

“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 fascist Croatian Ustasha movement. Given the fact that the Ustasha ideological core was initially not antisemitic, questions as to why and how they adopted antisemitism have not been adequately answered to date. In this presentation, Kralj will challenge historiographical interpretations which reduce Ustasha antisemitism to a mere imitation of Nazism as well as the arguments that the Ustashe only participated in the Holocaust because of German pressure or appeasement. Kralj argues that the

Ustashe adopted antisemitism as a key tool in the fascistisation 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 in the period from 1935 to 1940. Kralj will examine the interdependence of antisemitism and fascistisation through a quantitative analysis of Croatian National Socialist, clerical, nationalist, and Ustasha press in the period from 1929 to 1945.

Commented by Ljiljana RADONIĆ

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

Ljiljana Radonić heads an ERC project entitled *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 *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 2010.

Please register at anmeldung@vwi.ac.at by latest 14 January, 12.00 am and bring your ID!

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