

The Public Defense of the Doctoral Thesis in
Comparative History of Central, Southeastern and Eastern Europe

by

Maja Brkljacic

on

“(Dis)embodied Presences of Josip Broz Tito. Sounds, Voices, Images”

will be held on

Thursday, 17 December 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

in the

**Hanák room, Nádor 11
Central European University (CEU)
Budapest—1051
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Examination Committee

Chair:

Jasmina Lukic (Department of Gender Studies, CEU)

Members:

István Rév– PhD supervisor (Department of History, CEU)

Marsha Siefert – CEU internal member (Department of History, CEU)

Drago Rokсандic – external member (University of Zagreb)

Anna Wessely – external reader (ELTE, Budapest)

(Dis)Embodied Presences of Tito. Sounds, Voices, Images

A dissertation in history

presented to the Faculties of the Central European University

in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Abstract

This dissertation is a study of representation of Tito. It delineates the long process by which Josip Broz Tito, the president of the socialist Yugoslavia, became the constitute concept of the Yugoslav state, but then also came to personify the country itself. Tito emerged in the Second World War as the victorious leader of the victorious partisan army that defeated a much stronger and infamous enemy: the Nazi Germany. Being proclaimed as an important figure on the side of the Allies, he started his domestic and foreign life-path of fame. Amidst the shreds of the first Yugoslav state that disappeared in the flame of the fratricidal war, the Yugoslav Communist Party he led acted as the unifying factor which was the crucial driving force behind the project of the new Yugoslav state. But beyond that, the dissertation shows how Tito was much more than “only” the Yugoslav president: it demonstrates how Tito physically became the Yugoslav state. The starting hypothesis of the thesis is that representation and power share the same underlying nature, as they both reproduce the conditions that make their reproduction possible. We show in this case that the effect of representation is indeed power. In the Yugoslav case, it happened that Tito’s natural body became the embodiment of central power, and it also became the name and the face of the Yugoslav social body (body politic). Tito incorporated the Office of the president, and his name and figure were treated by the Yugoslav laws in exactly the same way as other national state insignia (coat of arms, anthem, flag). Which means that he was not allowed to die, even after his physical body left this world. He was the King, and the King, as we know, never dies.

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Date and Place of Birth

May 24, 1973, Zagreb, Croatia

Education

Ph.D. candidate, Department of History, Central European University, Budapest; ph.d. thesis
“(Dis)Embodied Presences of Josip Broz Tito. Sounds, Voices, Images”

M.A., Department of History, Central European University, Budapest; M.A.: "Politics of Power
versus Politics of Culture, Intellectuals under Communism: Zagreb Philosophy School in the 1950s"

B.A., Department of History, Department of German language and literature, Philosophy Faculty,
University of Zagreb

Work Experience

Managing director (2008 – today), School division, Školska knjiga publishing house Ltd., Zagreb,
Croatia

Teaching associate (2007-2008), Department of History, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia

Lead editor in history (2005 - 2007), Školska knjiga publishing house Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia

Lecturer (2005), Centre for Women's studies, Zagreb, Croatia

Visiting lecturer (2004), Northwestern University, Department of History, Evanston/Chicago, IL, USA

Project Participant (2003 - 2006), Post-Colony and Post-Socialism Contexts in Social Scientific Writing and Teaching ISH based OSI-HESP regional seminar for excellence in teaching project; Institutum Studiorum Humanitatis, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Visiting lecturer (June 2003 – August 2006), Northwestern University Summer School Program, ICCU, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Researcher (May 2003 - April 2004), Osteuropa-Institut, Freie Universität Berlin; "What kind of coming to terms with the past: remembering World War Two in contemporary Croatia"; Project-lead: Prof. Dr. Holm Sundhaussen, FU Berlin

Project coordinator (May 2000 – November 2004), "Historikerprojekt. Kirchen im ehemaligen Jugoslawien"; Project-lead: Prof. Dr. Thomas Bremer (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster)

Associate for "East European Constitutional Review" (May 1998 – September 2001), New York University School of Law & Central European University

Researcher (February – June 1996); "Political Justice in Post-Second World War in Europe"; Project-lead: Prof. Dr. Tony Judt, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna, Austria

Areas of Research Interest

oral history, history of memory (mechanisms and strategies of remembering and forgetting, cultural and communicate memory, texture and practice of social memories)

ethnography and aesthetics of socialism and communism (everyday life, strategies of living and surviving, popular culture)

historical anthropology (society as a spectacle, crisis of representation)

the role of social sciences and humanities in the process of nation-building

Fellowships and Awards

Roman Herzog-Forschungsstipendium, Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung (May 2003 – April 2004), Osteuropa Institut, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Woodrow Wilson Center-CEU Junior Scholar Fellowship (November – December 2001), The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington DC, USA

CEE/fSU Fellowship (September 2000 – 2003), History Department, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

CEE/fSU Fellowship (September 1998 - June 1999), History Department, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Mellon Foundation Fellowship in Humanities (September 1996-February 1997), Remarque Institute for European Studies, New York University, New York, USA

Junior Visiting Fellow (February - June 1996), Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, Austria

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst's Fellowship /DAAD/ (September 1995-January 1996), Hamburg Universität, Germany

Publications

Books

Maja Brkljačić i Sandra Prlenda (ur.) *Povijesno pamćenje od politike do historije* [Historical Remembrance from Politics to History] (Zagreb; Goldenmarketing, 2006)

Maja Brkljačić, Tihomir Ponoš, Dario Špelić, *Povijest 8* [History 8, textbook for the 8th grade of primary school] (Zagreb, 2000)

Drago Roksandić i Maja Brkljačić (ur.), *Alexis de Tocqueville o američkoj povijesti* [Alexis de Tocqueville on American history] (Zagreb, 1998)

Articles

„Tito's Last Battle“, u: *Remembering Utopia. The Culture of Everyday Life in Socialist Yugoslavia*, ed. by Breda Luthar and Marusa Pusnik (New Academia Publishing, Washington, forthcoming)

"Pejnović, Kata (1899-1966)", in: Francisca de Haan, Krassimira Daskalova i Anna Loutfi (ur.), *A Biographical Dictionary of Women's Movements and Feminisms. Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe, 19th and 20th Centuries* (Budapest - New York: Central European Press, 2006), pp. 420-423

"Svinjska glava. Priča o djetinjstvu", in: Ines Prica i Lada Čale Feldman (ur.), *Devijacije i promašaji: etnografija domaćeg socijalizma* (Zagreb, IEF, 2006), pp. 179 – 204

"Pig's head. Stories of Tito's Childhood", in: *Alltag und Ideologim im Realsozialismus, Berliner Osteuropa-Info*, 23/2005, pp. 58 – 69

"Jedan čovjek, dva tijela, jedna država: Titova Jugoslavija", *Treća*, vol. 5, No. 1-2 (2003), pp. 262-275

(mit Holm Sundhaussen) "Wandel der Symbole und symbolischer Wandel. Kroatiens Staatssymbole und 'Erinnerungskulturen' in der Transformation", *Osteuropa* 53, Jahrgang 7/2003, pp. 933-948

"What Past is Present?", *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*, vol. 17. no. 1, Fall 2003, pp. 41 - 52

"Velebit je hrvatski Sinaj. O hrvatskoj katoličkoj imaginaciji", *Reč, časopis za književnost, kulturu i društvena pitanja*, no. 70/16, June 2003, pp. 147-170

"Tito's Bodies in Word and Image", *Croatian Journal of Ethnology and Folklore Research*, 40/1, Zagreb 2003, pp. 99-127

"Communist Ideology and Popular Culture. Folk Epics in Tito's Yugoslavia", in: John Lampe and Mark Mazower (ed.), *Ideologies and National Identities. The Case of Twentieth-Century Southeastern Europe* (Budapest, CEU Press, 2003), pp. 180-210

"*Glas koncila* u predvečerje sloma komunizma. Jedno viđenje hrvatskog nacionalnog pitanja Hrvatske katoličke crkve", in: Thomas Bremer (ur.), *Religija, društvo i politika. Kontrovezna tumačenja i približavanja* (Bonn, 2002), pp. 103 - 116

"Nomen est omen ili Kako je Alojzije Stepinac postao sinonimom za hrvatskog mučenika", in: Thomas Bremer (ur.), *Religija, društvo i politika. Kontrovezna tumačenja i približavanja* (Bonn, 2002), pp. 212 - 227

"Chewing on the Leftover End Bit of Mortadella or Intellectuals in Eastern Europe", in: Anna Wessely (ed.), *Intellectuals and the Politics of the Humanities* (Budapest, 2002), pp. 213 - 227

"The Croatian Catholic Church Imagines the Nation. *Glas koncila* and the Croatian National Question, 1985-1990", *Balkanologie*, Vol. V, No. 1 & 2, Decembre 2001, pp. 7 - 19

"Intellectuals in Eastern Europe: Between Autonomy and Political Power", in: Martina Winkler and Andreas Westerwinter (Hrsg.), *Wortende? Intellektuelle im 21. Jahrhundert* (Leipzig, 2001), pp. 105-121

"A Case of a Very Difficult Transition. The Ritual of the Funeral of Josip Broz Tito", *Limen*, vol. 2001, no. 1, http://limen.mi2.hr/limen1-2001/maja_brkljacic.html

Constitution Watch - Update on Croatia, *East European Constitutional Review* (EECR), from Vol. 7, No. 2, Spring 1998 till Vol. 9, No. 1, Winter 2001

"Thomas Jefferson i Alexis de Tocqueville o položaju i ulozi žena u američkom društvu", in: D. Roksandić and M. Brkljačić (ur.), *Alexis de Tocqueville o američkoj povijesti* (Zagreb, 1998), pp. 132-148

"After the War Was Over: Reconstructing the University of Zagreb, 1945-1946", in: *Justice and Transition*, ed. by B. Gilbert and L. King (Vienna, 1997), pp. 45-68

Languages

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| Croatian | native |
| English | fluent |
| German | fluent |
| French | reading |