The ubiquitous Partisan Narrative served Yugoslavia well in its post World War II nation building and the re-education of its newly united people. While its role as founding myth and its retrospective deconstruction received significant academic attention since the break-up of Yugoslavia, less efforts have been made to explore the consistency of the Partisan Narrative, its – still ongoing – transformation processes and transitions into popular (visual) culture(s). This workshop will focus on the Partisan Narrative, its imagery, staging and its decades-long success in different arts in order to understand the present afterlife of the partisan: In Post-Yugoslavia as well as in global contexts the figure of the partisan and Partisan Rhetoric, with its specific strategies and inherently polemic style, have continuously served a number of dissenting discourses – from yugosphere to anti-globalization activism. According to Michel Foucault: "Polemics defines alliances, recruits partisans, unites interests or opinions, represents a party; it establishes the other as an enemy, an upholder of opposed interests against which one must fight until the moment this enemy is defeated and either surrenders or disappears." In that respect, partisanship asserts the alleged will of an avant-garde inaugurated by it and oscillates between polemic articulations of dissent and (new) notions of totality undoing postmodernist dissemination.

The workshop looks into the hybrid nature of partisans in (Post-)Yugoslavia – and beyond. What does partisanship actually mean within different Yugoslav periods? How is it narrated, staged, and visualized, and what are the recurring patterns? Which elements become part of the manifold partisan revival phenomena? Is there something like a conscious and unconscious afterlife of the partisan in art?
PARTISANS. NARRATIVE, STAGING AND AFTERLIFE
A Workshop on Partisan Rhetoric and Visual Culture in and beyond Yugoslavia

Thursday, July 7th
arrival and welcome
19:00
film screening
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Unter den Linden 6
main building
room 2103, 1st floor

10:00
Miranda Jakiša
On Partisans and Partisanship – opening remarks

10:30-12:45
Barbara Wurm/Tatjana Simeunović (Basel)
Pyrev, Ėrmler, Room, Afrič - The (Soviet) Beginnings of (Yugoslav) Partisan Film

Nikica Gilić (Zagreb)
Narrative and Genre Influences of the International Classical Cinema in the Partisan Films of Živorad Mitrović and Stipe Delić

Peter Stankovič (Ljubljana)
Yugoslavian Partisan Film as a Film Genre (at all)?

lunch break

14:30-16:00
Tanja Zimmermann (Konstanz)
Yugoslav Partisan Poetry. Songs for the Leader

Stijn Verlaet (Gent)
From Memoir to Fiction - (Early) Partisan Narratives Revisited

coffee break

16:30-18:00
Gal Kirn (Ljubljana/Berlin)
Partisan Films: A Parallax View on Black and Red Wave

Zoran Terzić (Berlin)
The Partisan as an Artist, the Artist as a Partisan? On the Relationship between Artistic Autonomy and Workers’ Self Management

19:30
dinner at Collegium Hungaricum (Dorotheenstr.12)

Friday, July 8th
10-11:30
Tanja Petrović (Ljubljana/Berlin)
A Photo with Memory: Staging JNA Soldier Identity in Studio Portraits

Natascha Vittorelli (Wien)
With or Without Gun. Staging Female Partisans in Socialist Yugoslavia

coffee break

12:00-13:30
Heike Karge (Regensburg)
Aesthetics of Remembrance or: What’s a Monument to the National Liberation War?

Matteo Colombi (Leipzig)
Trenutki odločitve (Moments of Decision): A Slovene 50s and 80s Partisan Story

lunch break

15:00-17:30
Mirt Komel (Ljubljana)
“Trst is Ours”: Post-Socialist Slovenian Partisan Cinema

Mitja Velikonja (Ljubljana)
Rock ‘n’ Retro – Partisan and Socialist Motives in Contemporary Slovenian Music

Final Discussion & Closing Remarks