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What is left of post-socialism? A view from the Balkan periphery



**[Kaj je ostalo od
postsocializma?
Pogled s periferije
Balkana]**



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What is left of post-socialism? A view from the Balkan periphery

More than three decades after the demise of state socialism, the question arises to what extent the concept of post-socialism still makes sense given the diversity of economic, political and everyday conditions that characterise the former state socialist societies in Europe and whether we are already living in a time »after post-socialism«.

In this lecture I will focus on the links between the socialist experience and what came after, and which are still relevant and determine the everyday, social and political reality of the citizens of former socialist Europe. While I will outline political and ideological processes and affective economies that characterise the "post-socialist condition«, my main interest will be in the material and immaterial infrastructures which conditioned particular kinds of subjectivity and collectivity during socialism, and which were destroyed, abandoned or rendered meaningless with the end of the socialist project. I will also discuss the ways the selves and collectivities were refashioned in the wake of state socialism and loss of its infrastructures.

Tanja Petrović is a principal research associate at the Institute of Culture and Memory Studies ZRC SAZU and professor of the ZRC SAZU Graduate School. She is interested in the uses and meanings of socialist and Yugoslav legacies in post-Yugoslav societies, as well as in linguistic, cultural, political, and social processes that shape the reality of these societies. She is the author and editor of several books and a number of articles and essays in the fields of linguistic anthropology, anthropology of post-socialism, memory studies, masculinity, gender history, heritage studies, and labor history. Amongst them are *Yuropa: Yugoslav Legacy and Politics of Future in Post-Yugoslav Societies* (Fabrika knjiga 2012), an edited volume *Mirroring Europe: Ideas of Europe in Europeanization in Balkan Societies* (Brill Publishing 2014), *Serbia and its South: "Southern Dialects" between language, culture and politics* (Fabrika knjiga 2015), as well as *Utopia of the Uniform: Affective Afterlives of the Yugoslav People's Army* (forthcoming with Duke University Press).

