

25.01.23, 16.15 Uhr - 18:45 Uhr, Hörsaal H51 & Zoom

Nela Erdeljac
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**"To Connect One's Own National Culture and the World at Large
Through Music: The Violinist Zlatko Balokovic, the United States, and
Two Yugoslavias"**

Nela Erdeljac holds an MA in History and English Language and Literature and is a PhD candidate at the History Department at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, Croatia where she is currently finishing her doctoral dissertation on "jazz diplomacy" between Yugoslavia and the United States in the post-World War II era. Her primary research interest centers around cultural diplomacy, more specifically music diplomacy, but she has also ventured into the study of the connection between music and violence. She is currently employed as a Lecturer at Karlovac University of Applied Sciences and has presented portions of her research at several international conferences.

This presentation centers and is concerned with illuminating a rather under-researched aspect of the life and work of Croatian violinist Zlatko Baloković, his cultural diplomatic activities through which he attempted to further the connection between the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the United States. From the standpoint of scholarship on cultural diplomacy, both Zlatko Baloković as an actor on the international scene and his efforts to connect the aforementioned countries allow us to observe the work of a "cultural ambassador" who saw himself and acted as a representative of all three of the aforementioned countries. This presentation centers its analysis on the public discourse that surrounded the musician in the American and Yugoslav context, the public performances of Zlatko Baloković which allow us to analyze specific messages he disseminated to the audience in the three countries and his personal deliberations on the role he was to play in the relationship between the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the United States. This presentation demonstrates that Zlatko Baloković was an individual that self-consciously inserted himself into the Yugoslav-American relationship equation by positioning himself as a cultural diplomatic agent in the service of both the United States and the two Yugoslavias.

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