

**18th POSTGRADUATE COURSE FEMINISMS IN A TRANSNATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE:**

The Otherwise of History

Dubrovnik, Inter-University Center, 12-16 May 2025

Course Directors:

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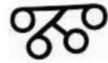
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Course Description:

As we enter a new phase of right-wing populism and authoritarianism in Central and Eastern Europe, as across much of the world, it is the role of the historian to consider what changes and what remains. With a genocide ongoing in Gaza and with the war in Ukraine reaching a frightening crescendo, the march of illiberalism has revived fears that we are returning to the politics of the 1930s where fascism prevailed. We might also argue that forms of fascism through the neoliberal state have aided in reestablishing the imperial and colonial logics of war in the contemporary moment. How then should we, as feminist and women's historians and related scholars, bring the current moment into focus with what we understand about our shared past? The rise of new forms of fascism requires a return to the study of history as a dialectic, whereby "looking back" is of critical importance in order to understand how we should look forward.

The aim of this year's school is to bring together feminists across disciplines to contend with the question of what thinking historically from a transnational and feminist perspective has to offer our considerations of the current political moment. We ask participants to consider the subversive potential that feminist and women's history plays, and can continue to play, in combatting the rise of populist and conservative trends that facilitate a global rise in anti-gender movements. As we consider the history of feminist activism and the radical practices of feminists over the past hundred years, how might we build towards a politics of solidarity and alliances? How can a feminist perspective on history teach us the tools for our survival in an increasingly fractured political and social future? And how might queering the concept of history itself enforce a systemic change in the feminist politics of remembering (and forgetting)?



The IUC has a long history as a meeting place that brings together scholars from eastern, western and central Europe, and more recently as a global meeting point for scholars from the new and old Left. We are committed to upholding this tradition with our course which for almost two decades has supported cooperation and collaboration across a younger generation of feminist scholars. This year we invite participants to consider how a decolonial perspective that advances a radical notion of democracy and democratic collective governance might help us to work together to propose a feminist discourse on planetary coexistence. Our aim is to foster a discussion that considers also the history of feminism in the post-Socialist spaces and how feminists today might consider the socialist principles and practices that predated the current neoliberal forms of imperial and colonial thinking. As the politics of remembering contends with an imposed politics of forgetting, who remembers, and why, and how this impacts our current discourse and affective regime to remain at the forefront of our focus on the “otherwise of history”.

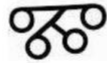
The main topics of discussion will be:

- Transnational women’s and gender counter-histories and emergent counter narratives
- Histories of feminism and feminist activism,
- The politics of feminist history (including critiques of historicity),
- Historicity from a feminist perspective,
- Decolonial perspectives on women’s and gender history,
- Feminist politics of feminist co-existence
- Queer perspectives on women’s and gender history,
- The politics and poetics of feminist history,
- Histories of anti-gender movements,
- Regional (CEE) perspectives on the rise of new fascisms and imperialisms
- Feminist artists reclaiming public spaces, including (anti)monument and commemorative practices
- Feminist critical engagement with national and local understandings of “heritage”
- Living archives (including the development of feminist resistant knowledge and the emergence of narratives of the oppressed)
- Literature and art as transmission of feminist experience and worldviews through and above history

Eligibility:

IUC courses are conducted at the postgraduate level. All interested postgraduate students (in MA or PhD programs) may apply to participate, although the course targets young scholars and postgraduate students with a defined interest in women’s/gender studies, transnational studies, philosophy, sociology, literary and cultural studies, postcolonialism, or anthropology. The course will be limited to 15 students (25 participants in total) in order to provide sufficient space for discussion, seminar work and student presentations.

The course directors open the possibility of online participation in case the epidemiological situation does not allow travel and gatherings in person. However, the organizers do hope that



all participants will be able to gather in person in Dubrovnik. Participants must seek funding from their own institutions for the costs of travel, lodging and meals. Limited financial support is available for participants from parts of Eastern Europe and some non-European countries (please see <http://www.iuc.hr/iuc-support.php>).

The IUC requires a payment of **55 EUR** for the course fee for all participants who are not co-organizers.

The working language of the course is English.

Application Procedure:

Please submit a proposal consisting of your curriculum vitae and a short narrative describing your interest in the topic or a 250-words abstract if you would like to present at the course. Place all current contact information at the top of your cv. Send submissions by email to Mirela Dakić (mireladakic1@gmail.com). Use the subject: IUC Dubrovnik 2025. The proposal deadline is **15 February, 2025**.