



ZNANSTVENO-RAZISKOVALNO SREDIŠČE KOPER
Inštitut za zgodovinske študije
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH CENTRE KOPER
Institute for Historical Studies

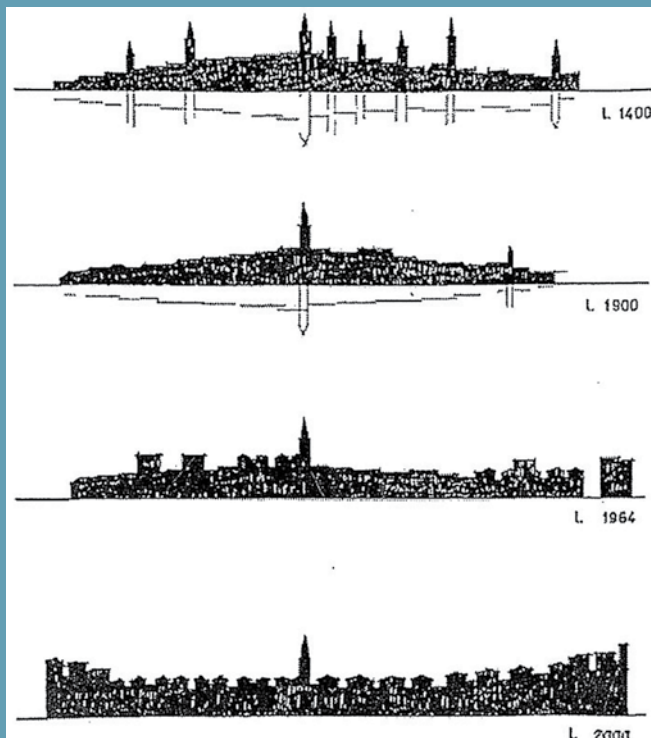
International Conference

**RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS AND ATHEIZATION
IN 20TH CENTURY CENTRAL AND EASTERN
EUROPE**

Koper, 22nd-24th April 2024

Science and Research Centre Koper – Centre for Humanities, Kreljeva ulica 6

PROGRAMME



MONDAY, 22nd April 2024

9:30–10:00

Opening remarks

10:00–11:00

Keynote lecture

James A. Kapaló (University College Cork): *Shifting 'Sacrosapes' – Survival, Revival and Coerced Conversion in Communist Eastern Europe*

11:00–11:30

Coffe break

11:30–13:30

Chair: Aleksandra Djurić Milovanović

Stefanos Katsikas (University of Cyprus): *Muslim Conversions to Eastern Orthodox Christianity in the Modern Balkans: The Case of Greece (1821–1862)*

Todd H. Weir (University of Groningen): *Marx or Haeckel? Comparing Working-Class Conversions to Secular Worldviews in Germany from 1845 to 1945*

Gašper Mithans (Science and Research Centre Koper): *Conversions in Interwar Slovenia and the Question of (Dis)Loyalty*

Christine Bischoff (University of Hamburg): *Conversion without Religion: Change of Belief in Different Communities*

Discussion

13:30–15:00

Lunch

15:00–16:30

Chair: Kinga Povedák

Klaus Buchenau (University of Regensburg): *Conversions to and within Orthodox Christianity – Comparative Reflections on Case Studies in Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Ukraine (20th–21st Centuries)*

Anca Şincan (HUN-REN Research Centre for Humanities, Budapest): *Fashioning the Orthodox: State Involvement in Converting the Greek Catholics after Enforcing the Union with the Romanian Orthodox Church*

Aleksandra Djurić Milovanović (Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts): *The Influence of Religious Conversion on the Emigration of Neo-Protestants in Socialist Yugoslavia*

Discussion

16:30–17:00

Coffe break

17:00–18:30

Chair: Christine Bischoff

Marko Galić (Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts): *Navigating Faith: Conversion to Seventh-day Adventism and Meaning-Making in Post-War Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Lana Peternel & Nikolina Hazdovac Bajić (Institute for Social Research in Zagreb): *Orthodoxy as an Invisible Identity in Croatia and Abandoned Sacred Places*

Branko Sekulić (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich): *Sleep Now in the Fire: Decoding Ethnoreligiosity Dynamics in the Ex-Yugoslavian Post-Communist Transition*

Discussion

19:30

Dinner

TUESDAY, 23rd April 2024

9:00–11:00

Chair: Borut Klabjan

Filip Škiljan (Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies Zagreb):
*Religious Conversions from Orthodox Christianity to Roman Catholicism
during the NDH Era (online)*

Milosav Đoković (Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of
Sciences and Arts): *The Reaction of the Holy See to the Question of the
Conversion of Serbs to Catholicism in the Independent State of Croatia*

Jože Pirjevec (Science and Research Centre Koper): *"The Sole Catholic
Church Allied with Nazism": The Ljubljana Diocese during World War II*

Julian Sandhagen (German Historical Institute Rome/Humboldt
University of Berlin): *Publish or Perish and the Weaponization of Relief:
Pope Pius XII, Bishop Joseph P. Hurley and the Strategies in the Face of
Communist Repression*

Discussion

11:00–11:30

Coffe break

11:30–13:30

Chair: James A. Kapaló

Johannes Gleixner (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich):
*Constructing an Atheist Worldview by Conversion: Non-Religion in Early
Soviet Russia*

Jared Warren (Leibniz Institute for European History): *Lev Gillet's "Great
Object of Intercession": Ecumenism and Conversion between France and
Ukraine*

Nadezhda Beliakova (Bielefeld University): *Conversions to the “Evangelical Faith” and (Re)Conversions Within “Free Churches”: The Changing Religious Landscape in the Late USSR (1960s–1970s)*

Teo Benussi (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice): *Wither Conversion: Exploring Histories of Conversion to Islam in Povolzhye through Different Theories of Truth*

Discussion

13:30–15:00

Lunch

15:00–16:30

Chair: Nadezhda Beliakova

Heléna Tóth (University of Bamberg): *Between Political Exigency and Humanitarian Service: Catholic (Non-)Converts in the Shaping of Socialist Funeral Culture in Hungary, 1970–1989*

Kinga Povedák (Hungarian Academy of Sciences): *Christian Popular Musicking in Hungary: Religious Revival during the Years of Forced Atheization*

Slavica Jakelić (The Honors College of Valparaiso University, USA): *On Atheism in Atheist Regimes: Methodological, Normative, and Political Implications of Seeing More than One Atheism*

Discussion

16:30–17:00

Coffe break

17:00–19:00

Chair: Klaus Buchenau

Eva Guigo-Patzelt (CéSor Research group, Aubervilliers/Paris): *Speeding up Atheization in the GDR: Research Serving Worldview Change*

Mateja Režek (Science and Research Centre Koper): *Shifting Paradigms: Atheization of School Education in Socialist Slovenia*

Jure Ramšak (Science and Research Centre Koper): *Depoliticisation of Religious Interest? The League of Communists of Slovenia and the Ambiguities of Its Religious Policy during the Final Decades of Yugoslavia*

Boris Vukićević & Todor Lakić (University of Montenegro): *The Dynamics of Atheization and Conversion in the Second Half of the 20th Century Montenegro*

Discussion

19:30

Dinner

WEDNESDAY, 24th April 2024

9:30–11:30

Chair: Jared Warren

Bojan Cvelfar (Municipality of Celje): *Conversions to Orthodoxy in Interwar Slovenia*

Sara Hajdinac (Science and Research Centre Koper): *Religious Identity as the State's Tool in Modification of Public Space and its Identity: The Yugoslav Concept of the Two Squares*

Zorica Kuburić (University of Novi Sad): *The God Worshipper Movement of 1918–1941*

Petar Dragišić (Institute for Recent History of Serbia): *Serbian Press and Eastern Orthodoxy in Serbia in the Eighties*

Discussion

11:30–12:00

Coffe break

12:00–14:00

Chair: Slavica Jakelić

Jadranka Đorđević Crnobrnja (Institute of Ethnography, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts): *The Law on Prohibition of Wearing the Veil and Its Implementation within the Gorani Community in the Republic of Serbia*

Nadja Furlan Štante (Science and Research Centre Koper): *The Revival of Goddess Religions*

Luka Trebežnik (Science and Research Centre Koper): *Christianity as a Constant Process of Atheization*

Milan Tomašević (Institute of Ethnography, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts): *The Anti-Cult Movement in Serbia at the Turn of the Millennium: Discourse, Contextualization, and Valorization of Attitudes towards New Religious Movements*

Discussion

14:00–14:30

Final discussion

15:00

Lunch

Programme Committee

Gašper MITHANS (conference organiser)

Mateja REŽEK

Jure RAMŠAK

Aleksandra DJURIĆ MILOVANOVIĆ

Kinga POVEDÁK

The conference is organised within the research project N6-0173 Religious change in Slovenia and Yugoslavia: Religious conversions and processes of atheization, research programme P6-0272 The Mediterranean and Slovenia, bilateral projects between Slovenia and Serbia (BI-RS/23-25-054), and Slovenia and Montenegro (BI-ME/23-24-013), all funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency.