

FULL NAME	MAJA BRKLJAČIĆ	FIELDS OF INTEREST, RESEARCH AREAS, FIELDWORK
YEAR OF BIRTH	1973	Symbolical anthropology: society as spectacle (rituals, ceremonies, signifying practices), crisis of representation, literary and pictorial turn
POSITION, TITLE	Ph.D. candidate	Coming to terms with past traumas - on the collective plane, within families, on the individual plane
DISCIPLINE	History	Display of history, staging the past, how the past is imagined, exhibited, stored, destroyed, recovered
INSTITUTION OF EMPLOYMENT	Central European University, Budapest, Hungary	Death and mourning
		Ethnography of communism/socialism, every-day life, practices and strategies of survival, popular culture
		The role of humanities in nation-building processes, intellectual history
		Gender, portraying women, femininities in history/present, policing of bodies in non-Foucauldian worlds
		Consumption and material culture
		Oral history - conducting interviews (fieldwork), methods of evaluation
		Mechanisms and strategies of forgetting and remembering, cultural vs. communicative memory, texture and practices of social memory



### RECENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

- My most immediate research interest concerns practices of representation. In my doctoral thesis, currently in the phase of completion, I investigate the effect and function of representational practices and their relation to power. I study how representation and power share the same underlying nature, how they both reproduce the conditions that make their reproduction possible. My case study is an examination of the aesthetics of power in socialist Yugoslavia. In terms of the research method, I rely on the work of Louis Marin and his study of Louis XIV. Using pictorial and verbal sources, I research symbolical representations of Josip Broz Tito. The theoretical approach framing the dissertation is Ernst Kantorowicz's work "The King's Two Bodies". Particularly interesting in the Yugoslav context is the fact that the antropomorphisation of the centre of power occurs here in a society which I would define as a non-Foucauldian world: where the power system was not dispersed and allocated but rather converged in the centre. Whereas in other socialist countries this centre of power was clearly the Communist Party, in Yugoslavia there was a real natural body standing behind the Party - namely, Tito. I identify the long and complex process of embodying the symbolical centre of the Yugoslav state in the natural body of Tito, and what the consequences of such development were.
- Besides my dissertation, I work on two projects, both related to memory and remembrance of the Second World War. In the first project, I examine the lack of coming to terms with the legacy of WWII in Croatia. On the theoretical plane, my goal is to answer the problem of temporal distance: how much distance is needed for a society to launch the process of *Vergangenheitsbewältigung*, that is, what constitutes social preconditions needed for the creation of temporal distance. On the empirical plane, I work with discursive materials from the 1990s in Croatia; using discourse analysis, connotative and denotative inquiry of the available sources (historical works, public discourse), my research seeks to understand what has happened with the memories of WWII in contemporary Croatia. I rely on the work of the German theoreticians of memory, Jan and Aleida Assmann, and their seminal contributions to the study of cultural memory. Building on their work, Harald Welzer has developed the notion of social memory, that being practices of remembering in every-day life. Welzer's work is pertinent for my second project on WWII, in which, together with a group of other researchers, I investigate the transmission of memories of WWII in Serbia and Croatia within the framework of three-generation families -- this is the time-frame which Assmann aptly defined as communicative memory. The primary sources for the project are interviews with families and individuals conducted during fieldwork in Serbia and Croatia. We are currently in the phase of evaluation of the primary material.
- In the year 2000, I have started working as a coordinator in a larger international project aiming to investigate histories and influences of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches in former Yugoslavia. Within this framework, my research is focused on the Croatian Catholic Church: how it dealt with the so-called Croatian national question in Yugoslavia and how has the Church, in the early years of the new Croatian state, functioned as the strongest homogenising force during the last phase of the Croatian nation-building, and what are the consequences of the recatholisation of the Croatian nation. The project is entering its fourth year.
- For three years, I coordinated the international project "Between Nationalism, War, and Communism. Reappraising the History of Southeastern Europe in the 20th Century". The aim of the project was to take a fresh look on the last century in Southeastern Europe, to try to tangle topics which are either disregarded or only marginally tackled by contemporary scholarship, in order to produce a volume with some novel research topics in the field of the Balkan studies. My research subject was one segment of popular culture in socialist Yugoslavia, namely the folk epic poetry, and its relation to the ruling communist ideology.
- For my M.A., I investigated the generic role that intellectuals play in the society. I used Pierre Bourdieu's notion of the field of cultural production and its dependence upon the field of political power. My primary interest was to examine the interdependent relationship between the politics of culture and politics of power. The case-study used for the thesis was an examination of the circle of intellectuals known as the Zagreb Philosophy School in the 1950s and their positioning vis-à-vis the philosophical school of Existentialism. While socialism posited a specific set of rules for work and functioning of intellectuals, my study showed that it was possible to use, with certain modifications, the notion of the intellectual field as developed in the context of Western societies that have known the idea of intellectual independence for years - something that was not characteristic for the period of unreformed communism.

### MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS, FORUMS ETC.

1. Semiotic workshop in Zagreb

My research projects include:

- Researcher for the project: “No coming to terms with the past for Croatia? Remembering the war that never ended” - FU Berlin, Osteuropa-Institut, Berlin; supported by the grant from the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation (2003 - )
- Project coordinator for the research project: “Between Nationalism, War, and Communism. Reappraising the History of Southeastern Europe in the 20th Century”, project guidance by Professor John R. Lampe (University of Maryland), Central European University, Budapest, Hungary; supported by the grant from the USAID (Stability Pact, Graz Enhanced Project) and the Open Society Institute (2001 - 2003)
- Project coordinator for the project “Historikerprojekt. Kirchen im ehemaligen Jugoslawien”, project guidance by Professor Thomas Bremer (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster); supported by Deutsche Bischofskonferenz, Abteilung für weltkirchliche Fragen (2000 - )
- Research Fellow in the Professor Tony Judt's project "Political Justice in Post-Second World War in Europe", Institute for Human Science (IWM), Vienna, Austria; supported by the grant from the Volkswagen-Foundation (1996-1997)
- Research Fellow in: “Transmission of memory - comparative research: transmission of historical consciousness in Serbia and Croatia”, project coordinator Natalija Basic, Osteuropa-Institut, FU Berlin; supported by the grant from the Volkswagen-Foundation (2003 - )

Project Participant in: “Multiple Antiquities, Multiple Modernities. Intellectuals and the Politics of Humanities”, Collegium Budapest Institute for Advanced Studies; supported by the grant from the Volkswagen-Foundation (2001)

COURSES TAUGHT		RECENT TEACHING EXPERIENCE, PRACTICE, METHODS
1.	Short history of the long twentieth century (teaching assistant)	<p>Since my classes are frequented by students from very different disciplinary backgrounds, though they are officially listed as “history courses”, I try to employ a broader perspective in teaching and use multidisciplinary approach when introducing them to the contemporary history of the Balkans and/or Europe. I combine lectures with seminar discussions where students are required to prepare by reading items from the reading list supplied at the beginning of the course. We read very widely: from literature to sociology, from ethnography to history proper. If the aim of the course is to elaborate on a cultural practice (e.g. burials), I prefer to use the indirect model and the inductive method of inquiry - to arrive to the general laws by following a case-study which at the very beginning may appear strange and distant from the contemporary cultural context. Though this usually takes more time and effort, my experience has been that after the initial struggle, the students respond better to this Cliffordian ethnographic approach than to the straight-forward transmission and discussion of descriptions. Students in the class are required to respond in writing on each of the items from the reading list. They respond with short <i>reaction papers</i> which are circulated among the class, and these papers need to be read prior to meeting in the classroom, so that we all have a basic idea of each other's initial thoughts on the reading in question. While this imposes more work on students (more reading and more writing), it also enhances in-class discussions significantly, as initial disagreements and insights become obvious even before we meet in the seminar room. As reading materials, I try to use primary and secondary sources equally. In the classroom, we work with media different than written word (film, music, visual sources).</p> <p>Students are graded on the basis of their class participation, writing of reaction papers, and the final paper.(there is no mid-term exam.) Whenever possible, the final paper would be a piece of original research, a low-key inquiry into any of the subjects that were dealt with during the class. The student should demonstrate in the final paper the ability of analytical thinking, application of discussed theoretical works, and the ability to work with primary sources.</p>
2.	The Rise and Fall of Yugoslavia / Southeastern Europe: History, Politics, Security (lecturer)	

#### MAJOR PUBLICATIONS IN LAST FIVE YEARS

1. (with Holm Sundhaussen) “Wandel der Symbole und symbolischer Wandel. Kroatiens Staatssymbole und ‘Erinnerungskulturen’ in der Transformation” [Change of symbols and symbolical change. State symbols and cultures of memory in Croatia], *Osteuropa* 53, Jahrgang 7/2003, pp. 933-948
2. “What Past is Present?”, *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*, vol. 17. no. 1, Fall 2003, pp. 41 - 52
3. “Communist Ideology and Popular Culture. Folk Epics in Tito's Yugoslavia”, in: John Lampe and Mark Mazower (ed.), *Ideology and Identity. The Case of Southeastern Europe in the twentieth century* (Budapest: CEU Press, forthcoming, 2003)
4. “Tito's Bodies in Word and Image”, *Narodna umjetnost*, no. 40/1, 2003, pp. 99-127
5. “*Velebit je hrvatski Sinaj*. O hrvatskoj katoličkoj imaginaciji” [*Velebit is the Croatian Zion*. On Croatian catholic imagination], *Reč*, no. 70/16, June 2003, pp. 147-170
6. “The Croatian Catholic Church Imagines the Nation. *Glas koncila* and the Croatian National Question, 1985-1990”, *Balkanologie*, Vol. V, No. 1 & 2, Decembre 2001, pp. 7 - 19
7. “Chewing on the Leftover End Bit of Mortadella or Intellectuals in Eastern Europe”, in: Anna Wessely (ed.), *Intellectuals and the Politics of the Humanities* (Budapest, 2002), pp. 213 - 227
8. “Intellectuals in Eastern Europe: Between Autonomy and Political Power”, in: Martina Winkler und Andreas Westerwinter (Hrsg.), *Wortende? Intellektuelle im 21. Jahrhundert* (Leipzig, 2001), pp. 105-121
9. “A Case of a Very Difficult Transition. The Ritual of the Funeral of Josip Broz Tito”, *Limen*, vol. 2001, no. 1, also available at: [http://limen.mi2.hr/limen1-2001/maja\\_brkljacic.html](http://limen.mi2.hr/limen1-2001/maja_brkljacic.html)
10. “Thomas Jefferson i Alexis de Tocqueville o položaju i ulozu žena u americkom drustvu” [Thomas Jefferson and Alexis de Tocqueville on the Role of Women in the American Society], in: D. Roksandic and M. Brkljacic (ed.), *Alexis de Tocqueville o americkoj povijesti*, Zagreb, 1998, pp. 132-148