

Datum: 11.4.2024

### **VABILO NA PREDAVANJE GOSTUJOČE PROFESORICE**

**V ponedeljek, 27. maja 2024 ob 13.00 uri na Fakulteti za socialno delo, predavalnica 1.**

**Center za proučevanje zgodovine socialnega dela FSD v sodelovanju s Slovensko Akademijo znanosti in umetnosti in Inštitutom za kriminologijo pri Pravni fakulteti vabi na gostujoče predavanje profesorice dr. Susan Zimmermann, ki prihaja iz Central European University na Dunaju.**

#### **“Women’s social and political activism: revisiting the class divide, 1890s to 1930s”**

This presentation considers two clusters of women-dominated and women-centered labour activism in Central and Eastern Europe from the perspective of how they addressed class difference between women. Women’s engagement with the promotion of women’s skills and work in manual crafts aimed enhancing the income-earning capacity of this work, and women’s politics addressing the so-called “servant question”, played an important role in the history of women’s social and political activism. Conceptually, the paper contributes to crossing and bridging historical divides between social movements, and it revisits one longstanding debate amongst gender scholars and gender historians: the role of class divide between women and women’s cross-class common gender interest in shaping women’s (labour) activism. Historically, the social and political engagement of middle-class and left-wing women, while somewhat overlapping in terms of agendas and repertoires, was fueled by two different sets of class-based gendered interests and translated into divergent visions regarding the collective subjectivity of the manual and household workers addressed. At the same time, the political competition between middle-class and left-wing women on who was to represent working-class women’s labour interests (however construed), visibly contributed to the inclusion of these interests into the agendas of mixed-gender working class movements and women-dominated cross-class activist networks. Middle-class and left-wing women’s gendered labour activism also impacted on how public authorities engaged with working-class women’s labour issues.

## Kratka biografija gostujoče profesorice:

*Susan Zimmermann* is a historian of labour and gender politics and social movements in the international context, the Central Eastern Europe, and Hungary in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Her most recent monograph (in German) is *Women's politics and men's trade unionism: International gender politics, women IFTU-trade unionists and the labour and women's movements of the interwar period* (Löcker Verlag 2021). She has published on the history of policies and activism related to women's work in the International Labour Organization and its activist orbit throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century; here, the focus has been on the negotiation of the politics of gender and class, and the politics of global in/equality. Together with Eloisa Betti, Leda Papastefanaki and Marica Tolomelli Zimmermann co-edited *Women, Work, and Activism. Chapters of an Inclusive History of Labor in the Long Twentieth Century* (CEU Press 2022). At present, she holds the European Research Council Grant "Women's Labour Activism in Eastern Europe and Transnationally, From the Age of Empires to the Late 20th Century". Within this project (acronym: ZARAH) she studies the trade union politics of women's work in state-socialist Hungary and internationally. In 2024, she co-edited, with eight members of the ZARAH team, the volume *Through the Prism of Gender and Work. Women's Labour Struggles in Central and Eastern Europe and Beyond, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries* (Brill).

Prisrčno vabljeni!

Prof. dr. Darja Zaviršek, vodja Centra in izredna članica SAZU