level.

In this paper, I will focus on land tenure, property structure and agricultural production in Transylvania before and after 1918, because their transformations indicate discontinuity regarding practicing agriculture.

Solomon, Flavius (A.D. Xenopol Institute of History, Iași)
Parallel Readings: Bessarabia and the Republic of Moldova in the Romanian and Russian National Narratives

The history of Europe is also a history of territorial disputes and controversies, spanning several centuries and impacting the relations between modern European states (politically, militarily, economically, and culturally). Since the 19th century, contested border regions represented an important element in nation-building narratives. In South-Eastern Europe, the reshaping of the political map, starting from the late 17th and the early 18th century, in the context of the gradual replacement of Ottoman domination by that of two other rival empires (the Habsburg and the Russian states), also found its reflection in the emergence of several borderland regions claimed by two (or even more) national projects. Among these contested areas was Bessarabia, a region previously belonging to the Principality of Moldavia, which was annexed, in 1812, by the Russian Empire. In 1940, most of the territory of Bessarabia was included into the newly created Moldavian SSR, which became an independent state in 1990/91 under the name of the Republic of Moldova. The presentation discusses the historical dispute and the conflicting claims regarding the belonging of Bessarabia over the last two centuries, from the opposing perspectives of the Russian and Romanian national narratives. The author specifically emphasizes the connection between official discourses (structured and constrained by frequent changes of political regimes, but also by the repeated border shifts and revisions, e.g., in 1856/1878/1918/1940/1989-91) and the narratives developed on the scholarly / academic, cultural / literary, and educational levels. The paper argues that border territories contested by two (and more) national projects – and the struggles over their belonging – constitute essential elements of the narratives through which collective identities are shaped and reshaped.

Stefoska, Irena (Institute for National History, Skopje)
From King Samuel to Alexander the Great: paradoxes of the Macedonian national narrative

Stories of glorious forefathers, heroism, golden ages, or cultural peaks have enthralled ordinary people and their leaders through the centuries. There is something in dramatic mythological figures or stories that touches people's emotions, and even moves them to action. Antiquity and the Middle Ages are a frequent source of such exemplary stories. Like many others national narratives, "both sources" could be also found in the Macedonian national narrative(s). In the "master narrative" created during the socialist Yugoslavia, Middle Ages i.e. the Slavic past and the Kingdom of the medieval ruler tsar Samuel were the main identity markers for legitimization of the modern Macedonian nation. However, in the newly created "master narrative", modern Macedonians are no longer descendants of medieval Slavs and Tito' s Yugoslavia, but of the ancient people and the great ancient state - the Kingdom of Macedon. To many ethnic Macedonians, Alexander's status as a figure of world importance is a well-justified reason to recognize him as a remote ancestor.

The goal of this paper is to discuss the various aspects of this radical change in the Macedonian historical "master narrative" and to highlight the paradoxes appearing from these modifications. In a word, what happens/happened in North Macedonia but in the Balkans too, when history continues to matter for the wrong reasons.

Stojanović, Dubravka (University of Belgrade)
Political and identity continuities and discontinuities in Serbian History textbooks, 1913–2021

During the last hundred years Serbia passed through dramatic political changes. World wars, regional wars, civil wars, revolution, two Yugoslav states, two dissolutions of Yugoslavia... All those changes had a major impact on the perception of national history and have produced substantial changes in the way history was taught in schools. Those changes were both ideological and identitarian. In the same time, some of the continuities have survived despite all the changes. Both continuities and discontinuities in interpretations of history can give us a new perspective on Serbian political history.

Tuksar, Stanislav (Croatian Academy of Sciences / University of Zagreb)
On Some Discontinuities in Musical Culture of Croatian Historical Lands from the 16th to Early 20th Centuries

The presupposition for the discontinuity of a certain phenomenon is the pre-existence of its continuity. When both notions, primarily regarded as processes dealing with physical time and space, try to be applied in individual and social art environment within human society, they encompass processes of creativity and social interactivity. It should also be defined whether the discontinuity of such processes encompasses not only permanent, but also temporary interruptions of continuity.

Since Croatian historical lands (i.e. the Kingdoms of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia) existed during the period under consideration within two different socio-political and cultural patterns (The Habsburg Empire and the Republic of Venice), apart from the Republic of Ragusa/Dubrovnik as a separate unit, their general and specifically musical cultures also experienced various and somewhat different continuities and discontinuities. In this paper, phenomena and processes of primary musical production (composition), its public presentation (performances), their organizational aristocratic, ecclesiastical and bourgeois frames, and the theoretical reflection on music will be discussed at large.

The paper will examine several case studies characteristic for single historical lands. For example, the continuity/discontinuity of the activities of the Duke's Chapel in Dubrovnik (1301-1806); the organ services and compositional activities in the Split cathedral (1600-1828); the 16th-18th published writings on music by humanists originating from Croatian historical lands; the 18th-19th century visiting opera performances by foreign theatrical groups in Croatia-Slavonia, Dalmatia and Dubrovnik; the 19th-century Musikverein's establishment and their activities in Zagreb, Varaždin and Osijek; the discontinuities of the Zagreb Opera company's activities at the turn of the 20th century; etc.

The attempt will be made to illuminate the specific context in which the afore-mentioned processes came into being and experienced continuities, and the reasons – either more strictly musical or broader social – for their permanent or temporary discontinuities.

Zorić, Vukašin (University of Belgrade)
The Inevitable Unification? Yugoslav Interwar Historiography and the Idea of the Medieval Origins of Yugoslav Unity

Following the formation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in 1918, the state ideology initially regarded these ethnicities as three tribes of a common nation. However, the failure of the

Vidovdan Constitution and the parliamentary system (1921–1928) led to King Aleksandar Karađorđević's dictatorship in 1929. Subsequently, the country was renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, and a new national identity strategy was adopted. This strategy overlooked the distinct national particularities of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, promoting instead integral Yugoslavism – the idea that all South Slavs constitute a singular Yugoslav nation. This abrupt shift in national policy necessitated the reinvention of national memory. Historians teaching at all three Yugoslav universities (Belgrade, Zagreb, Ljubljana) played a crucial role in helping the state formulate its new national ideology and memory. This paper examines the role of Yugoslav historians within the state's ideological apparatus and analyses the discursive practices employed by these historians to reinterpret Yugoslav history. It explores how they aimed to present Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, and other suppressed South Slav nationalities as one unified nation. Additionally, the paper focuses on the narratives that intended to demonstrate continuity in the Yugoslav struggles for liberation and ultimate unification, since the early Middle Ages. The main sources for this research are historiographic monographs and papers on Yugoslav medieval and modern history, written by prominent historians of the time, including Stanoje Stanojević, Ferdo Šišić, Milko Kos, Vladimir Ćorović, Viktor Novak, Nikola Radojčić, among others.

Žerić Đulović, Sara (IOS Regensburg)
Representations of Gastarbeiters: (dis)continuity of economic change, heritage and memory

From the mid-1960s, as the emigration of Yugoslav workers to foreign countries intensified, *Gastarbeiter* have been represented in various ways. They have been the subjects of films, research papers, and popular culture, often depicted through stereotypes. These portrayals persisted until Yugoslavia's economic needs shifted, leading to a brief period where *Gastarbeiter* were seen as more than men "with gold rings and Mercedes". This presentation, however, delves into their economic representations, particularly focusing on *Gastarbeiter* investments in local industries and the establishment of so-called remittance factories.

The analysis traces the (dis)continuity of these factories through multiple layers: the establishment and employment of *Gastarbeiter* in these factories, the industrial transformations during the 1990s, and the collective memory surrounding the industrial heritage left by *Gastarbeiter*. Emphasis is placed on the "migration landscape" and the significant changes it underwent.