Cinema of the Post-Yugoslav New Left: Filmmakers' Commitments in Times of Transition
Sima Kokotovic

A group of young filmmakers participated in the wave of uprisings that traversed the post-Yugoslav region in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis. From student protests to workers' strikes and movie theater occupations, they were moved by a sense of urgency to align their film practice with these struggles against destructive privatizations and the commodification of public infrastructure. Kokotovic proposes thinking of this body of work produced throughout the 2010s as "Cinema of the Post-Yugoslav New Left" for two reasons. All the films tackle some of the crucial tension points in the new protest culture that emerged in resistance to the detrimental consequences of the transition from state socialism to a free-market economy and liberal democracy. Thinking of them not only as representations of political processes but also as acts of participation within them offers important insights into how the decade of global uprisings played out across the countries that once constituted Yugoslavia, elucidating pivotal instances of conflicts and organizational issues that new leftist actors faced. Simultaneously, an approach that unpacks the *post-socialist* dimension of these films (as forms of political action) contributes to our grasp of the contemporary global radical documentary precisely by reinscribing in thinking about the global that which was erased as sine qua non of the post-1989 world—the experiences and afterlives of state socialist projects.



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