



# **11th Deaf History International Conference**

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August 7 - 13, 2022

Ljubljana, Slovenia - Zagreb, Croatia

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Deaf People in the Shadow of the Breaks  
and Ruptures of the 20th Century: 1917-2000



11th DEAF HISTORY INTERNATIONAL Conference , August 7-13, 2022

## Conference Organising Committee:



Društvo Učiteljev Gluhih Slovenije  
Association of Deaf Teachers in Slovenia



Udruga "Kazalište, audiovizualne umjetnosti i kultura Gluhih – DLAN"  
Association "Theater, Audiovisual Arts and Culture of the Deaf – DLAN"



Deaf History International

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The presenters are responsible for the content of their abstracts and biographies.

Sincere thanks to all our volunteers who contributed their time and effort to organize and host the 11th DHI Conference.

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**11th Deaf History International Conference [Elektronski vir] : Deaf people in the shadow of the breaks and ruptures of the 20th century : 1917-2000 : August 7 -13, 2022, Ljubljana, Slovenia, Zagreb, Croatia**

*Deaf History International Conference (11 ; 2022 ; Ljubljana, Zagreb)*

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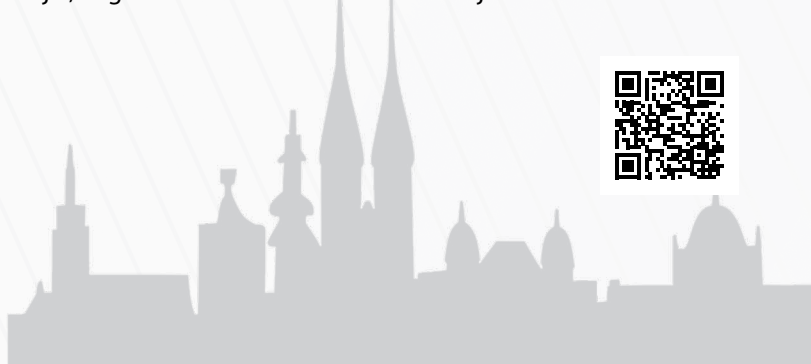
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***Častni pokrovitelj  
11. mednarodne konference Deaf History International  
je predsednik Republike Slovenije Borut Pahor.***

***The honorary patron  
of the 11th Deaf History International conference  
is the President of the Republic of Slovenia Borut Pahor.***





Dear Conference participants,

Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> Deaf History International Conference! As we gather in beautiful Ljubljana and Zagreb, we are here because of our deep appreciation for Deaf history and the value that it holds for all of us. Slovenia and Croatia gained independence in 1991. They have done marvellous work in expanding the documentation and preservation of the history of Deaf people in their respective countries as their presentations will demonstrate this week.

The conference theme “Deaf People in the Shadow of the Breaks and Ruptures of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: 1917-2000” explores the lives of Deaf people under communist governments and the historical impact of these political systems on Deaf peoples. All of this is even more relevant as we are witnessing Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 and the intentional destruction of Ukraine over the past several months. The war has impacted a school for Deaf students in Ukraine and Deaf Ukrainians have evacuated to neighbouring countries.

As we discuss and learn from the history of Deaf people in communist nations and in other parts of the world, we learn about agency in Deaf history. In particular, what were the processes and mechanisms that Deaf people employed to gain autonomy and self-determination? What were the Deaf spaces created out of necessity? By documenting the lived experiences of Deaf people staking out agency in the various regions throughout the world, we can gain a more comprehensive understanding of common values that Deaf people hold.

I wish to extend my deep appreciation to the Conference co-chairs Petra Rezar and Angel Naumvoski. Lino Ujčić and Tanja Potočnik Hönigsman have been wonderful to work with, their organizing work in support of Petra and Angel has been critical, and their passion shines here. Collectively, they understand the critical need and significance in documenting Deaf stories in Slovenia and Croatia. Assembling and running a conference program is no small feat, and requires many hours of careful attention. Petra and Angel’s vision are what made it possible for this conference to happen. The four of them are to be commended for their outstanding work and their Organizing Committee has put together a stellar program which I believe you will enjoy. Their work is a labour of love, and the Organizing Committee has been working long hours to bring their vision to fruition.

On behalf of the DHI Bureau, we thank you for your support and participation in this conference. We hope that you will enjoy the presentations, tours, and networking, and that this conference gives you great pleasure in learning more about who we are as Deaf people.

Historically yours,  
Brian H. Greenwald, PhD  
President, Deaf History International  
Advisor, DHI 2022 Organizing Committee



Pozdravljeni! Greetings!

Finally! We are here in Ljubljana and Zagreb!

It has been a long and unexpected road to get here, one year later than anticipated, to the 11<sup>th</sup> Deaf History International conference. This is the first DHI conference in an Eastern European country. The conference promises to teach us much about Deaf peoples' experiences in former and current communist countries, while honoring and preserving Deaf lives and memories in this important crossroads between East and West. Just as important, this conference demonstrates Deaf Slovenians and Croatians' successful leadership abilities and the importance of having Deaf-centric signing spaces to the hearing communities in Slovenia and Croatia.

The DHI Bureau and the DHI 2022 Organizing and Scientific Committees are all thrilled to see you here participating in the conference, whether you are in person or on Zoom. We look forward to a wonderful conference full of learning, exchanging, and networking.

I especially want to thank conference co-chairs Petra Rezar and Angel Naumovski. They have demonstrated great leadership and an outstanding work ethic in planning this conference. They overcame pandemic-created and personal challenges. They did not give up hope. They were always positive. They kept moving forward. Since the first moment that they said 'YES' to hosting the conference, they worked quickly and proactively collaborated with DHI and the Organizing Committee to overcome every challenge.

Petra and Angel did not hesitate to make the conference hybrid, adding the Zoom option, even if it meant extra work. They knew a hybrid conference would open up more possibilities for participation and benefit more Deaf community members, especially under the current world-wide circumstances. Hvala, Petra and Angel.

Petra and Angel could not have done their outstanding job without their 'right-hands', Tanja Potočnik Hönigsman and Lino Ujčić. Tanja served as the Organizing and Scientific Committees' secretary and masterfully managed communications with numerous individuals connected with the conference. Her eye for detail during meetings was also valuable. Lino's skill in constructing the DHI 2022 conference website, logo, poster, and program PDF and a smooth online registration interface demonstrated his considerable artistic and webmaster talents. Both contributed many hours of their own time in support of Petra, Angel, and the conference. Hvala, Tanja and Lino.

Others I worked with include Arunas Bražinskas, Damjan Šebjan, Damjan 'Damy' Slapnik, Dr. Matjaž Debevc, and Cynthia Benoit. Arunas, one of the lead conference interpreting coordinators, coordinated interpreting coverage for the scientific program and shared important considerations and his excellent Deaf network in support of the conference. Damjan and Damy quickly and willingly took on the important responsibility of organizing the Zoom portion of the conference and ensuring technical requirements were satisfied. Matjaž and Cynthia provided important insights to the Organizing Committee regarding various online platform options. Ačiū, hvala, and merci to you all, Arunas, Damjan, Damy, Matjaž, and Cynthia.

I want to extend a great thank you to the conference's Honorary Patron, Mr. Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia, for your support. The major conference sponsors deserve recognition and thanks for their vital backing of DHI 2022:

- Društvo Učiteljev Gluhih Slovenije (Association of Deaf Teachers in Slovenia)
- Udruga "Kazalište, audiovizualne umjetnosti i kultura Gluhih – DLAN"  
(Association "Theater, Audiovisual Arts and Culture of the Deaf – DLAN")
- Fakulteta za elektrotehniko, Univerza v Ljubljani  
(Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Ljubljana)
- Filozofski fakultet, Sveučilište u Zagrebu  
(Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb)
- Slovenia Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
- The City of Ljubljana
- The City of Zagreb's Office for Culture, International Relations and Civil Society
- Slovenski Solski Muzej (Slovenian School Museum)
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ljubljana
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Zagreb
- Zavod za Gluhe in Naglušne Ljubljana (School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana)
- Generali zavarovalnica d.d.
- The Drs. John S. and Betty J. Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center, Gallaudet University
- The Department of Deaf Studies at California State University, Northridge

Similarly, thanks and appreciation go to the various government and city agencies, embassies, businesses and supporting sponsors providing invaluable support and resources to DHI 2022.

I want to thank Dr. Marjetka Kulovec, Ružica Kežman, Dorijana Kavčić, Bernard le Maire, and Petra, my fellow Scientific Committee members. We worked so well together and with great humor, patience, and collegiality in organizing the Call for Proposals, screening the various proposals, and assembling the conference's scientific program. Each of you shared valuable insights during this process. It was a great pleasure and a lot of fun working with you all. Hvala and merci, to you all, Marjetka, Ružica, Dorijana, Bernard, and Petra.

One of DHI's (and the Deaf community's) greatest and enduring strengths is to create vital international Deaf, signing spaces by, for, and about Deaf people, from which everyone can learn from and grow further in our understanding of humanity. This is only possible through local and international members of the Deaf community coming together in united purpose and gladly volunteering their time and talents.

The above individuals and supporters are the latest examples of this wonderful collaboration. It is essential that they are spotlighted to serve as models and inspiration, not only for forthcoming DHI conferences but also for future Deaf generations. Thus, during this conference, DHI will mark its belated 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with recognition of previous DHI leaders and Deaf History scholars of the past while celebrating the present.

Lastly, hvala and thanks to you, the Deaf community, DHI members, and conference participants for your participation and support—without you, there is no DHI or conference.

I wish you a wonderful and enriching conference experience. Now, let's begin the conference and this joyful time of meeting, learning, and mingling!

Warm regards,  
Jordan Eickman, PhD  
Secretary-Treasurer, Deaf History International  
Vice Chair, DHI 2022 Scientific Committee  
Advisor, DHI 2022 Organizing Committee



## Konferenci na pot

Društvo učiteljev gluhih Slovenije je pred dvema letoma Ministrstvo za izobraževanje, znanost in šport obvestilo o organizaciji konference in posredovalo pobudo, da le-to podpre izvedbo mednarodne konference na temo zgodovine gluhih. Ministrstvo je pobudo sprejelo z željo, da bi konferenca "Gluhi v senci prelomnic in sprememb 20. stoletja 1917–2000" doprinesla k preučevanju, ohranjanju in razširjanju zgodovine gluhih ljudi, prispevala k prepoznavnosti in ugledu krovne mednarodne organizacije Deaf History International ter še posebej Društva učiteljev gluhih Slovenije, ki organizira konferenco v Sloveniji, ter opozorila širšo javnost na izzive, s katerimi se sooča skupnost gluhih tako v Sloveniji kot tudi drugod po svetu in s tem prispevala k bolj vključujoči družbi.

Le s krepitvijo vključujoče družbe ter hkrati s krepitvijo vključujočega vzgojno-izobraževalnega okolja bo mogoče uresničiti temeljni cilj sistema vzgoje in izobraževanja v Sloveniji – to je zagotavljanje optimalnega razvoja vsakega posameznika ne glede na spol, socialno in kulturno poreklo, veroizpoved, rasno, etnično in narodno pripadnost ter posebnosti v telesnem in duševnem razvoju.

Vzgoja in izobraževanje otrok in mladostnikov s posebnimi potrebami, tudi gluhih, v Republiki Sloveniji temeljita na načelih enakih možnosti s hkratnim upoštevanjem različnosti otrok, inkluzije, sodelovanja staršev, individualiziranega načina dela in zagotavljanja vseh drugih pogojev. Ministrstvo, pristojno za izobraževanje, si prizadeva zagotoviti vse potrebne pogoje za optimalen razvoj vsakega otroka in mladostnika, tako da se upoštevajo njegove potrebe – vključevanje v najprimernejši vzgojno-izobraževalni program, ustrezna strokovna in fizična pomoč, tolmačenje slovenskega znakovnega jezika ter materialni pogoji.

Iz raziskav in literature s področja razvoja govornega in znakovnega jezika izhaja, da višja kompetentnost v znakovnem jeziku napoveduje višjo kompetentnost v pismenosti in da ima zgodnejši dostop do znakovnega jezika pozitiven učinek na otrokov jezikovni, kognitivni in socialni razvoj. Zaradi pomena znanja znakovnega jezika za uspešno vključevanje gluhih in naglušnih otrok in mladostnikov v vzgojno-izobraževalni sistem in kasneje v poklicno in družbeno dejavno življenje, ministrstvo že vrsto let izvaja ukrepe za dvig kakovosti vzgoje in izobraževanja gluhih in naglušnih. Še posebej intenzivno naslavlja problematiko vzgoje in izobraževanja gluhih in naglušnih od leta 2021, ko je bila imenovana delovna skupina za umestitev slovenskega znakovnega jezika v vzgojno-izobraževalni sistem, katere namen je do leta 2025 pripraviti predlog posodobitve predšolske vzgoje ter osnovnošolskega in srednješolskega izobraževanja gluhih in naglušnih otrok in mladostnikov.

V letu 2021 je bil sprejet akcijski načrt ministrstva za umestitev slovenskega znakovnega jezika v šolski sistem za obdobje za 2021–2024, ki opredeljuje dejavnosti, povezane z vsebino vzgojno-izobraževalnih programov in z mehanizmi, ki so nujni in podpirajo njihovo izvajanje. Vrsta aktivnosti iz akcijskega načrta že poteka (npr. evalvacija trenutnega sistema izobraževanja gluhih in naglušnih, zbiranje in analiza podatkov o gluhih in naglušnih učečih, razvijanje in izvajanje programov nadaljnega izobraževanja in usposabljanja strokovnih delavcev za delo z gluhi in naglušnimi, prilagajanje učnih gradiv, razvijanje novih modelov učenja in poučevanja slovenskega znakovnega jezika ipd.), hkrati pa se pripravlja izvedba drugih načrtovanih aktivnosti, ki se bodo izvajale tudi v okviru projektov Evropske kohezijske politike.

Akcijski načrt vključuje tudi promocijo učenja, poučevanja in tolmačenja slovenskega znakovnega jezika, s čimer naj bi se dosegel dvig ozaveščenosti deležnikov v vzgoji in izobraževanju o pomenu znakovnega jezika za gluhe ter krepitev vključujočega učnega okolja ter izkoreninjanje predsodkov do znakovnega jezika. Prav gotovo bo ta mednarodna konferenca tudi prispevala h krepitvi vključujočega, a ne le učnega, ampak tudi širšega družbenega okolja ter prispevala k preseganju predsodkov do gluhih in uporabnikov znakovnega jezika.

dr. Darjo Felda, državni sekretar



## How we came to this day

Two years ago, the Association of Deaf Teachers in Slovenia informed the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports about the organization of the conference and submitted an initiative for the Ministry to support the holding of Deaf History International conference. The Ministry accepted the initiative with the desire that the conference “Deaf People in the Shadow of the Breaks and Ruptures of the 20th Century: 1917-2000” would contribute to the study, preservation and dissemination of the history of Deaf people, contribute to the visibility and reputation of the umbrella international organization Deaf History International and especially the Association of Deaf Teachers in Slovenia, which organizes the conference in Slovenia, and alert the general public to the challenges faced by the deaf community both in Slovenia and elsewhere in the world, thereby contributing to a more inclusive society.

Only by strengthening an inclusive society and at the same time by strengthening an inclusive educational environment will it be possible to accomplish the fundamental goal of the education system in Slovenia – i.e. ensuring the optimal development of every individual regardless of gender, social and cultural origin, religion, race, ethnicity, nationality and peculiarities in physical and mental development.

The upbringing and education of children and adolescents with disabilities, including the deaf, in the Republic of Slovenia is based on the principles of equal opportunities with simultaneous consideration of the diversity of children, inclusion, parental cooperation, an individualized work and the provision of all other conditions. The Ministry responsible for education strives to provide all the necessary conditions for the optimal development of each child and adolescent, so that their needs are taken into account – inclusion in the most suitable educational program, appropriate professional and physical assistance, interpretation of Slovenian Sign Language and material needs.

From research and literature in the field of speech and sign language development, it follows that higher competence in sign language predicts higher competence in literacy and that earlier access to sign language has a positive effect on the child's linguistic, cognitive and social development. Due to the importance of the knowledge of sign language for the successful integration of deaf and hard of hearing children and adolescents into the educational system and later into professional and social life, the Ministry has been implementing measures to improve the quality of education and training of the deaf and hard of hearing individuals for many years. It has been particularly intensively addressing the issue since 2021, when a working group for the placement of Slovenian Sign Language in the educational system was appointed, the purpose of which is to prepare a proposal for the modernization of pre-school education, primary and secondary education of the deaf and hard of hearing by 2025.

In 2021, the Ministry's action plan for the placement of Slovenian Sign Language in the school system for the period 2021-2024 was adopted, which defines activities related to the content of educational programs and mechanisms that are necessary to support their implementation. Various activities from the action plan are already underway (e.g. evaluation of the current system of education, collection and analysis of data on deaf and hard of hearing students, development and implementation of further education and training programs for professionals to work with the deaf and hard of hearing children and adolescents, adaptation of teaching materials, development of learning and teaching models of Slovene Sign Language, etc.), while at the same time the implementation of other planned activities is being prepared, which will also be carried out within the framework of European Cohesion Policy projects.

The action plan also includes the promotion of learning, teaching and interpretation of Slovene Sign Language, which is supposed to raise the awareness of stakeholders in education and training about the importance of sign language for Deaf people, as well as strengthening an inclusive learning environment and eradicating prejudice towards sign language. It is certain that this international conference will also contribute to the strengthening of an inclusive, not only educational, but also wider, social environment and will contribute to overcoming prejudice towards the deaf and other users of sign language.

Dr. Darjo Felda, State Secretary





### **Ljubljana je mesto vseh!**

Ljubljana je vključujoče mesto, ki se uspešno spopada z družbenimi izzivi in kjer je enakost vseh prebivalcev visoko na lestvici vrednot. Prizadevamo si za odprto in enakopravno okolje, kjer spoštujemo različnost, posebno pozornost pa namenjamo tudi ranljivim skupinam.

Vesel sem, da v Ljubljani gostimo 11. Mednarodno konferenco zgodovine gluhih. Prepričan sem, da se boste pri nas dobro počutili ter si ob ostalih obveznostih vzeli tudi čas za raziskovanje našega mesta. Tako se boste lahko prepričali, da so javne površine, stavbe, javni promet dostopni vsem skupinam meščank in meščanov ter obiskovalk in obiskovalcev.

Kot prijazno in vključujoče mesto razumemo, da je povezovanje s skupnostjo, ki jo zanima preučevanje, ohranjanje in širjenje zgodovine gluhih, izjemnega pomena. Prav tako tudi prizadevnost članov Društva učiteljev gluhih Slovenije, njihovo prostovoljno delo pa je zgled nam vsem in v ponos Ljubljani, mestu, ki je prostovoljstvu prijazno. Želim vam odlično izvedbo konference in uspešno ohranjanje kulture gluhih, ki je pomembna ne le za skupnost gluhih, temveč tudi za strpo, odprto in raznoliko družbo.

Ljubljana je zame najlepše mesto na svetu! Je zeleno, čisto, varno in prijazno mesto, v katerem smo ponosni na to, da različni živimo skupaj in spoštujemo drug drugega. Ljubljana je tudi najboljša zelena prestolnica od vseh dosedanjih, letos je bila razglašena še za najboljšo evropsko destinacijo. Tu vas bomo vedno pričakali z odprtimi rokami in prijaznim gostoljubjem. Prepričan sem, da vas bo naše prelepo mesto navdušilo in da se boste vedno znova radi vračali k nam.

Srečno!

Zoran Janković, župan Mestne občine Ljubljana

### **Ljubljana is everyone's city!**

Ljubljana is an inclusive city that successfully copes with social challenges and where the equality of all residents is high on the scale of values. We strive for an open and equal environment, where we respect diversity, and we also pay special attention to vulnerable groups.

I am happy that we are hosting the 11th Deaf History International Conference in Ljubljana. I am sure that you will feel good with us and, in addition to your other obligations, you will also take the time to explore our city. In this way, you will be able to make sure that public areas, buildings, and public transport are accessible to all groups of citizens and visitors.

As a welcoming and inclusive city, we understand that connecting with a community interested in the study, preservation and dissemination of Deaf history is of the utmost importance.

Likewise, the diligence and voluntary work of the members of the Slovenian Association of Teachers of the Deaf (Društvo učiteljev gluhih Slovenije) are an example to us all and makes Ljubljana, a city that is friendly to volunteering, proud. I wish you an excellent conference and successful preservation of deaf culture, which is important not only for the deaf community, but also for a tolerant, open and diverse society.

Ljubljana is the most beautiful city in the world for me! It is a green, clean, safe and friendly city in which we are proud that different people live together and respect each other. Ljubljana is also the Best Green Capital, and this year it is the Best European Destination. We will always welcome you here with open arms and friendly hospitality. I am sure that our beautiful city will inspire you and that you will want to come back to us again and again.

Good luck!

Zoran Janković, Mayor of the City of Ljubljana



Poštovani sudionici i organizatori 11. Međunarodne konferencije o povijesti Gluhih, dragi gosti našega grada,

od srca vas pozdravljam na otvaranju ove važne konferencije. Kao gradonačelnik Zagreba ponosan sam što je nakon SAD-a, Njemačke, Norveške, Francuske, Švedske, Kanade, Velike Britanije i Australije, uz Sloveniju i Hrvatska domaćin ove konferencije kojoj je tema **“Gluhe osobe u sjeni prijelomnih događaja 20. stoljeća: 1917. – 2000.”**

Ovaj skup je od izuzetne važnosti za položaj i kulturu gluhih i nagluhih osoba, no program je namijenjen i otvoren za sve zainteresirane koji će moći saznaju više o zajednici Gluhih, o povijesti organiziranja i osnaživanja, o značajnim i snažnim pojedincima, o razvoju znakovnih jezika i kulture Gluhih.

Posebno je važno što je mjesto održavanja Filozofski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, središte humanističkih znanosti u Hrvatskoj. I na taj se način jasno ukazuje na razvoj hrvatskog znakovnog jezika i kulture Gluhih kao ravnopravne znanstvene grane, kojoj je mjesto među svim drugim znanostima o jezicima i kulturama.

Za promoviranje kulture Gluhih važne su i udruge koje organiziraju cijeli niz aktivnosti poput kazališnih predstava na znakovnom jeziku, plesnih predstava koje su kombinacija znakovnog jezika i plesa, poezije i pripovijedanja priča na znakovnom jeziku, a u Zagrebu imamo i Deaf Band Dlan koji je sinonim za inovativan način inkluzivnog glazbenog stvaralaštva. Uz njih, grad Zagreb ponosi se i jednim od najstarijih svjetskih kazališta slijepih i slabovidnih glumaca *Novi život* koje baš kao i ova konferencija doprinosi jačanju i širenju inkluzivne kulture u Hrvatskoj.

Želim vam uspješnu konferenciju i ugodan boravak u Zagrebu!

Gradonačelnik Grada Zagreba  
Tomislav Tomašević

Dear participants and organizers of the 11th International Conference on the History of the Deaf, dear guests of our city, I welcome you from the bottom of my heart at the opening of this important conference. As the mayor of Zagreb, I am proud that after the USA, Germany, Norway, France, Sweden, Canada, Great Britain and Australia, Slovenia and Croatia are the hosts of the DHI conference, the theme of which is **“Deaf people in the shadow of the turning events of the 20th century: 1917 – 2000.”**

This gathering is extremely important for all Deaf and Hard of Hearing people and their positioning in given society, but the program is intended and open to all interested parties who will be given the opportunity to learn more about the Deaf community, about the history of organizations and their empowerment, about significant and strong individuals, about the development of sign languages and of Deaf Culture.

It is especially important that the venue is the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, the very centre of humanities in Croatia. In this way, the development of the Croatian Sign Language and culture of the Deaf is clearly indicated as an equal branch of science, which has a place among all other sciences of languages and cultures.

Associations that organize a whole range of activities, such as theatre performances in sign language, dance performances that are a combination of sign language and dance, poetry and storytelling in sign language, are also important for promoting Deaf culture, and in Zagreb we also have Deaf Band DLAN, a symbol of innovative, inclusive music creation. In addition to them, the city of Zagreb is the proud hometown of one of the world's oldest theatres for blind and partially sighted actors, *Novi Život*, which, just like this conference, contributes to the strengthening and expansion of inclusive culture in Croatia.

I wish you a successful conference and a pleasant stay in Zagreb!

Mayor of the City of Zagreb  
Tomislav Tomasević

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Dear guests and participants of the conference!

It is our honor to welcome you to the 11th Deaf History International conference on behalf of the Organizing Committee and the conference hosts, the Association of Deaf Teachers in Slovenia and the Association "Theatre, Audiovisual Arts and Culture of the Deaf – DLAN" from Croatia.

The conference is of extreme importance for Slovenia and Croatia, the former Yugoslavian countries, as it opens up new, undiscovered areas of Deaf history, which, like for most national minorities, was hidden, oppressed, forgotten, unknown or even non-existent. The history of Deaf people was especially influenced by Oralism, which was introduced in 1880 at the Congress of Teachers of the Deaf in Milan, when sign languages were banned.

The Organizing Committee faced a big challenge in hosting the conference, especially with the financial portion. We knew we would do everything to successfully organize the conference, taking into account the needs and standards that ensure a high quality organization. The Organizing and Scientific Committees were on the same page about wanting a high level of quality from both organizational and scientific point of views. A smaller team of volunteers from Ljubljana and Zagreb intensively worked together and collaborated with the Deaf History International president and secretary-treasurer. Communications was mainly remotely via Zoom and with several signed and written languages: Slovenian Sign Language, Croatian Sign Language, International Signs, and written Slovenian, Croatian and English.

We also had meetings with conference participants. Meetings took place at unusual hours and late into the night due to large time zone differences, but we were all connected by enthusiasm. Our work benefitted from our valuable personal experiences from past participation in the largest conferences and international collaborations, which led us to ensure a suitable conference space, interpreting and subtitling services, and satisfy other technical requirements.

This year's conference stands out due to two innovations, it will be held in a hybrid manner and there will be International Signs interpreting provided by local Deaf interpreters. With two incredible challenges to the organization – COVID-19, which postponed the conference for a year and the situation in Ukraine, which affected the response of the participants, the decision for making it hybrid was crucial, especially in helping to raise enough necessary funding.

Another important feature for Slovenian public is that we arranged for interpreting between spoken Slovenian and International Signs that has Deaf and Hearing interpreters from Slovenia working together. In this way we want to promote and raise awareness among the Slovenian and international public that we have qualified Deaf interpreters and that this is an opportunity for them. Team interpreting in Deaf-Hearing pairs and with a co-interpreter is more and more in the foreground as a professional interpreting technique, which has so far been pushed aside rather than receiving attention and support. In the future, we want and expect that the standards for interpreting will be unified, that Deaf interpreters will perform with a Hearing co-interpreter and funds will be provided for this important provision of quality language access.

We will also provide interpreting between International Signs and English by certified interpreters accredited by the WFD (World Federation of the Deaf) and listed by the WASLI (World Association of Sign Language Interpreters). Interpreting for DeafBlind conference participants is also another important aspect of this conference. Lastly, we are also able to provide real-time captioning (subtitles) of presentations with the Velotyping system, which is used too rarely in Slovenia and Croatia.

The biggest challenge was getting financial support from sponsors and donors. This is where the biggest communication obstacle was revealed. Some potential sponsors did not even want to communicate in writing. Only with using an Hearing interpreter to make phone calls were we able to establish some communication and cooperation. It has been shown once again that the culture of hearing business communication is not accessible to Deaf people and that the hearing business world does not recognize and understand the initiative of Deaf people. Our project did not fit any tender, which made our work that much more difficult in obtaining funding.

The Slovenian-Croatian team worked intensively for more than two years on our preparations in order to secure conference venues, necessary technology for the online (hybrid) portion, obtain funds, interpreters and a team of volunteers.

We are sure that the conference will bring innovations and a revolution in research on the history of Deaf people, opening up new current topics and further questions.

On this occasion, we would like to thank DHI for entrusting us with this task and all those who helped in any way to make the conference a reality. We hope that the conference will meet your expectations!

The DHI 2022 Organizing Committee

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE – SLOVENIAN TEAM



**PETRA REZAR, MA**  
Conference Chair



**TANJA POTOČNIK  
HÖNIGSMANN** Secretary  
Secretary and Public  
Communications



**NATALIJA BUKOVEC**  
Assistant to the  
Conference Chair



**ARUNAS BRAŽINSKAS**  
Interpreting Coordinator



**DR. MATJAŽ DEBEVC**  
Accessibility and  
Technology Advisor

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE – CROATIAN TEAM



**ANGEL NAUMOVSKI**  
Conference Chair



**LINO UJČIĆ**  
Media Coordinator



**RENATO VRBOS RAŠETA**  
Project Manager



**MARIJA LEMARY VULETIĆ**  
Volunteer and  
Transportation Coordinator



**NIVES GOTOVAC**  
Interpreting Coordinator



# SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

## GREETINGS & WELCOME

Dear distinguished friends, it is our great honor and pleasure to welcome you to the 11<sup>th</sup> DHI conference – the international conference on the history of Deaf people with the theme “Deaf People in the Shadow of the Breaks and Ruptures of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: 1917-2000” in Ljubljana, Slovenia and Zagreb, Croatia—countries emerging from the former socialist state of Yugoslavia.

Because of our deep respect for Deaf history and the value it carries for all of us, this DHI conference provides an opportunity to expand our perspective on Deaf history of the time period of 1917 to 2000 during the communist era. It is always exciting to welcome thorough history research and rich contextualization, which forces us to rethink how we construct the narratives of our past.

The theme of the conference refers to the life of Deaf people at the time when armed workers under the leadership of the Bolsheviks took power in October 1917 in Imperial Russia and founded the Soviet Union, as the first socialist state in the world. The country was transformed by the nationalization of various industries and the confiscation of land from rich people and its redistribution among farmers. These political conditions spread to other countries and regions around the world, such as Yugoslavia, Cuba, China, North Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Eastern Europe, and the like. These countries operated in a communist-totalitarian system, which lasted until their collapse followed by a radical political and economic reform, in the early nineties of the 20th century – the fall of the Berlin Wall, the splitting of large states into individual countries and their entry into the European Union. Recently, they entered the so-called post-communist period that has had a significant impact on the everyday life of Deaf people in their respective countries, that is, on their civil rights, identity and legal status.

Many generations of Deaf people were educated without knowledge of Deaf culture and history, without their own identity. They carried an identity imposed upon them by their environment, their roles were also imposed and they were often deprived of the same rights as hearing people – they were not allowed the right to their native, natural language, the right to university education, and the pursuit of the professions that others had access to.

The conference theme is devoted to the period of turning points in the 20th century, starting with the Russian revolution and the introduction of communism and the socialist model in the countries where Deaf people lived. The division of Europe (and the world) into West and East had consequences for Deaf people. The West experienced a revival, emancipation and revolution of Deaf people, which was reflected in protests and the attainment of university education despite the influence of Oralism. The East introduced the social model, which meant controlled care for Deaf people including education and overall life path. Deaf people were educated in special institutions, provided career guidance and employment in state companies that had affinity for hiring Deaf people. For most Deaf people, that has been the planned, known fate for many generations. There was no talk of higher ambitions because it was neither allowed nor expected. They were told: “You can’t because you are deaf.” In this way, they instilled in the programming of the deaf limitations that were self-limitations, based on false beliefs and a non-supportive environment. Their leaders in organizations “for the Deaf” were hearing people.

On the other hand, Deaf people had access to housing and other social benefits and there was basic interpreting service – social workers employed in associations of the Deaf were the ones with some knowledge of sign language and were the first communication facilitators. An additional deep crack in this system was revealed during the collapse of socialist and communist federations, when newly formed sovereign countries switched to business-oriented capitalism, which was especially a big change in the former Yugoslavia – because of the war. State companies went down, Deaf people lost their jobs and ended up on the street. There were no new employment opportunities and there was a general social, economic and political crisis.

The intense period in the last decade of the 20th century also revealed the great gap between the West and the East, which Deaf people from the East tried to bridge through building of knowledge – studies, workshops, and restructuring of existing organizations. The medical model of deafness that enabled the rise of the cochlear implant industry slowly

shifted towards a social and cultural model that enabled sign language and Deaf history research. The wave of change has thus slowly swept through most of the former communist countries, so today we have organizations led by Deaf people, with activities that strengthen their own identity. There is a strong wave of sign language recognition spreading around the world, and all of that is changing the culture and the mentality of the Deaf community along with their identity. The consequences of these changes are already visible today.

How did Deaf people survive both periods? How did they establish themselves in both political systems? What experiences have they gained in relation to Deaf people from the West? How have the lives, rights and opportunities of these people changed in the post-communist period? Those are some of the questions that we look to answer.

We look forward to presentations by participants from numerous countries and their research into the lives of Deaf people under communist governments and the historical impact of these political systems on them – both as a historical study and as a contemporary theoretical framework. With this conference, we want to shed light on the every day life of Deaf people in the communist, totalitarian and post-communist systems and their influence.

Other presentations not directly related to this topic, but are relevant for further research on Deaf history are also welcomed, because they are answering some important questions such as which strategies are formed for illuminating and bridging the difficulties that appeared in the life path of Deaf people through their empowerment, especially in the fight for and equal participation in economic and social systems and equality in general.

All of that will be happening while we gather in beautiful countries and cities, in Slovenia – Ljubljana and Croatia – Zagreb, countries that gained their independence in 1991 and worked their best in preserving and documenting the history of Deaf people in their respective countries.

The current epidemiological situation, the unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as responsibility towards the healthcare system influenced the decision of the Organizing and Scientific Committees to hold the conference both in-person and online this year. Although we are aware that the exchange of experiences and socializing and meeting old and new friends can hardly be compensated for in the virtual world, we hope that the richness of the program will still attract your attention and that you will join and participate in the work of the conference, in lectures and in-person discussions and online.

We invite you to contribute to the common goal of the conference, which is to provide reliable information about the history of Deaf people and to ensure the continuity of the work and activities of the conference under these conditions.

With the primary desire to keep everyone healthy, we welcome you all to our conference and look forward to spending time together!

The DHI 2022 Scientific Committee

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE



**RUŽICA KEŽMAN**  
Member (Croatia)



**DR. MARJETKA KULOVEC**  
Member (Slovenia)



**DORIŽANA KAVČIĆ, MA**  
Member (Croatia)



**BERNARD LE MAIRE**  
Member (Belgium/DHI)



**PETRA REZAR, MA**  
Chair (Slovenia)



**DR. JORDAN EICKMAN**  
Vice Chair (United States  
of America/DHI)

## CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME IN LJUBLJANA AND ZAGREB

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> August 2022		
All day to 18:00	Conference Participants' Arrival in Ljubljana	Ljubljana (Slovenia)
11:00	DHI Bureau Meeting	
15:00	DHI Bureau & Organizing Committee Meeting	
16:30 – 18:00	Deaf Sculptor Ivan Štrekelj Art Exhibition – National Gallery (Petra Rezar, MA, Slovenia)	
18:00 – 24:00	Welcome Reception & Social – Vrt Lili Novy cafe	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2022		
8:00	Registration, Booths & Posters Open	Ljubljana (Slovenia)
9:00	Conference Opening & Welcome to Ljubljana Petra Rezar, MA & Angel Naumovski (DHI 2022 Conference Chairs) Dr. Brian Greenwald (DHI President) Dr. Darjo Felda (Slovenia Ministry of Education, Science and Sport) Dejan Crnek (Deputy Mayor of Ljubljana) Derk Jan Nauta (Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ljubljana)	
9:30	Deafhood Reflections & Next Steps Forward in Deaf History Scholarship (Dr. Paddy Ladd, United Kingdom)	
10:00	Ciril Sitar, Deaf Printer during the Occupation of Ljubljana (Petra Rezar, MA, Slovenia)	
10:30	The Company called "Učne delavnice" (Dr. Marjetka Kulovec, Slovenia)	
11:00	<b>Morning Coffee Break</b>	
11:30	Photographic Images of Deaf People's Lives in Ljubljana (Gašper Rems, Slovenia)	
12:00	Historical Pathways, Lessons, and Memories of "Zurkhonii Sonor – Heart Alertness" (Enkhbaatar Ajirshavgaan, Mongolia)	
12:30	Development of the 'Golden Generation' of Deaf Basketball in Slovenia (Damjan Šebjan & Miha Zupan, Slovenia)	
13:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
14:30	The Change of Paradigm: The Recovery of Portugese Sign Language from Clandestinity and the Genesis of Bilingual Education for Deaf Students in Portugal (Dr. Paulo Vaz de Carvalho, Portugal)	
15:00	Deaf in the P. R. C.: 'defect' and the New Deaf Chinese, 1949 – 1980 (Dawei Ni, MA, Germany)	
15:30	<b>Afternoon Coffee Break</b>	
16:00	Ingrian-Finnish Deaf People between 1899 and 2022 (Outi Ahonen, MA, Finland)	
16:30	Multiple Lives of Deaf People in Vietnam (Truc Nguyen, Vietnam)	

17:00	Prague Through the Eyes of Deaf People (Mgr. Iva Hay, Czech Republic)	
17:30	Deaf Methods of Museum Operation (Meredith Peruzzi, MA, United States of America, Vincent Ameloot, Belgium, & Caroline Pelletier, France)	
18:15	<b>Close</b>	
18:15 – 20:00	Ljubljana Deaf-Guided City Tour	

<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022</b>		
8:00	Registration, Booths & Posters Open	Ljubljana (Slovenia)
9:00	Deaf Roma/Sinti. Helping Minorities for Equal Opportunities. Offering Children Good Education and Enforce the Position of the Deaf Roma/Sinti Also Referred to as Gypsy (Ruva Kremers-Meta, Netherlands)	
9:30	History of Sign Language in Japan (Shinobu Shingai, Japan)	
10:00	The History of the Albanian Deaf Community (Eduard Ajas, Albania)	
10:30	The Society of the Deaf in Ukraine from 1933 to the Present Day (Mariia Antypenko & Oleksandr Sidorchuk, Ukraine)	
11:00	<b>Morning Coffee Break</b>	
11:30	Development of the Slovak Deaf Community during the 20th Century (Roman Vojtechovský, Slovakia)	
12:00	Experiences of Deafness in State Socialist Romania (Dr. Radu Harald Dinu, Sweden)	
12:30	Cultural and Art Association "Josip Medved" 1950 – 1995 (Lino Ujčić & Angel Naumovski, Croatia)	
13:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
14:30	Wanting to be a Part of It: The Long Struggle of the East German National Association of the Deaf to Join the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), 1957 to 1970 (Dr. Anja Werner, Germany)	
15:00	A Story about an Unique Museum of the Deaf in Kyiv (Volodymyr Bozhko, Ukraine)	
15:30	Survey on Deafblind People in Hungary (Dr. Simona Gerenčer, Slovenia)	
16:00	<b>Afternoon Coffee Break</b>	
16:30	Outline of Special Education Origins after the Second World War in the Primorska Region (Mirjana Kontestabile Rovis & Ivančica Sabadin, Slovenia)	
17:00	Eugenics, Marriage Act, Sterilization and Abortions in Finland 1929-1970 (Maija Koivisto, M.Ed., Finland)	
17:30	Film »Fabrikas« (Avni Dauti & Rebecca Vaughan, Australia)	
18:00	<b>Close</b> & Dinner on your own	
19:30 – 24:00	Ljubljana Deaf Social Meeting	



<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022</b>		
7:30 – 19:00	All-Day Slovenia Excursion (7.30 – 17.00) Ljubljana Transfer to Zagreb (17.00 – 19.00)	Ljubljana – Postojna – Bled – Ljubljana – Zagreb

<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022</b>		
8:00	Registration, Booths & Posters Open	Zagreb (Croatia)
9:00	Conference Welcome to Zagreb Petra Rezar, MA & Angel Naumovski (DHI 2022 Conference Chairs) Dr. Brian Greenwald (DHI President)	
9:30 – 11:00	DHI General Assembly	
11:00	<b>Morning Coffee Break</b>	
11:30	Activism of Deaf People in Croatia (Jadranka Krstić & Ivona Divić, Croatia)	
12:00	Life and Work of Dragoljub Vukotić (Aleksandra Šoti & Peter Šoti, Slovenia)	
12:30	Unsigned Truth (Dr. Sanja Tarczay, Angel Naumovski, Croatia)	
13:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
14:30	Posters Q & A Session	
15:00	Irena Walulewicz- Understand Saving Human Lives (Małgorzata Mickiewicz, Poland)	
15:30	Film »2nd World Congress of the Deaf hosted in 1955 in Zagreb, Croatia« (Joško Duplančić & Hrvatski Savez Gluhih i Nagluhih (HSGN) – Zagreb / Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – Zagreb)	
15:45	<b>Afternoon Coffee Break</b>	
16:15	Deaf Education in Ljubljana (Zemka Kečanović, Slovenia)	
16:45	Deaf Communities of Vyborg, Russia between 1899 and 2022 (Outi Ahonen, MA, Finland)	
17:15	Film »Signs of Silence« (SOS) (Jerko Ban, Angel Naumovski, Croatia)	
18:00	<b>Close</b>	
18:45 – 20:30	Zagreb Deaf-Guided City Tour	
20:30 – 24:00	Zagreb Deaf Association	

<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022</b>		
8:00	Registration, Booths & Posters Open	Zagreb (Croatia)
9:00	Historical Overview of the Activities of the Slava Raškaj Educational Centre Zagreb, Croatia (1885 – 2000) (prof. Ružica Kežman, Croatia)	
9:30	The Life of Roman Petrykiewicz (Tomasz Adam Świdorski, Poland)	
10:00	Deaf Roma/Sinti History: 1900-2000 (Ruva Kremers-Meta, Netherlands)	

10:30	Deaf Education in China: History and Reflection (Dawei Ni, MA, Germany)	
11:00	<b>Morning Coffee Break</b>	
11:30	Truth & Reconciliation Process of the Sign Language Community in Finland (Maija Koivisto, M.Ed., Finland)	
12:00	History of Romanov Palace – St. Petersburg Society of the Deaf (Vera Shamaeva, Russia)	
12:30	Community, Language and Nation in the Lives of Finland-Swedish Deaf People in the 20th Century (Dr. Hanna Lindberg, Finland)	
13:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
14:00	The Deaf History of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Edis Adrović, Bosna and Herzegovina)	
14:30	Urban Deaf Spaces: Documenting Deaf Spaces in New York City, 1880-2000 (Dr. Brian Greenwald & Brianna DiGiovanni, United States of America)	
15:00	Polish Independent Deaf Filmmaking (Dr. Magdalena Zdrodowska, Poland)	
15:30	<b>Afternoon Coffee Break</b>	
16:00	Croatian Sign Language in Schools with Deaf Children at the Turn of Political Systems – From Socialism to Democracy (Dorijana Kavčić, MA, Croatia)	
16:30	Slava Raškaj, the Most Famous Name of Croatian Painting (Lino Ujčić, Croatia)	
17:00	Closing Ceremony	
17:30	<b>Close</b>	
19:00 – 24:00	Gala Banquet	

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

7:30 – 19:00	All Day – Croatia Excursion	Zagreb – Ozalj – Plitvice – Zagreb
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**POSTERS**

Dr. Breda Carty & Darlene Thornton (Australia)	Preserving and Celebrating Australia's Deaf History	Ljubljana and Zagreb
Liesbeth Pyfers (Netherlands) & Dr. Junhui Yang (United Kingdom)	Deaf Museums and Online Deaf History Collections/Archives	
Joni Oyserman, MA, Anique Schüller, MA & Dr. Victoria Nyst (Netherlands)	Effatha Gebaren: Emergence of a Sign Language Dialect in Netherlands Sign Language (NGT)	
Corinna S. Hill, MA (USA)	Do You Meme? Incorporating Creative Assignments in Deaf History Courses	
Polona Koželj, MA & Klara Marija Keršič, MA (Slovenia)	The History of Slovenian Education of Deaf Students	

**PRESENTERS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:**

Albania, Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, United States of America, Vietnam

## PRESENTERS AND ABSTRACTS:

### SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**Free Entry**

**Location:** National Gallery of Slovenia, Cankarjeva 20, 1000 Ljubljana

**Time:** 16:30 – 18:00

**Presentation by Petra Rezar and exhibition visit**

#### **Ivan Štrekelj – Deaf Academic Sculptor**

Among the tragic personalities of Yugoslavian and Slovenian art was Ivan Štrekelj, an outstanding poet of stone. Ivan Štrekelj belonged to the first generation of sculpture students of the newly established art academy in Ljubljana after the war and to the generation of artists who created in the fifties and sixties of the 20th century.

Due to his unique circumstances, Štrekelj was a personality who was both included and isolated from the events of this time in the art of Slovenia and Yugoslavia. He belonged to the first generation of activists who worked in the organization of Deaf people in Slovenia and Yugoslavia. Thus, he lived and created in both worlds, in art – sculpture, and in the world of silence. He combined both worlds in his most important sculptural achievements, which scream in silence and intimacy.

Because of his deafness, he was pushed aside unlike other artists, often being invited to work for a small fee to sculpt a structure. The most fruitful works were created in the fifties of the last century, when he ambitiously started creating within his specialization. The Support Society for Deaf Youth, which was run by teachers of the Deaf and donors, had a lot to do with his academic education.

Later, in the 1950s, he was regularly present in the life and work of the Gluhonemnica (school for Deaf pupils that today is called Zavod za gluhe in naglušne Ljubljana (School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana)). He and his colleague Ciril Sitar were among the activists for the founding of the organization of the deaf in Yugoslavia and Slovenia, he was a fan of the Deaf theatre and regularly published articles in newspapers for Deaf people. Over time, he became more and more fed up with existential hardship, living in a studio without electricity, until the tragic life-ending train accident.

In recent years, the artistic public began to recognize Ivan Štrekelj and ranked him among the remaining prominent artists of his generation. He also left a visible mark on the life and pioneering post-war work of Deaf people, and he was the only Deaf person with a university education.



**Petra Rezar from Slovenia** holds a Master's degree in Philosophy from the Faculty of Arts at the University of Maribor, Slovenia, and is a certified interpreter for Slovene Sign Language. She is employed at the School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana as a teacher, interpreter and coordinator of professional development seminars. She gained professional experience in the Deafblind Association of Slovenia (DLAN). She is the President of the Association of Deaf Teachers in Slovenia and runs the Institute for Deaf studies, education, interpreting and coaches Lingua Signans. She is the editor of various proceedings, organizes conferences, and participated in the preparation of the scientific monograph, Challenges of Inclusion in Lifelong Learning and Education of Adults with Special Needs (2021). She also leads the Organizing and Scientific Committees of the 11<sup>th</sup> Deaf History International conference in Ljubljana and Zagreb (2022) and cooperates with the National Gallery (Slovenia) in the preparation of an exhibition on the Deaf academic sculptor Ivan Štrekelj. She is a doctoral student at the Fakulteta za organizacijske študije v Novem mestu (Faculty of Organisation Studies in Novo Mesto). Her email is [petra.rezar@gmail.com](mailto:petra.rezar@gmail.com)

**Exhibition visit – Deaf Academic Sculptor Ivan Štrekelj (1916–1975)  
at the National Gallery of Slovenia**



After a presentation by Petra Rezar at the National Gallery of Slovenia, she will be your guide, taking you through the gallery and the exhibition of the Deaf academic sculptor Ivan Štrekelj (sculptures, works on paper and oil paintings) who is almost unknown to the general public.

For more about Ivan Štrekelj, see <https://www.ng-slo.si/si/razstave-in-projekti/razstava/kipar-ivan-strekelj-1916-1975?id=4987>

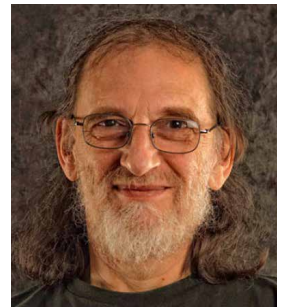


## MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### Deafhood Reflections & Next Steps Forward in Deaf History Scholarship

It has been nearly 20 years since the publication of *Understanding Deaf Culture: In Search of Deafhood*. Some reflections about Deafhood and the book's discussion of Deaf history will be presented. Thoughts on the progression of the field of Deaf history in recent years will be shared. Next steps forward for Deaf history research will be spotlighted to study the \*differences\* inside our Deaf communities, and how these relate to our histories. Hopefully all of these future studies will show us the relationship between Deaf histories and Deaf cultures, and give us all a richer, deeper understanding.

**Dr. Paddy Ladd from the United Kingdom** was a lecturer and MSc Coordinator at the Centre for Deaf Studies at the University of Bristol. He completed his Ph.D. in Deaf Culture at the University of Bristol in 1998 and has written, edited and contributed to numerous publications in the field. Both his writing and Deaf activism have received international recognition. He received the Francis Maginn Award "For Lifetime Achievement for the Deaf Community" from the British Deaf Association (2004); the E. M. Gallaudet Award for "International Leadership in Promoting the Well-Being of Deaf People of the World" from Gallaudet University (2009); and the Deaf Lifetime Achievement Award from the Federation of Deaf People for activities which extended the possibilities for Deaf communities in the United Kingdom and worldwide (1998). He was also added to the British Deaf Association Roll of Honour for "Outstanding Contributions to the Deaf Community in Deaf Education" (2007).



### Ciril Sitar: Deaf Printer during the Occupation of Ljubljana

During the Second World War, Ljubljana was under the occupation of Italy and later, Germany. Deaf people joined the fight against the occupiers. The most famous name among the deaf activists in the liberation front is Ciril Sitar, who was the co-owner of a printing and stamping company.

His daughter Metoda Sitar and activist Kostja Nachitigal introduced him to the fight against the occupiers. During this time, Sitar collected clothes, medical supplies and monetary contributions for this opposition. Later, he received instructions directly from the most famous names of fighters: Slavica Žagarjeva and Vali Šubičeva. He had investigations in his printing house eight times, and was interned in an Italian concentration camp but after he returned home, he continued the fight against the occupiers.

During this time, he took care of leaflets and printed 1,000 passes for the rescue of individual fighters who left their documents in besieged Ljubljana. By the order of the occupiers, he made seals but made duplicates in secret, also, he took care of the stamps for the passports with which Czech pilots escaped to Egypt, and distributed leaflets. Sitar later stated that he survived the occupation period well, thanks to his deafness, as he was able to pretend to be ignorant.

Sitar got his first ideas about the socialist movement at a young age, attending meetings with like-minded people. He did not join the partisan struggle because of his deafness and also because of the necessary field work. After the end of the Second World War, he was left without his company, because the government at the time nationalized the printing press, but the stamp cutter was exempted from this.

After the loss of the company, he tried to make the printing press' ownership pass to the organization of Deaf people. Due to the difficult political situation, he did not succeed. The printing house came under the ownership of Gluhonemnica (school for deaf pupils that today is called Zavod za gluhe in naglušne Ljubljana (School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana). Sitar was supposed to be appointed manager and instructor, but he found out that he was only a figurehead.

In a letter, he described the fact that Deaf people were a tool for the plans of the hearing and teachers of the deaf at that time. The Ministry of Education provided funds for the buyout, which Sitar never received. The names of those responsible were also listed and Sitar found himself in an existential crisis. His long silenced and forgotten letters reveal a hidden chapter of the post-war period and demand the rehabilitation of Ciril Sitar, who was one of the most deserving fighters in the liberation front.



**Petra Rezar, MA, from Slovenia** holds a Master's degree in Philosophy from the Faculty of Arts at the University of Maribor, Slovenia, and is a certified interpreter for Slovene Sign Language. She is employed at the School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana as a teacher, interpreter and coordinator of professional development seminars. She gained professional experience in the Deafblind Association of Slovenia (DLAN). She is the President of the Association of Deaf Teachers in Slovenia and runs the Institute for Deaf studies, education, interpreting and coaches Lingua Signans. She is the editor of various proceedings, organizes conferences, and participated in the preparation of the scientific monograph, *Challenges of Inclusion in Lifelong Learning and Education of Adults with Special Needs* (2021). She also leads the Organizing and Scientific Committees of the 11<sup>th</sup> Deaf History International conference in Ljubljana and Zagreb (2022) and cooperates with the National Gallery (Slovenia) in the preparation of an exhibition on the Deaf academic sculptor Ivan Štrekelj. She is a doctoral student at the Fakulteta za organizacijske študije v Novem mestu (Faculty of Organisation Studies in Novo Mesto). Her email is [petra.rezar@gmail.com](mailto:petra.rezar@gmail.com)

### **The company called "Učne delavnice"**

This presentation describes a company called "Učne delavnice" in which Deaf people could get a job after finishing education at Zavod za gluhe in naglušne Ljubljana/School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana (ZGNL).

In 1931, deaf graphic designer Ciril Sitar founded a print house named "Grafika". Its purpose was to give the Deaf people vocational training in the field of graphic and press printing. After the training period, deaf students could get a job in this company. That gave them the possibility for a decent and safe life, a thing which was taken for granted by hearing people.

Also established in this print house was a deaf society and an environment for equal or equivalent communication for the deaf co-workers—in sign language or other suitable ways. After the Second World War, the Sitar print house was nationalised and the company became a place for teaching deaf students from Gluhonemnica (the older name for the school for the Deaf that today is called Zavod za gluhe in naglušne Ljubljana – ZGNL).

In 1948 the company name changed to "Učne delavnice" and the vocational training was expanded to include lithography, dressmaking, bookbinding and making leather products. In "Učne delavnice" students had practice in parallel with the education process. Overall, "Učne delavnice" ensured deaf people could pursue the following vocations: graphic designer, lithographer, printer, bookbinder, garment maker and leather worker. Work and practice were conducted in venues spread around the city of Ljubljana, but in years to come the company finally settled in one building.

Due to the increasing number of deaf employees, the plan was to expand the company building. The main goal of "Učne delavnice" – education and vocational training of Deaf people to be competitive in the labour market – was unfortunately stopped by the rapid development of technology that the company had no resources to keep up with.

After some time, they managed to build a new "Učne delavnice" near ZGNL and they named the company "Dan". After 56 years of working as a print house, "Dan" was closed in 2004, the Deaf employees lost their jobs or were sent to early retirement, which led them towards the poverty line.

Until now there is no in-depth research done on how many Deaf people are there in the open job market, how many companies that are willing to employ deaf professionals, and in general, what economic circumstances Deaf people live in. There are also no answers to questions such as what influenced the closing of "Učne delavnice" after Slovenia gained independence and what were the exact processes that led to deaf individuals not becoming competitive in the job market?

**Key words:** Deaf society, the company "Učne delavnice", Slovene Sign Language, communication, education



**Dr. Marjetka Kulovec from Slovenia** is currently working as a teacher of Slovene Sign Language at the primary and secondary schools of the School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana. She holds a PhD in translation studies from the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana and is an assistant professor in the Department of Special and Rehabilitation Pedagogy at the Faculty of Education in Ljubljana. Her email is: [kulovec.marjetka@gmail.com](mailto:kulovec.marjetka@gmail.com)

### Photographic images of Deaf People's Lives in Ljubljana

In 1900, a different school was founded. It was a school for the Deaf. In addition to the general subjects, it had the subject of "speech exercises", in which the students learned and practiced speech on a daily basis and observed and lipread from the teacher's mouth. The teachers of this subject were very strict and learning was extremely hard. The teachers spoke slowly, correctly, clearly and loudly, but the Deaf students hardly understood anything, because understanding speech through lip reading is more difficult than communicating with sign language. In the old schools, since 1880, sign language was not allowed to be used in lessons. It was only in the 1980s that Deaf teachers began to use it in all subjects.

Deaf children were diligent and hardworking. They liked handicrafts, so various clubs were organized at school. Before World War II, many Deaf people found it difficult to get work because they did not have an education. Therefore, in 1946, the School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Ljubljana started vocational training, which gave the Deaf people more opportunities for employment. Learning workshops were also established outside Bežigrad, where Deaf people worked in a printing and bookbindery. Some Deaf people also worked in professions with higher education.

**Gašper Rems from Slovenia** has been deaf since birth. He is the only deaf person in a hearing family. He attended primary school at the School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Ljubljana. He studied at the High School for Design and Photography and became a design technician. He worked at the National Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia from 2014 to 2017, and he was a Slovene Sign Language guide at several exhibitions. In 2018, he successfully passed the tour guide exam at Ljubljana Castle, where he is now an International Signs guide. During the summer of 2014, he worked at the Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia in Ljubljana within the project 'Accessibility to cultural heritage for vulnerable groups'. His job was to scan and process photographs depicting the life of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in the 20th century. To research the content of the photographs, he visited and interviewed several elderly deaf people. The project was presented in October 2014 at the exhibition "Photographic images from the life of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Ljubljana".



### Historical pathways, lessons, and memories of "ZURKHNI SONOR-HEART ALERTNESS"

This presentation showcases this book written by the Mongolian National Association of the Deaf with funding from the Ministry of Culture of Mongolia. We hope this book will reach the International Deaf Community as a bridge of history. This book compiles our memories, tells our stories, and our history of overcoming the sorrows and experiencing the happiness of life.

This presentation will also discuss the challenges and difficulties the Mongolian Deaf community has faced along with sharing the life stories of three Deaf Mongolians. The exceptional accomplishments of Shaalaikhuu Tsedendamba, Deaf artist; P. Chojil, Deaf community leader; and Batsukh Tseren, pioneering Deaf student, are highlighted.

We deeply hope that you will understand the historical journeys of Mongolian Deaf people by looking at the real-life stories of three deaf Mongolians and the summary of the book, in which we present the first surveys and conclusions about Mongolian Deaf history from 1890 to 2022.

**Enkhbaatar Ajirshavgaan from Mongolia** has been working for the Mongolian National Association of the Deaf as president since 2013 after winning the President's Election. He started working as a Management Committee member in the World Federation of the Deaf Regional Secretariat for Asia and starting from 2017 he has been working as a member of the National Committee for ensuring the human rights of people with disabilities for the Prime Minister of Mongolia as well as an non-acting consultant.



### Development of the “Golden Generation” of Deaf Basketball in Slovenia

Damjan Šebjan will present his life story which started in Murska Sobota and continued with a foster family in Maribor. He then finished school in Ljubljana, where his path to the golden generation of deaf basketball players began. Before that, he encountered many obstacles in the sports field. His motivation and will led him to great success with his basketball friends and many adventures along the way.

Miha Zupan will present his basketball journey, role models and the most important factors for success. Ambition, will and common sense were the particular reasons he successfully entered the world of basketball and achieved more than most. He will also talk about his experience with the Deaflympics and his views on the golden generation of deaf basketball players.



**Damjan Šebjan from Slovenia** was a member of the golden generation of Slovene basketball players that won medals at all major competitions. He was born deaf. He was raised in a foster family and went to a school for the Deaf. He graduated from a school of graphic design. He discovered his talent for acting and miming at a workshop. He is the first independent Deaf Slovene actor. His email is: [dami-sebjan@hotmail.com](mailto:dami-sebjan@hotmail.com)



**Miha Zupan from Slovenia** was the first deaf basketball player in the EuroLeague and the best deaf sportsman in the world in 2010. He began his career as a pupil at the School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana (Zavod za gluhe in naglušne Ljubljana). He performed in the high school league, joined the Slovene deaf national team and achieved the greatest of successes with this team – they won two Deaflympic silver medals and the 2004 European Deaf Basketball Championship. At the same time, he was building his career in the Slovenian hearing national team and playing for Slovenia at the 2010 and 2014 World Championships and also at the European Championship. Professionally at the club level, he played for the Slovenian club teams Slovan and Olimpija, then Spartak (Russia), Trikala 2000 (Greece), and other foreign clubs, and in the Adriatic Basketball Association (ABA) League. His list of accomplishments is incredibly impressive.

### The Change of Paradigm: The Recovery of Portuguese Sign Language from Clandestinity and the Genesis of Bilingual Education for Deaf Students in Portugal

We know empirically that the genesis of Portuguese Sign Language (LGP) emerged many years before the beginning of deaf education in Portugal in the 19th century. In terms of historical sources, the first references that reach us about the use of sign communication systems among deaf students date back to the foundation of the Royal Institute for the Deaf-Mutes and Blind by Per Aron Borg in 1823. This sign communication system gave rise to LGP. In 1834, this institute is integrated into the Casa Pia in Lisbon, decreasing the quality of this type of education and in 1860 closed, leaving the education of the Deaf in Portugal dependent on sporadic private initiatives.

During the beginning of the 20th century, with the introduction of oralist methodologies for teaching the Deaf in Portugal in 1906, LGP was banned from classrooms, but continued to develop in institutes for the Deaf in playgrounds and in boarding schools, away from the eyes of hearing educators. Teaching Deaf children through the oral method lasted about 80 years and was subdivided into three methodologies, the pure oral method, the maternal-reflexive method and the verbotonal method. LGP began to emerge from clandestinity at the end of the seventies of the 20th century, initiating a paradigm shift in the education of the Deaf and in Portuguese society.

In this presentation, we will trace, based on primary sources, the difficult path of LGP and the education of Deaf people in Portugal, from the foundation of the Royal Institute for the Deaf-Mutes in 1823, through the long oralist period and consequent removal of the LGP from the classrooms. We will end with the reclamation of LGP from clandestinity and its investigation, valorization and its recognition in the Constitutional Law of the Portuguese Republic, which resulted in the implementation of bilingual education for deaf students in Portugal.



**Dr. Paulo Vaz de Carvalho from Portugal** holds a PhD in Portuguese Sign Language Linguistics from Universidade Católica Portuguesa and a Master in Educational Sciences from Universidade Nova de Lisboa. He has a degree in History from Universidade Lusíada. He published the books "Brief History of the Deaf in the World and in Portugal" (2007), "The Heritage of the Abbot of L'Épée at the turn of the 18th century to the 19th century" (2013), "The Education of the Deaf in Casa Pia de Lisboa: Resenha Histórica" (2019) and three textbooks from the PRO-LGP Degree. He was Professor and Coordinator of the Research Unit of the Jacob Rodrigues Pereira Institute (IJRP) from 2000 to 2018. He is a Guest Adjunct Professor at the Escola Superior de Educação de Setúbal. He is currently an integrated Researcher at Universidade Católica Portuguesa. He also participated as a speaker in several national and international conferences with several articles published in national and international journals. He received two awards and an honorable mention for the 20 years of the Recognition of Portuguese Sign Language in the Constitution of the Republic. His email is [pcjanas.vazdecarvalho@gmail.com](mailto:pcjanas.vazdecarvalho@gmail.com)



### **Deaf in the P. R. C.: 'defect' and the New Deaf Chinese, 1949 – 1980**

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the first to put Deaf people on the screen was the documentary "Relying on Mao Zedong Thought to Open the Forbidden Area for the Deaf and Dumb". Although it lasted less than six minutes, the image of deaf people was significant, and the sign language images still have research value. This short film shows the mainstream values of "relying on Mao Zedong Thought" to treat the deaf and dumb, liberate the brothers and sisters of the deaf and dumb class, let them shout "Long live Chairman Mao", listen to the political propaganda of Mao Zedong Thought, and to a certain extent exaggerate the effect of acupuncture in treating the Deaf. The article on curing the deaf and mute with the power of Maoism was published on August 10th, 1971, in the daily newsletter titled "Using Mao Zedong Thought to Treat Mental Problems."

**Dawei Ni, MA, from Germany** is an Austro-Chinese poet, linguist, and lecturer. Born in Qingtian, China, Dawei moved to Austria in 1992 and currently lives in Germany. He is a lecturer and Instructor in Training on Sign Language Teaching and Sign Language Interpreting at the University of Applied Science in Landshut, Germany. In his spare time, he conducted research on the history of the Deaf in various archives. He has more than 20 years of professional experience in social justice, media and motivational speaking. His goal over the years, is to achieve Deaf "equality, participation, and collaboration", around the world through his travels, promoting Deaf Culture in many countries.



### **Ingrian- Finnish Deaf People between 1889 and 2022**

While researching the experiences and memories of all Deaf people in Finland I also came across those of Ingrian-Finnish Deaf people.

It has been over 30 years since the return migration of Ingrian Finns began. Approximately 30,000 Ingrian people from the former Soviet Union moved to Finland between 1990 and 2016. The Ingrian people are descendants of Finns who moved to the south and east of the Gulf of Finland, near the current-day Saint Petersburg, Russia, during the 17th century. This area populated by the Ingrian Finns is nowadays known as the historical land of Ingria.

As Ingrians were mostly Finnish-speaking and Lutheran, they were persecuted. Their widespread persecution began in the 1930s. The actions of Stalin completely destroyed Ingrian culture. Between 1930 and 1945 approximately one in two Ingrians died. Before the persecution began, there was a Finnish-speaking school for the Deaf in Ingria, which operated from 1889 to 1917.

More than 63,000 Ingrian civilians were evacuated to Finland from the Ingrian war zone at the end of the Continuation War. The majority of them were under 15 years of age. There were also several deaf children involved.

After the armistice, the Control Commission, which arrived from the Soviet Union, quickly began to arrange for their return to the Soviet Union. A total of 56,000 Ingrians returned, the rest managed to stay in Finland or fled to Sweden. Instead of being returned to the land of Ingria, they were forcibly relocated to several far-away locations such as Siberia.

During the evacuation the Finnish state established a so-called Ingrian class for deaf children in Jyväskylä. The class operated from 1943 to 1944. I have interviewed two 90-year-old deaf people who were in the class.



**Outi Ahonen, MA, from Finland** is a senior Sign Language lecturer at the Humak University of Applied Sciences in Helsinki, Finland. Her ongoing PhD doctoral research is on Oral History at the University of Jyväskylä. Collective Deaf memory is her main theme. Currently, she is a researcher (2022-2024) in a Deaf History project in collaboration with the University of Oulu: Voices of a Silent people-Renovated Bodies. She has 25 years of experience in teaching Finnish Sign Language and Deaf Studies. She was also a co-founder of the Finnish Deaf History Society and president from 2016 to 2021. Her email is [outi.ahonen@humak.fi](mailto:outi.ahonen@humak.fi)

### Multiple Lives of Deaf People in Vietnam

The modern history of Vietnam is filled with foreign occupations. France invaded Vietnam in 1858 and occupied it until 1954 when Ho Chi Minh led his communist forces and defeated the French. Shortly after, the United States invaded Vietnam in the South. The country was then divided in two states: communist North and anti-communist South. The American War (the Vietnam War for people in the United States) lasted for 20 years, which ended with North Vietnamese victory and mass migrations of South refugees out of the country in 1975. Both states eventually reunified as a communist state in 1976. The Communist Party continues to rule Vietnam to the present.

Vietnamese Deaf history shows that the first school, *Lai Thieu School for the Deaf*, currently named *Thuan An Education Center for Disabled Children*, was founded in 1886 by a parish priest of Azema, after sending a deaf man named Nguyen Van Truong to France to learn the method of using sign language in school and bring it back to Vietnam. However, many historical documents were lost during the wars. Deaf experiences were not documented in depth in the past. There are three sign languages in the country, and the Communist Party has attempted to combine them into one national sign language which did not materialize due to resistance.



**Nguyen Truc from Vietnam** was born and raised in Dong Nai, Vietnam. She graduated with an associate degree in deaf education from Dong Nai University. After graduation, Truc taught Vietnamese to Deaf students in grades 5 and 6. Additionally, she was a leader for the Deaf Association in Dong Nai province and worked in various activities such as the youth union at Dong Nai University. She went abroad for further education where she graduated with an AS in applied liberal arts and a BS in School of Individualized Study at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). She is currently studying deaf education in the Master of Science in Secondary Education program. In the meantime, she is a co-founder of Tay Noi Mat Nghe, a small organization for the Deaf in Vietnam, that commits to educate Deaf youth through use of technology.

### Prague Through the Eyes of the Deaf People

*Photographic, literary and visual arts collection of deaf authors' artworks*

Ivana Hay will introduce us to the publication she edited, *Prague Through the Eyes of the Deaf*, which is a collection of photographic, literary and visual artworks by Czech deaf authors, who in a unique way, captured the beauties of the Czech capital city of Prague. Thanks to this collection, hearing readers have the opportunity to become acquainted with facts about the Deaf community – a linguistic and cultural minority. It is a great achievement that supports the visibility of artworks by deaf authors. Not only deaf artists but also deaf graduates of the photography course and participants in art workshops held by the Czech Union of the Deaf in Prague, under the supervision of Ivana Hay, contributed to the book. The book also contains authentic memoirs of 23 deaf witnesses to the period of the Soviet occupation in 1968 (21<sup>st</sup> August) and the Velvet Revolution in 1989 (17<sup>th</sup> November), whose centre of events was the capital city of Prague in then Czechoslovakia. Readers can also view the memoirs of these two historical events in Czech Sign Language after opening the relevant QR codes.



**Mgr. et Bc Ivana Hay from Czech Republic** is a deaf PhD student of the Art Education Didactics study programme at Faculty of Education, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Ivana works as a teacher of the Deaf at the Secondary School for the Deaf in Prague – Radlice and also as the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Czech Union of the Deaf journal called Unie. Ivana also teaches English for Deaf learners and leads Art workshops. In the collaboration between the Czech Union of the Deaf and Czech Deaf Art 3+1, the artistic group Ivana co-founded, she coordinated the artistic project for the Deaf, where she completed and edited the publication *Prague Through the Eyes of the Deaf*, which she will be introducing at the 11<sup>th</sup> DHI conference. Her email is [iva.hay7@gmail.com](mailto:iva.hay7@gmail.com)

### Deaf methods of Museum Operation

This panel will feature three Deaf museum directors who work in different types of museums. With expertise in academic museums, community-run museums, and privately run museums, the panelists will discuss how serving Deaf communities is different from traditional museum practice, and what similarities exist across all museums, including Deaf museums. The panelists will discuss strategies that have been successful, and challenges they have faced, in establishing Deaf museums and collections for display.

Their varied backgrounds will contribute to a broader understanding of what is necessary to run a Deaf museum, with respect to the many approaches audience members may have taken or wish to take in establishing their own museums. The panel will also include a brief introduction to museology and photos and video of Deaf museums from around the world.

The panelists will provide a foundation to those interested in establishing Deaf museums, and offer a connection point and continuing education for those already involved in Deaf museums.

**Meredith Peruzzi, MA, from the United States of America** is the director of the National Deaf Life Museum, located at Gallaudet University, in Washington D. C., USA. Her research background is in American Deaf history, and her current work is on the subject of making museums of all types more accessible and friendly to Deaf visitors. She is a PhD student in the field of Museum Practice at the University of Leicester, UK. Her email is [meredith.peruzzi@gallaudet.edu](mailto:meredith.peruzzi@gallaudet.edu)



**Vincent Ameloot from Belgium** has a background in archiving and deaf history, and has been working in the field since 2003. He initially worked with the deaf association Nowedo, in Bruges, and founded an archive there. In 2014, he became the chairman of an archival workgroup, Doof Verleden, on behalf of Doof Vlaanderen. In addition to his direct archival work, he is also active in encouraging deaf associations in other countries to develop their own archives. His email is [vincent.ameloot@gmail.com](mailto:vincent.ameloot@gmail.com)



**Caroline Pelletier from France** is following in the footsteps of her father Armand Pelletier, an activist in Deaf culture in continuing "deaf work." She became devoted to community work as an administrative assistant at the Ministry of Ecology, and is the mother of three children. Beginning in 1977, she was the assistant secretary of the French Deaf Ski Club in Cognin. In 2011, she became a member of the team at the Museum of History and Culture of the Deaf (MHCS) at Louhans. She has been curator and president of the MHCS management association since its founding in 2019, and devotes much of her time to this work. She collaborates with ethnologist Yves Delaporte and historian Yann Cantin. She frequently gives lectures on the Museum of History and Culture of the Deaf and the career of Ferdinand Berthier. In her retirement, Mrs Caroline Pelletier remains committed to the safeguarding of sign language and deaf heritage. Her email is [museesourds.louhans@yahoo.fr](mailto:museesourds.louhans@yahoo.fr)



## TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### **Deaf Roma/Sinti. Helping Minorities for Equal Opportunities. Offering Children Good Education and Enforce the Position of the Deaf Roma/Sinti Also Referred to as Gypsy.**

Ruva Kremers-Meta from the Netherlands was born in 1968 in Kosovo and she is a Deaf woman who grew up in the Roma community. She has lived in the Netherlands for the past 21 years. At the age of 19 Ruva began her search for independence by leaving the difficult family circumstances she faced. She gained employment in Switzerland and from there never looked back.

Ruva's background is similar to many other Roma people and in this presentation she will describe her journey beginning with an overview of the Roma (Gypsy) history, their migration throughout Europe, and their culture and identity.

Many Roma people live in difficult circumstances. In many cases, children's access to education is poor and sign language is maligned leading to limited opportunities in adult life. Furthermore, Deaf people do not get the attention they and their culture deserve.

Ruva's ultimate mission is to help deaf Roma minorities and their children by building a bridge between the Roma culture, government and NGOs.



**Ruva Kremers-Meta from the Netherlands** was born of Deaf Romani parents in Kosovo and tells about her family history and of the wider situation of Deaf Roma in the mid-20th century. Her parents were born in 1940 in Kosovo, during World War II, a time when the Roma were persecuted and killed by the Nazis along with various other minority groups, most of all of course Jewish people. Kosovo escaped Nazi occupation and her parents were able to have a peaceful upbringing. Her parents met at the T. Mitrovica school for the Deaf as teenagers, and it was not until this time that they became aware of their Roma heritage and culture. They were married in 1958 and had three children, Ruva being the youngest. By then staunch proponents of the Deaf Roma community, Ruva's parents taught their children to take pride in their heritage, stand up to bullying, and tell others about the Deaf Roma. Ruva has taken this teaching seriously and has spoken about her community in many countries.

### **History of Sign Language in Japan**

This presentation will discuss the background of Japanese Sign Language and the system of interpreting in Japan.



**Shingai Shinobu from Japan** is deaf, was born in Osaka, and now lives in Kyoto because of her job. She is a teacher in a school for the Deaf. As a volunteer, she works in the fields of Religion (Happy Science), Interpreting (International Signs) and Teaching Japanese for Deaf people. Her email is [shingaishinobu77@gmail.com](mailto:shingaishinobu77@gmail.com)

### **The History of the Albanian Deaf Community**

This presentation provides an overview of the history and major accomplishments of the Albanian Deaf community during both the communist and post-communist eras in the 20th century.

**Eduard Ajas from Albania** is a former Executive Director and current Financial Manager of the Shoqata Kombetare Shqiptare E Njerezve Qe Nuk Degjojne (Albanian National Association of the Deaf – ANAD). He also is a co-author of the landmark research study, *Deaf People in Albania in 2015: A survey study*, available in English at <http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-fe2020061242912> and in Albanian at <http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-fe2020061242915>





### The Society of the Deaf in Ukraine from 1933 to the Present Day

After the revolution of 1917, when people with hearing impairments received equal rights with other citizens, several organizations of the Deaf were created – in Katerynoslav (now Dnipro), Odesa, Kyiv, Kharkiv. With the aim of employing the Deaf and training them in labor professions, educational and production plants were organized in large industrial centers. The first of them operated even before the creation of UTOG (Ukrainian Society of the Deaf) in Katerynoslav (Dnipro) and Kharkiv. After 1933, plants were established in Odesa, Poltava, Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv and other cities of Ukraine. During the 1941-1945 war in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa and other cities, Deaf people helped the underground and fought in partisan units. Evacuated to the deep rear with their defence factories, deaf machine workers worked hard, producing products for the front. In 1958, the first special group of deaf students (stationary education) was organized at the Kyiv Technical School of Light Industry. The training of deaf specialists continues here until now. In 1982, at the Kyiv Pedagogical Institute named after A.M. Gorky, the first special group of deaf students (correspondence studies) was organized at the special education department. On May 28, 2022, in Marseille (France), during the meeting of the General Assembly of the European Union of the Deaf, a significant event took place: based on the results of the vote, the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf was unanimously accepted into the membership of this organization.

**Mariia Antypenko from Ukraine** is hard of hearing and she is from Poltava. By education, she is a teacher of the Deaf and a psychologist. From 2008 to 2021 she worked as a journalist at the deaf newspaper "Our Life" UTOG, and from 2013 to 2017 she was a youth leader for the Deaf in Ukraine. Maria has written 2 books about Deaf people, published for schools of the Deaf. From 2015 to 2017 she was a member of the Ukraine deaf national taekwondo team. Now Maria is a social media manager and volunteer supporting Deaf people in Ukraine.



**Oleksandr Sidorchuk from Ukraine** is deaf since birth, and he is a dental technician by training. He is a proficient International Sign user and a profound history fan. He loves reading books and studying the secrets of world history, the subconscious, personality and psychology. His lecture (he will present in Maria's place) will talk about how the Deaf community was formed in Ukraine.



### Development of the Slovak Deaf Community during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

This presentation covers the development of organized care for Deaf children and adults in the 20th century in Slovakia within the former Czechoslovakia. The 20th century organized care for Deaf people can be divided into three periods: the first period – the first half of the 20th century which saw the development of institutional care for Deaf children and the development of organizations and their activities; the second period – around the middle of the 20th century which had the transfer of activities of organizations to the government and the transition to the development of state care; and the third period – the second half of the 20th century which comprised of the development of organizations' activities.

**Roman Vojtechovský from Slovakia** is currently a senior lecturer in the Philology of Slovak Sign Language field. He focuses on Interpreting the Slovak Sign Language at the Faculty of Education of the University of Trnava. He has been working there since 2020. In addition, he has been working as a moderator of News in Slovak Sign Language on Slovak Television in Bratislava since 2013. He is also a graduate student at Charles University in Prague, where he graduated in Deaf Studies. He has published several books, and is author of a chapter about the history of caring for the Deaf in Slovakia. He is interested in the community of the Deaf, the history of the Deaf, Slovak Sign Language and the life of the Deaf in Slovakia. He manages an electronic translation dictionary of the Slovak Language – Slovak Sign Language – [www.posunky.sk](http://www.posunky.sk)



## Experiences of Deafness in State Socialist Romania

As compared to Deaf history in the west, the experiences of the Deaf community in Romania have scarcely been explored by historians. Certainly, new research on Eastern Europe has enriched our understanding and contributed to de-center Western narratives of Deafness during the last years (Shaw 2017). However, the majority of these studies revolve around Soviet experiences.

Against this backdrop, this presentation sets out to explore the experiences of Deaf people during state socialism in Romania (1947-1989). This study is based on ten semi-structured interviews that were conducted in November 2021 in various Romanian cities. The age of the respondents ranged from 55 to 90 years and included both men and women, thus covering the entire socialist period. During the interviews, a variety of topics were addressed, including experiences with oralist teaching methods, working life and employment, and ableist attitudes towards Deaf people during socialism. The project was organized in collaboration with the *Romanian Association of the Deaf* in Bucharest and was financed by the Swedish *Magnus Bergvall's Foundation* and the *Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities*.



**Radu Harald Dinu from Sweden** received his PhD in history from The Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, Erfurt University (Germany). Presently, he is working as a senior lecturer in history at Jönköping University (Sweden). In his research he focusses on modern and contemporary history of Eastern Europe and covers a wide range of themes, from the history of fascism to how communism shaped experiences of disability in Eastern Europe. He is co-editor (with Staffan Bengtsson) of "Disability and Labour in the Twentieth Century. Historical and Comparative Perspectives" (Routledge, 2022, forthcoming). His recent publications include: "Medical Discourses on Disability in State Socialist Romania: A Critical Genealogy," in *Dis/ability in Media, Law, and History: Embodied AND Socially Constructed*, eds. Micky Lee, Frank Rudy Cooper & Patricia Reeve (Routledge, 2022). His email is [Radu.Dinu@ju.se](mailto:Radu.Dinu@ju.se)

## Cultural and Art Association "Josip Medved" 1950 – 1995

An important place in the history of Croatian deaf pedagogy belongs to teacher Josip Medved. He was born on December 2, 1859 in Kraljevec (Klanjec district). He finished teacher's school in Zagreb in 1881, when he got his first teaching position in the village of Trnovitica in Bjelovar-Križevci County, where he replaced teacher Milan Kobali for less than a year. With his exemplary school arrangement and tireless enthusiasm, he quickly gained the trust and respect of his parents, the devotion of his children and the recognition of the county area. He continued his dedicated teaching work in 1888 at the elementary school in Štefanje, and in year 1891 he became head teacher. He participated in the work of regional teachers' assemblies and presented the results of his teaching work at economic exhibitions in Zagreb in 1891 and in Vienna in 1894. He was a member of the Croatian Pedagogical and Literary Association. He is the author of the catalogue of the first permanent exhibition of the Croatian School Museum and the custodian of museum collections until 1920. Medved established a system of education for Deaf children in Croatia creating textbooks, manuals and curricula for the Deaf, using the classical oral method and working on the training of special teachers. His care for his students and cadets went beyond basic teaching duties. As the secretary and treasurer of the Society for the Aid of Deaf and Dumb Apprentices, he took care of their placement with various craftsmen, negotiated conditions with the masters and supervised the apprentices. In his memory, KUD "Josip Medved" was founded in 1950, which lasted until 1995.



**Lino Ujčić from Croatia** is the president of the Association "Theater, Audiovisual Arts and Culture of the Deaf – DLAN" in Zagreb (Croatia). He is the editor of the "Applause of one hand" magazine aimed at bringing more accessible content related to culture and art closer to Deaf people by offering curiosities, sharing Deaf experiences and developing their interest towards diverse life topics, as well as sharing info on relevant events. He is a passionate researcher of Deaf history and the socio-cultural heritage of Croatian and other Sign Languages. He is a diversely talented artist active in theater, painting, visual design, art photography and book illustration. As an actor, he has participated in numerous theatre performances in Croatia and abroad. His email is [linouj@gmail.com](mailto:linouj@gmail.com)

**Angel Naumovski from Croatia** is an accomplished amateur art director who has proven himself in the realization of numerous performances by the theatre group "DLAN". He organized and conducted sign language courses for more than 1000 students (students and youth workers) and sign language courses for children from 5 to 12 years old. Since 2005 he has organized workshops in drama, dance, juggling, sign language poetry as well as Visual Vernacular. He directed more than 15 performances in sign language. He is the founder of the Deaf Band Dlan and an artistic director and representative of the Croatian team in the "Sign & Sound Theater" project. His email is [angel.naumovski1970@gmail.com](mailto:angel.naumovski1970@gmail.com)



### **Wanting to Be a Part of It: The Long Struggle of the East German National Association of the Deaf to Join the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), 1957 to 1970**

In 1970, after 13 years of negotiations and compromises, the East German association for the Deaf gained full membership to the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD). Why did it take so long? And how did the Deaf East German leadership navigate communication with deaf representatives from both Eastern and Western countries as well as with the hearing communist leadership in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) to achieve their goal?

In my presentation, I discuss the founding of an East German organization for the Deaf as well as the deaf leaders' pushing for its admission to the WFD as examples of Deaf Agency in national and transnational contexts. I proceed in two steps. First of all, I introduce the East German association for the Deaf and its leaders. In the 1950s, deaf East Germans successfully lobbied the communist authorities for an organization on their own, which was eventually founded in 1957. It was special, for apart from a similar organization for the blind, interest groups did not exist in the communist GDR.

As a second step, I illustrate how international alliances of deaf associations were forged in the Cold War by taking the question of East German WFD-membership as an example. In doing so, I also explore the idea of multiple deaf identities in both German states. What was more important: their Deaf, their German, or their Cold War identities? After all, together with representations of other East Bloc associations of the Deaf (most notably the Russian one), the East German deaf leadership in 1968 attempted to circumvent the WFD for allegedly being too closely tied to Americans. They founded an international East Bloc organization of the Deaf about which we still know very little. In the end, however, the East German Deaf association embraced its WFD membership by applying to host WFD's 1979 World Congress, which, however, would eventually take place in Bulgaria.

**Anja Werner from Germany (Dr. Phil.)**, hearing, is affiliated with the History Department of the University of Erfurt (Germany), where she just finished her second dissertation about expert discourses on deafness in the divided Germany, 1945 to 2002 (in German). She specializes in transnational history of knowledge production from minority perspectives. Together with Marion Schmidt (University of Göttingen), she has organized a Deaf History network in German-speaking countries, which offers regular online workshops, keynotes, and panel discussions with deaf and hearing-impaired experts. She has published widely on the history of Deaf people in Germany mainly in the 20th century. At the University of Erfurt, she is an active member of a work group to reduce communication barriers in academia. As a part of this initiative, she is currently team-teaching an experimental class with hearing-impaired and hearing colleagues to explore options of how to make academia more accessible for deaf and hard-of-hearing students and faculty. Her email is [anja.b.werner@gmail.com](mailto:anja.b.werner@gmail.com)



### **A Story about a Unique Museum of the Deaf in Kyiv**

The Museum of the History of the Deaf is the first unique museum of the times of the Soviet Union and modern Ukraine. The relay of creation of such museums was supported in various cities and countries, in particular, in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Saratov, Kirov, Chelyabinsk, Voronezh, Riga, Minsk, and Bulgaria. The museum of the Deaf society history tells us about the formation and development, and achievements of Deaf people not only on the territory of the Ukrainian state, but also in other countries of the world. The idea of creating a museum of the history of the Deaf belongs to Viktor Serhiyovych Skurchynskyi, a deaf employee of a shoe factory. He, having no education, not knowing the language, was inquisitive by nature, interested in his surroundings, and perceived information only visually. And one day the father said to his son, Volodymyr Skurchynskyi: "As far as I know, there are museums about animals, bugs and butterflies in



the world. Why aren't there any stories about us, Deaf people?!" The father's idea really fascinated the young man, who began to collect materials, documents, and facts for the creation of the future museum of the history of the Deaf, and became so enthusiastic that this business became the goal of his whole life.



**Volodymyr Bozhko from Ukraine** has been deaf since birth and is a proficient user of International Signs. Originally from the city of Dnipro in Ukraine, he lived in Kyiv for a long time. He worked with Voronin, a Ukrainian hearing designer, owned his own tailoring shop and had many hearing clients. He started in the tourism industry 12 years ago and is now a deaf guide who organizes deaf-only tours around the world. His signature tours are in the UAE, the Canary Islands, Japan and Europe. Vladimir is a volunteer and helps deaf pensioners a lot.

### Survey on Deafblind People in Hungary

This presentation discusses the development of the field of deafblindness and the work with people with deafblindness in Hungary since 1900.

Research made it possible to reveal important facts, including the fact that work with people with deafblindness in Hungary began as early as 1904. The newly appointed headmaster of Wechselsmann Institute for the Blind, Simon Adler (1861-1930), was entrusted with the field of teaching children with deafblindness. Thus, Adler was the first to teach children with deafblindness in Hungary. His professional contributions and studies have been published in Hungarian, German and French journals. Until his beginnings of work with children with deafblindness, there was a social belief that children with deafblindness were not teachable. At the time of Adler's teaching they knew about 54 individuals with deafblindness and according to Shmalz, 135 people with deafblindness were recorded in Hungary, who were called "blind-deafmutes". After Adler's death (1930), his work was scrutinized and it was found that due to the lack of children with deafblindness, it was not necessary to conduct education for the Deafblind.

From 1933 to 1982, there are no records of the Deafblind in Hungary. Re-records of the Deafblind do not appear until after 1982, after the revival of the Catholic Church and the care of people in institutions. The Szent Anna Home for the Blind, which operated under the wing of the Roman Catholic Church, provided care for blind children with physical impairment, including Deafblind children. It was only after the change in legislation in 1990 that the institutions began educating children with multiple disabilities, including Deafblind children. In the early 1990s, a department for teaching children with multiple disabilities, including children with deafblindness, was established at the Institute for the Blind.

In 1994, the parents of children with deafblindness founded the Hungarian Association of the Deafblind – Siketvakok Országos Egyesülete, which still operates today and takes over a big part of the care of people with deafblindness in the country.



**Simona Gerenčer from Slovenia** graduated from the College of Social Work (2002) and also completed a differential study for a university degree at the Faculty of Social Work (2005). In 2015 she received her PhD from the Faculty of Social Work with the topic *Social Position of Deafblind People in Slovenia and Hungary*. She works as an assistant at the Faculty of Social Work. She is a pioneer of professional work and scientific research with people with deafblindness in Slovenia. She is a cofounder of the Deafblind Association of Slovenia DLAN, where she is employed as a general secretary and an expert manager. She works together with people with deafblindness and a professional team in developing the language of the Deafblind and numerous methods of communication. She is an interpreter for the Deafblind and an interpreter for Slovene Sign Language. She is a supervisor in the field of social protection and is a co-founder of the Association of Interpreters for the Deafblind of Slovenia TAKTIL. Further more, she is involved in local and international research projects. She is an author of numerous articles and books on the field of deafblindness. She is active in the field of social and disability protection. Between 2019 and 2021 she was a member of the Expert group of the Constitutional Commission of the National Assembly for the Incorporation of Sign Language and the Language of the Deafblind in the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. Her email is [simonagerencer@gmail.com](mailto:simonagerencer@gmail.com)



### Outline of Special Education Origins after the Second World War in the Primorska region

Historical, archival sources are becoming increasingly accessible with the development of digital technologies. Within the e-ARH.si: ESS 2016-2021 project carried out by Slovenian archives, Virtual Archival Reading Rooms (VAČ) were developed, bringing access to digital copies of archival material to the general public online. Knowing history was, is and will be increasingly more important in the future, as the past is tightly intertwined with the future. The beginnings of special education in the Primorska region date back to the first half of the 19th century, when the first school for Deaf and speech-disabled opened in Gorica. Its activities were affected by the new demarcation between the Kingdom of Italy and Yugoslavia at the end of the First World War, with the abolishment of classes in Slovenian.

However, after the Second World War, the Primorska region was once again characterized by the establishment of a new border between Italy and Yugoslavia. In the territory now belonging to Yugoslavia, the people's government eagerly began to strive towards the renewal of Slovenian education, as well as establishing schools for children with development difficulties. The school for deaf and speech-disabled Portorož was founded on 28 November 1945. Following the end of the war the children in special schools were cared for comprehensively, as they were accommodated in the boarding school, where proper nutrition, clothes, health, education and upbringing were taken care of. Their aim was to prepare their alumni for everyday life by teaching them independence and integrating them into various work environments. They faced a shortage of adequately trained teaching staff. University level studies for special didactics were only offered in Belgrade, where teachers followed all new developments, attended professional seminars, courses and studied foreign literature. As tourism in Portorož intensified after 1950, there was a growing desire to move the educational establishment to a different location, often mentioning Strunjan. The founder of the institute Vinko Rupnik fought against the transfer. The school for Deaf and speech-disabled got its new spaces in the former Antico Portorose hotel.

**Mirjana Kontestabile Rovis from Slovenia** got her bachelor's degree in history and pedagogy at the Faculty of Arts Ljubljana. Since 1997 she has been working as an archivist for The Regional Archive in Koper. She is the author and editor of books on the history of Istra and the history of education in the Primorska region. From 2006 to 2010 she was the President of the Slovenian Archival Association. In the period 2009-2014 she participated in the EU project HERITAGE LIVE, co-organised international archival conferences and participated in the Cultural bazaar. Since 2008, she has been responsible for funds in the education sphere. As coordinator of the Inter-Archival Working Group on Education, she has been involved in the introduction of the Unified Classification Plan in educational institutions. Her email is [mirjana.kontestabile@arhiv-koper.si](mailto:mirjana.kontestabile@arhiv-koper.si)



**Ivančica Sabadin from Slovenia** graduated from the Faculty of Organization and Informatics in Varaždin, Croatia and earned the title of Master of Informatics. She has been working at The Regional Archives Koper in Slovenia since December of 2020, as a Computer Scientist. Her main responsibilities are administration and support for the archival information system and other systems such as RegUst (Registry of creators of archival records), VAČ (Virtual Archival Reading Room), and Krpan (Document Management System). She took part in the project of The Development of the Slovenian Public Electronic Archives or e-ARH.si. She is a coordinator of the Inter-archival working group for informatics. Moreover, she has a lot of experience in the field of education, both secondary and post-secondary, and is the author of two textbooks for the high school subject of Information and Communication Technologies. She has participated in many educational programs on national and international level. As a high school teacher, she earned the title of professor advisor. Her email is [ivancica.sabadin@arhiv-koper.si](mailto:ivancica.sabadin@arhiv-koper.si)



### Eugenics, Marriage Act, Sterilization and Abortions in Finland 1929-1970

This Ph.D. research is about how the ideology of eugenics affected sign language communities, especially deaf women. In 1929, the Marriage Act, influenced by eugenics, was enacted in Finland, and it prohibited marriages between congenitally Deaf people. Six years later, in 1935, Finland passed the Marriage Act law, and the sterilization law did not mention deafness. Between 1935-1970, seven thousand five hundred thirty women, including Deaf women, were sterilized.

In article published in HAIK, 2/2021 (co-author Doc. Hisayo Katsui), there is an analysis of the sign language community's perceptions of Deaf-Deaf marriages and the Marriage Act at the time. The data shows that Deaf-Deaf marriages are considered the norm and even the default in the community. Therefore, the planned Marriage Act provoked strong opposition in the sign language community because the Marriage Act law restricted Deaf people's right to choose their

partners. To argue against the Marriage Act, the community used the social eligibility of Deaf people, and the fact that the Deaf people have hearing children.

In this presentation, the data gathered in the Signed Memories (Viitotut muistot) – a research project in which Deaf people tell their (or their close ones') experiences of the Marriage Act and/or forced sterilizations – will be shown.



**Maija Koivisto, M.Ed, from Finland** is a Finnish deaf signer and currently a PhD researcher at the University of Helsinki in Finland. In her PhD research, she studies eugenics, the Marriage Act, and sterilization and abortions of Deaf women in Finland from 1929 to 1970. She was one of the researchers in the Signed Memories research project (June 2020-December 2021) which investigated human rights violations experienced by Deaf people and the sign language community in the Finnish history from 1900 to today within the context of the truth and reconciliation process. Her email is [majja.koivisto@helsinki.fi](mailto:majja.koivisto@helsinki.fi)

### Film: Fabrikas

Fabrikas is a short video that was produced during an artist residency at the Rupert Arts & Education Centre in Vilnius, Lithuania in 2019. The film forms part of the artists' long-term interest and research into histories of Deaf culture during socialism, and their influence on contemporary physical and social constructions of Deaf spaces across Eastern European and South Eastern European countries.

In the making of this film, the artists visited Deaf clubs and factories in the Lithuanian cities of Kaunas and Vilnius. They looked at the social history of workers' clubs and dorms popular throughout the Soviet Union as a frame of reference to explore Deaf community structures under communism. A central element of this project was the filming of two group discussions with Deaf community members who shared their experiences of life during the Soviet occupation in Lithuanian Sign Language. Workshops were filmed at two sites of interest including the Kaunas Deaf Rehabilitation Centre and the Lithuanian Deaf Society in Vilnius. This film is a poetic depiction of memories, landscapes, spaces and signs.



**Avni and Rebecca Dauti from Australia** are interdisciplinary artists from Melbourne, Australia. They have been working together for over five years, using collaborative models of research to explore Deaf histories and space. Their work combines theoretical and practical strategies through formats such as workshops, lectures, and video. Their films have been exhibited both in Australia and internationally, including at the Welcome Collection in London and the National Gallery of Lithuania. Avni holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) from Monash University and Rebecca holds a Masters of Art Curatorship from the University of Melbourne. His email is [dauti.avni@gmail.com](mailto:dauti.avni@gmail.com)

## WENDESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022

All Day Slovenia Excursions (From Ljubljana – Postojna cave – Bled – Ljubljana) and transfer from Ljubljana to Zagreb.

## THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### Activism of Deaf People in Croatia

The *Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing* celebrates its rich history of over 100 years. Deaf activism in Croatia has been prosperous since 1945, when the *Croatian Association of the Hearing Impaired (SOOSH)* was founded and led by Josip Komerički. In 1948, Komerički and the SOOSH Board founded an Association named *DES (Defektni sluhom)* in Zagreb. *DES* expanded to Osijek, Borovo, Pula, and Split. Deaf and hard of hearing persons were involved in many cultural, theatre, and sports activities organized by *DES*. *DES* supported persons with hearing impairments in developing literacy skills as well.

In the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, persons with hearing impairments were classified into seven categories, so many deaf persons worked for *DES* in different occupations but their right to education and vocational training was determined by the category they belonged to.

A political revolution in Croatia caused *DES* to close its door. A new association "*DIOZ*" (*Des, Ivančica, Osvit and Ziri*) was founded. Due to financial challenges, the city of Zagreb took ownership and renamed the Association into "*URIHO*." It became a centre for professional rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

The *Croatian Association of the Hearing Impaired (SOOSH)* has undergone a series of changes. The last name change took place in 1995 when the name the *Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing* was adopted. The head office of the Association has been at Palmotičeva 4, Zagreb, from 1947 until today.

**Jadranka Krstić from Croatia** is the president of the Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She was born in 1959 in Vinkovci, and she graduated from Slava Raškaj Educational Centre, majoring in embroidery. Ms. Krstić volunteered in the Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing since she was 15. In 2018, she was elected as the first female Deaf president of the Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She is passionate about painting and handicrafts.



**Ivona Divić from Croatia** is Project Assistant at the Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She was born in 1997 in Zagreb. Ivona volunteered as a President of the Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth Section from 2018 to 2020. Graduating from RIT Croatia in 2020, she obtained a BSc Degree in International Business. She is a graduate student at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Professional Studies. Her vision is to establish a bilingual education for deaf and hard of hearing students in Croatia. Her email is [hrv.savez-gluhih@hsgn.hr](mailto:hrv.savez-gluhih@hsgn.hr)



### Life and Work of Dragoljub Vukotić

Dragoljub Vukotić was an important historical figure in the world of the Deaf and hard of hearing. He lost his hearing at the age of 10, but that did not stop him from making big changes in his life and in the lives of Deaf people. For 30 years he was the president of the World Federation of the Deaf and for 34 years the president of the Association of the Deaf of Yugoslavia. At the age of 10, he lost his hearing due to meningitis. He continued his education at the school for the Deaf in Jagodina. His first contact with politics was when Germany attacked Yugoslavia. In 1944, he came to the Zemun school for the Deaf and Blind. In 1945, the founding of the Association of the Deaf of Yugoslavia began, amongst Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia. He dedicated most of his life to working with Deaf people. He fought for their rights, sign language and their education. His goal was to find a deaf person, socialize them, educate them, train them for work and include them in life. In his own country, his value was not recognized, so he moved to helping Deaf people around the world. With the founding of the World Federation of the Deaf in Rome, which he attended, changes in the lives of Deaf people began. Delegates from various countries, despite the shortcomings presented, were very optimistic, because this Congress laid the foundation for an international organization of Deaf people and concluded that this organization should start its work in earnest.



**Aleksandra Šoti from Slovenia** is a special educator and rehabilitator for deaf and hard of hearing people and children. She is able to tune into the needs of children and their parents. She has been working at the School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Ljubljana for two years in a class with deaf children. Before that she was otolaryngologist assistant in Military Medical Academy Belgrade for one year. There, she worked with patients who had hearing difficulties and had vertigo – both adults and children. Her email is [aleksandra.soti@zngl.si](mailto:aleksandra.soti@zngl.si)



**Peter Šoti from Slovenia** is a special educator and rehabilitator for deaf and hard of hearing people and children. He is of strong background in working with deaf and disabled children, equipped with a positive attitude and the patience necessary for special education professionals. He is working at the School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children in Ljubljana, and working for 3 years with children with autism and language difficulties. He also worked in a clinic for early rehabilitation in Sveti Sava, Belgrade, working with children age 0–10 where he conducted logopedic treatments. His email is [peter.soti@zngl.si](mailto:peter.soti@zngl.si)

### Unsigned Truth

This will be an chronological-thematic debate by two important people from the Deaf and Deafblind community in Croatia. Throughout the conversation and information sharing, many first-hand facts about the history of Deaf/Deafblind persons of Eastern Europe, especially Croatia, will be presented and discussed. Sanja Tarczay and Angel Naumovski are among the pioneers of the Deaf/Deafblind movement in Croatia that set up the foundations for action and who are still actively working for this movement. The theoretical and practical framework of this debate is set around the following subjects: the position of Deaf/Deafblind people during the post-Yugoslavia period, less known consequences of the collapse of Yugoslavia that affected the Deaf/Deafblind community, the factors that “broke the silence” and stimulated the commencement of the Deaf/Deafblind movement in the Croatian context, how these factors influenced Deaf/Deafblind identity formation, what were the first steps, who took them, and how they were made, and the current position of Deaf/Deafblind people in comparison with the past and what is yet to be accomplished.

It is an unknown fact that Deafblind people were the first people that encouraged the development of the first organizations of Deafblind, Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. Also, Deafblind people were the ones that supported Deaf people in their educational endeavors – they helped organize one of the first actions of studying abroad for a couple of Deaf Croatians.

The Deaf and the Deafblind communities share many common elements such as usage of sign language and hearing aids, and some cultural and history details, but they have specific characteristics unique to each group. Angel and Sanja will show you the richness of cultural diversity and endless possibilities that this common ground can bring in joint endeavors for a more inclusive and just society. They will sign the unsigned truth exclusively and without limitations.



**Dr. Sanja Tarczay from Croatia** is president and a founder of the Croatian Association of Deafblind Persons DODIR and the president of European Deafblind Union (EDbU). Sanja is an activist and human rights fighter as she is a Deafblind person herself. Thanks to schooling in Sweden, she acquired enough knowledge and experience to inspire the Deaf/Deafblind movement in Croatia. Sanja is the first Deafblind person in Croatia to receive a Ph.D., which was on the subject of Deafblind Interpreting. She is an educator nationally (Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Applied Health Studies) and a guest lecturer internationally (at Trinity College Dublin, Babeş-Bolyai University Romania, Stockholm University and others).



**Angel Naumovski from Croatia** is an accomplished amateur art director who has proven himself in the realization of numerous performances by the theatre group "DLAN". He organized and conducted sign language courses for more than 1000 students (students and youth workers) and sign language courses for children from 5 to 12 years old. Since 2005 he has organized workshops in drama, dance, juggling, sign language poetry as well as Visual Vernacular. He directed more than 15 performances in sign language. He is the founder of the Deaf Band Dlan and an artistic director and representative of the Croatian team in the "Sign & Sound Theater" project. His email is [angel.naumovski1970@gmail.com](mailto:angel.naumovski1970@gmail.com)



### **Irena Walulewicz-Understand Saving Human Lives**

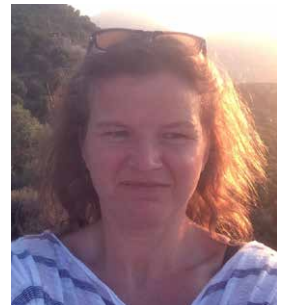
This is a biography of a Deaf woman, Irena Walulewicz, who had an extremely painful experience during World War II in saving another human being – a hearing Jewish woman, Golda Buszkaniec. This presentation is divided into three parts. The first part introduces her childhood and the Walulewicz family, and the social and historical context.

The second part describes five important experiences of Irena's life based on an interpretation of video and magazine sources:

1. Jews from Swieciany, Lithuania and their escape, focusing on Golda Buszkaniec as a 'survivor'.
2. Everyday life in hiding, focusing on the rescuer and the survivor's stories as a social form or practice.
3. Post-World War II, focusing on the escape of Irena and her mother and them finding a place to stay in Olsztyn, Poland.
4. During the communist period, focusing on Irena's social activity, as the first founder of the Field Circle of the Polish Association of the Deaf in Olsztyn and an actress of the Olsztyn pantomime group.
5. After communism, focusing on finding and restoring contact between the rescuer and the survivor. After this contact was made, Irena and her mother were awarded with the medal and the title of Righteous Among the Nations.

The third part presents the main thesis, using the examples of Irena's five important life experiences, on what it is like to feel the responsibility for another person with different cultural and communication levels. The overall interpretation was constructed while staying true to the values in the sources used—language (narration), autobiographical memory, historical context and informational content.

**Malgorzata Mickiewicz from Poland** graduated from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. She works in the Office for Persons with Disabilities of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn as a clerk for the education of Deaf and hard of hearing people. For many years, as a teacher of Polish Sign Language, she has been conducting PJM courses at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. She is actively involved in non-governmental organizations for the Deaf, promoting the culture of Deaf people and Polish Sign Language. From 2017, she is a member of the Expert Committee on Deaf People at the Commissioner for Human Rights. Her email is [malgorzata.mickiewicz@uwm.edu.pl](mailto:malgorzata.mickiewicz@uwm.edu.pl)



### **Film: "2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of the Deaf hosted in 1955 in Zagreb, Croatia"**

The film is a short documentary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of the Deaf held in Zagreb, Croatia from 23-27 August 1955. The filmmaker's name is Joško Duplančić.

The Congress was co-organized by the World Federation of the Deaf and The Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of Yugoslavia. More than 1500 individuals from 34 countries and all continents attended the Congress. Experts involved with persons with hearing impairments presented at the Congress (teachers of the Deaf, audiologists, social workers, psychologists, etc).

The Congress was remarkably successful. The most important takeaways were:

- At that time, there were around 36 million deaf and hard of hearing persons in the world;
- Rehabilitation was not well-developed in most countries worldwide;
- International cooperation is vital, especially cooperation with international organizations such as UNESCO and WHO;
- The World Federation of the Deaf played a key role in coordinating international efforts to advance rehabilitation for deaf and hard of hearing people worldwide;

- Rehabilitation of Deaf people must follow the newest evidence-based practices;
- Rehabilitation should begin at the earliest age and deaf persons must actively participate in the rehabilitation process;
- National Associations of the Deaf must increase their influence within their countries.

### Deaf Education in Ljubljana

The education of children with disabilities in Slovenia began in 1900 with the establishment of Gluhonemnica in Ljubljana (the school for the Deaf that today is called Zavod za gluhe in naglušne Ljubljana (School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana). On August 11, 1900, the Provincial Government of Carniola announced that Gluhonemnica in Ljubljana would open in October 1900 with the 1st grade, in which children of both sexes would be taught in eight-year courses. Classes will be free and the language of instruction will be Slovenian. The conditions for admission to the institution are as follows (Rupnik, 1940, p. 23):

- Deafness and hard of hearing at such a level that the child cannot learn vocal language;
- Age between 7 and 12;
- Adequate physical fitness for education;
- Mentally ill children and those with infectious diseases and other physical defects are excluded;
- Overall ability and capability of finishing educational process will be proven by a special test, the day and time will be announced;
- Foster children must receive housing and food in the institution, tuition of 300K per year has to be paid, if tuition cannot be paid under the care of institution;
- Those who are obliged to support dorm residences must provide clothes including 6 shirts, underpants, socks and handkerchiefs;
- The following must be submitted with the application for admission: birth certificate, certificate of smallpox vaccinations, medical certificate of deafness, etiology of deafness and certificate of overall physical fitness, certificate of nationality, school records (if there are any), statement of assets and commitment to ensure 300K of school tuition per year.



**Zemka Kečanović from Slovenia** works at the School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana as a teacher and assistant for pupils with disabilities and is the mother of a deaf son. Along with a having deaf child, she learns about and explores the world of Deaf people and sign language, and is currently working on an additional diploma in inclusive pedagogy. Her email is [zemka.kecanovic@zgnl.si](mailto:zemka.kecanovic@zgnl.si)

### Deaf Communities of Vyborg, Russia between 1899 and 2022

The international city of Vyborg has belonged to Sweden, Russia and Finland in different eras. After the Second World War Vyborg became an insignificant part of Russia. The goal of this presentation is to tell the story of the Deaf communities in Vyborg between 1899 and 2019.

Between 1917 and 1944, the Deaf Association of Vyborg was the second largest Deaf association in Finland. There is a lot of longing for Vyborg in the stories of Karelian deaf evacuees and their descendants. Photos from the period show how lively the association was before Vyborg became a Soviet city in 1944. The Vyborg Association of the Deaf was founded in 1899 during the Grand Duchy of Finland. The founder was Aleksander Puolakka, who attended school in St. Petersburg.

Descendants of the members of the association were interviewed regarding the memories of their parents or relatives. Finland fought a losing war against the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union occupied Vyborg in the summer of 1944. The residents of Vyborg were evacuated to the Finnish side. The Deaf people in Vyborg were evacuated all over Finland. The evacuated Finnish Deaf people of Vyborg decided to abolish their association in 1946. At the same time, the Soviet era began in Vyborg which lasted until 1991.

The city of Vyborg was inhabited by people from all over the Soviet Union. In Vyborg, the Deaf people of the Soviet Union formed their association in 1949 having first met each other in 1946. The premises of the Association of the Deaf have remained the same from 1949 to at least 2019. The people of the association were mainly working-class. In 2019, the oldest members of the association were interviewed.

**Outi Ahonen, MA, from Finland** is a senior Sign Language lecturer at the Humak University of Applied Sciences in Helsinki, Finland. Her ongoing PhD doctoral research is on Oral History at the University of Jyväskylä. Collective Deaf memory is her main theme. Currently, she is a researcher (2022-2024) in a Deaf History project in collaboration with the University of Oulu: Voices of a Silent people-Renovated Bodies. She has 25 years of experience in teaching Finnish Sign Language and Deaf Studies. She was also a co-founder of the Finnish Deaf History Society and president from 2016 to 2021. Her email is [outi.ahonen@humak.fi](mailto:outi.ahonen@humak.fi)



### Film: "Signs of Silence" (SOS)

The documentary film "Signs of Silence" (SOS) explores two opposing positions towards sign language in the education system in Croatia. One side, led by the oralistschool of SUVAG, holds a negative attitude towards sign language, and the other side is made of the majority of linguists and Deaf educators and the vast majority of the Deaf and hard of hearing persons who maintain that sign language is not only useful but necessary in the education of Deaf people.

Among many Deaf persons who were interviewed, the story of Angel Naumovski stands out. Angel is a former student of SUVAG, who from the young age was told that he does not need sign language for communication and, furthermore, that he would be better off if he does not use sign language. Later on in life, Angel realized that using sign language made it possible for him to become not only a part of the Deaf community in Croatia, but also one of its leaders. Inspired by his experience at SUVAG and other educational institutions in Croatia, Angel Naumovski wrote and produced several theatre plays and he has been engaged in many other projects that promote Deaf culture and positive social change.

**Angel Naumovski from Croatia** is an accomplished amateur art director who has proven himself in the realization of numerous performances by the theatre group "DLAN". He organized and conducted sign language courses for more than 1000 students (students and youth workers) and sign language courses for children from 5 to 12 years old. Since 2005 he has organized workshops in drama, dance, juggling, sign language poetry as well as Visual Vernacular. He directed more than 15 performances in sign language. He is the founder of the Deaf Band Dlan and an artistic director and representative of the Croatian team in the "Sign & Sound Theater" project. His email is [angel.naumovski1970@gmail.com](mailto:angel.naumovski1970@gmail.com)



**Jeronim Ban from Croatia** is a 51 year old Catholic priest with many years of work experience as a sign language interpreter, educator, webmaster, film producer, director, cameraman and editor with experience in the production of multimedia projects, radio and television programs and feature and documentary films – often about Deaf people and for Deaf people. He was especially personally and professionally enriched by living, studying, and working in the United States. He is currently the parish priest on the island of Sipan, Diocese of Dubrovnik.



## FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### Historical overview of the activities of the Slava Raškaj Educational Centre Zagreb, Croatia (1885 – 2000)

From the establishment of the first Institute for Deaf and Dumb Children in 1885 to the current Slava Raškaj Educational Centre Zagreb – there is 137 years of existence, systematic activities and education of deaf people in Croatia. Deaf individuals, prominent experts who worked in Slava Raškaj Educational Centre, and those who especially contributed to the development of deaf thinking were Adalbert Lampe, who was the founder of Deaf education, and then from 1936 to 1993 – Hinko Gudac, Vera Galliuff, Zlatko Omerbegović, Antun Zimmermann and Mirjana Nikolić.

During World Wars I and II, the Institute was turned into a military hospital and was a shelter for refugees and war orphans. At the end of World War II, the Institute resumed its work. In 1979, the name of the institute was changed to the Slava Raškaj Educational Centre, a name it still bears today. By 1990, the anniversaries of educational work with Deaf and hard of hearing children were marked with publishing and promoting two monographs, "Adalbert Lampe" and "The Life and Work of Josip Medved", books for deaf children and children with disabilities for development of professional assistance and special educators in teaching in primary schools in Zagreb and Croatia and with conducting seminars "On Communication with the Hearing Impaired".

In 1990, there was the transition to a democratic system and also aggression against Croatia. From 1991 to 1994 the Center accepted a large number of refugees. The work with children with hearing loss and exiled children continued. After the fall of communism, especially after the year 2000, the Center expanded its activities with modern electro-acoustic technology for hearing and speech rehabilitation, IT education of students and staff, the integration of children with hearing loss into the regular education system and the struggle for recognition of Croatian Sign Language.



**prof. Ružica Kežman from Croatia** is Deaf since birth and works at the Slava Raškaj Educational Centre Zagreb as a professor of special education working with Deaf and hard of hearing pupils with communication difficulties and additional disabilities. She was appointed to teach math in the upper grades of primary school. She also works through the National Center for External Evaluation of Education as a personal assistant to the deaf student in the matriculation exams. She is a member and active collaborator of the Association "DLAN" – Theater, Audiovisual Arts and Culture of the Deaf. She is also the head of the Croatian Sign Language (HZJ) course. Her email is [rouzy2@gmail.com](mailto:rouzy2@gmail.com)

### The Life of Roman Petrykiewicz

Roman Leon Petrykiewicz known in Poland as a long-term president of the Central Polish Association of the Deaf. He was known worldwide as vice president of the WFD and friend of Dragoljub Vukotić. He lost his hearing as a child and attended the famous Institute of the Deaf in Lviv (now in Ukraine, formerly in Poland). He took part in the defence of the Homeland during the Polish-Ukrainian and Polish-Bolshevik wars. As a young man, he began to gain experience as a Deaf community activist. What was his youth like? What was his patriotism as a soldier defending his homeland? What was his life like in post-war Poland (the communist period)? This presentation will explain many issues from the lives of Deaf people who lived through the period of capitalism and died in communist Poland.



**Tomasz Adam Świdorski from Poland** is deaf from birth. He is founder of the Institute of the History of the Deaf "Surdus Historicus" and a history teacher at the School and Educational Center for the Deaf in Warsaw. He is a historian, genealogist and archivist by vocation and education. He is the initiator of the creation of a new field of science: the history of the Deaf in Poland. He is a speaker at various conferences in Poland and internationally, the author of many articles on the history of the Deaf and genealogy, and Deaf History International Bureau Member of from 2012 to 2015. His email is [t.swiderski@surdushistory.org.pl](mailto:t.swiderski@surdushistory.org.pl)



### Deaf Roma and Sinti History: 1900-2000

Do you know who the Roma are? Have you seen or even used the term “gypsy” or other words used to refer to the Roma? Did you know that one of the most famous flamenco dancers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was a Deaf Roma? The Romani people are often misunderstood by *gorgers* (non-Roma) as their history and culture are mostly unknown outside of the Roma community. As a minority within this minority group, Deaf Roma have a particular history.

Ruva’s background is similar to many other Roma people and in this presentation, she will describe her journey beginning with an overview of the Roma history, their migration throughout Europe, their culture and identity.

Many Roma people live in difficult situations. In many cases, children’s access to education is poor and sign language is maligned, leading to limited opportunities in adult life. Furthermore, deaf people do not get the attention they and their culture deserve.

Ruva’s ultimate mission is to help Deaf Roma minorities and their children by building a bridge between the Roma culture, government and NGOs.

**Ruva Kremers-Meta from the Netherlands** was born of Deaf Romani parents in Kosovo and tells about her family history and of the wider situation of Deaf Roma in the mid-20th century. Her parents were born in 1940 in Kosovo, during World War II, a time when the Roma were persecuted and killed by the Nazis along with various other minority groups, most of all of course Jewish people. Kosovo escaped Nazi occupation and her parents were able to have a peaceful upbringing. Her parents met at the T. Mitrovica school for the Deaf as teenagers, and it was not until this time that they became aware of their Roma heritage and culture. They were married in 1958 and had three children, Ruva being the youngest. By then staunch proponents of the Deaf Roma community, Ruva’s parents taught their children to take pride in their heritage, stand up to bullying, and tell others about the Deaf Roma. Ruva has taken this teaching seriously and has spoken about her community in many countries.



### Deaf Education in China: History and Reflection

This topic is aimed at describing the achievements of general and special training goals of education—from ancient times to the present, China’s deaf education has experienced a long history of development. This study reviews the development process of deaf education in ancient China (before 1840), modern times (1840 to 1949), and communism (1949 to the present), and discusses the historical experience of the development of deaf education in China.

**Dawei Ni, MA, from Germany** is an Austro-Chinese poet, linguist, and lecturer. Born in Qingtian, China, Dawei moved to Austria in 1992 and currently lives in Germany. He is a lecturer and Instructor in Training on Sign Language Teaching and Sign Language Interpreting at the University of Applied Science in Landshut, Germany. In his spare time, he conducted research on the history of the Deaf in various archives. He has more than 20 years of professional experience in social justice, media and motivational speaking. His goal over the years, is to achieve Deaf “equality, participation, and collaboration”, around the world through his travels, promoting Deaf Culture in many countries.



### Truth and Reconciliation Process of the Sign Language Community in Finland

Based on the government program of Prime Minister Antti Rinne, the Finnish government has committed to a state reconciliation process on violations of human rights against Deaf people and the sign language community in Finnish history from 1900 to today. This process is the first of its kind in the world that tries to reach reconciliation between the sign language community and the government.

As part of this process, our research team (Viitotut muistot/Signed memories) was commissioned by the government to conduct a study on human rights violations against the community in this timeframe. We will utilize our collected data from 188 persons for the aforementioned research project in presenting human rights violations and their impact on the Finnish society today.

In this presentation we will discuss the truth and reconciliation process as a way of activism towards social change.



**Maija Koivisto, M.Ed, from Finland** is a Finnish deaf signer and currently a PhD researcher at the University of Helsinki in Finland. In her PhD research, she studies eugenics, the Marriage Act, and sterilization and abortions of Deaf women in Finland from 1929 to 1970. She was one of the researchers in the Signed Memories research project (June 2020-December 2021) which investigated human rights violations experienced by Deaf people and the sign language community in the Finnish history from 1900 to today within the context of the truth and reconciliation process. Her email is [majja.koivisto@helsinki.fi](mailto:majja.koivisto@helsinki.fi)

**Hisayo Katsui, Ph.D., from Finland**, is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland.

**Niina Meriläinen, Ph.D., from Finland**, is a Researcher at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Tampere University, Finland.

**Pauli Rautiainen, PhD, from Finland** is a Senior Lecturer at the Center of Law and Welfare, University of Eastern Finland.

### History of Romanov Palace – St. Petersburg Society of the Deaf

In the very center of St. Petersburg is the palace of Prince Mikhail Romanov, the younger brother of the last Emperor Nicholas. In 1922, the palace was given to the Society of the Deaf and Dumb before the creation of the All-Russian Society of the Deaf (VOG). To this day, this society resides in this palace.

#### Summary:

- A brief history of the land on which the Romanov Palace now stands.
- The former owners of the building before the Romanovs, including the maritime department and the Spanish embassy.
- The overhaul and last owner – Mikhail Romanov and his brief biography.
- The fate of the transfer of the building to the Society of the Deaf.
- 1922 to the present day – Highlights of Deaf life in this building.



**Vera Shamaeva from Russia** is a deaf person from a deaf family. She was born in Leningrad in the USSR, now named St. Petersburg. She has been working as a guide for 5 years, she conducts excursions in several museums of St. Petersburg and authors' excursions around the city. In parallel, for 7 years she has been deputy chairman of the St. Petersburg branch of the public organization of the deaf, "All-Russian Society of the Deaf". She is an activist of the youth movement of the deaf in Russia and she travels around Russia providing lectures and training. It is always important for her to convey the necessary information to deaf people in our native language – sign language! Her email is [kukisvumchorr46@mail.ru](mailto:kukisvumchorr46@mail.ru)

### Community, Language and Nation in the Lives of Finland-Swedish Deaf People in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

This presentation is a study of the formation of a minority within a minority by investigating the foundations of the Finland-Swedish Deaf community and the politicization of the minority in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Deaf people belonging to the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland formed a community and developed Finland-Swedish Sign Language (FinSSL) in connection to the Swedish school for the Deaf in the town of Borgå in Southern Finland during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The presentation focuses on two time periods that are seen as crucial for the formation of the minority Finland-Swedish Deaf people: the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when schools for the Deaf in Finland were separated on linguistic grounds, and the 1980s, the starting point of the political activation of Finland-Swedish Deaf people. It will be shown that the process of national awakening in Finland, which encompassed language struggles and the geographical and institutional segregation of the Finnish and Swedish languages, led to different spheres for Finnish and Finland-Swedish Deaf people. As the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed, Finland-Swedish Deaf people as a minority within a minority was accentuated, and the development of the welfare state in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century exposed Finland-Swedish Deaf people as a minority whose rights were often sidestepped when minority and disability rights were negotiated. Therefore, members of the Finland-Swedish Deaf community started to emigrate to Sweden from the 1950s onwards, in search of deaf education

in Swedish and a more inclusive welfare state. Challenges in connection to education, services and information in sign language and Swedish prompted political activation, which in turn led to greater social cohesion and in time to the recognition of Finland-Swedish Sign Language in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Hanna Lindberg from Finland** is a postdoctoral researcher at the Academy of Finland Centre of Excellence in the History of Experiences, Tampere University, Finland. She specializes in the history of the welfare state, social movements, and minorities. In her current project, she studies the formation of minority groups and the struggle for linguistic, educational, and social rights among Finland-Swedish Deaf people during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her e-mail is [Hanna.lindberg@uni.fi](mailto:Hanna.lindberg@uni.fi)



### The Deaf History of Bosnia and Herzegovina

This presentation will discuss the background of the Deaf History of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Edis Adrović from Bosnia and Herzegovina** is resident of the Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Zivnice. Edis was born in 1978., as a youngster he joined the Deaf community and joined the Association of the deaf and hard of hearing people in Živnice. He was accomplished athlete and very active in promoting Deaf culture. For the Association of the Deaf he successfully took care of venue issues and financial difficulties. In addition, for the national organization of the Deaf he organized a huge summit of Deaf people in Sarajevo 2015, which was peaceful protest – fight for the rights of Deaf people.



### Urban Deaf Spaces: Documenting Deaf Spaces in New York City, 1880-2000

This presentation will focus on collecting and documenting Deaf NYC stories. We have sought to gain an understanding of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century urban deaf community life. This presentation explores the different ways of gathering information through narrative (interviews) history, primary source material, and mapping deaf spaces in New York City. These approaches help us learn more about the largest urban deaf community in the United States during the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Dr. Brian H. Greenwald from the United States of America** is Professor of History and Director of the Drs. John S. & Betty J. Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center at Gallaudet University. Dr. Greenwald is co-editor of *A Fair Chance in the Race of Life: The Role of Gallaudet University in Deaf History* and *In Our Own Hands: Essays in Deaf History, 1780-1970*. He is President of Deaf History International.



**Brianna DiGiovanni from the United States of America** is a graduate student assistant at the Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center. Ms. DiGiovanni has been involved with different exhibits at the Gallaudet University Archives and Deaf Collections. She is currently completing her graduate studies in Deaf Education.



## Polish Independent Deaf Filmmaking

The interrelations between cinema and deafness are mutual and complex, and usually remain outside the scope of both film and deaf studies. As deafness is often seen as disability, deaf communities tend to be considered passive consumers of cinematic culture rather than its creative force. Yet, Deaf people played an active role in the moving pictures in twentieth century as well as today.

In my presentation, I will discuss the independent deaf film movement that flourished in Poland under the communist regime and in the transformation era. I will relate it to the amateur filmmaking movement in the US since the beginning of the twentieth century. In both cases, the deaf communities were organized nationwide, hence centralized associations (the American National Association of the Deaf and Polish Association of the Deaf) influenced the film making practices of its members. Independent deaf filmmaking will be investigated in relation to the specific political, cultural, and organizational environment in which deaf films were produced and distributed. I will consider how the 'independence' of independent deaf films can be understood, and what makes the deaf film 'Deaf'.



**Dr. Magdalena Zdrodowska from Poland** is from the Institute of Audiovisual Arts, Jagiellonian University, Poland. Her work engages intersections of deafness, technology, film, and media. In her latest book *Telephone, cinema, and cyborgs. Mutual relations between technology and deafness* (2021, published in Polish) she explores among others: DIY, reuse, and repair practices of the deaf communities. Currently, she focuses on relations of deafness and cinema, and independent deaf filmmaking within the project *The Deaf History of Cinema*. She is a member of the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC) and the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), which awarded her the International Scholar title. Her email is [magda.zdrodowska@uj.edu.pl](mailto:magda.zdrodowska@uj.edu.pl)

## Croatian Sign Language in Schools with Deaf Children at the Turn of Political Systems – From Socialism to Democracy

This presentation is based on research conducted in 2015 about the status of Croatian Sign Language in primary education institutions with deaf children. The current situation is a direct consequence of several key moments throughout the twentieth century and the continuing policy of integrating deaf children into the regular school system – starting in the 1960s and intensifying with the passing of the Education Act in 1980. The disintegration of Yugoslavia and the independence of the Republic of Croatia, the abolition of the socialist regime, the democratization of society and strong changes in the labor market further intensified ongoing processes.

Two models of primary education for deaf children will be presented – a customized program with the use of sign language (Center for Education "Slava Raškaj") and a regular program with the use of interpreters/translators (*hearing school*). Furthermore, the development of education will be shown through key moments in history and their impact on the development and preservation of the identity and culture of Deaf people will be analysed.

The Slava Raškaj Education Center is known as a school for the Deaf, where generations of Deaf people were educated in Croatia and which has nurtured a positive attitude towards Croatian Sign Language (HZJ) throughout its activities. Despite the conclusions reached in Milan, at the Second Congress of Educators of the Deaf in 1880, regarding the prohibition of sign language in educational institutions with deaf children, the school did not forbid its students to use HZJ. By doing that the school directly influenced development of HZJ and its preservation, and gathering deaf children from all over Croatia was a kind of incubator of Deaf culture. Later on, in late 1990s, when inclusion took place, the service of an interpreter/ translator in the regular education systems was ensured which also enables preservation of HZJ, but on the individual level, placing a deaf child alone in a hearing class prevents horizontal cultural transfer, which directly contributes to actually diminishing Deaf culture.



**Dorijana Kavčić, MA, from Croatia** is a linguist with special interest in Sign Language linguistics, working on a description of Croatian Sign Language (HZJ). She is a PhD student at the Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb and an employed HZJ interpreter. Being a CODA, scientist and interpreter, she herself is encountering and experiencing within the hearing community a lack of knowledge and literature about the language and culture of Deaf people, and is determined in her work to improve the linguistic status of HZJ and profession of HZJ interpreters. Her email is [dorijana.k@gmail.com](mailto:dorijana.k@gmail.com)



### **Slava Raškaj, the Most Famous Name of Croatian Painting**

Slava Raškaj is the most famous name in Croatian painting, and her watercolors represent the highest level of watercolor painting at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, an example of an ideal watercolor – presenting clear experiences of the beauty of nature. There are two phases in Slava Raškaj's artistic work:

- In the first – drawing and color are an expression of pure observation – a crystal clear experience of the beauty of nature.
- In the second phase of painting, Slava's works are first of all an expression of impression, and in that mood her best works are created – watercolor's "Pears", "Sunflowers", "Potočnice" and the series called "Water lilies".

She has participated in exhibitions in Zagreb, St. Petersburg and the World Exhibition in Paris. According to the laws of the time, Slava Raškaj, as a deaf-mute, could not travel alone outside Austria-Hungary, so she could not attend the exhibitions in Paris and St. Petersburg.

**Lino Ujčić from Croatia** is the president of the Association "Theater, Audiovisual Arts and Culture of the Deaf – DLAN" in Zagreb (Croatia). He is the editor of the "Applause of one hand" magazine aimed at bringing more accessible content related to culture and art closer to Deaf people by offering curiosities, sharing Deaf experiences and developing their interest towards diverse life topics, as well as sharing info on relevant events. He is a passionate researcher of Deaf history and the socio-cultural heritage of Croatian and other Sign Languages. He is a diversely talented artist active in theater, painting, visual design, art photography and book illustration. As an actor, he has participated in numerous theatre performances in Croatia and abroad. His email is [linouj@gmail.com](mailto:linouj@gmail.com)



## **POSTERS**

### **Preserving and Celebrating Australia's Deaf History**

The Deaf History and Cultural Recognition Program (DHCRP) evolved from the merger of two large deaf organisations in Australia. Both organisations wanted to make sure their history was acknowledged and celebrated, and this created an opportunity for a larger program with national reach.

The DHCRP is focusing on identifying and curating historical records, ensuring that they are maintained in appropriate environments and are accessible to deaf community members and researchers. This will involve building special collections within Australia's network of State Libraries and the National Library of Australia. Key documents will be digitized using OCR technology. Material from these collections can also be displayed in permanent and 'pop-up' exhibitions across the country.

An initiative of this program will be a national website repository, developed in partnership with a range of deaf organisations in Australia. This website will reflect the depth and diversity of Australian Deaf history, and will demonstrate shared curation across a range of community groups.

The website will include resources relating to Australian deaf history which can be used by teachers and students, linking to the Australian school curriculum.

Regular webinars will offer information for deaf community groups to identify, preserve and share their history and contribute to a sustainable national repository.



**Dr. Breda Carty from Australia** has many years of experience researching, teaching and writing about deaf history. Her book *Managing Their Own Affairs: The Australian Deaf Community in the 1920s and 1930s* was published in 2018 by Gallaudet University Press. She has previously served as both the Secretary-Treasurer and Newsletter Editor of DHI, and she co-chaired the Organising Committee for the 10<sup>th</sup> DHI conference in Sydney in 2018. Her email is [breda.carty@deafconnect.org.au](mailto:breda.carty@deafconnect.org.au)



**Darlene Thornton from Australia** is one of Australia's foremost experts in Auslan and Deaf history and culture, and a leading advocate for the importance of sign language in early childhood and lifelong well-being of Deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

A member of a 4th-generation Deaf family, and a native Auslan signer, Darlene has degrees in linguistics and education, and is a graduate of Macquarie University and the University of Tasmania.

Darlene is the founder and CEO of MyAuslan, a company dedicated to facilitating access to Auslan education for families of Deaf children. She was co-convenor of the 10th DHI conference and has performed numerous other leadership roles within the Deaf community.

Darlene has a broad network in the global Deaf and sign language academic community, and is well informed on global research on the impact of language deprivation on Deaf people and the critical role sign language can play in mitigating or preventing it.

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## The Deaf Museums Project

The Deaf Museums Project is a transnational Erasmus+ project by and for Deaf sign language users.

Our Objective: to make people aware of the importance of and need for Deaf Museums: museums about Deaf History and the Deaf Community in Europe.

We do this by:

- Collecting resources and saving them in one easy-to-find location: [www.deafmuseums.eu](http://www.deafmuseums.eu).
- Producing Deaf History Exhibitions (online and physical) as examples and for inspiration.
- Developing guidelines and an online course.
- Doing research.

The conclusions of our research:

- In the past decades so much has changed. If we do not preserve memories, photos, videos, artefacts now, much of Deaf History will be lost forever.
- Museums help people remember, they make people aware, they teach, they show. Museums about Deaf History and the Deaf Community are very much needed to do all of these things. At the moment, there are too few. Most of these depend on volunteers and are at risk.
- For Deaf Museums to survive and to spread, cooperation with mainstream museums and professionals is necessary. Deaf professionals know **what** needs to be preserved and shared. Mainstream professionals know **how** to do this. We found a few 'good examples' that show that collaboration in this field is possible and valuable to both parties.
- Some mainstream museums now employ Deaf museum guides to make their collections accessible. These museums are aware of Deaf people as a special target group. However, most do **not** know that there is a need – and a market – for Deaf Museums, for exhibitions about Deaf Culture, Deaf History.

It is up to us: the partners in the Deaf Museums project, but more importantly: the Deaf Community, Deaf Associations, and Deaf professionals to make the first step. Contact mainstream museums in your country, area. Get them interested, involved. Work together to protect, preserve and share our history.

**Liesbeth Pyfers from the Netherlands** was trained as a psychologist and has been managing EU projects with and for Deaf Sign Language users for many years. She is now the coordinator of the Deaf Museums project.



**Dr. Junhui Yang from the United Kingdom** is a senior lecturer at UCLan (UK), teaching Sign Linguistics, Deaf People in Society, Sign and Society, and British Sign Language courses within the BSL & Deaf Studies Team. The team is one of the partners in the Deaf Museums project. Their email is [deafmuseums@gmail.com](mailto:deafmuseums@gmail.com)



### **Effatha Gebaren: Emergence of a Sign Language Dialect in Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT)**

*Effatha gebaren* (EG) is an endangered dialect of NGT that emerged in the Protestant deaf school, Effatha, established in Leiden in 1888.

This project aimed to identify, document and analyze EG's early history by answering these research questions:

1. What is EG and how did it emerge?
2. What do elderly students remember about the repertoire and use of EG?
3. How many and which EG signs have been documented in dictionaries?

To find answers, we collected Oral Histories by recording interviews of students ( $n=4$ ) from the school period 1938-1956. A younger student interviewed them, using a questionnaire with various topics for triggering memories. Also, three dictionaries were analyzed for EG.

The data collection resulted in 150 minutes of recorded interviews, annotated using ELAN software. 59 Unique EG signs were found in dictionaries. Interviewees indicated that they learnt fingerspelling only in adulthood.

Deaf History was found embedded in lexicalised namesigns, e.g. VADER ("father"): he angrily threw his cigar on the floor which caused fire. Remarkably, some signs in interviews were not documented, e.g. WEEKEND (see photo – meaning: 'going home temporarily') or had a form change.



*Effatha gebaren* shows a rich, valuable lexicon. Since this dialect is endangered and as the older generation passes away, it is crucial to collect more Oral Histories to preserve resources on this dialect. Also, this enables archival access of Deaf History and collecting new information about the etymology and usage of EG signs.

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**Joni Oyserman, MA, from the Netherlands** is currently a Sign Language teacher and PhD researcher at the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL) in the Netherlands. Joni is also a curriculum developer of sign language modules, with a specialization in modules for parents of deaf children. Her publications and research interests focus on sign language linguistics, historical linguistics, International Sign, sign language interpreting, assessments, curriculum, ERK, grammatical judgments, sociolinguistics of sign languages, sign language education, deaf history and Deaf Studies. She is the contact person for this project and her email is [p.d.oyserman@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:p.d.oyserman@hum.leidenuniv.nl)



**Anique Schüller, MA, from the Netherlands** recently obtained her second MA degree in linguistics. Currently, she is working as a research assistant at the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL) in the Netherlands. Her research interests include a broad spectrum varying from the psycholinguistics of sign languages and sign language acquisition to sociolinguistics of sign languages and deaf history.



**Dr. Victoria Nyst from the Netherlands** is associate professor at Leiden University, the Netherlands. She works on the structure and history of sign languages in Africa and Europe.

Other team members are **Prof. dr. Monika Baar**, Leiden University Institute of History, The Netherlands, **Ingeborg Groen**, and **Joe Mackenzie**.

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## Do You Meme? Incorporating Creative Assignments in Deaf History Courses

One of the challenges of teaching history is often facing assumptions that history classes are boring because they are just about years and facts. How can we teach history in a manner that encourages student engagement and participation, especially when we consider the current climate of teaching in the digital age? I have found that incorporating creative assignments in Deaf History and Deaf Culture courses fosters student participation and encourages them to wrestle with the content in a new way. This poster will detail how to incorporate creative digital assignments, with two examples: Deaf History Memes and ASL Literature projects. The first assignment asks students to create Deaf history related memes, which are pictures or videos with humorous readable text that present an attitude or perspective. The second assignment asks students to view various examples of Deaf literature and then create their own work. Those assignments encourage students to utilize digital skillsets and it prompts them to analyze how they frame Deaf History and Deaf Culture. This poster will include examples of works students have created and share suggestions for how to incorporate creative assignments in the classroom.



**Corinna S. Hill from the United States of America** is a Deaf historian. She is a PhD candidate in the History department at the University of Rochester in New York. She is almost done with her dissertation which studies five different friendships between Deaf and Hearing Americans from 1840-1920. She teaches Deaf History and Deaf Culture at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York. Originally from the state of Texas, Corinna loves to travel, pet dogs, and try out new restaurants. Her email is [cshccs@rit.edu](mailto:cshccs@rit.edu)



### History of Slovenian Education of Deaf Students

The exhibition presents the History of Slovenian Education of Deaf Students. There are six steps shown, each of them has led to the Modern Deaf Education System in Slovenia. Every single step was made by a person, who found his or her purpose in teaching deaf students. There are major period features explained and an exhibit piece from each period is shown. A real-life story of a student or teacher from a given period is what makes history alive and real.

The exhibition is a small contribution to recognizing the importance of constant development of Deaf Education and a praise to those who have done so in the past.

Polona Koželj and Klara Marija Keršič were both enrolled in the 5-year project of the new permanent exhibition of the Slovenian School Museum, named School rules!

**Polona Koželj, MA, from Slovenia** has a Master in Art Education. She works as a librarian at the Slovenian School Museum. Among other projects, she was an author or co-author of several exhibitions on the topics of the Education of Blind Students, Music Schools' History, and Illustration of Children's Books. Her email is [polona.ssm@gmail.com](mailto:polona.ssm@gmail.com)



**Klara Marija Keršič, MA, from Slovenia** has a Master in Classical Philology. She works as a project manager at Slovenian School Museum. Among other projects she was a co-author of several exhibitions on the topics of the History of Slovenian Classical Philology and Education in Independent Slovenia. Her email is [klarakersic.muzej@gmail.com](mailto:klarakersic.muzej@gmail.com)



## SOCIAL PROGRAM

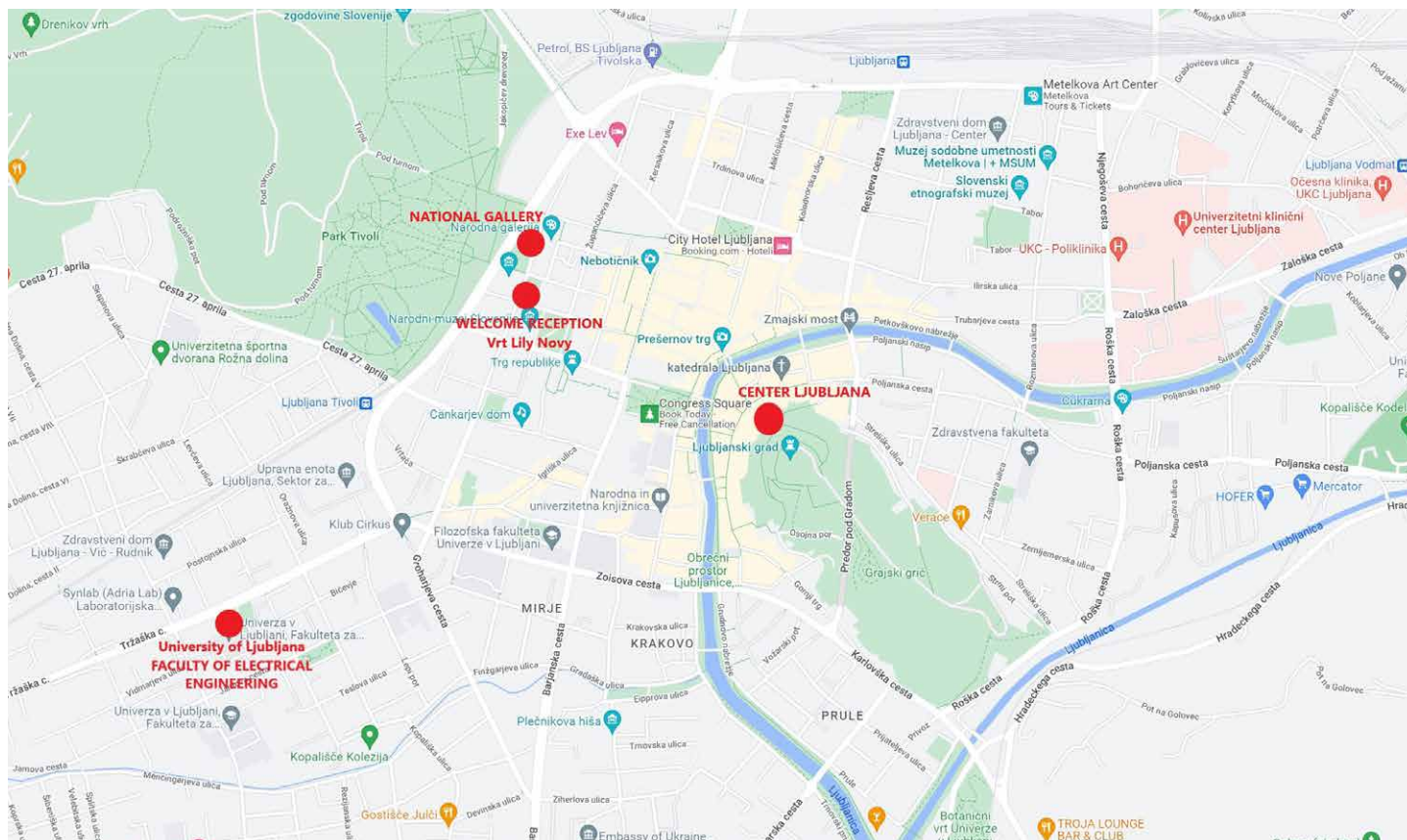
### LJUBLJANA

Visitor Information:

<https://www.visitljubljana.com/en/poi/ljubljana-tourist-information-centre-tic/>

<https://www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors/travel-information/>

### LJUBLJANA MAP



1. Welcome Reception (Vrt Lily Novy cafe) to Ljubljana city centre  
Walk: 7 minutes
2. Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Ljubljana to Ljubljana city centre  
Walk: 20 minutes  
Bus: #1B, 6, 6B, around 7 minutes

### WELCOME RECEPTION IN LJUBLJANA

When: 7 August 2022, 18.00 – 23.00 (after the National Gallery exhibition visit)

Where: Vrt Lily Novy cafe, Tomšičeva ulica 12, 1000 Ljubljana (opposite National Gallery)

Price: The Welcome Reception is included in your Standard/Concession Registration package  
(but not with half day one day, or two day registrations)

Website: <https://www.kaval-group.si/vrt-lili-novy>

The Welcome Reception is at the beautiful surroundings of Vrt Lily Novy cafe, named after the Slovenian poet and translator Lili Novy. The welcome reception will take place in a relaxed atmosphere near Tivoli Park, with refreshments and drinks for the participants, as well as a short cultural program. We will get to know the organizing and scientific committees of the DHI conference, and be introduced to the conference's scientific and social programs. There will also be a Visual Vernacular (VV) show featuring Deaf actor Damjan Šebjan performing on various topics including anecdotes from the everyday life of Deaf people.

**LJUBLJANA DEAF-GUIDED CITY TOUR**

Tour guide: Gašper Rems

When: 8. August 2022, 18:15 – 20:00

Meeting point: Conference venue at the Fakulteta za elektrotehniko, Univerza v Ljubljani (Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Ljubljana), Tržaska 25, 1000 Ljubljana

Price: Free

Tour path:

- Rimski zid (Roman Wall, Mirje)
- The famous architecture of Plečnik's crosswords
- Cobbler's bridge
- Town Square
- Prešeren's Square and the Triple Bridge
- Čopova's street

**SLOVENIA EXCURSION PROGRAM:**

When: 10 August 2022, all day

Where: Ljubljana – Postojna – Bled – Zagreb

Excursion Itinerary:

7:30 – depart Ljubljana for Postojna Cave

9:00 – 11:00 – Postojna Cave guided tour

11:00 – 11:15 – coffee break

11:15 – 12:30 – drive to Bled

12:30 – 13:30 – lunch

15:30 – five activity options:

1. Bled Castle
2. The Island Bled
3. Ojstrica viewpoint: free (50 min walk/hike – use hiking shoes)
4. Lake Bled walk-around: free (around 1.5 hours/5 km)
5. Sampling Blejska kremšnita (Bled cream cake)

15:30 – 15:45 – coffee break

16:00 – depart for Zagreb

18:00 – arrive Zagreb

Our bus departs from Ljubljana in the morning around 7:30 (exact time and location of departure will be announced in advance). In one and a half hour's time we arrive to Postojna, where we visit the breathtaking Postojna cave. The magnificent stalagmite and stalactite formations and diverse wildlife rank this cave among the most attractive caves in the world. Embark the subterranean train and experience the unforgettable ride through this miraculous underground paradise, shaped by droplets of water over millions of years.

After a quick coffee break and another hour and fifteen minutes' drive, we reach Bled, where we have lunch and an array of activity options, including visiting the spectacular Bled Castle, a characteristic image of Bled, and also a defining feature of Slovenia. The castle stands on the top of a 130-metre-high cliff rising steeply above the lake, which makes the castle terraces perfect for the views: its picturesque island, the nearby historical town of Radovljica, the elegant gliding planes from Lesce airport, and the Karawanken and the Julian Alps in the background. We continue with the guided tour of Bled, a walk along the lake, then have a break to do some exploring on our own – perhaps visit the church on the lake island, hike up to the Ojstrica viewpoint, or simply try a Bled cream cake, a local delicacy. After a final coffee break, we depart for Zagreb, arriving around 18:00.



## ZAGREB

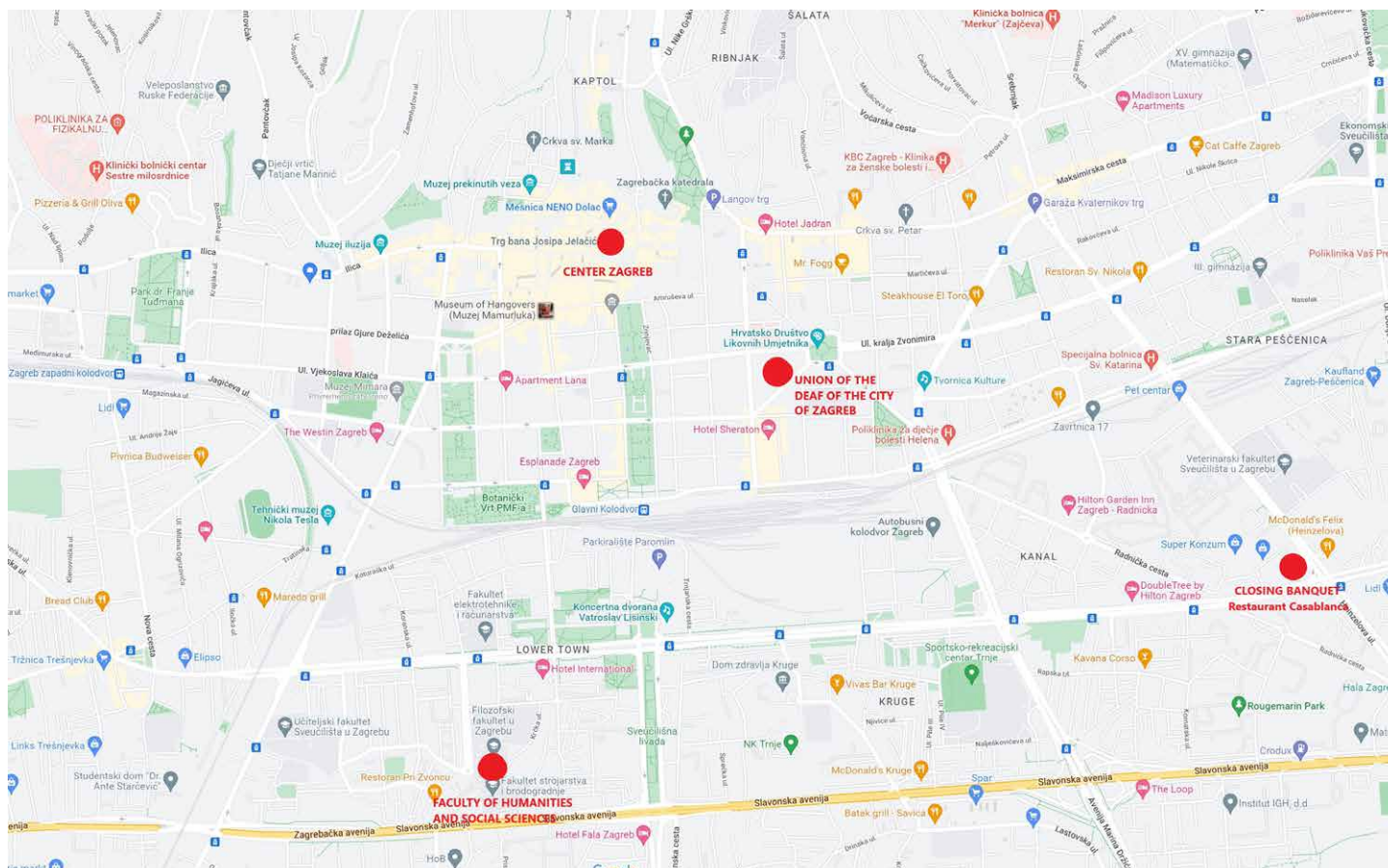
Visitor Information:

<https://www.infozagreb.hr/>

<https://www.infozagreb.hr/dogadanja/sajmovi-i-kongresi/11-medunarodna-konferencija-povijesti-gluhih-hr>

<https://www.zet.hr/en> (Bus & tram info)

## ZAGREB MAP



1. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to the Deaf Association (Deaf Club)  
Walk: 40 minutes  
Tram: #13, direction "Borongaj", around 25 minutes.
2. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to Ban Jelačić Square (the main city square)  
Walk: 30 minutes. Go through the main train station (Glavni kolodvor), then walk down Zrinjavac, to the north and it takes you directly to Ban Jelačić Square.  
Tram: #13, direction "Kvaternikov trg", around 15 minutes.

## ZAGREB DEAF-GUIDED CITY TOUR

Tour guide: Vanda Šagovac

When: 11 August 2022, 18.45 – 20:30

Meeting point: Conference venue at the Filozofski fakultet, Sveučilište u Zagrebu (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb)

Price: Free

Tour path:

- Ban Jelačić Square
- Kaptol (includes a tour of the cathedral)
- Gradec (Upper Town)



**ZAGREB DEAF CLUB**

When: 11. August 2022, 20:30 – 24:00

Where: Savez gluhih i nagluhih grada Zagreba (Union of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of the City of Zagreb), Ul. Kneza Mislava 7, 10000, Zagreb

**GALA BANQUET**

When: 12. August 2022, 19:00 – 24:00

Where: Restaurant Casablanca, Ul. Grada Vukovara 271, 10000, Zagreb

Website: <https://www.restoran-casablanca.com/>

Directions from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to Restaurant Casablanca:

Trams #3 or #13, direction "Žitnjak", around 15 minutes and 7 tram stops. Get off on Heinzelova, and walk around 5 minutes.

**CROATIA EXCURSION PROGRAM**

When: 13 August 2022, all day

Where: Zagreb – Ozalj – Plitvice – Zagreb

8:00 – depart Zagreb

9:00 – arrive Ozalj

9:15 – 10:15 – guided tour of Old Castle Ozalj & the exhibition of the deaf painter Slava Raškaj

10:15 – 10:30 – coffee break

10:30 – 11:30 – Ethno Park "open-air museum" presenting traditional architecture & artifacts

11:30 – 13:30 – drive to Plitvice Lakes National Park

13:30 – 14:00 – lunch

14:00 – 19:00 – tour Plitvice Lakes National Park

19:00 – depart for Zagreb

20:30 – arrive Zagreb

Our bus departs from Zagreb in the morning around 8:00 (exact time and location of departure will be announced in advance). We will drive past Karlovac before arriving in Ozalj, where we will first visit Old Castle Ozalj. Next, we will see numerous drawings, watercolors and pastels of Slava Raškaj, the great deaf painter and the "princess of Croatian watercolor", at the Ozalj Homeland Museum, as part of a permanent exhibition. We then proceed to the picturesque Ethno Park where the "open-air museum" presents traditional architecture and useful objects of pre-industrial everyday life.

Next, we head to Plitvice Lakes National Park, for lunch, before we visit the oldest and largest national park in the Republic of Croatia. The Plitvice Lakes National Park offers visitors seven different routes to tour the lake system, and four hiking trails. The expansive lakes are renowned for their extraordinary colours, ranging from crystal clear turquoise shimmers to green, indigo, and even darker blues and grey. Full of fantastic impressions, we return to Zagreb around 20:30.



## SPONSORS AND DONORS

- Društvo Učiteljev Gluhih Slovenije (Association of Deaf Teachers in Slovenia)
- Udruga "Kazalište, audiovizualne umjetnosti i kultura Gluhih – DLAN"  
(Association "Theater, Audiovisual Arts and Culture of the Deaf – DLAN")
- Fakulteta za elektrotehniko, Univerza v Ljubljani  
(Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Ljubljana)
- Filozofski fakultet, Sveučilište u Zagrebu  
(Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb)
- The Drs. John S. and Betty J. Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center, Gallaudet University
- The Department of Deaf Studies at California State University, Northridge
- Government of the Republic of Croatia
- Slovenia Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
- The City of Ljubljana
- The City of Zagreb's Office for Culture, International Relations and Civil Society
- Slovenski Solški Muzej (Slovenian School Museum)
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ljubljana
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Zagreb
- Australian Embassy in Zagreb
- City of Pazin
- Zavod za Gluhe in Naglušne Ljubljana  
(School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana)
- Združenje Gluhih Slovenije 14 11 (Association of Deaf in Slovenia 14 11)
- Centar za odgoj i obrazovanje Slave Raškaj Zagreb  
(Slava Raškaj Educational Centre Zagreb)
- Hrvatsko društvo prevoditelja znakovnog jezika za gluhe  
(Croatian Association of Sign Language Interpreters for the Deaf)
- Hrvatski savez gluhoslijepih osoba "Dodir"  
(Croatian Association of DeafBlind Persons "Dodir")
- Savez gluhih i nagluhih grada Zagreba  
(Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of the City of Zagreb)
- Krka d.d. Novo mesto
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- Zrim-ko d.o.o., pisarniški material (Biroteka.si)
- NKT, nove komunikacijske tehnologije, d.o.o.
- Turistični informacijski center (Tourist information centre)
- B & B Hotels
- Hotel Laguna Zagreb
- Premiki – Institute for counselling, promotion and development of accessible tourism Ljubljana
- Audio BM d.o.o
- Zavod za študije gluhih, izobraževanje, tolmačenje in coaching Lingua Signans



Društvo učiteljev gluhih Slovenije  
Association of Deaf Teachers in Slovenia



Association "Theater, Audiovisual Arts  
and Culture of the Deaf – DLAN"



University of Ljubljana  
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DRS. JOHN S. AND BETTY J. SCHUCHMAN  
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GRAD  
ZAGREB



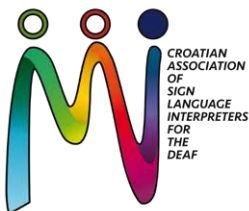
Grad Pazin



Zavod za gluhe in naglušne Ljubljana  
Vojkova cesta 74, 1000 Ljubljana



Centar za odgoj i obrazovanje  
Slave Raškaj Zagreb







Deaf History International



Udruga "Kazalište, audiovizualne umjetnosti i  
kultura Gluhih - DLAN"



Društvo Učiteljev Gluhih Slovenije

