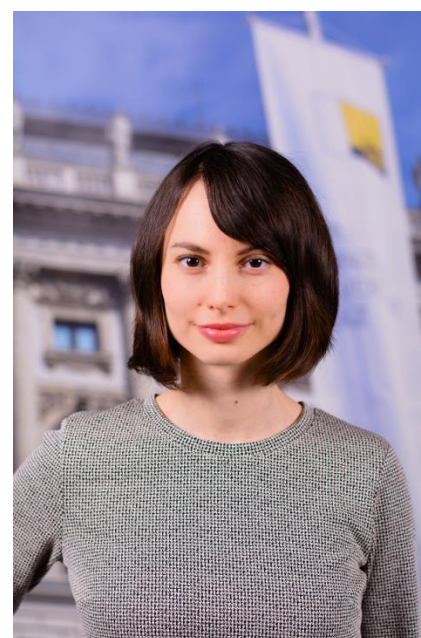


DAS INSTITUT FÜR SLAWISTIK LÄDT ZUM GASTVORTRAG EIN

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# History of women's organizing and feminist activism in Yugoslavia and post-Yugoslav countries



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“Feminism” was Merriam-Webster’s Word of the Year after a series of street protests and digital activism stirred political attention in 2017 globally. Southeastern Europe was no exception to this trend: thousands of people joined the Night Marches to resist the “anti-gender” backlash, feminist-queer grass-roots groups used activism, as well as community and online activism to challenge and destabilize hegemonic norms of gender and sexuality. While we can read about the differences in waves of feminist mobilizations even in popular media, we know little about the feminist past outside of the English-speaking countries. For instance, what forms of women’s organizing and feminist activism preceded today’s movement in Southeastern Europe? This lecture gives an insight into a century long tradition of women’s mobilizations at the (post) Yugoslav terrain starting with the women’s and proto-feminist groups in the beginning of the 20th century; followed by the women’s engagement in the anti-fascist struggle in the Second World War; and the development of the feminist organizing autonomous to state women’s agencies in the late 1970s as an exception among European socialist countries; towards the mobilization of anti-nationalist and pacifist feminist engagement during the wars of Yugoslav succession in the 1990s; and finally, the coming of political age of millennials through DIY festivals in the early 2000s. By highlighting activist contributions that originated in a (post) socialist, (post) conflictual and (post) transitional context, this lecture contributes to a more nuanced understanding of feminist politics as a truly transnational phenomenon.