



THE INSTITUTE FOR
RECENT HISTORY
OF SERBIA

CALL FOR CHAPTERS

YUGOSLAV WOMEN HISTORIANS: GENDER, KNOWLEDGE, AND PROFESSION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Type: Edited Volume

Language: English

Publisher: Institute for Recent History of Serbia

Editors: Dr. Nataša Milićević, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Recent History of Serbia
Prof. Dr. Michael Antolović, Faculty of Education in Sombor, University of Novi Sad

Editorial board: Vladan Jovanović (Institute for Recent History of Serbia, Serbia)
Branimir Janković (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb, Croatia)
Cristophe Araújo (University of Paris – Nanterre, France)
Stefan Berger (Ruhr University Bochum, Germany)
Dunja Dobaja (Inštitut za novejšo zgodovino, Slovenia)
Dragomir Bondžić (Institute for Contemporary History, Serbia)
Ivana Dobrivojević Tomić (Institute for Contemporary History, Serbia)
Aleksandra Vuletić (Institute of History, Serbia)
Olga Pelcer Vujačić (Institute of History, University of Montenegro, Montenegro)
Sonja Dujmović (Institute of History – University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Sanja Petrović Todosijević (Institute for Recent History of Serbia, Serbia)
Editorial Secretary: Ognjen Tomić (Institute for Recent History of Serbia)

Contact: jugoslovenske.istoricarke@yahoo.com

Timeline:

- October 15, 2026: Abstract submission deadline
- June 30, 2027: Full chapter submission deadline
- December 2027: Anticipated publication of the volume

We invite scholars to contribute chapters to the edited volume *Yugoslav Women Historians: Gender, Knowledge, and Profession in the Twentieth Century*, dedicated to the still insufficiently explored history of women in the historical profession across the Yugoslav region.

Over the past four decades, women's history and subsequently gender history have developed into exceptionally productive fields of research within the major Western historiographical traditions and have soon become part of the mainstream of contemporary global historiography. In contrast to these broader trends in historical scholarship, topics such as women, gender, and sexuality remained largely marginal within Serbian historiography, as well as within the historiographies of the countries that emerged after the dissolution of Yugoslavia, until quite recently. Despite significant advances achieved over the last two decades, substantial gaps persist in our knowledge of many dimensions of women's and gender history.

One such gap concerns the history of women in the historical profession, not only within Serbian historiography but also within the broader Yugoslav cultural sphere. Like many other scholarly professions, the profession of historian was, from the time of the scientization (*Verwissenschaftlichung*) and professionalization of the discipline in the second half of the nineteenth century, a distinctly male profession. This was not a Balkan peculiarity but rather part of a broader European trend: among the leading European historians of the period, women were virtually absent. Likewise, among the prominent representatives of Serbian historiography from the time of Ilarion Ruvarac onward, there were no women historians. Even the majority of history teachers in primary and secondary schools were men. Similar patterns could be observed throughout the Yugoslav region.

Exceptions to this dominant trend can be found in the biographies of three women: Milica Bogdanović, Julka Hlapec Đorđević, and Danica Pinterović. They obtained doctoral degrees in history before the Second World War and may be regarded as the “first generation” of women in historical profession who, through their work as educators and mentors, contributed to the development of the discipline and paved the way for other women. The first two earned their doctorates in the early twentieth century within the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, while the third was the only holder of a doctorate in historical sciences in Serbia during the interwar period. Besides her, only four other women obtained doctoral degrees during that period, albeit in different academic fields.

Only the transformations in women's emancipation brought about by the Second World War and the socialist revolution enabled the mass enrollment of women in higher education, which gradually altered the gender composition of the historical profession. During the second half of the twentieth century, women historians became increasingly established within Yugoslav historiography, both at universities and at newly founded specialized research institutes. This process of what may be termed the “demasculinization” of the historical profession began in the

1960s, alongside the emergence of a new postwar generation, and unfolded at varying rates. Although the doors of the profession had begun to open to women historians as early as the mid-1950s, they gained a more substantial presence only during the final three decades of the twentieth century. This was also the period during which some of the most prominent Yugoslav and Serbian women historians achieved professional recognition.

Given the long-standing lack of interest in the history of Yugoslav and Serbian historiography—a field that remains among the most neglected areas of historical research—it is hardly surprising that its gender dimension has thus far largely escaped scholarly attention. In light of this fact, the aim of this volume is to reconstruct the still unwritten history of women in historical profession in Yugoslavia and to critically reassess their contribution to the development of historiography, particularly during the second half of the twentieth century.

Special attention will be devoted to questions concerning the social backgrounds and intellectual biographies of women historians, as well as the forms of cultural capital they brought into the discipline. We also seek to examine how women historians in Yugoslavia challenged and transformed traditional gender hierarchies within a profession historically dominated by men. Did they encounter resistance, and if so, how did they overcome it? Equally important are questions related to women historians and feminist epistemology: what epistemic virtues did women historians introduce into the historical profession? Were they compelled to adapt to prevailing gender norms in ways that shaped the epistemological limitations of their scholarly work, including forms of epistemic violence or epistemic injustice? Finally, as they established their place within Yugoslav and Serbian historiography, were women historians able to introduce a distinctive “female perspective” into historical scholarship through their choice of research topics and interpretive approaches?

Focused on issues such as cultural capital, habitus, and the epistemic virtues of Yugoslav women historians, this project is not methodologically limited to biographical reconstruction, although biography remains an important component. We particularly encourage comparative historical approaches situated within Serbian, Yugoslav, and broader European contexts. Such approaches may include comparisons between two or more women historians, their career trajectories, their interpretations of specific historical questions, or their political engagements and the ways these influenced their scholarly work.

Attention should also be paid to women who were not formally trained as historians but who mastered historical methodology and successfully contributed to historical research on particular topics. Conversely, important examples include women such as Julka Hlapec Đorđević, who earned doctorates in history but made significant contributions to the development of themes in other scholarly fields. We also welcome critical reflections on concepts such as the “demasculation” and “feminization” of the historical profession and their broader scholarly, social, and cultural implications.

We particularly encourage submissions that employ biographical, prosopographical, comparative, and interdisciplinary approaches and that contribute to a broader understanding of historiography from a gender perspective.

We welcome contributions addressing, but not limited to, the following themes:

- intellectual biographies and professional trajectories of women historians;
- social and educational conditions that enabled women’s entry into the historical profession, as well as their specific social and cultural capital;
- institutional barriers and professionalization;
- gender relations within academia and scholarly institutions;
- research interests, methodologies, and scholarly contributions of women historians;
- women historians and feminist epistemology;
- distinctive characteristics of the scholarly persona of prominent women historians;
- the “feminization” and “demasculinization” of the historical profession;
- women who, although not formally trained as historians, made significant contributions to historical research and historical culture;
- women historians and knowledge-producing institutions;
- comparative perspectives within Yugoslav, European, and global contexts;
- women historians in transnational scholarly networks;
- historiography, memory, and public engagement.

We look forward to receiving your proposals and to collaborating on this collective effort to advance the study of gender, knowledge production, and historiography in the Yugoslav region.

The following edited volumes may serve as useful models for prospective contributors:

Burguière, André and Bernard Vincent (dirs.), *Un siècle d'historiennes* (Paris: Éditions des Femmes–Antoinette Fouque, 2014).

Sales, Véronique (dir.), *Les historiens* (Paris: Armand Colin, 2003).

Sal, Veronik (prir.), *Istoričari* (Belgrade: Clio, 2008) [Serbian edition].

Daileader, Philip and Philip Whalen (eds.), *French Historians 1900–2000: New Historical Writing in Twentieth-Century France* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).

Sabrow, Martin, Jürgen Danyel, and Jan-Holger Kirsch (eds.), *50 Klassiker der Zeitgeschichte* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2007).

Important Dates:

Abstract submission deadline: October 15, 2026

Notification of acceptance: October 31, 2026

Full chapter submission deadline: June 30, 2027

Submission Procedure

Abstracts (300–500 words), accompanied by a title, should be submitted by October 15, 2026. Full chapters should be submitted by June 30, 2027. Chapters should not exceed 50,000 characters (including spaces). Contributors should follow the citation style prescribed by *Tokovi istorije / Currents of History*. [Information for authors | Currents of History](#) Detailed author guidelines are available on the journal's website. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission no later than October 31, 2026.

Contact: Submissions and inquiries should be sent to: jugoslovenske.istoricarke@yahoo.com