

## OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATIONS – COMPARATIVE DIASPORAS

5 May, 16:15

### THE 'WORST EMIGRATION': PERSPECTIVES ON CROATIAN DIASPORAS

**Prof. dr. Ivo Banac – Yale University**

This presentation will analyze the history of Croatian diasporas (political and economic) after 1945. After all, the Yugoslav Communist revolution contributed to a wave of migrations that in the 1940s included compromised collaborators, persecuted oppositionists of various hues, and even Communist dissidents. These gave way, in the 1950s, to a mass of young exiles, disenchanted with the seemingly changeless dictatorship. During the economic crisis of the 1960s the regime itself promoted 'guest workers,' especially to Western Europe, and then tolerated the exodus of political reformers after the purge of the reform movement in 1971. In the meanwhile, the emigration became a serious challenge to the regime – i.e. the locus of anti-regime organizational and ideological ferment – and ultimately the source of anti-regime insurgency (see the Bugojno affair in 1972). The interpenetration and interdependence of the regime security services and the emigration is one of the keys to the failed Croatian transition in 1990. Today, this problem is still lively in Croatian politics.

**Ivo Banac** is Bradford Durfee Emeritus Professor of History at Yale University and Professor of History at the University of Zagreb. From 1995 to 1999 he was the University Professor of History at the Central European University at Budapest, where he also directed the OSI/CEU Institute on Southeastern Europe. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University, and is the author of *The National Question in Yugoslavia: Origins, History, Politics* (1984), which was awarded the Wayne S. Vucinich Prize of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, and *With Stalin against Tito: Cominformist Splits in Yugoslav Communism* (1988), which was awarded the Josip Juraj Strossmayer Award by the Zagreb Book Fair, as well as numerous additional reviews, articles, and collections. He served as the co-chair of the Open Society Institute (Croatia) and as the Director General of the Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik. He was also the minister of environmental protection and urban planning in the national government of Croatia (2003), a member of the Croatian parliament (Sabor) (2003-2007), and the president of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (2007-2009). He is a corresponding member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (HAZU), the president of the advisory council of the "Vlado Gotovac" Institute in Zagreb, and the past and current editor of *East European Politics and Societies*.

5 May, 17:00

### THE END OF LITERARY EXILE: CZESLAW MIŁOSZ AND JOSEPH BRODSKY

**Prof. dr. Irena Grudzinska-Gross – Princeton University**

There is a special category of exiles – writers. Or rather, there was such a category until recently. With the implosion of the iron curtain, the whole concept of writer-in-exile became outdated. The idea of exile itself, however, constitutes an integral part of East-Central European poetic landscapes. One can see more clearly now that the immersion in the history of their countries allowed these poets, even in post-exile, to feel a sense of nostalgia for their lost cities (here: Vilnius and St. Petersburg) and lost countries. This nostalgia is common to poets who lived through exile and those who did not. It even pertains to poets thirty years younger than Brodsky (i.e. Tomasz Rozycki). However, the mental image of these lost cities changes with the end of exile. Miłosz (b. 1911) became interested in Jewish Vilnius, Brodsky (b. 1940) transmuted St. Petersburg into Venice. This presentation will therefore attempt to prove that post-exile is a real problem for poets.

**Irena Grudzinska-Gross** teaches at Princeton University in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. She is working on modern European intellectual history and literature, especially in relation to the formation of Eastern European nation-states and their cultures. In 2009, Yale University Press published her book *Czesław Miłosz and Joseph Brodsky: The Fellowship of Poets*. In March 2011 her book *Golden Harvest* (with Jan T. Gross) was published in Poland. Its English language version will appear in the fall. In the years 2003-2008, she directed the Institute of Human Sciences at Boston University, where she was also teaching comparative literature. Between 1996-2002 she served as the Ford Foundation's program director for East-Central Europe.

5 May, 17:45

### XENITEIA: THE GREEK DIASPORA IN MODERN TIMES

**Prof. dr. Richard Clogg – Oxford University**

*Xeniteia* is the Greek expression for sojourning in foreign parts, with overtones of nostalgia for the abandoned homeland. Emigration, especially, has been an important part of the historical experience of the Greek people in modern times. This presentation will therefore focus on the emergence in the eighteenth century of the modern Greek diaspora; migratory patterns that developed in the nineteenth century, e.g. to Egypt; and, in particular on the great migration, principally to the United States, that occurred between

1890 and 1912. In the twentieth century the last significant migratory wave occurred in the 1950s and 1960s, principally to Australia, Canada and western Europe. Consideration will also be given to emigration from *I kath'imas Anatoli*, the large Greek presence in the Near and Middle East outwith the bounds of the Greek state. Indeed, historically Greece has been a country that has tended to export people rather than products. In recent years, this pattern has been reversed and Greece has become a country of immigration. The current economic crisis, however, will doubtless lead to a resumption of emigration on a significant scale.

**Richard Clogg** is an Emeritus Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford. Before moving to Oxford he was Professor of Modern Balkan History at the University of London. He has written widely on various aspects of the modern history of Greece. His *Concise History of Greece* (2nd edition, 2002) has been translated into a number of languages, including all the major languages of the Balkans. Other works include *Politics and the Academy: Arnold Toynbee and the Koraeas Chair* (1986). He is currently working on a history of the Greek world which will seek to integrate the history of the Greek state with that of the Greek East and of the Greek diaspora.

5 May, 20:00

### **MOTHER COUNTRIES AND DIASPORAS: POLITICAL AND CULTURAL INTERACTIONS IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

**Prof. dr. Shlomo Avineri – Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

This presentation intends to look into the links between various diasporas and their 'mother countries,' as well as how the construction of diasporic identities has created novel dimensions within the cultural and political spheres. The way diasporas have also helped politically and economically their mother countries - by creating lobbies as well as financial investments - will equally be discussed. Of similar interest will be the question to what degree diasporas have sometimes been more radical and more nationalistic than their mother countries. The lecture therefore ultimately aims at gaining insights into the differences as well as the common denominators revealed in the conditions, manifestations, and consequences of various diasporic situations in view of a better understanding of the phenomenon in scientific, educational, and political terms.

**Shlomo Avineri** is Professor of Political Science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a former Director of the University's Institute for European Studies. He served as Director-General of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the first government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. He held visiting appointments at Yale, Cornell, the University of California, Cardozo School of Law, Oxford and Northwestern University, and has been a Fellow at the Brookings Institution and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Since 2002, he has been recurring Visiting Professor at the Central European University in Budapest. His books include studies on Marx, Hegel, socialist thought, nationalism and Zionism. In 1996 he received the Israel Prize, the country's highest civilian decoration.