

Forgotten Histories

BCS Summer School Program

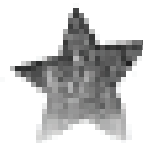


Here at Lingvisti we harbour no illusions that language and language teaching are not deeply political affairs. Language practices do not exist within a vacuum. On the contrary, they are deeply embedded in social, cultural and political relations. We also harbour no illusions that people are isolated islands, with no responsibility to each other or their social community. It is this sense of togetherness and community that drives us forward to analyse, criticise and rethink the place and time in which we live and act.

This year we have decided to centre our extra-curriculum program on the theme of forgotten histories. Ever since Fukuyama, the West has proudly proclaimed the death of history. But those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. Historical revisionism and right wing, fascist tendencies are on the rise throughout the world. Here in Bosnia we know a thing or two about both. For decades, the political and economic elites in the countries of ex-Yugoslavia have been trying to lull their citizens into a sort of historical oblivion. They tell us the past no longer exists. They tell us history is a phantom. They tell us the only real thing is the future, and the progress, the never-ending progress! They tell us everything we once knew was a lie. But what if the past was more just than the present? What if it contains valuable lessons that can help us overcome the challenges before us?

This year our program is centred on resurrecting the memory of resistance, heroism and unity. Three guest speakers will hold lectures focused on various aspects of language politics and the complexities of political and cultural life of Yugoslavia. We will revisit the beginnings of the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina and learn more about one of the most successful resistance movements in Europe during WWII. A day trip to Tjentište/Sutjeska will give us the opportunity to relive a decisive battle that changed the course of WWII in this part of the world. Together, we turn to history, not in an attempt to mindlessly discard it or romanticise it, but to learn from it. We will prove that history is not dead. It lives deep within us, in the sacrifices of our predecessors. Together we will pay tribute to their perseverance and thank them for the most important and the most beautiful gift of all: a dream of freedom.

PROTIV FAŠIZMU SLOBODA NARODU!



July

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
17 Opening ceremony	18 Folklore Dancing Workshop	19 LECTURE: Antifascist Women's Front	20 LECTURE: "Linguistic landscapes" of BIH	21 WORKSHOP: Cyrilic Script	22 Day trip to <i>Tjentište Memorial</i> Sutjeska National Park
24 WORKSHOP: Loesye Writing	25 LECTURE: Partisan Films: Between Art and Ideology	26 Visit to War Childhood Museum	27 Film Night	28 Closing ceremony	

Monday, 17 July

What: Opening Ceremony

When: 18:00h

Where: Art House Cinema Kriterion

Not really a ceremony, more like a series of semi-sober introductions and a few intellectual rants, just so you know who you are dealing with. After a whole day of classes we get together at Art House Cinema Kriterion to hang out, have a few drinks and get to know each other. No significant learning can take place without building relationships. We start here.

Tuesday, 18 July

What: Folklore Dancing Workshop

When: 17:30h

Where: Lingvisti

The people of Bosnia and Herzegovina love to sing and dance. Every year, we organise a folklore dancing workshop for our students so they can learn a few basic steps and find out more about various dance traditions. You are required to leave all shame and self-consciousness aside and bust a move or two.



Wednesday, 19 July

What: Antifascist Women's Front – 1st Keynote Lecture

When: 17:30 h

Where: Lingvisti

The history of the women's movement in Bosnia dates back to the early years of the 20th century. The organisational and social pinnacle of the movement was the establishment of the Antifascist Front of Women (AFŽ) during World War II (1942). Until its formal dismantlement in 1953, the organization played an unprecedented social and political role. Over sixty years later, we still lack a complete picture of the movement's historical development, but also a truthful valorisation of its position within the broader socio-political context of post-war Yugoslavia. "What has our struggle given us?" is an archival research project and a contemporary contextualisation of the history of the movement of women in Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, most notably during and after World War II. In this pioneering work, we have gathered and digitized substantial archive collections and created an Online Archive of the antifascist struggle of women of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Yugoslavia. By examining the archive and making it public we hope to provoke and restart a feminist debate on issues concerning emancipation and liberation of women and the relationship with the wider idea of social transformation. The Archive as such, with all its findings, serves as a historical lesson and a textbook through which we strive to rethink our own history, moving beyond patriarchy and revisionist ideas of totalitarianism, but without falling into the trap of monumentalisation (ww-w.afzarhiv.org).

About the Speaker – Andreja Dugandžić

For over ten years Andreja Dugandžić has been actively involved in promoting women's rights and feminism as a producer, organizer, multimedia artist and activist, mostly in the cultural and art scene of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region. In her art practice, she flirts with different forms, using narrative as her main artistic expression. She works at Association for Culture and Arts CRVENA as a researcher and co-manager of the program "What has our struggle given us?" Andreja is a singer/performer at the music duo Black Water and Her Daughter.

Thursday, 20 July

What: Linguistic Landscapes of Bosnia and Herzegovina – 2nd Keynote Lecture

When: 17:30h

Where: Lingvisti

This talk will cover the “linguistic landscapes” of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular, the presence, absence, and modification of diverse forms of written language as found in public space. This includes the ideological “loading” of linguistic forms by which they come to be seen as emblematic of particular groups or historical periods, and how these linguistic landscapes are modified on this basis.

About the Speaker – Kevin Kenjar

Kevin Kenjar is a PhD candidate in sociocultural and linguistic anthropology at the Anthropology Department at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is completing his doctoral dissertation on language and ideology in the former Yugoslavia. He has been studying the region, and Bosnia and Herzegovina in particular, for well over a decade, having previously completed his MA in Nationalism Studies at Central European Studies on the topic of the politicization of language in Bosnia and Herzegovina. When not doing his academic work, Kevin enjoys drinking coffee, gardening, cooking, and playing music.

Friday, 21 July

What: Cyrillic Script Workshop

When: 17:30h

Where: Lingvisti

For those who haven't got a clue about the Cyrillic script

We do this every year: one of our teachers Jakov gathers his disciples (the disciples being you) and introduces them to the secrets and mysteries of the Cyrillic script. After that, they are all able to go to Belgrade and find pakija on the menu. We also stick to this workshop because teaching people the Cyrillic script in Sarajevo has become a “controversial” issue in recent years. It pisses off the nationalists and we think that's always a good thing.

Saturday, 22 July

What: Day Trip to Tjentište and Sutjeska National Park

When: 8:00h (too early, we know)

Meeting point: the National Museum

For those who signed up for the day trip

08:00 – 10:00 Driving from Sarajevo to Tjentište

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee break at Komlen Restaurant

10:30 – 12:30 Visiting the memorial at Tjentište (the main monument, charnel house, small amphitheatre and memorial house); a lecture on the battle of Sutjeska

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Visit to the sports facility and the Lake (where you can play sports, swim and eat at the nearby restaurant)

or

Hiking to the grave of partisan hero Sava Kovačević in Krekovi (a 30-minute visit with around 45 minutes of walking in each direction – 2 hours total)

16:00 – 18:00 Returning to Sarajevo

Monday, 24 July

What: Loesje Workshop

When: 17:30h

Where: Lingvisti

For B2 and C1 students, but we encourage others to join as well

Loesje is an international organisation originally founded in the Netherlands in 1983. Since then it has spread around the world and in 2009 it came to BiH as well. Local Loesje groups hold workshops where they write and spread posters with texts about social and political issues. Loesje texts are mostly positive and funny, but at the same time critical. We introduced this workshop last year and the results were very inspiring. We're hoping for a repeat!

Tuesday, 25 July

What: Partisan Films: Between Art and Ideology – 3rd Keynote Lecture

When: 18:00h

Where: Lingvisti

Well-known theatre actor Benjamin Bajramović will try to shed light on one of the most interesting phenomena of Yugoslav culture – the emergence of a successful film industry built around the partisan film. Situating the partisan film within a historical and ideological framework will help us determine its artistic merit as well understand its massive cultural impact and the special place partisan films hold, even today, in the collective mind of the Yugoslav peoples.

About the Speaker – Benjamin Bajramović

Benjamin Bajramović was born in 1989 in Zenica. He graduated from the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo and works as a freelance actor. You can ask him anything about anything.

Wednesday, 26 July

What: Visit to the War Childhood Museum

When: 17:45h

Meeting point: The Cathedral

You'll be able to sign up for the visit on the first day of classes

Last year, the founder of the War Childhood Museum Jasminko Halilović visited the BCS Summer School as one of our keynote speakers and spoke of the political inertia and corruption that prevented him from implementing the last phase of his long-term project – opening a museum that would house the memento of Bosnia's lost generations. A year later, we meet with Jasminko again. Only this time he is hosting us at the recently opened museum, proving that happy ends are possible after all.

Thursday, 27 July

Film Screening: A partisan film!

When: 17:30h

Where: Art House Cinema Kriterion

Time to translate theory into practice: Benjamin will usher us into the cinema at Kriterion for a very special, clandestine screening of a WWII-themed partisan film. He'll also stick around to answer any questions you might have about the plot, the acting, the characters, the production, etc.

Expect a lot of exploding bridges.



Friday, 28 July

What: Closing Ceremony

When: 17:30h

Where: Art House Cinema Kriterion

A melodramatic farewell featuring white tissues and sobbing teachers.
(And comfort food).



June, 2017.

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