

CONFERENCE PROPOSAL

From Combat to Commemoration: Veterans Politics and Memory in Global Perspective

WARWICK, April 16 – 17, 2021

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Tina Filipović graduated history at the Juraj Dobrila University of Pula in 2015. Since November 2018 she is a Ph.D. student of modern and contemporary Croatian history in the world context at the University of Zagreb. She works as a project associate on the project named *Microstructures of Yugoslav Socialism: Croatia 1970-1990*, funded by the Croatian Science Foundation, on which she deals with the history of the Federation of Associations of Combatants of the National Liberation War. She also works as an assistant at the Department of history at the University of Pula and as a member participating in the work of the Centre for cultural and historical research of socialism. Her research focus is mainly on veterans' history, culture of memory, ideology, social care system, and political and social history of socialist Yugoslavia in general.

<https://www.unipu.hr/ckpis/en/projects/microsocialism>

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Transmission of the war memory to next generations: the case of Yugoslav partisan veterans' organization in socialist Croatia

The process of preserving the war memory and commemorating important war and revolutionary events in socialist Yugoslavia was one of the main missions that the Yugoslav partisan veterans' organization (SUBNOR, 1947-1992) carried out. Under the syntagm "nurturing of the revolutionary traditions" multiple activities were implied, like sharing the war experience and personal memories with schoolchildren, organizing excursions or sports

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events for commemorating some important places or happenings of the National Liberation War *in situ*, as well as pushing the war themes into the art, media, popular culture, and everyday life. The Federation of Association of the combatants of the National Liberation War (SUBNOR) in Yugoslavia, with their status as a socio-political mass organization, participated in the ideologized process of building of the "new socialist society" in which younger generations were considered as the purest part of society, and the most vital for the future of socialism. Still, in the middle of the 1960s, the federal SUBNOR's board realized that their methods in working with a changing society were outdated and somewhat ineffective. So they put some effort into reforming their memorialization practices, introducing more flexibility in work, but also more cooperation with the Pioneer Alliance, Youth Alliance, other social groups, and institutions.

But what were the obstacles SUBNOR's members experienced in dealing with the younger generations that never experienced any war activities? What were the methods and popular activities of SUBNOR in cooperation with the children and youth on preserving the war memory? Who took the initiative in those processes and whether the transmission can be considered successful? The presentation will be focused on the SUBNOR's archival material and newspapers from socialist Croatia, with the emphasis on the period of late socialism and supported by some examples from the micro-level.