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Recovering (Post-)Yugoslav Anti-War Engagement

Launch of the books

Resisting the Evil: (Post-)Yugoslav Anti-War Contention

(edited by Bojan Bilić and Vesna Janković, Nomos, 2012) and

We Were Gasping for Air:

(Post-)Yugoslav Anti-War Activism and Its Legacy

(by Bojan Bilić, Nomos, 2012)

Monument Building Room 201

11 Feb 2013, 17.00

Welcome remarks by **Eva Fodor**, Associate Professor, CEU Gender Studies and Academic Director, CEU Institute for Advanced Study

Speakers:

Eric Gordy, Senior Lecturer in South East European Politics

University College London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies

Paul Stubbs, Senior Research Fellow

The Institute of Economics, Zagreb

Bojan Aleksov, Lecturer in Modern South East European History

University College London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies

Bojan Bilić, Junior Fellow

CEU Institute for Advanced Study

This event is part of a series Encounters in South East European Studies organised between 11 and 15 February 2013 by the University College London School of Slavonic and East European Studies, the CEU Gender Studies Department and the CEU Institute for Advanced Study.

Small reception to follow.

About the books:

Resisting the Evil: [Post-]Yugoslav Anti-War Contention illuminates (post-)Yugoslav anti-war engagement as an important and up to now neglected aspect of the complex process of Yugoslavia's dissolution. This book presents a series of both activist and scholarly accounts written by authors coming from all of the republics and provinces of the former Yugoslavia. Employing a distinctly transnational approach and contextualising painful biographical narratives, Resisting the Evil offers a "look from within" which has been conspicuously missing from the regional sociology. Multiple forms of resistance to the wars of the Yugoslav succession are here positioned at the centre of a variety of intersecting power relations and ideological vantage points. Rather than opting for any kind of one-dimensional interpretation of the phenomena that it studies, this volume shows that a multi-scalar recovery of marginalised voices and experiences opens up a possibility for — or even requires — new forms of scholarship which transcend the mainstream insistence on "detached" analysis.

Positioned at the interface between historical sociology, anthropology, and social movement studies, We Were Gasping for Air: [Post-]Yugoslav Anti-War Activism and Its Legacy goes beyond the widely exploited paradigms of nationalism and civil society to track the (post-)Yugoslav anti-war protest cycle which unfolded throughout the 1990s. Drawing upon extensive fieldwork in the region, the author argues that (post-)Yugoslav anti-war activism cannot be recovered without appreciating both the inter- and intra-republican cooperations and contestations in socialist Yugoslavia. (Post-)Yugoslav anti-war undertakings appropriated and developed the already existing social networks and were instrumental for the establishment of present-day organisations devoted to human rights protection, transitional justice, and peace education across the ex-Yugoslav space.