



## Voluntary Associations in the Yugoslav Space: Relations with State and Family from the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century to the Present

*A friendly, one-and-a-half-day interdisciplinary workshop*

9-10 December 2015, Collège de France, Room 1 (Paris)

In May 2014, a dozen scholars gathered in Budapest for the Workshop « Voluntary Associations in the Yugoslav Space since 19<sup>th</sup> Century », supported by the CEU Institute for Advanced Study and CEU Department of Gender Studies. On that occasion, people from different academic backgrounds – History, Anthropology, Sociology, Gender Studies – together developed a challenging, two-day conversation on the changing forms and meanings of Voluntary associations/Non-governmental organizations (VAs/NGOs) in the Yugoslav space, from the age of empires to post-socialism. Individual papers, and in particular the discussions that accompanied them, sketched challenging research directions for an original understanding of social movements, activism and sociality in the Yugoslav space under a variety of state structures and social realities. Organized with the support of CETOBaC, LabEx TEPSIS, Idex PSL et Central European University, this second workshop aims to further explore and fine-tune some of these research directions. As the former meeting, the goal is to put together scholars working in various disciplinary traditions having in common two features: an interest for the Yugoslav space, before, during or after the existence of a Yugoslav state, and research experience with the specific institution of the voluntary association.

Notwithstanding their temporal and spatial ubiquity, VAs/NGOs seem to have a number of unifying elements that make them identifiable: voluntary and selective membership, limited goals fixed in statutes, self-government with written rules, elected officers, decision making in regular meetings, compliance with the laws of the state but also autonomy from higher political bodies. Identified with a plethora of different names – *Verein* in German, *cemiyet* in Ottoman Turkish, *udruženje*, *udruga*, or *društvo* in the Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian language, *zdrúženje* in the Slovenian language, etc. – associations emerged when this part of Europe was integrated into the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires. Already in this early period, the associations entered and structured the public space with a number of missions: promoting education, taking care of the poor, facilitating sport, leisure and festive cultures, modern agriculture, promoting religious or national values, struggling for gender equality, etc. Supported, controlled and/or hindered by the state, associations maintained their organizational networks in the post-imperial space, expanding during the period of constitutional parliamentarism and surviving through periods of autocracy and royal dictatorship, war and foreign occupation. Even the establishment of a socialist state, legitimized by the dictatorship of the proletariat, did not erase completely this eminently “bourgeois” institution, which has continued – at least to some extent – to coexist with state organizations. During and after the dissolution of Yugoslavia, voluntary associations – often known at this stage of the story as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) – continued to play a major role in the transformation of civil societies of the successor states.

In this second workshop, we would like to focus on one specific topic: the changing **relationship between VAs/NGOs, the state and the family**. According to traditional sociological views, civil society – and thus associations, as its most frequently evoked incarnation – are conceived as being opposed to both the state and the family, a sort of free space for collective agency escaping from the strictures of both kinship structures and of the state. More recently, scholars of civil society have convincingly shown the problems with drawing a clear-cut border between the state and VAs/NGOs, and tend to see this border as porous, shifting, and subject to negotiation. We thus ask: what kinds of relationships have VAs/NGOs in our region have with empires, states, and super-national actors (e.g. European Union)? How did this relationship – shifting among collaboration, collusion, and conflict – change over time? Is it somehow legitimate to speak, at least to some extent, about a “socialist civil society” or “fragments of civil society under Yugoslav socialism”? In what ways have states attempted to hinder, support, and/or coopt the activities of VAs/NGOs? In what ways have associations used the state to reinforce their legitimacy and to collect resources? Older scholarship on civil society placed VAs/NGOs in opposition to the family as well, a delineation that can likewise been called into question. How did kinship ties affect the membership and agendas of the associations? How did family networks affect access to associational decision making and the gendered division of associational labor?

With a view that will range from the imperial age to post-socialism, going through the interwar and socialist periods, this workshop aims to develop a cross-disciplinary conversation on the historical trajectory of the voluntary association in this part of Europe. Of particular interest to this workshop is the way in which voluntary associations also become implicated in relationships to states and empires, clientelistic practices, kinship ties, and the consolidation and politicization of collective identities. The workshop aims to privilege an actor-centered perspective, focusing on the trajectory of individual organizations across space and time.

## Workshop Program

### 09 December

#### 9.00-9.30 Welcoming & Introduction

9.30-10.20 **Paul Stubbs**, The Institute of Economics, Zagreb  
*Movements, Mediations and Mobilizations: Towards an Historical Sociology of Activisms in Croatia and the Wider Post-Yugoslav Space*

10.20-11.10 **Stefano Petrungraro**, Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung, Regensburg  
*Hot Meals for Needy People. Private and Public in the Yugoslav Poverty Policy between the two World Wars*

#### 11.10-11.40 Coffee break

11.40-12.30 **Čarna Brković**, Graduiertenschule für Ost- und Südosteuropastudien, Regensburg  
*Changing the Awareness through Humanitarianism: the Red Cross in Montenegro*

12.30-13.20 **Fabio Giomi**, CNRS-CETOBaC, Paris  
*Integrating the Muslim family in the national community. Thirty years of Gajret's activities among the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina (1903-1941)*

#### 13.20-14.50 Lunch at the Collège de France

14.50-15.40 **Chiara Bonfiglioli**, University of Pula  
*Women's agency in late socialism, between labor, family and the state: discussing the double and triple burden in the garment industry*

15.40-16.30 **Sandra Prlenda**, Central European University, Budapest  
*Women's associations and socialist citizenship – the Union of Women's Associations (1953-1961) in the Socialist Republic of Croatia*

#### 16.30-17.00 Coffee break

17.00-17.50 **Nebojša Šavija–Valha**, Nansen-Dialogue Centre, Sarajevo  
*Nansen-Dialogue Approach. From Simulacrum of Reconciliation to Voluntary Civic Action*

### 10 December

9.00-09.50 **Elissa Helms**, CEU Department of Gender Studies, Budapest  
*Associational Trajectories in Bosnia-Herzegovina: NGOs, the State, and Social Change Activism*

09.50-10.40 **Piotr Goldstein**, University of Manchester  
*Without the foreigners, without the State: can civil society groups in Serbia manage without external funding?*

#### 10.40-11.10 Coffee break

#### 11.10-12.30 Plenary session


## Practical information sheet

### 1) How to get to the hotel from the airports

Participants will be hosted at the **Hôtel Jean Bart** ([www.hotel-jean-bart.fr](http://www.hotel-jean-bart.fr)) 9 Rue Jean Bart, 75006 Paris. The hotel can be easily reached by walk from several metro stations (4 Saint Sulpice, 12 Rennes) and RER - the suburban city train - stations (RER B Luxembourg). The map of Paris metro and RER network is attached.

The quickest (and least expensive) way to get there from airports is by taking the RER B leaving from either **CDG (Terminal 2 or Terminal 3/Roissypole) or Orly.**

#### From CDG Airport to Paris

Line => RER B (Blue) 

Direction => Paris (Robinson, Antony, St-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse)

First Train / Last Train CDG to Paris => 04:56 / 23:56

#### From ORLY Airport to Paris

Line => OrlyVal + RER B (blue) 

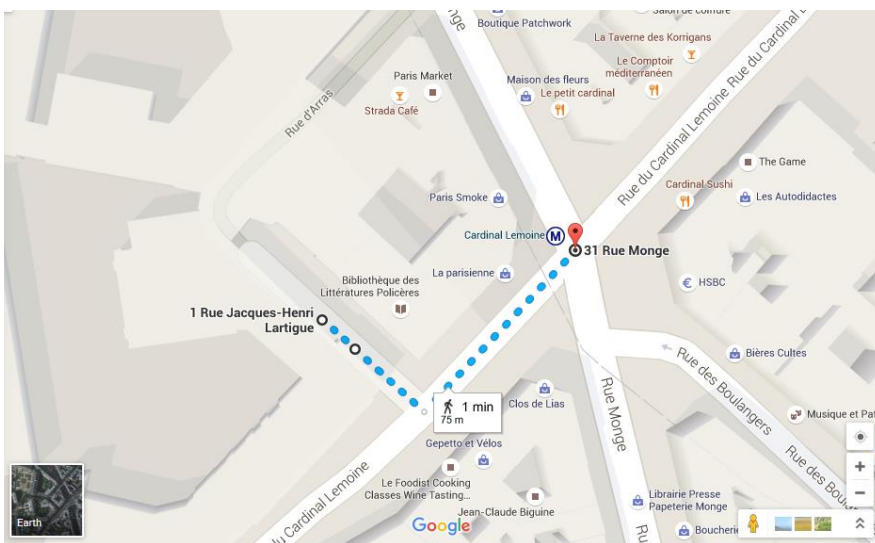
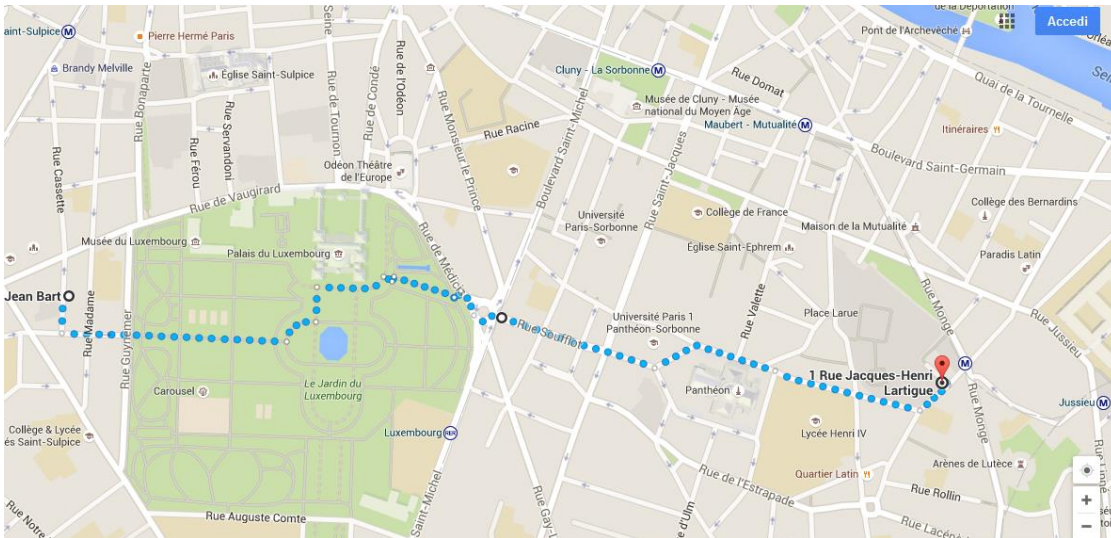
Direction => Mitry - Claye, Aéroport Charles de Gaulle

Change Trains at => Antony

First Train / Last Train to Paris => 06:00 / 23:00

## 2) How to get to the *Collège de France* from your hotel

To reach the *Collège de France* from your hotel, you can walk (20 min walk across the Luxembourg Park and other point of interests of the 6<sup>th</sup> district - strongly recommended!) or be lazy and take the metro (Cardinal Lemoine **10**). The access to the Collège de France is from 1 rue Jacques-Henri Lartigue.



## 3) Lunch and Diner

The lunch (9 December) will be organized at the Collège de France. The diner (9 December, 8pm) will be at the restaurant Bouillon Racine 3 (<http://www.bouillon-racine.com>) rue Racine, 75006 Paris. If you have any special dietary requirement, just let me know in advance. Bojane, you are of course included 😊

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