



Memory and Popular Culture

19 May 2026

Sala Marino Berengo, Ca' Foscari, Dorsoduro 3246 - Venice

The seminar aims to explore the mnemonic impact of popular culture, with a particular focus on media such as video games, magazines and popular music. One of the objectives is to examine the processes of reinterpretation, adaptation and hybridisation of popular themes and languages during the post-socialist era. The speakers, from the University of Ljubljana, will examine aesthetic and mnemonic strategies using examples derived from the post-Yugoslav space, with the broader aim of studying how the cultural products under consideration are not so much the passive result of hegemonic memories, but rather actors in a participatory mnemonic process that shapes collective memories through significant contributions 'from below'. The presentations will be accompanied by musical examples and visual material.

14.00 **Welcome Remarks**
Francesca Santulli (Director of DSLCC)

14.05 **Opening Remarks**
Stefano Petrunaro (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

14.10 **Mitja Velikonja** (Università di Lubiana, Visiting Scholar Ca' Foscari University of Venice), *Cultural Studies in Slovenia - A Short Overview*

14.20 **Natalija Majsova** (Università di Lubiana), *(Re-)Playing Yugoslavia: Memory Mediation in Independent Video Games*; inputs by **Chiara Bonfiglioli** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

15.00 **Aljoša Pužar** (Università di Lubiana), *Melodramatic Structures of Feeling and Mass Bereavements of Celebrity Folk Heroes*; inputs by **Stefano Petrunaro** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

15.40 coffee break

16.10 **Jernej Kaluža** (Università di Lubiana), *Money Over Love: Balkan Trap and the Glocalisation of Everyday Neoliberalism*; inputs by **Matteo Benussi** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

16.50 **Future perspective for research about memory and popular culture**