



5. - 6. NOVEMBER 2025

# **EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SENSORY DISABILITIES IN THE FIRST AND SECOND YUGOSLAV STATES (1919-1991)**

**PROGRAMME AND BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

# EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SENSORY DISABILITIES IN THE FIRST AND SECOND YUGOSLAV STATES (1919-1991)

**SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE**  
**5.-6. NOVEMBER 2025**

## **ORGANISATION:**

Institute of Contemporary  
History, Ljubljana

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**

Dr. Jelena Seferović (Institute of Contemporary History, Ljubljana), dr. Dunja Dobaja (Institute of Contemporary History, Ljubljana), dr. Mojca Šorn (Institute of Contemporary History, Ljubljana), Tamara Logar (Institute of Contemporary History, Ljubljana).

## **VENUE:**

Institute of Contemporary  
History, Privoz 11, 1000  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

[www.inz.si](http://www.inz.si)

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Ljubljana, 2025



INSTITUTE  
OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

## PROGRAMME

# DAY 1

**Wednesday, 5. 11. 2025**

**8:45 AM – 9:15 AM: Morning Coffee**

**Location: The Lobby of the Institute of Contemporary History**

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**9:15 AM – 9:30 AM: Welcome Speech**

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**9:30 AM – 10:30 AM: Introductory lecture**

**Speaker: Jana Javornik**

**Title: Resources for Whom? Conceptualising Childcare Policy Architecture for Children with Complex Care Needs**

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**10:30 AM – 12:10 PM: Disability, Education and Care in the Early 20th Century (1900–1941)**

**10:30 AM – 10:50 AM: Martin Kuhar & Stella Fatović Ferenčić - *Rehabilitation of Disabled Soldiers during the First World War in Croatia***

**10:50 AM – 11:10 AM: John Paul Newman - *The King Aleksandar School for the Blind in Interwar Yugoslavia: Disability Care inside and beyond the Institutional Frame***

**11:10 AM – 11:30 AM: Dunja Dobaja - *Education of Deaf Children in Schools for the Deaf in Ljubljana and Zagreb***

**11:30 AM – 11:50 AM: Marko Buljevac - *Education and Employment Opportunities for Persons with Sensory Disabilities in Zagreb Between the Two World Wars***

**11:50 AM – 12:10 PM: Sólveig Ólafsdóttir - *Specialized Training and Life Stories – The Impact of Iceland's Special Schools for the Blind and Deaf in the Early 20th Century***

**12:10 PM – 12:30 PM: Discussion**

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**12:30 PM – 13:00 PM: Coffee break**

**Location: The Lobby of the Institute of Contemporary History**

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## PROGRAMME

# DAY 1

**Wednesday, 5. 11. 2025**

**13:00 PM – 14:00 PM: Sensory Disability and Education in Socialist Yugoslavia: Personal Narratives and Social Contexts**

**13:00 PM – 13:20 PM: Darja Zaviršek - *Engendering Disability through Oral Histories of the Specific Era: Sensory Disability and Socialism***

**13:20 PM – 13:40 PM: Janja Sedlaček - *Similar Yet Unique: The Educational Experiences of People with Sensory Impairments in Socialist Slovenia***

**13:40 PM – 14:00 PM: Dragana Gundogan & Nataša Milićević - *Being Visually Impaired Women in Socialist Serbia – Experiences with Educational Sphere and Employment***

**14:00 PM – 14:20 PM: Discussion**

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**14:20 PM – 15:20 PM: Lunch**

**Location: The Lobby of the Institute of Contemporary History**

# PROGRAMME

# DAY 2

**Thursday, 6. 11. 2025**

**8:45 AM – 9:15 AM: Morning Coffee**

**Location: The Lobby of the Institute of Contemporary History**

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**9:15 AM – 10:15 AM: Introductory lecture**

**Speaker: Ina Dimitrova**

**Title: Beyond Labour: Socialist Disability Policy in the Realm of Mental Health**

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**10:15 AM – 11:15 PM: Vocational Education and Employment of People with Sensory Disabilities in Socialist Yugoslavia**

**10:15 AM – 10:35 AM: Marta Rendla - *Vocational Education of Individuals with Visual and Hearing Impairments in Socialism from a Comparative Perspective***

**10:35 AM – 10:55 AM: Jelena Seferović - *How Have Education and Employment Opportunities for the Deaf Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina Changed from Socialism to Today?***

**10:55 AM – 11:15 PM: Nataša Milićević & Dragana Gundogan - *Education and Employment of Visually Impaired Physiotherapists in Socialist Serbia***

**11:15 AM- 11:35 AM: Discussion**

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**11:35 PM – 12:05 PM: Coffee break**

**Location: The Lobby of the Institute of Contemporary History**

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**PROGRAMME**  
**DAY 2**

**Thursday, 6. 11. 2025**

**12:05 PM – 13:05 PM: Perspectives on Disability History in the Former Yugoslavia**

**12:05 PM – 12:25 PM: Miloš Paunović - *Serbia's Failed Transition from Segregation to Integration: Education of Children with Disabilities in SR Serbia 1970s-1990s***

**12:25 PM – 12:45 PM: Atila Lukić & Gordan Maslov - *Is a History of Disability in Yugoslavia Possible?***

**12:45 PM– 13:05 PM: Magda Karavanić - *The Typhlological Museum as One of the Pioneers of Dealing with the Issues of People with Visual Impairments in Yugoslavia***

**13:05 PM– 13:25 PM: Discussion**

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**13:25 PM – 14:25 PM: Lunch**

**Location: The Lobby of the Institute of Contemporary History**

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# DR. DRAGANA GUNDOGAN

# DR. NATAŠA MILIĆEVIĆ

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH, BELGRADE /  
INSTITUTE FOR RECENT HISTORY OF SERBIA, BELGRADE

## *Being Visually Impaired Women In Socialist Serbia – experiences with educational sphere and employment*

It has already been noticed and widely described the tremendous development of the educational system in the socialist Yugoslavia. In this period, it is especially increased the access to education for various underprivileged social groups including women and people with visual impairments among others. Furthermore, it is mentioned that the different educational and socializing models for visually impaired men and women coexisted, burdened with prejudices and stereotypes. For this reason, in this paper we tackle the social position of visually impaired women during the period of socialism. Concretely, the aim of the paper is to explore the chances and experiences of visually impaired women in terms of their education and employment. The research questions were threefold. Firstly, we examined the educational practice and experiences of women during socialism. Secondly, we presented narratives and testimonies on the process of employment and experiences on the labor sphere. Thirdly, we will examine some of the memories concerning the private sphere, work life balance and independence for visually impaired women. In that way, we will present their attitudes, key experiences and obstacles they faced. Referring to the method used in this paper, firstly we used unpublished archive sources in order to gain information, statistical data and trends on the social position of women with visual impairments, as well as the ideological considerations and discourses. Secondly, we analyzed narratives from semi-structured interviews with the visually impaired women who finished segregated educational institutions and entered the labor sphere during the socialist period. In the analysis we used qualitative approach and oral history in order to present the social position of visually impaired women from their own perspective.

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Dragana Gundogan received PhD in sociology at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy and MA degree in Sociology and Social Anthropology at Central European University Budapest. She is currently working as a research associate at the Institute for Educational Research in Belgrade. As a PhD student she was engaged in teaching at Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Sociology. She is an expert in methodology with the experience in quantitative and qualitative approach in the various topics such as: educational inequalities, sociology of education and social inclusion.