

Non-Alignment on the Move

27-28 June 2022, The City Museum of Rijeka (Palaca secera, Kresimirova 28)
Rijeka, Croatia

This two-day international symposium funded by Southampton University's Institute of Arts and Humanities seeks to reposition scholarly debates around the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) by asking: to what extent did the movement and its discursive field entail a decolonial understanding of race and generate a concept of non-Imperial European whiteness? The Yugoslav foreign policy between 1960s and 1980s arguably brought into being new understandings of global conviviality, as well as cultural and artistic practice and the practice of everyday life. Tito's public interactions with political leaders from the Global South and NAM's emphasis on revolutionary solidarity had the potential to destabilise the racialised implications of the world political order of its day. How successful was it? The 'move' in the symposium title refers to a broadening of research remit. The symposium brings together scholars working across the disciplines of literary/cultural studies, art history, sociology, history, and international relations. Together, we will approach Cold War political and cultural actors comparatively, drawing on a range of archives and working with a variety of exploratory and/or heuristic methodological angles. We will consider explicit discursive articulations, as well as the ambivalences, omissions, dislocations and silences via which NAM's intervention into the global hierarchies of race may be discerned. This symposium is an initial, exploratory step towards teasing out NAM's emancipatory race-related legacies that deserve to be rearticulated and elaborated in the present historical moment. We will also consider the feasibility of a more ambitious collective research project related to NAM and race, to be initiated in the near to mid-term future.

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Programme

Monday 27 June

9:00 – 9:30: Workshop welcome: Kristina Pandza (The City Museum of Rijeka), Ranka Primorac (The University of Southampton), and Tvrtko Jakovina (The University of Zagreb)

9:30 – 10:30 Paul Stubbs (The Institute of Economics, Zagreb): Ambivalent Circuits of Decolonial Affinity: Socialist Yugoslavia, the Global South and the Non-Aligned Movement

Chair: Tvrtko Jakovina

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 11: 45 Ljiljana Kolesnik (The Institute of Art History, Zagreb): The position of culture in the politics of Non-alignment and the requests for "common [horizontal] cultural action"

Chair: Ranka Primorac

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 A visit to the ship Galeb [offline]

Tuesday 28 June

9:00 – 10:00 – Kristina Pandza (The City Museum of Rijeka): The Galeb Collection

10:00 – 11:15 – Panel 1. Chair: Paul Stubbs

Tvrtko Jakovina (The University of Zagreb): The Symbolic Functions of Galeb – Tito's Floating Residence

Chris Prior (The University of Southampton): 'An enemy to none': Non-alignment in colonial and postcolonial Anglophone Africa

11:15 – 11:30 – Break

11:30 – 12:45 – Panel 2: Chair: Niksa Minic

Priti Mishra (The University of Southampton): 'Asia for Asians': Race and Non-Alignment in Nehruvian Discourse

Stephen Morton (The University of Southampton): Césaire, Peripheral Modernism and Non-Alignment [online]

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:45 – 16:00 – Panel 3: Chair: Chris Prior

Marina Protrka Stimec (The University of Zagreb): Ethnicity and Class as a Question of Race: Othering and Exoticisation in Vladan Desnica's Morlachia

Ranka Primorac (The University of Southampton): Dubravka and Amos, or reading Africa from the Balkans in the age of Non-Alignment

16:00 – 16:15 Break

16:15 – 17:00 – Round table (all participants): a future collaboration?