

In collaboration with  
the Science and  
Research Centre



## About Borut Klabjan

Borut Klabjan is a Principal Research Fellow at the Science and Research Centre in Koper and Associate Professor in the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. His research specialties include the political and social history of Central and Southeast Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. He is currently the Principal Investigator for the ERC Advanced Grant "Cold War Europe Beyond Borders. A transnational history of cross-border practices in the Alps-Adriatic area from World War II to the present." He has been a Humboldt Fellow at Humboldt University in Berlin, Visiting Fellow at the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg, and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence. He publishes in nine languages and is co-editor and author of five multi-lingual volumes. His latest edited volume *Borderlands of Memory. Adriatic and Central European Perspectives* was published by Peter Lang Oxford in the Cultural Memories series. His latest book *Ogenj ki je zajel Evropo. Narodni dom v Trstu 1920-2020* (Slovenian, *tr.*: The fire that embraced Europe. The story of the Narodni dom in Trieste 1920-2020), published in Italian as *Battesimo di Fuoco. L'incendio del Narodni dom di Trieste e l'Europa adriatica nel XX secolo*, is part of the on-going "Continuity and change in the northern Adriatic, 1914-1924: local and global dimensions" project with financial support of the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS).

Visit by

# BORUT KLABJAN

6-8 September 2023

Hosted by the Department of History

In Collaboration with AAAD and the Italian Studies Program

— Faculty Workshop/Discussion —

*Nation, Memory and War Commemoration  
in Twentieth Century Europe: the Adriatic  
Transnational\* experience*

Moody Conference Room -- Moody Hall 113

September 7, 2023 | 4:00-5:30

Refreshments will be served.

RSVP/Contact Peggy Smith (smith2pj@jmu.edu) for pre-circulated readings of  
Dr. Klabjan's work (available 1 September)

\*includes aspects of racial conceptions in the European context of East versus West, and Italian/Germanic versus Slav

### About the ERC Advanced Grant Project:

#### **Cold War Europe Beyond Borders - A Transnational History of Cross-Border Practices in the Alps-Adriatic Area**

The project aims at rethinking Cold War Europe by examining the development of transnational cross-border cooperation between "East" and "West". Overcoming traditional visions of a clear-cut European separation symbolized by the Berlin Wall, the research plan follows a decentralized analysis of recent European history. Adapting the fortunate terms "Provincializing Europe" by Dipesh Chakrabarty and "Provincializing European Union" by Kiran Klaus Patel to the European Cold War period, I will try at "Provincializing Berlin" to rethink the recent European history from the margins. To do this, the project focuses on the Alps-Adriatic region, a historical area that is now shared by Austria, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. During the Cold War it was divided among socialist but non-aligned Yugoslavia, capitalist but neutral Austria, and NATO and EEC member Italy, and it developed from the "southern end" of the Iron Curtain in 1946 to the "most open border" during the Cold War and a precursor to present-day Schengen Europe.

An important part of the project addresses the interplay between top-down politics and bottom-up initiatives in cross-border cooperation during the Cold War. In which forms did everyday cross-border interactions take place? How did everyday life by the border relate to the official policy? What kind of effect did the reality of these areas have on the inhabitants: who interacted with which expectations? What are the methods used in cross-border cooperation?