20 Years after the NATO Intervention in Yugoslavia: Local, Regional and Global Aspects of ‘Humanitarian Interventions’

2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the NATO intervention in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), and the end of the Kosovo war. We take this as an opportunity to reflect on the role, importance and impact of military interventions. By presenting the dialogue between the diverse, often opposed interpretations of the NATO intervention in FRY, we (re-)consider its role, political consequences and meanings on a local, regional and global scale.

Venue
GWZO, Specks Hof (Entrance A), 4th floor
Reichsstraße 4–6, 04109 Leipzig

Concept/Organisation
Katarina Ristić (Global and European Studies Institute, Leipzig University), ristic@uni-leipzig.de
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Organizer:
Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO)
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In collaboration with the following institutions:

Geert Luteijn (University of Amsterdam): The 1999 NATO bombing between Serbian contexts
Elisa Satjukow (Leipzig University): Like a phoenix from NATO’s ashes. The commemoration of the 1999 NATO bombing in Serbia, 1999–2019

Comment: Wolfgang Höpken (Leipzig University)

Coffee break

11.30–13.00 Panel 6
Artistic Responses to the NATO Intervention
Chair: Elisa Satjukow (Leipzig University)

Sonja Jankov (University of Arts Belgrade): Bridges of Novi Sad in Arts Projects 1991–2021

Sophia Kluge (Bauhaus University Weimar): “Bombed buildings” as landmarks in Belgrade – The collective memory of the NATO intervention in Serbia imparted through touristic tours

Nevena Daković (University of Belgrade): “Cinematic” criminalisation paradigm: Serbia 1999

Comment: Beáta Hock (GWZO)

13.00–13.30 Conclusion

Thursday, May 23, 2019

18.00–20.00 Roundtable discussion
20 Years NATO Intervention in Yugoslavia – Considerations, Experiences, Controversies with Nora Ahmetaj (Centre for Research, Documentation and Publication, Pristina), Winfried Nachtwei (German Green Party, Berlin), Sofia Todorović (Balkan Investigative Network Hub, Belgrade) and Stefan Troebst (GWZO), in cooperation with Heinrich Böll Foundation
Chair: Simon Ilse (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Reception

Friday, May 24, 2019

8.00–8.30 Registration
8.30–9.00 Welcome note and introduction
Katarina Ristic (Leipzig University) and Elisa Satjukow (Leipzig University)

9.00–10.30 Panel 1
The NATO Intervention in Global Perspective
Chair: Stephan Kaschner (GESI, Leipzig University)
Thorsten Gromes (Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt/Main): Kosovo in comparison: NATO’s intervention and other humanitarian military interventions after World War II
Teona Gelashvili (Constitutional Court of Georgia, Batumi): Consequences of the NATO intervention in Yugoslavia: A case of Georgia
Michael Eric Lambert (INSEAD Campus, Fontainebleau): Political consequences of Kosovo’s recognition by the “West” and effects on Russia’s foreign policy in Eastern Europe
Comment: Matthias Middell (GESI, Leipzig University)

Lunch

11.00–12.30 Panel 2
Regional Consequences of the NATO Intervention
Chair: Dietmar Müller (GWZO)
Avdylkadir Muçça/Shefki Shërbani (University of Prizren): Reflections on the 20th anniversary of the NATO Humanitarian Intervention in Kosovo and its consequences: A perspective from Kosovo
Werner Distler (University of Marburg): ‘Securitised statebuilding’ as a legacy of the NATO interventions in Yugoslavia
Andrew Graan (University of Helsinki): Toward a Theory of Informal International Intervention: On Diplomatic Speech and the Performativity of Public Communication in Post-Conflict Macedonia
Comment: Stefan Troebst (GWZO)

Coffee break

13.30–15.30 Panel 3
Media Representations of the NATO Intervention
Chair: Klara Muhle (University of Jena)
Vladimir Filipovic/Ana Radovic Kapor (Libertas International University of Zagreb): “Finally they realized who is Milošević”. Croatian views of the 1999 NATO intervention
Yuguan Zhou (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München): Chinese newspaper ‘People’s Daily’s’ reporting on the 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia
Snježana Miklovojvić (University of Belgrade): ‘NATO butchers’, ‘locators’, and ‘innocent civilian victims’: TV coverage of NATO military intervention by Serbian television
Robin Hering/Bernhard Stahl (University of Passau): From Kosovo rush to mass atrocities’ hush? German discourses in historical perspective
Comment: Katarina Ristić (GESI, Leipzig University)

Coffee break

16.00–17.30 Panel 4
Fitting the Intervention in National Memory
Chair: Arno Trültzsch (GESI, Leipzig University)
Astreja Pejović (Central European University Budapest): Social Life of Depleted Uranium: Legacies of the NATO intervention in Serbia
Danilo Sarenac (Institute for Contemporary History): Downing of the F-117 on 27th March 1999. Military Improvisations and the Serbian War Narrative
Jelena Jovanović (Humanitarian Law Center, Belgrade): Serbian collective memory of the Battle on Košare in 1999 – from silence to the main symbol of heroism and pride
Comment: Nenad Stefanov (Humboldt University of Berlin)

Conference dinner

Saturday, May 25, 2019

9.00–11.00 Panel 5
Remembering the Intervention in Serbia
Chair: Kathleen Zeidler (GWZO)
Jovana Mihajlović Trbovc (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts): Narrating NATO bombing in Serbian schools
Orli Fridman (Faculty of Media and Communications & School of International Training): Memories of the 1999 NATO bombing in Belgrade