

Monday, 4 September 2023, 09:30–13:00

Venue: The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Trg J. F. Kennedyja 7, Zagreb

GLOBAL EXCHANGE WORKSHOP I

RACIALIZATION AND THE CONTESTED CULTURAL POLITICS OF NON-ALIGNMENT

The focus of this workshop is on the nature of the processes of racialization in the contested, and contradictory, geo-political space of non-aligned cultural exchange and collaboration. The theme explores the racialized nature of the circulation and flow of discourses, institutions, people, and material objects within and beyond the member states of the Non-Aligned Movement. We will address the complexities of the circuits of decolonial affinity that the NAM built upon and ask:

- What were some of the ways in which the directionality of exchange reinforced or disrupted hegemonic racial orders?
- How and in what ways did the NAM networks address the structures of racism or were they primarily “race-blind” or even, at times, racist?
- To what extent did the knowledge exchange move away from the Eurocentric hierarchies of knowledge and incorporate, on equal terms, radical Black thought?
- What are some of the afterlives of NAM in terms of the racialization of the post-Yugoslav space?

We seek to address a range of conceptual, methodological, and empirical questions relevant to our work on cultural exchange, focusing on educational, artistic, and intellectual exchange and placing these within a broader geo-political and structural context.

Session 1: 09:30–11:00

Introduction: **Paul Stubbs**, The Institute of Economics, Zagreb

Keynote: **Catherine Baker**, University of Hull, UK

Concreteness, Complexity, and Conviviality: Researching the Everyday Politics of Race During and After Non-Alignment

The spaces of international and intercultural encounters created by Non-Alignment, and the potentials for fresh encounters that remain as legacies of Yugoslavia’s Non-Aligned connections, are where hypotheses and macro-level explanations about race in the (post-)Yugoslav region meet the materiality of everyday social relations. The social history of groups such as African students and their host communities in university cities, or Yugoslav workers posted overseas by socialist enterprises doing business with Yugoslavia’s Non-Aligned allies, adds empirical richness to the ongoing debates about race, solidarity, and difference in the region. What do these histories mean now that Non-Alignment is more than a generation in the past, and what lessons might they have for scholars confronting present-day regimes of European racialization and bordering?

Coffee break: 11:00–11.30

Session 2: 11:30–13:00

Christian Guerematchi: The film „Crni Tito - Blač Tito Addressing the Parliament of Ghosts”, 10 mins., and a 21-min video discussion.

Crni Tito - Blač Tito Addressing the Parliament of Ghosts is an artistic interaction between the *NAM – Non Aligned Movement* solo-performance by Christian Guerematchi and the *Parliament of Ghosts*, artistic work by Ibrahim Mahama in Tamale, Ghana. Both works talk about forgotten histories and their interaction acknowledges the contemporary echoes of the cultural connections from the time of the Non-Aligned Movement between Ghana and Yugoslavia – Nkrumah and Tito. The persona of Blač Tito is inspired by Guerematchi's childhood in Yugoslavia, where Tito was famous for his travels and collaborations with countless African countries. The story of the Non-Aligned Movement is the story of Guerematchi's father who studied in Slovenia (which was a part of Yugoslavia back then) and was part of an almost utopian migration story from the time of the Cold War. The Red Clay Studio art space, where the Parliament of Ghosts is situated, creates the perfect backdrop with its forgotten airplanes and artistic architecture. Blač Tito – himself a ghost from a forgotten past – addresses the parliament of memories with an epic monologue in which the past and the present, as well as Africa and Europe, become one.

Petra Matić: The film “The City That Has Peace” (“Grad koji ima mir”), 8 mins.

"The City That Has Peace" is a documentary film following the rise and fall of Zagreb's International Student Friendship Club. Exploring the topics of solidarity, war, and community, Sam Bushara and Mohamed Al Younis lead us through the largely forgotten history of Non-Aligned Zagreb. The film follows their arrival to an unknown place as young students from former colonies, through the height of the city's multicultural youth center concentrated in the International Student Friendship Club, ending with the Club's eviction and arson in the wartime 1990s, symbolized by the flawed, lonely statue of Croatia's first president Franjo Tuđman. Looking back on their journeys, they reflect on the tenderness and unity they encountered in Zagreb, but which are no longer there.

Panel Discussion

Petra Matić, Zagreb

Ana Sladojević, Belgrade

Moderator: **Paul Stubbs**, Zagreb

This workshop is a part of the collaborative research project *Models and Practices of Global Cultural Exchange and the Non-aligned Movement. Research in the Spatio-Temporal Cultural Dynamics* (IPS-2020-01-3992), supported by the Croatian Science Foundation and the Slovenian Research Agency. See <https://www.nam-globe-exchange.org>

BIOGRAPHIES

CATHERINE BAKER is a Reader in 20th Century History at the University of Hull. She is the author of several books, including *Race and the Yugoslav Region: Postsocialist, Post-Conflict, Postcolonial?* (2018), the co-editor of the forthcoming *Off White: Central and Eastern Europe and the Global History of Race* (with Bogdan C Iacob, Anikó Imre, and James Mark), and the editor of the forthcoming *Routledge Handbook on Popular Music and Politics of the Balkans*. She is an external collaborator to the Austrian Science Fund-supported project *A Socialist Workplace in Postcolonial Africa: A Connected History of the Yugoslav Workplace in Zambia*, which is hosted at the Research Platform for the Study of Transformations and Eastern Europe, University of Vienna, and led by Goran Musić.

CHRISTIAN GUEREMATCHI was born in Maribor in 1981. After graduating from the Ballet Conservatory in Maribor, Slovenia, he joined the Maribor Ballet, where he worked for 5 years. After that, he worked at Ballett Kiel in Germany. Since 2006, Guerematchi is a free-lance artist in the Netherlands. Between 2016 and 2018, Guerematchi completed a propaedeutic year for theatre studies at the University of Amsterdam. In 2020, he created the *NAM - Non Aligned Movement* autobiographical solo performance. Since 2021, he is following a two-year artistic development trajectory of the Dutch Funds for Performing Arts (FPK) for his *Epistemologies of the Body* trilogy. Guerematchi's approach to contemporary dance has become what he calls documentary physical theatre. In his work, he tackles history and black culture and gives it a different angle and perspective and he is frequently involved in discussions around forgotten historic perspectives, mainly the Non-Aligned Movement. He is currently working on the FUNK project, which unpacks the friction between the concepts of Afropessimism and Afrofuturism through Frantz Fanon's "Black Skins, White Masks" and the poetry of Sun Ra.

PETRA MATIĆ is an independent researcher, artist, and activist based in Zagreb. She is a researcher for the Trešnjevka Neighbourhood Museum and the President of the Cultural Association Jutro, as well as a member of the Governing Board of the Cultural Centre Peščenica. Her work has been presented at documenta fifteen, Prague Festival of Photography, and the Ljubljana Design Biennial BIO26. She has collaborated with the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Rijeka, the Technical Museum of Nikola Tesla, the Ethnographic Museum, and the Typhological Museum, all in Zagreb. Her work deals with the heritage of non-alignment, the possibilities of welcoming spaces, as well as collective and anticolonial practices.

ANA SLADOJEVIĆ is an independent curator and art theorist based in Belgrade. In combining curatorial and artistic methodologies in her work, she points at in/visible privilege and in/visible violence perpetuated through the heritage field, which posits itself as normative and paramount in construing social memory and remembrance. She holds a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies – Group for Theory of Arts and Media from the University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia. Her recent projects and exhibitions include *Racism without Racists: Institutions of Culture and Heritage* – a reading and discussion group proposed and co-moderated by Jelena Savić (Centre for Cultural Decontamination, Belgrade (CZKD), 2023), *An Anticolonial Museum* (Museum of African Art, Belgrade, 2022) and *On Perseverance* (CZKD, 2021).

PAUL STUBBS is a UK-born sociologist and, currently, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Economics, Zagreb. His main research focus is on social policy and social protection, social movements, the right to the city, and policy translation. For the last six years, he has concentrated on historical work on the Non-Aligned Movement and the role of socialist Yugoslavia, editing the book *Socialist Yugoslavia and the Non-Aligned Movement: Social, Cultural, Political, and Economic Imaginaries* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2023). He has published short texts on the same topic for *LeftEast* and for the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, as well as a text in the *History in Flux* journal. He is currently working on a study of the New International Economic Order.