

The Pasts, Inc. Center for Historical Studies and the Department of History at Central European University cordially invites you to the presentation of the new issue of *East Central Europe* and the fifth lecture in the Departmental Research Seminar Series 2016/2017 entitled:

Over her Oriental Body: The “Shalwar” Melodramas of the Classical Yugoslav Cinema

Nebojša Jovanović

Wednesday, January 25th, 2017 at 5.00pm, in Nador 11 Building, 004 Smart Room



East Central Europe is a peer-reviewed journal of social sciences and humanities with a focus on the region between the Baltic and the Adriatic, published by the Pasts, Inc. Center for Historical Studies and Brill.

The talk tackles a specific film genre that marked Yugoslav cinema from the late 1940s to mid-1950s: the so-called “shalwar films [šalvarski filmovi],” historical melodramas set against the background of the Ottoman rule in the Balkans. No other group of films in the classical Yugoslav cinema did foreground gender and sexuality in such complex and ambiguous ways, appearing at the same time anti-patriarchal and patriarchal, progressive and conservative, empowering and exploitative. These films by rule feature the assertive female protagonists. The genre’s very label refers to loose trousers made of silk or cotton as the most emblematic Oriental female garments. The “shalwar films” offer a socialist criticism of the women’s disenfranchisement in the pre-modern era, but also channeled the gender troubles of their own milieu. In order to explore the genre’s narratives, imaginary, and gender politics, the talk will include inserts from the shalwar classics *Sofka* (1948), *Ciganka/Gypsy Girl* (1953), *Anikina vremena/Anika’s Times* (1954), and *Hanka* (1955).

Nebojša Jovanović holds a PhD from the Central European University in Budapest, Department of Gender Studies. His

work on gender and sexuality in Yugoslav cinema of the socialist era has been published in edited volumes – *Retracing Images: Visual Culture after Yugoslavia* (ed. Daniel Šuber and Slobodan Karamanić, Brill, 2012), and *Partisans in Yugoslavia: Literature, Film and Visual Culture* (ed. Miranda Jakiša, Nikica Gilić, Transcript Verlag, 2015) – as well as film journals such as *Studies in Eastern European Cinema*, *KINO!*, and *Hrvatski filmski ljetopis*.

All students, faculty and staff members are welcome to attend!

Drinks to follow

Organized by

Dr Matthias Riedl (Head of Department), Ágnes Kelemen, Iva Jelušić, and Nikola Pantić
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