

International Conference

# From Exile to Diaspora

Southeast European  
Intellectuals and Political  
Activists Abroad

**9-10 September 2026**

Department of Contemporary History,  
University of Fribourg

► [www.unifr.ch/go/exile](http://www.unifr.ch/go/exile)



**13.00 – 13.30**

**Conference Opening**

**Franziska Zaugg** (Fribourg), **Karlo Ruzicic-Kessler** (Fribourg), **Dino Tsakmaklis** (Fribourg): Opening remarks  
**Ljiljana Reinkowski** (Basel): Welcoming remarks on behalf of BASO

**13.30 – 15.30**

**Panel I: New Approaches to «Exile» and «Diaspora»**

**Anna Hodel** (Basel): Undiasporic Writing? Late Post-Yugoslav Literature Beyond the (Post-)Migrant Script  
**Ethem Mandić** (Klagenfurt/Cetinje): Exile as Critique: Diaspora and Europe's Border Regime in Ugrešić and Hemon  
**Amina Smajlović** (Zurich): Rethinking Yugoslavia from Exile: Transnational Political Activism and Postcolonial Perspectives  
**Nikola Zečević** (Munich/Podgorica): Paper Sovereignty and Competing Claims to Representation: Montenegrin Émigré Politics after State Collapse, 1922 – 1925  
Chair: **Damir Skenderovic** (Fribourg)

**15.30 – 16.00**

**Coffee Break**

**16.00 – 18.00**

**Panel II: Political Exile and Diaspora**

**Giota Tourgeli** (Athens): Greek Guest Workers in West Germany: Political Activism and the Making of Transnational Communities  
**Milka Lehner** (Luzern): «Merde à la guerre»: Pre-Internet Computer Networks as a Medium of Transnational Political Resistance during the Yugoslav Wars  
**Andreas Charis** (Berlin/Potsdam): Making Anti-Racist Knowledge in the Immigrant Society. Migrant-led Anti-Racist Activism in West Germany, from the 1980s to the 2000s  
**Georgeta Nazarska** (Sofia): Diasporic Communities in Bulgarian post-Communist transition (1990s-2010s)  
Chair: **Karlo Ruzicic-Kessler** (Fribourg)

**18.00 – 18.30**

**Break**

**18.30 – 19.30**

**Evening Lecture: Prof. Nicole Immig (Giessen)**

**From 19.45**

**Dinner**

09.00 – 10.30

**Panel III: Intellectual Exile and Diaspora I**

**Daniilo Šarenac** (Belgrade): The Third Life of Stanislaw Krakow (1945/1968)

**Nataša Mišković** (Basel): Professional Artists' Networks as a Means of Survival in State Repression, War and Exile During the Dissolution of Socialist Yugoslavia

**Mateusz Sokulski** (Katowice): Mihajlo Mihajlov – Yugoslav Dissident and Emigrant and His Activity to Support Democratic Changes in Yugoslavia in the 1980s

Chair: **Jens Herlth** (Fribourg)

10.30 – 11.00

**Coffee Break**

11.00 – 12.30

**Panel IV: Intellectual Exile and Diaspora II**

**Filip Balunović** (Belgrade): Intellectuals, the Former-Yugoslav Diaspora and Solidarity Activism

**Dino Tsakmaklis** (Fribourg): The Mataroa Philosophers in Paris: Exile Politics and Post-Civil War Greece

**Dimitrios Machlouta** (Montreal/Paris): From Algerian Decolonization to Anti-Junta Mobilization: Greek Intellectual Exiles in Paris and the Emergence of a «New Philhellenism», 1954 – 1974

Chair: **Ljiljana Reinkowski** (Basel)

12.30 – 14.00

**Lunch**

14.00 – 15.30

**Panel V: Exile and Diaspora in Switzerland**

**Samantha Guzman** (Bern): Exile Organizations and Political Mobilization: The Kosovo Albanian Diaspora in Switzerland, 1970s – 1990s

**Heiner Grunert** (Bern): Communists, Nationalists, Theologians: Serbian Students at the Old Catholic Faculty of Theology at the University of Bern and the Global Serbian Diaspora (1940 – 1955)

**Wolffy Krašić** (Zagreb): «Croatian Freedom Talks» – Symposia of Croatian Exile Intellectuals in Switzerland in 1968 and 1971

Chair: **Franziska Zaugg** (Fribourg)

15.30 – 16.00

**Coffee Break**

16.00 – 16.45

**Final Discussion and Closing of the Conference**

17.00 – 18.00

**BASO Session**

Project presentations:

**Danaé Leitenberg** (St. Gallen): «Going Native»: Autochthony, (Im-) Mobility and Uneven Entanglements between Kosovo and Switzerland

**Dilyara Müller-Suleymanova** (Winterthur): «Life-Stories of (Yu-) Migration»: Using Biographical Narratives to Teach the History of Migration From Former Yugoslavia to Switzerland.

**Ljiljana Reinkowski**: News from BASO 2026/2027



- Due to limited space, please register by 4 September 2026 by sending an e-mail to: [konstantinos.tsakmaklis@unifr.ch](mailto:konstantinos.tsakmaklis@unifr.ch)
- For more information see: [www.unifr.ch/go/exile](http://www.unifr.ch/go/exile)

#### Conference organisers:

Dr. Franziska Zaugg  
 Dr. Karlo Ruzicic-Kessler  
 Dino Tsakmaklis

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