

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton



Filozofski
fakultet
Sveučilišta u
Zagrebu

University of Southampton
School of Humanities

University of Zagreb
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Doctoral programme of Modern and Contemporary
Croatian History in European and World Context

Doctoral conference:

Social, Gender and Political History

4 June 2022

9 a.m. UK Time

10 a.m. Central European Time

Organizing committee: Mark Cornwall, Iskra Iveljić, Branimir Janković, Mark
Stoyle, Nikola Tomašegović



PROGRAMME

Microsoft Teams meeting

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10.00 Central European Time, Conference opening:
Mark Stoyle, Professor of Early Modern History, University of Southampton
Iskra Iveljić, Professor of Modern Croatian History, University of Zagreb

PANEL 1, Chair Mark Stoyle

10.15 Charlotte Samways, **Anne de Bretagne and Catherine of Aragon, Maternal Politics in the Late Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Centuries**

10.35 Megan Isaac, **Preparing Princess Elizabeth Tudor for the Roles of Wife and Mother: The Evidence for her Traditionally Feminine Education within her 1551-52 Household Accounts**

10.55 Mirjam Vida Blagojević, **My Body, my Choice – the Issue of Motherhood and Illegal Abortions in Interwar Croatia**

11.15 Lewis Brennen, **The Politics of Witchcraft in Four English Witch Trials, 1566-82**

11.35 Discussion

Lunch break

PANEL 2, Chair Branimir Janković, Assistant Professor of Modern World History, University of Zagreb

13.00 Veronika Završki, **Social Status of Women in Osijek during the First World War**

13.20 Marina Alia Jurišić, **Power and Violence: From Seamstress to the Symbol of Terror. A Case Study of the Ustasha Camp Commander Maja Buždon**

13.40 Natalie M. Williams, „**Gorth Grame sonne to old Rich did become Scottishe“: National and Regional Identity and the Power of Inter-Personal Relationships on England’s Northern Borders, 1558-1639**

14.00 Discussion

14.20-14.30 Break

PANEL 3, Chair Mark Cornwall, Professor of Modern European History,
University of Southampton

14.30 Will Law, **Unveiling the Master’s Gift: Locomotive Naming Ceremonies in East Africa at the End of Empire**

14.50 Dino Staničić, **Cultural Opposition in Socialist Yugoslavia: a Case Study of Croatian Writers, 1952-1971**

15.10 Discussion



SUMMARIES

Charlotte Samways, University of Southampton

Anne de Bretagne and Catherine of Aragon, Maternal Politics in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries

There are several commonalities between the formidable sixteenth-century queens Anne de Bretagne and Katherine of Aragon: they descended from prestigious lineage, they were twice-married, they were profoundly pious, they were beloved by their subjects, and they both suffered from fertility issues. However, an important, yet underexplored, component of Anne and Katherine's identities was their maternal affection towards their surviving daughters -Anne's daughters, Claude and Renée, and Katherine's daughter, Mary-, which subsequently influenced their politics. By analysing contemporary correspondence, educational treatises, and manuscript illuminations, this paper discusses how the queens' fertility issues impacted their public image and their relationships with their daughters, in addition to evaluating how Anne and Katherine's maternity shaped their daughters' education, which prioritised their future queenship prospects. The discussion extends the remit of Naomi J. Miller's argument that maternity offered a measure of feminine power, particularly in the scope of caregiver, educator, and role model, which subsequently defined women's political and social identities. Moreover, Anne and Katherine's maternal affection and aspirations were intricately woven into their daughters' upbringing and their wider political manoeuvres.

Megan Isaac, University of Southampton

Preparing Princess Elizabeth Tudor for the roles of wife and mother: The evidence for her traditionally feminine education within her 1551-2 household accounts

Queen Elizabeth I is one of the most celebrated English monarchs, with many citing the period of prosperity that the stability of her reign facilitated, as evidence of her skills as a leader. But she was not educated to rule. In fact, until a few years prior to her accession in 1558, Elizabeth was never expected to accede to the throne. Instead, she, like most royal women, was destined to marry for the dynastic benefit of her family, and in time to become a mother. My paper explores the surviving material evidence for Elizabeth's education, in order to demonstrate that the curriculum followed in her school room was conventionally feminine in nature, and not, as has often been argued, subversively masculine. Her 1551-2 household accounts demonstrate that religion and music, as well as equestrian pursuits proved a primary focus, situating her curriculum within the contemporary precedent for royal women. When examining the betrothal negotiations that were discussed for her during her early life, one can see that her marriage was the ultimate aim towards which her education was geared. Her future, from the moment of her birth, was, therefore highly governed by her gender, and rather than being thought of by contemporaries as the exception to the rule that she is now perceived as being, prior to 1558, she was in fact no different from her contemporaries.

Mirjam Vida Blagojević, University of Zagreb

My Body, my Choice – the Issue of Motherhood and Illegal Abortions in Interwar Croatia

The image of 'new' femininity that arose during the interwar period exemplified eradicating various restrictions and taboos, while retaining traditional values, such as motherhood. Due to demographic decline, political structures endorsed motherhood as a pivotal political factor. Consequently, the female body became a symbol of biological and cultural reproduction of the nation, while abortion was deemed a moral insult to society. Glorification of motherhood was present in various domains of society, especially in the Croatian women's press in the 1920s and 1930s. Despite the clear promulgation of motherhood, abortion remained a highly prevalent and dangerous option because it was an act of quackery. Being aware of these acts and concerned for women's health, the medical community attempted to draw the public's attention with their discussions in the *Liječnički vijesnik/Medical Journal*. Their goal was to promote reflection and engender the formation of new attitudes toward *Abortus Criminalis*. The purpose of this paper is to examine: 1. the attitudes the interwar public had toward motherhood as a social construct; 2. how motherhood was illustrated in Croatian women's magazines during the interwar period, 3. to analyze the issue of illegal abortions through medical, legal, and public discourse, by exploring the role *Liječnički vijesnik/Medical Journal* had in raising people's awareness of illegal abortion, as well as its attempts at changing public views to safeguard women's health.

Lewis Brennen, University of Southampton

The Politics of Witchcraft in Four English Witch Trials, 1566-1582

Despite the assertion of Sir Keith Thomas that it would be wrong to give the early witchcraft prosecutions in England a ‘primarily *political* interpretation’, it is abundantly clear that politics was, in fact, an important factor in many of these cases. After all, political factors were a vital driving force behind the introduction of the 1563 Witchcraft Act. But this was not the only way in which politics was significant to English witchcraft trials during the sixteenth century. Four Elizabethan witch-trials are especially familiar to historians as a result of the survival of printed pamphlet accounts of the proceedings: the trials of two separate groups of witches in Chelmsford, Essex, in 1566 and 1579; the church court trial of a ‘cunning man’ in Exeter in 1566; and the major trials held at St Osyth, Essex, in 1582. In each case, both the trials and the pamphlets had political undertones. This paper will explore those hidden political currents and will ask what they reveal about the place of witchcraft in contemporary society. The paper will also examine the political significance of the trials and the pamphlets which appeared in their wake: were they of simply local concern or did they also possess a wider, national significance?

Veronika Završki, University of Zagreb

Social Status of Women in Osijek during the First World War

The First World War brought about new roles and shared and specific experiences for the women of countries engaged in the conflict. With the emergence of women's history and development of social history, new questions were raised on the effects of the First World War on women's overall social and economic status. It has been widely accepted that the First World War brought about an increase in the employment of women in some of the countries at war, turning them sometimes into heads of families and allowing some of them to step out of the private sphere of their homes for the first time. My research aims to test out this hypothesis on the example of Osijek, a town located on the periphery of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and close to the front. In showing the level of employment of women in a sugar processing factory in Osijek during the First World War, the paper will try to contribute to the discussion on this phenomenon that concerns both women's and social history.

Marina Alia Jurišić, University of Zagreb

Power and Violence: From Seamstress to Symbol of Terror. A Case Study of the Ustasha Camp Commander Maja Buždon

Born in 1923 and raised in poverty, Maja Buždon moved to Zagreb to work as a seamstress. After joining the Ustasha movement in 1942, she was appointed to a duty in the Stara Gradiška camp where she became a commander of the camp for women and children. She was the sole female camp commander in the whole of Europe. Textual material from her hearing, released in the press, is untraceable in archives. It might be a newspaper forgery as there are some indications that Buždon, who became an alcoholic during her time in the camp, was hallucinating during her trial. The material evidence against Buždon, based on the former prisoners' testimonies, showed that she was as notorious as other Ustasha commanders, such as Miroslav Filipović Majstorović. Unlike Buždon, camp guard Milka Pribanić was secretly helping prisoners. After frequent temporary detentions, she was expelled from the camp in 1944.

These two different cases are a part of my research on the camp in Stara Gradiška in which I will try to implement microhistorical approach following the example of Elissa Mailänder, who in her research of the Majdanek camp guards provided a glimpse on the everyday life in this camp as well.

Natalie M. Williams, University of Southampton

“Gorth Grame sonne to old Rich did become Scottishe”: National and Regional Identity and the Power of Inter-Personal Relationships on England’s Northern Borders, 1558-1639

After centuries of war, there was peace between England and Scotland from 1558 until 1639, but cross-border raids still plagued the Anglo-Scottish border, seemingly hindering the relationship between the two nations, and creating a negative representation of the Anglo-Scottish borderers. Yet there was a rhythm to this rebellious region. Border raids were certainly disruptive, but they were also integral to the border fabric, and instinctively understood by the borderers. This paper will argue that inter-personal relationships contributed to fluid notions of national identities on England’s northern borders.

The relevance of border officials’ own regional identities is clearly apparent, while it is evident that cross-border relationships often distorted broader ideas of national identity. The State Border Papers, and the papers of the Privy Council of England and Privy Council of Scotland can be used to demonstrate the different identities of border officials through their relationships with each other and with local criminals. The interconnectivity of border households also demonstrates the importance of border women in local society. Previous border studies have often concentrated on periods of war, but this paper argues that it is also essential to study periods of peace in order to understand how different communities can live cohesively together and how peace can change the representation of national identity.

Will Law, University of Southampton

Unveiling the Master's Gift: Locomotive Naming Ceremonies in East Africa at the End of Empire

This paper examines railway ceremonies in Britain's former colonies at the end of empire. Specifically, it considers how Britain's post-war interests in East Africa manifested in highly curated ceremonies with the railway as a focal point.

Writing in the 1940s, G.M. Trevelyan described the railway as 'England's gift to the world'. At face value, the formalised handover of locomotives in East Africa simply embodied this national pride. However, this paper argues that the elaborate staging of these 'gifts' was strategically deployed during the lead up to independence in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika.

By reading official East African Railways & Harbours (EARH) publications against the grain, this paper aims to enrich technical railway histories of East Africa that 'dwell on detail for its own sake' (Marsden and Smith, 2005). It considers locomotive names alongside local development projects, using a case study to ask how EARH's publicity arm sought to extend its impact beyond the physical railway network.

In doing so, it highlights the railway's political significance in East Africa, with the unveiling of new locomotives, railway lines and stations key to the promotion of Britain's continued influence.

This work is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council [grant number AH/W002957/1].

Dino Staničić, University of Zagreb

Cultural Opposition in Socialist Yugoslavia: a Case Study of Croatian Writers, 1952-1971

In socialist Yugoslavia following the Tito-Stalin break, new ideas emerged in the ideological, political, and cultural spheres. Despite some setbacks, after 1952, the cultural field was relatively open when compared to other socialist countries. In Croatia after 1966, a combination of cultural, political, and economic demands formed what is often described as a national movement (The Croatian Spring). Before Tito abruptly ended it in late 1971, this continuous reshaping created a specific ideological atmosphere in which individuals and groups probed the limits of the Yugoslav cultural and political freedom. The case of the later dissident Milovan Đilas in 1954 was an early sign of how far would the Communist Party allow this process to unfold. However, other, more subtle types of critique continued throughout this period. I will approach them using the concept of cultural opposition, as it provides a wider research perspective and takes into account not only open political resistance but various forms of cultural criticism as well. In this paper, I will present such cases in the field of literature. The aim is to examine the writings and activities of those Croatian writers who promoted reformist 'liberal' ideas and often a firm Croatian national stance. I believe it is possible to outline a thread of continuity in their acts of cultural 'disobedience' several years before the Croatian Spring unfolded. This should take us a step further in our understanding of cultural and intellectual freedom in socialist Yugoslavia after the Tito-Stalin break.



SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

Mirjam Vida Blagojević

Mirjam Vida Blagojević graduated in history and Croatian language and literature at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Osijek in 2009. From 2009 to 2013, she taught both history and Croatian language and literature in various high schools in Osijek. From 2014 to 2022, she worked as a jazz and rock singer in the United States. Her research interests include women's and gender history and the history of medicine, emphasising the interwar period. Additionally, she has attended various professional and scientific conferences and doctoral workshops.

Lewis Brennen

I have recently completed my PhD at the University of Southampton. My research focuses on witchcraft in early modern England and my thesis is titled, 'Witchcraft and Politics in Early Modern England, c. 1558-1604'. The thesis examines the ways in which the concept of witchcraft was influenced by political developments in the period running from the accession of Elizabeth I to the introduction of the Jacobean witchcraft act and *vice versa*. More broadly, I am interested in the wider history of witchcraft, along with the political, religious and cultural history of early modern Europe.

Megan Isaac

I am a fourth year PhD student at the University of Southampton. My thesis investigates how Queen Elizabeth I and those around her manipulated how she was portrayed during the years prior to her accession, to ensure both her survival

and her continued political relevance. Between 1533 and 1558, she learnt how to use art, dress, pageantry, and material display for her own benefit, and it was this skillset that ultimately facilitated both her accession, and her continued grip on power when Queen.

Marina Alia Jurišić

Marina Alia Jurišić is a second year PhD student of Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in the European and World Context at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. Her extensive and ongoing research of camp commander Maja Buždon has resulted in admission to the doctoral study in Zagreb. She graduated classical philology at the University of Zadar in 2009 and has received two Rector's Awards as a recognition of outstanding results achieved during the studies from the same University. As a regular member of Croatian Literary Translator's Association (CLTA), she works as a translator of historically and literarily relevant books from several languages to Croatian. She has worked as an assistant lecturer of Finnish language for immigrants from Arabic speaking countries in Kuopio, Finland in 2016.

William Law

William Law is a first-year PhD candidate undertaking a Collaborative Doctoral Partnership with the University of Southampton and the National Railway Museum. His research concerns the role of Britain's railway in East Africa at the end of empire. Previously, he completed an MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature, Culture and Thought at the University of Sussex, where he pursued an interest in postcolonial railway literature.

Charlotte Samways

I specialise in royal, gender, and sexuality studies in the early modern period. I took my undergraduate and MA degrees at the Universities of Southampton and Exeter, where I explored sexuality in the political representations of Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots, in addition to examining the visualisation of female sexuality in seventeenth-century women's portraits. I am currently in the first year of my doctoral studies at the University of Southampton undertaking research into the public image of queen consorts in sixteenth-century Europe.

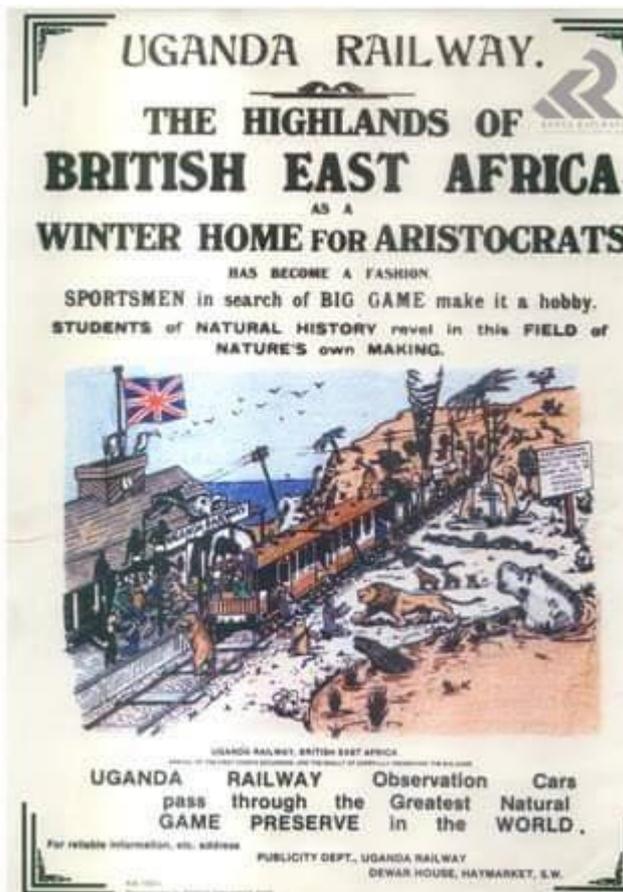
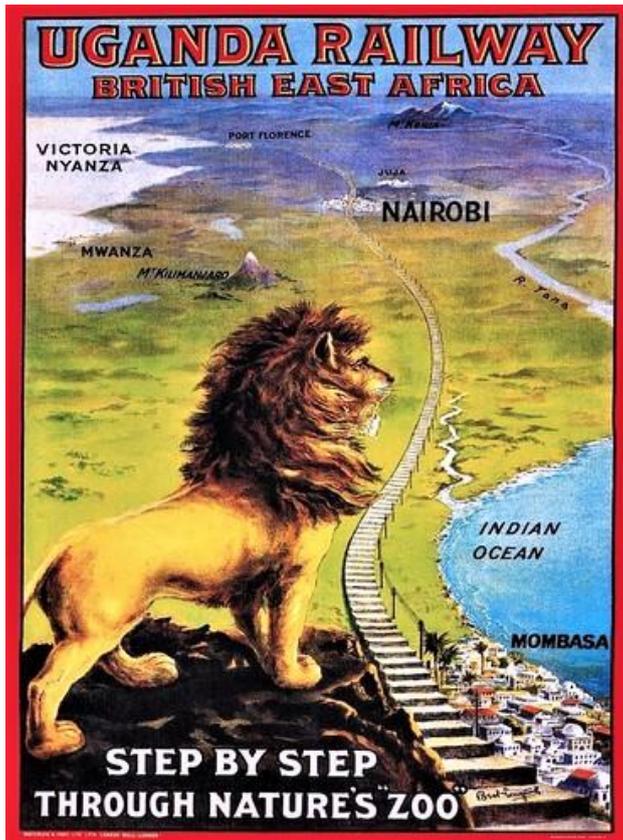
Dino Staničić studied history and literature at the University of Zagreb. Currently, he is a first-year Ph.D. student in the doctoral program of Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in the European and World Context at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. He is primarily interested in cultural and intellectual history of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Natalie M. Williams

Natalie Williams has recently completed a PhD in History at the University of Southampton. Her research focused on national and regional identity and cross-cultural interactions on the Anglo-Scottish and Anglo-Welsh borders during a period of peace between 1558 and 1639. Before undertaking her PhD, Natalie completed an archaeology degree at the University of Bristol and an MPhil in Medieval History at Trinity College Dublin, where her thesis concentrated on dress and status in Margaret Tudor's royal Scottish household. Alongside her PhD, Natalie has worked at Syon House, London and currently works at an Interior Design college in Chelsea.

Veronika Završki

Veronika Završki was born in 1993 in Osijek, where she studied history and English language at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Osijek. As a student, she was an active member and secretary of the history students' organization ISHA Osijek, an experience that enabled her to take part in student conferences and student publications. Since graduation, she has worked as a teacher and as a tour guide. In 2021 she became a Ph.D. student in the Doctoral program of Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in European and World Context in Zagreb. In 2022 she took part in a multidisciplinary conference in Osijek with the topic “1914 in Osijek in the newspapers Narodna/Hrvatska Obrana' and 'Slavonische Presse””. Her field of interest is women’s history and the history of the First World War.



LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

'The Munitions Girls' oil painting, England, 1918. Science Museum, London - Wellcome Collection, United Kingdom - CC BY.

<https://www.europeana.eu/hr/item/9200579/b37s8bkc>

Three women picking up left-over hay as the men hold parasols over them. Process print. - Wellcome Collection, United Kingdom - CC BY.

<https://www.europeana.eu/hr/item/9200579/d4vsmzhu>

Elizabeth I, attributed to William Scrots, c. 1546, Royal Collection Trust, Windsor Castle

<https://www.rct.uk/collection/404444/elizabeth-i-when-a-princess>

Catherine of Aragon - unknown author - National Portrait Gallery: NPG 163

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Catalina_de_Aragon,_por_un_artista_anonimo.jpg

Nairobi Railway Museum, posters from 1920s

[The Uganda Railway in the first 5 years after World War 1 | Roger Farnworth](#)