

2.-3. 11. 2022, Ljubljana

# SYMPOSIUM THE NEW LEFT: URBAN AND ECOLOGICAL FURROWS IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Univerza v Ljubljani  
Fakulteta za družbene vede



# Symposium 'The New Left: Urban and Ecological Furrows in the Former Yugoslavia'

## Date:

2. – 3. 11. 2022

Faculty of Arts (FF) and Faculty of Social Sciences (FDV)

## Organisers:

Gal Kirm (FF and FDV), Mirt Komel (FDV), Karla Tepež (FDV)

## Partner Organisations:

Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Social Sciences

The symposium will be held in English language and is supported by the research project '*Protests, Artistic Practices and the Culture of Memory in the Post-Yugoslav Context*' (ARRS, J6-3144) and in collaboration with the programme group '*Social Contract in the 21st Century*' (P6-0400).

## PROGRAMME

### DAY 1: ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE FUTURE: THE NEW LEFT IN THE BALKANS

Faculty of Arts (FF)

2. 11. 2022, 17:00 to 21:00

17:00 – 17:15 Blue Room/Modra soba, 5th floor

#### Opening Address

Gal Kirm (Research project leader, FF)

17:00 – 18:30

#### Discussion of the Book 'The New Balkan Left' by Igor Štikš and Krunoslav Stojaković

Moderator: Ksenija Vidmar Horvat

(Head of the research programme Social Contract in the 21st Century, Faculty of Arts)

#### The New Left in the Balkans: Potentials and Limits

Igor Štikš (Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana & FMK, Belgrade)

Discussants Gal Kirm (FF) and Marko Hočevar (FDV)

19:00 – 21:00 Lecture Room 18

#### Discussion: Contradictions and Emancipatory Horizons of the Left Parties and Movements in Slovenia, Serbia, and Croatia

Moderator: Lana Zdravković (Peace Institute, Ljubljana)

#### Left Politics and Peripheral Capitalism in Post-Crisis Slovenia

Ana Podvršič (University of Graz)

#### Left Parties and the Working Class – Where Are We?

Goran Lukić (Delavska svetovalnica, Ljubljana)

#### Is There a Future for the Left in Serbia?

#### Some Notes on Socio-Structural Factors and On-Going Political Processes?

Jelena Vasiljević (University of Belgrade)

#### From Theory to Techno-Politics:

#### The Antinomies of the New Left in Croatia

Paul Stubbs (The Institute of Economics, Zagreb)

### DAY 2: ECOLOGICAL AND URBAN FURROWS

Faculty of Social Sciences,

Large Lecture Hall

3. 11. 2022, 14:00 to 19:00

14:00 – 14:15

#### Opening Address

Gal Kirm, Research project leader

14:15 – 15:20

#### Urban Furrows 1

Moderator Marjan Hočevar

(Faculty of Social Sciences, Ljubljana)

#### The Re-politicisation of Housing and the New Cooperative Wave

Maša Hawlina (Zadrugetor, Ljubljana)

#### Planning the Unplanned: The case of 'Rog'

Nika Grabar (Faculty of Architecture, Ljubljana)

15:20 – 16:30

#### Urban Furrows 2

#### New Municipalism and the Struggle for an Urban Commons: The Case of 'Zagreb je naš'

Paul Stubbs (Institute of Economics, Zagreb)

#### Lingering on between the Institutions and the Streets: The Case of 'Ne davimo Beograd'

Jelena Vasiljević (University of Belgrade)

17:00 – 18:00

#### Ecological Furrows 1

Moderator: Ajda Pistotnik (Policy Lab)

#### The Temporal Structure of Climate Breakdown

Luka Omladič (Institute for Applied Ethics, Ljubljana)

#### Building Political Community beyond Parties and Corporate Affiliations

Nika Kovač (8th March Institute, Ljubljana)

18:00 – 19:00

#### Ecological Furrows 2

#### Environmental Struggles: Rooted in Asphalt, Grounded in Soil

Iva Marković (Organizacija za političku ekologiju Polekol, Belgrade)

#### Key Topics and Players in the Ecological Movement in Croatia

Hrvoje Radovanović (Friends of the Earth, Zagreb)

## INTRODUCTORY TEXT

Only the political initiatives that focus on a fundamental social transformation can seriously tackle today's economic, political, and environmental crisis. Established parties have been following neoliberal trends for decades of transition that conducted privatisation and reduced investment in public and accessible infrastructure. Furthermore, neoliberal extractivism was immensely destructive to our environment and our living conditions. Following unending financial crises that buried neoliberal utopia these processes were rounded off by the covid epidemic and the intensification of militarisation. It is no exaggeration to say that we are once again living in a "time of extremes", where global inequality has only kept increasing, and the techniques of extractive capitalism are leaving visible environmental devastation and climate change is already experienced by a large part of the world population. How are the new left policies in the former Yugoslavia responding to these challenges after the collapse of socialism, nationalist wars, and the neoliberal transition? The symposium aims to present some experiences and analyses, challenges that concern – but are not limited to – political actors of the new left, civic as well as party initiatives.

In the second part of the symposium, we will take a closer look at new urban and ecological initiatives in Slovenia, Serbia, and Croatia. The division of labour seems clear: ecology should be dealing with the environment, urban politics with urban spaces. Yet one of the baselines is that the real transformative leap is to be expected when this division is abolished and when ecological movements, sustainability initiatives, and new urban movements merge with the new trade union movements that are committed to the elimination of various inequalities, exploitation and gentrification. Sustainable environmental initiatives have been strengthened across the region in recent years, opposing water privatisation, the construction of hydroelectric power plants, and various new mining projects. At the same time, urban political movements in the region are continuing in their own way, organising against the increasing neoliberalisation and commercialisation of urban infrastructure, especially through touristisation and financial speculation, which are further reducing the stock of social housing, putting pressure on autonomous public spaces, and leading to rising rents and land prices. We will discuss with our participants in the eco-urban initiatives the key challenges of the organisation, themes, and possible future breakthroughs, including the rhizomatic connections of ecological and urban initiatives.