



Performances of Belonging? Popular Entertainment, Race, and Nationalism in Central and Eastern Europe, 1880-today

Since gaining ground in the late nineteenth century due to increased urbanisation and leisure time, popular entertainment has often been a space where transgression and marginality have flourished. At the same time, its influential role in the daily life of the masses has led to its instrumentalisation by political powers and authority figures towards goals of nation-building and inclusion or exclusion along categories of belonging.

This workshop looks at the dynamics of racialisation, ethnicisation and nationalisation revolving around popular entertainment and performance.

The Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) focuses on the region between the Baltic, the Black Sea and the Adriatic Sea. Its researchers explore this region's particularities, transformation and relationships in an ever-more globalised world from Late Antiquity to the present day. The collaboration of experts working in different humanities disciplines and coming from different backgrounds is the source of vast and deep knowledge about Eastern Europe.

www.leibniz-gwzo.de

Follow us on: Facebook YouTube Instagram

Venue

GWZO, Specks Hof (Entrance A),
4th floor, Reichsstraße 4-6,
04109 Leipzig

Concept and Coordination

Alexandra Chiriac (GWZO),
alexandra.chiriac@leibniz-gwzo.de
Vincent Hoyer (GWZO),
vincent.hoyer@leibniz-gwzo.de

Guest and Event Management (GWZO)

Julia Kuhre, julia.kuhre@leibniz-gwzo.de
Ines Röbler, ines.roessler@leibniz-gwzo.de



Lehrstuhl für Geschichte
des 19. bis 21. Jahrhunderts
Universität Leipzig



Workshop

**Performances of Belonging?
Popular Entertainment,
Race, and Nationalism in
Central and Eastern Europe,
1880-today**

Leipzig, April 10-11, 2025

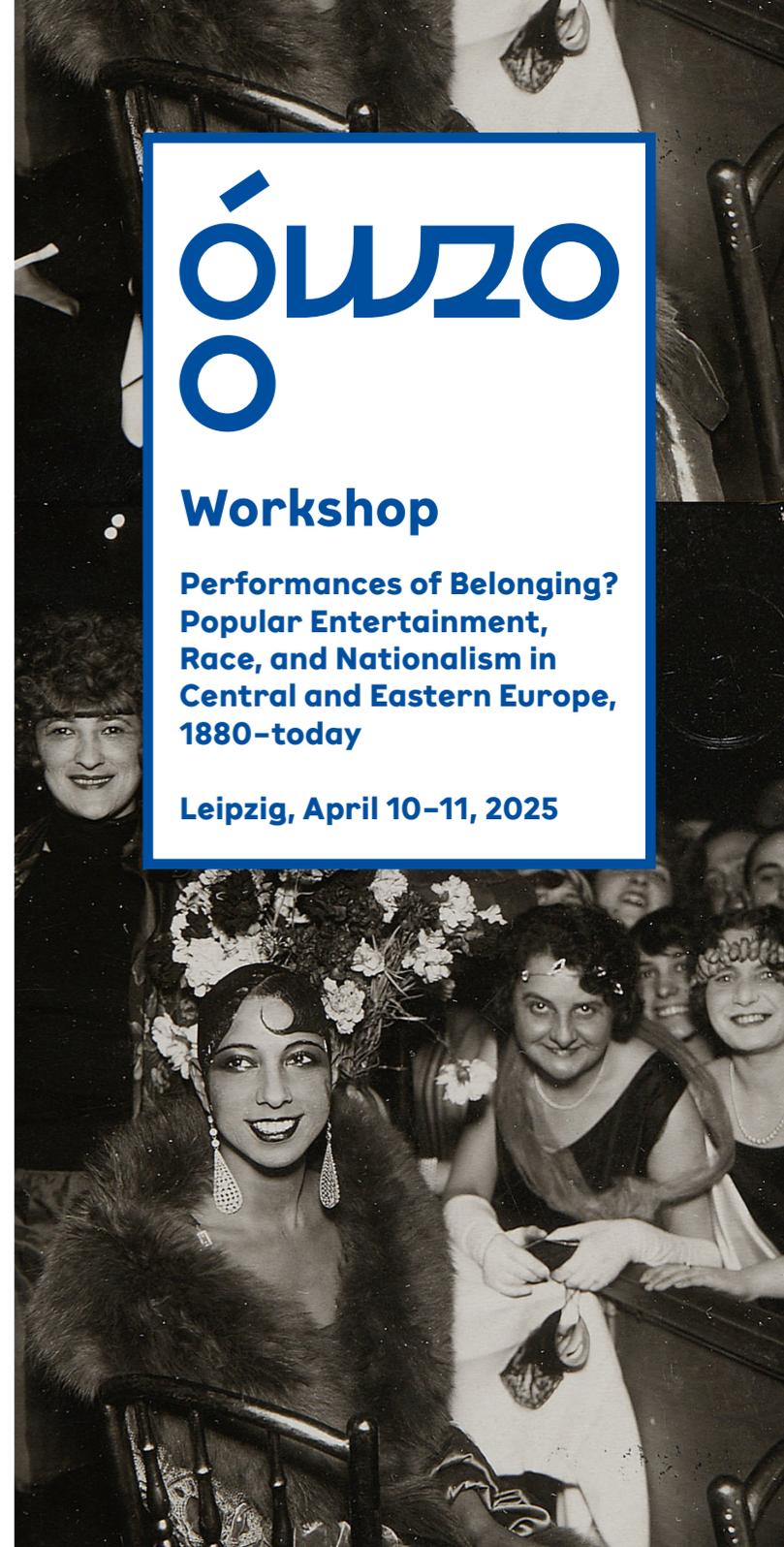


Image credits:

Front Image: Josephine Baker, Wien. Europeana.eu

1 Bucharest at night, Nicolae Ionescu, 1930s. Wikimedia Commons

This measure is co-financed by tax revenues as set out in the adopted budget of the Landtag of Saxony.



Thursday, April 10, 2025

9:30–10:15

Alexandra Chiriac, Vincent Hoyer (both GWZO):
Welcome

Antje Dietze (Centre Marc Bloch Berlin):
Popular Entertainment in Leipzig: Perspectives on
Performances and Belongings since the 1880s

10:15–11:15

I Play and Perception

Chair: Frank Hadler (GWZO)

Stefan Hofmann (Leipzig University): Walking a Tight-
rope: »Jargon« Entertainment and the Politics of
Jewish Visibility in Fin de Siècle Central Europe

Hanna Veselovska (National Academy of Arts of
Ukraine): Ukrainian Theatre in the Space of Popular
Culture Inside the Russian Empire

11:15–11:30 Coffee Break

11:30–13:00

II Entertainment and Contest

Chair: Katja Castryck-Naumann (GWZO)

Jonas Löffler (University of Vienna): Persianate Pasts,
National Futures. Shifting Musical Entertainment
Cultures in Tiflis/Tbilisi around 1900

Vincent Hoyer (GWZO): Whose Venue? Warsaw's Palais
de Glace and the Nationalization of Urban Space

James Mark (University of Exeter): A Yellow Peril in
Europe? Anti-White Discourses of Hungarian Turanists
in the 1920s

13:00–14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–15:30

III Jazz and the »Other«

Chair: Beáta Hock (GWZO)

Martynas Petrikas (Lithuanian Academy of Music and
Theatre): First Encounters: All-Black Performance in
1930's Lithuania

Ádám Havas (University of Barcelona): »Swinging«
Cultural Difference in East Central Europe: The Genesis
and Structure of the Hungarian Jazz Diaspora

Alexandra Chiriac (GWZO): Becoming Romanian:
African American Performers in Jazz Age Bucharest

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

16:00–17:30

IV Sports and Spectacle

Chair: Stephan Krause (GWZO)

Katalin Teller (Eötvös Loránd University): Americani-
zation, Internationalism, and Nationalisms in Austrian
and Hungarian Circuses in the Interwar Period

Paris Pin-Yu Chen (University of Birmingham):
National Sports and Race: Wrestling and Black
Showmen in the Interwar Baltics

Viktória Muka (Andrássy University Budapest):
Passion Plays in Budaörs/Wudersch as a
Performance of Belonging in the 1930s and Today

Break

18:00–19:00 Keynote

**Catherine Baker (University of Hull):
Your Race Still Sounds Familiar?: Historicising
Popular Entertainment and Racialisation in
Central and Eastern Europe**

Chair: Maren Röger (GWZO)

Friday, April 11, 2025

9:00–10:30

V Labour and Performance

Chair: Katarina Ristić (GWZO)

Maria Chiorean (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu):
Romani Music and Performance in Post-Abolition
Romanian Prose: On Racialized Emotion and Romani
Labor History

Sára Bagdi (Kassák Museum): 100% Anti-Imperial-
ism: The Role of Anti-Imperialist Poetry in the Late
1920s Hungarian Labor Movement Culture

Marijana Mitrović (Stiftung Universität Hildesheim):
Neofolk Music, Economic Changes and Racialization
in Serbia

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

11:00–13:00

VI Fictions and Revivals

Chair: Dorothee Riese (GWZO)

Anikó Imre (University of Southern California):
Racial Fantasies in Peripheral Popular Media
Industries

Indira Hajnács (GWZO): Resurging the »Eastern
Roots«: The Intersection of Traditional Music,
Nationalism, and Identity in Hungary's Illiberal Turn

Sunnie Rucker-Chang (Ohio State University):
Sonic Blackness, Black Cool, and the Metonymic
Black Body in Serbian Music and Film

Ilinca Tamara Todoruț (Babeş-Bolyai University):
Slavery and the Nation in Giuvlipen's »Caliban and
the Witch«

Image credits:

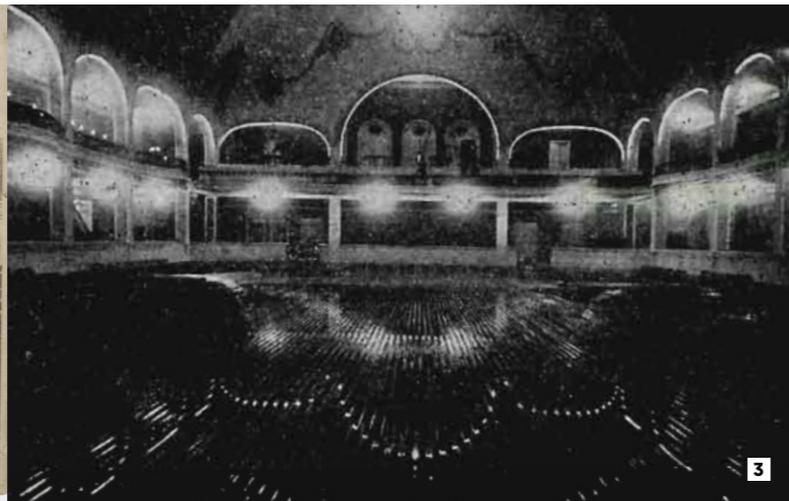
2 nypl: Vaudeville musicians. The New York Public Library.

3 Palais de Glace. Lotnik i Automobilista 1913, Nr. 1.

4 Volksfeste im Alexanderpark. Adres »-Kalendar' gor.
Varshavy na 1900 god«.



2



3



4