

“VWI invites the Institute of Culture Studies and Theatre History at the Austrian Academy of Sciences”

Wednesday, 15 January, 2020, 3.00 pm
Rabensteig 3
A-1010 Vienna
Research Lounge

Lovro KRALJ
PAVING THE ROAD OF DEATH
Antisemitism in the Ustasha Movement 1929–1945



This presentation reinterprets the importance of antisemitism in the Croatian fascist Ustasha movement. Given the fact that the Ustasha ideological core was initially not antisemitic, questions as to why and how they adopted antisemitism has not been adequately answered. Kralj challenges historiographical interpretations which reduce the Ustasha antisemitism to mere imitation of Nazism and the arguments that the Ustashe were participating in the Holocaust because of German pressures or appeasement.

According to Kralj’s argument the Ustashe adopted antisemitism as a key tool in fascistization of its ideology. The adoption of anti-communism, anti-capitalism, anti-democratic and other attitudes were so closely intertwined with antisemitism that it became one of the main tools of ideology-building during 1935-1940. Kralj will examine the interdependence of antisemitism and fascistization through quantitative analysis of Croatian national-socialist, clerical, nationalist and Ustasha press in the period of 1929-1945.

Commented by Ljiljana RADONIĆ

Lovro Kralj specializes in the fields of fascism, antisemitism and the Holocaust studies, with the geographic focus on Central and South-Eastern Europe. In 2015 he started his PhD at the Central European University. Kralj participated and presented at more than twenty international workshops and conferences including the Lessons & Legacies. He received multiple fellowships including the Sharon Abramson Research Grant for the Study of the Holocaust from Holocaust Educational Foundation and a Junior Fellowship at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies.

Ljiljana Radonić heads an ERC project on “Globalized Memorial Museums. Exhibiting Atrocities in the Era of Claims for Moral Universals” at the Institute of Culture Studies and Theatre History of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. She wrote her habilitation on the “World War II in Post-Communist Memorial Museums” at the Department of Political Science at the University of Vienna. Her PhD dealt with the “War on Memory. Croatian Memory Politics between Revisionism and European Standards” (Frankfurt: Campus 2010).

Bitte melden Sie sich unter anmeldung@vwi.ac.at bis Dienstag, 14. Januar 12.00 Uhr, an und bringen Sie einen gültigen Lichtbildausweis mit.

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