



Research in 20 countries – about 80 researchers

SÁNDOR HORVÁTH

Institute of History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences



**Understanding
the Cultural Heritage of Dissent
in Former Socialist Countries**

<http://cultural-opposition.eu/>



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 692919.



COURAGE registry at cultural-opposition.eu

 **COURAGE**
connecting collections



**ONLINE
EXHIBITION**

**LEARNING
PLATFORM**

REGISTRY

HANDBOOK

**COUNTRY
REPORTS**

Risk Factors.
Archives of Cultural
Opposition

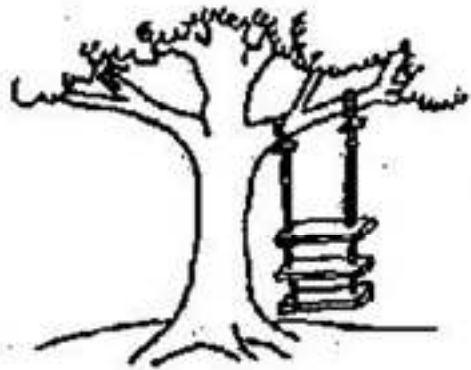
University
Higher Education
Walking App

500 collections
20 countries

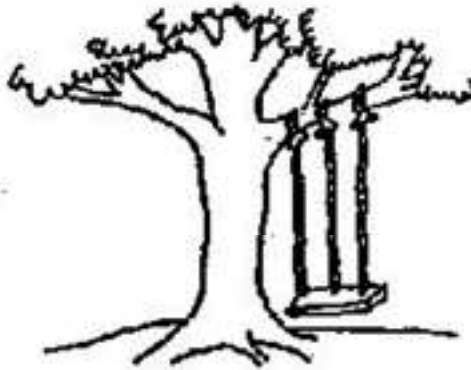
Cultural Opposition
and Its Heritage in
Eastern Europe

Policy
recommendations

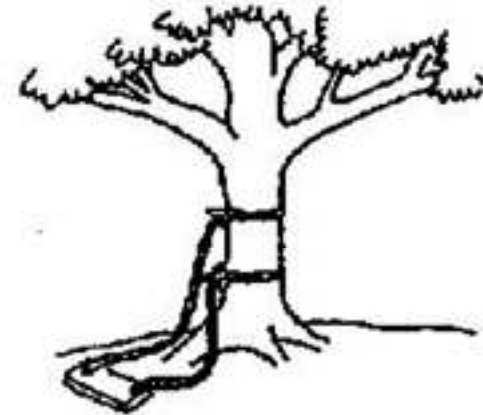
Project Development



As proposed by the project sponsor.



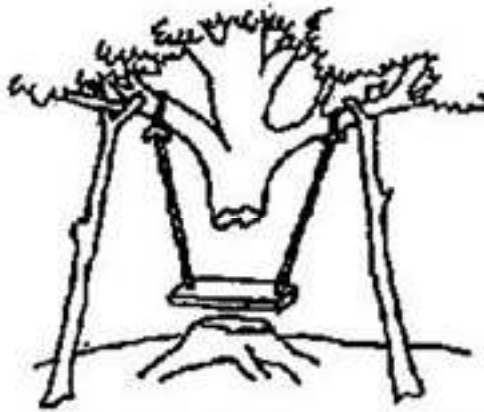
As specified in the project request.



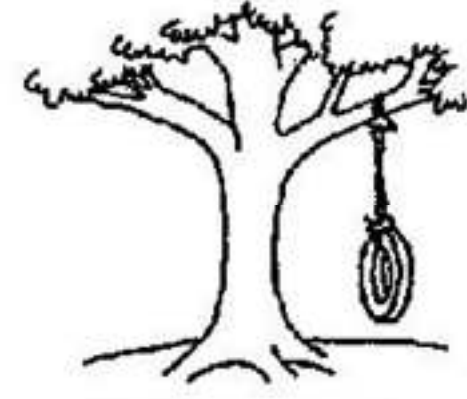
As designed by the senior analyst.



As produced by the programmers.



As installed at the user's site.



What the user wanted.

Scope of Research

In Focus: Late Socialism



+ Exile

+ Exile Communities Worldwide

Outcomes





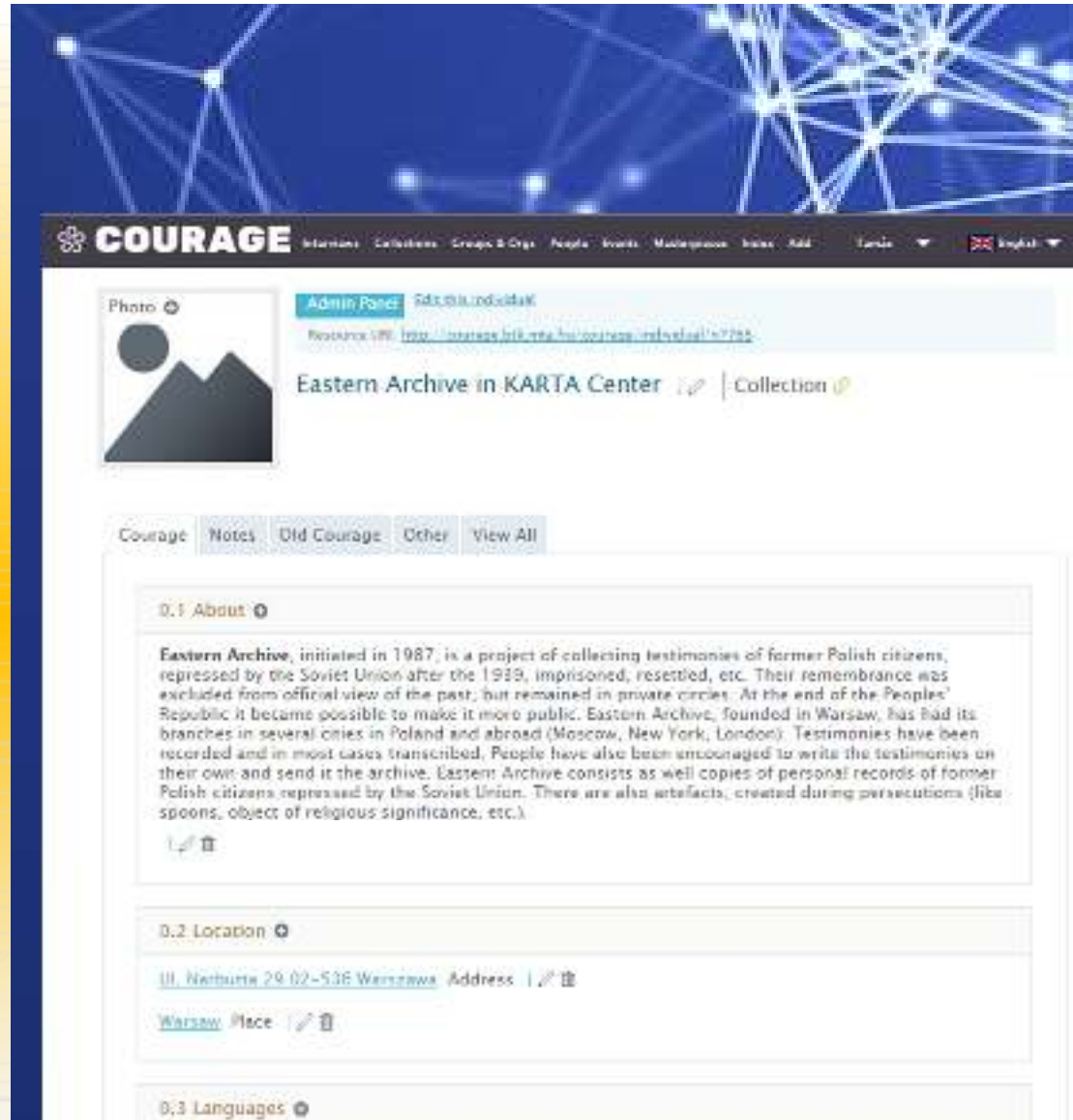
COURAGE shows that people under authoritarian regimes frequently created cultural products that they themselves treated as a **civil practice of dissent**.

Metahistorical perspective.
We examine the collections as historical agents and producers in the processes of the fashioning of histories (including the history of cultural opposition).

<http://cultural-opposition.eu/>

COURAGE created the **first digital database** of both online and offline private and public collections in Europe which testify to the survival of various forms of cultural opposition in the former socialist countries.

- To show **how these collections work**, what functions they serve in their respective societies, and how they represent their holdings and findings to the national and international public.



The screenshot displays the COURAGE website interface. At the top, the logo 'COURAGE' is visible alongside navigation links: 'Home', 'Collections', 'Create & Org.', 'People', 'Events', 'Multimedia', 'Index', 'Add', 'Language', and 'English'. Below the navigation bar, there is a profile section for 'Eastern Archive in KARTA Center'. This section includes a placeholder for a photo, an 'Admin Panel' link, and a 'Profile URL' pointing to a specific collection page. The main content area features a tabbed interface with 'Courage' selected, and other tabs for 'Notes', 'Old Courage', 'Other', and 'View All'. The primary text block, titled '0.1 About', describes the 'Eastern Archive' as a project initiated in 1987, aimed at collecting testimonies of former Polish citizens repressed by the Soviet Union after 1939. It mentions that these testimonies were excluded from official history but remained in private circles, and that the archive was founded in Warsaw. It also notes the presence of branches in Moscow, New York, and London, and that the archive includes personal records and artifacts like spoons. Below this, there are sections for '0.2 Location' (listing the address in Warsaw) and '0.3 Languages'.

<http://cultural-opposition.eu/> --- COURAGE registry – 2019 – 559 collections

Statistics



Geographic Focus



Registry – in 15 languages



PROJECT ACTIVITIES PARTNERS MEDIA EVENTS CONTACT  language login



<http://cultural-opposition.eu/>

Map of Collections in the COURAGE Registry



PROJECT ACTIVITIES PARTNERS

COLLECTIONS

GROUPS&ORGS

PEOPLE

EVENTS

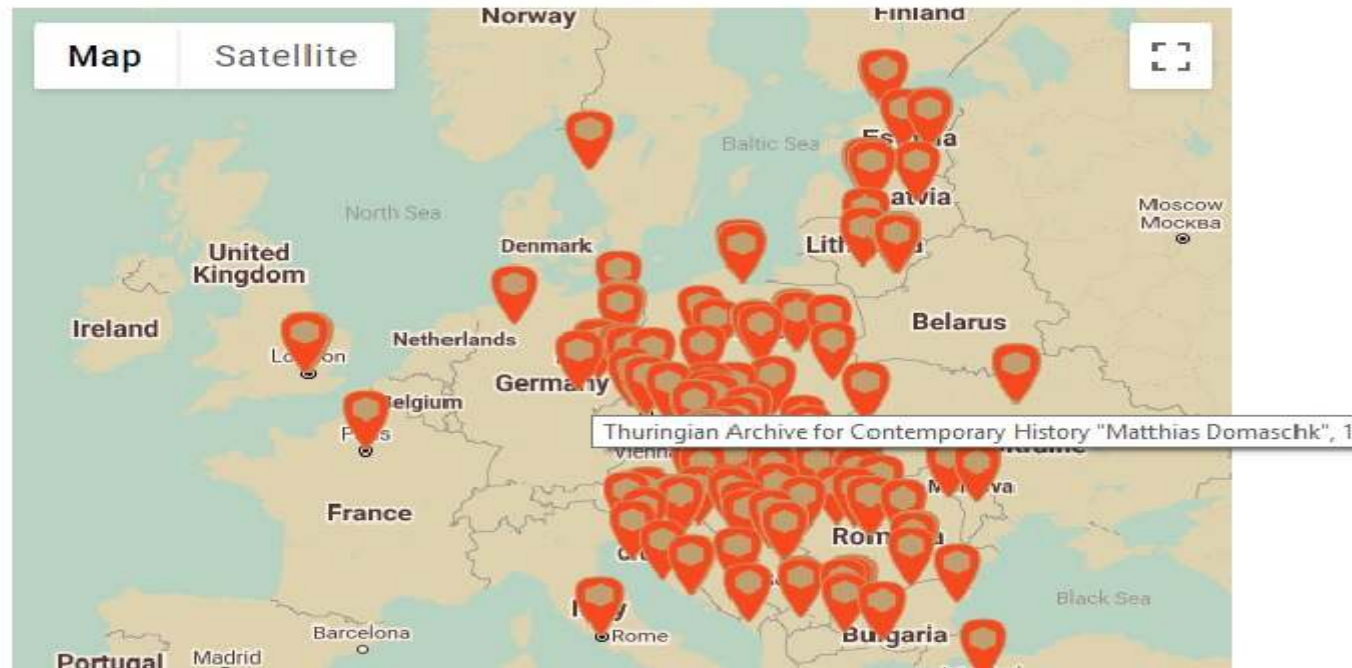
FEATURED ITEMS

ABOUT

551 collections found *(New collection descriptions are constantly being added)*

filter by:

- topic
- content type
- country
- geographic scope
- language
- date of founding
- online available



Annotations

- [Link](#) (5)
- [Note](#) (25)
- [Source](#) (19)

Collection

- [Collection](#) (141)

Courage other

- [Access type](#) (4)
- [Audience](#) (13)
- [Catalogue type](#) (5)
- [Collection status](#) (1)
- [Content of collection](#) (460)
- [Content type](#) (19)
- [Educational background](#) (7)
- [Employee statistics](#) (91)
- [Format](#) (27)
- [Former Country](#) (5)
- [Form of networking](#) (6)
- [Gender](#) (3)
- [Geographic scope](#) (4)
- [Illustration](#) (98)
- [Language](#) (24)

Document

- [Academic publication](#) (19)
- [Catalogue](#) (17)
- [Document](#) (48)

Event

- [Acquisition](#) (43)
- [Change in legal framework](#) (22)
- [Destruction](#) (2)
- [Donation](#) (21)
- [Event \(general\)](#) (233)
- [Exhibition](#) (43)
- [Loss](#) (2)
- [Publication](#) (38)
- [Structural change](#) (14)

Group

- [Group](#) (38)
- [Network](#) (37)
- [Organisation](#) (163)

Interview

- [Interview](#) (118)

Location

Role

- [Collector role](#) (226)
- [Creator of content role](#) (231)
- [Founder role](#) (213)
- [Operator role](#) (169)
- [Owner role](#) (298)
- [Stakeholder role](#) (113)
- [Supporter role](#) (147)

PUBLIC REGISTRY <http://cultural-opposition.eu/registry>



PROJECT ACTIVITIES PARTNERS MEDIA EVENTS CONTACT  language login

COLLECTIONS GROUPS&ORGS PEOPLE EVENTS FEATURED ITEMS ABOUT

sort by:
Date of founding
Name

[All](#) [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

53 collections found

Items per page:

search courage:

GO

filter by:

- Topic
- Content type
- Country
- Geographic scope
- Language
- Date of founding
- Online available

GO



ADRIAN MARINO COLLECTION AT BCU CLUJ-NAPOCA

The collection illustrates Adrian Marino's intellectual evolution as a historian and literary critic who chose to pursue his activity outside the institutions controlled by the communist regime. The Marino Collection includes books, original manuscripts, and the author's correspondence, which reflects a critical perspective on Romanian literary life in the period 1964-1989.

Location:

Cluj-Napoca Strada Clinicilor 2, Romania 400000

Web link:

FOREIGN CROATICA COLLECTION



The Foreign Croatica Collection is the largest collection of books and periodicals published by Croatian authors in foreign countries. The Collection includes publications in many languages covering numerous issues on Croatia and the Croatian people, including those related to the socialist period. It is the most important collection in Croatia containing books by Croatian émigrés banned during the time of socialist Yugoslavia.

Location:

Zagreb Hrvatske Bratske Zajednice 4, Croatia 10000

Web link:

<http://www.nsk.hr/zbirka-inozemne-croatice/>

Topics:

Independent journalism
Literature and literary criticism
National movements (patriotic opposition)
Party dissidents (outcasts from the Party)
democratic opposition
emigration/exile
human rights movements
religious activities

Date of founding:

1945

Important events in the history of the collection:

[Donation of books and periodicals from Vinko Nikolić to the National and University Library in Zagreb](#)

[Exhibition: A Century of Croatian Books from the Croatian Diaspora from 1900 to 2000](#)

[Exhibition: A Century of Croatian Periodicals from the Croatian Diaspora from 1900 to 2000](#)

[Exhibition: Serial Publications by Croats Living Outside of Croatia \(from NUL fund\)](#)

[Event \(general\): A Series of Public Debates on Topics Relating to the Foreign Croatica Collection, 2014–2017](#)

Featured items:

[Banac, Ivo. The National Question in Yugoslavia: Origins, History, Politics. Ithaca, N.Y. and London: Cornell University Press, 1984. Book](#)

[Kadić, Ante. Croatian Reader: with Vocabulary. 's-Gravenhage: Mouton & Co., 1960. Book](#)

[Liburnicus, Georgius. Tito perseguidor \(Tito the Persecutor\). Madrid: \[s. n.\], 1952. Book](#)

[Nevistić, Franjo and Nikolić, Vinko. Bleiburška tragedija hrvatskoga naroda \(The Bleiburg Tragedy of the Croatian People\). Munich: Hrvatska revija, 1976. Book](#)



MÜLLER, HEINER

Many regard Heiner Müller as the most important German-speaking dramatist since Bertolt Brecht. He did not see himself as a member of the opposition in the GDR. He did not fight against the construction of the Berlin Wall. He was not able to openly dissent against the East German process in the 1960s. He was a member of the GDR's Writers' Union. He was a commuter between East and West Germany. He was the head of the collection of East German literature in the GDR. Müller staged a demonstration in 1993. Müller was posthumously declared an all-German citizen in 1993.



HAVEL, VACLAV



HAHNEWALD, HEIKO "HAHNY"



STOJANOVIĆ, LAZAR



KMENTOVÁ, EVA

Intellectual, anti-war activist and one of the reasons why he spent several years in prison. He was on the radio and television in Belgrade in 1971. In parallel...

MARINO ADRIAN



Eva Kmentová was a Czech sculptor. After 1968, she was a banned artist, but she was exceptionally (in small galleries outside Prague). Her husband was a...



BENAŽIĆ, MARINA



KLANICZAY, JÚLIA

Klaniczay, Júlia is a researcher, editor, and curator and also cofounder and participant or assistant in many art projects conceived by György Kepes and Artpool. From 1979, she served as the leader of Artpool's archival and publishing activities. Her publications include: books, catalogues, samizdat magazines, such as the *Letter* (1983–1985)... [read more](#)



BLACK CHURCH ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY

The Black Church Archives and Library is one of the most valuable and significant cultural institutions of the Transylvanian Saxons. It holds a vast collection of archive material and old books from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. At the Black Church Archives and Library, the local traditional culture is preserved. [read more](#)

Location:

Braşov, Romania

Web link:

<http://www.honterus-archiv.ro/institution/>

Official name:

Black Church Archives and Library

Date of founding:

1958

Operator of:

[Hans Otto Roth Collection at Black Church Braşov](#)

SOLIDARITY UNION

Solidarity or Independent Self-Governing Trade Union "Solidarity" was the first mass organization in the Soviet bloc since communist takeovers in the 1940s, as a result of workers' strikes that rocked the country in the summer of 1980. The strike in the Lenin Shipyard in Gdańsk led Lech Wałęsa which spread to other regions. [read more](#)

Location:



INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF GRAPHIC ARTS

The International Centre of Graphic Arts is a specialized museum and producer of printed and contemporary art, based on the heritage of the Biennial of Graphic Arts and the twentieth-century art of printing. The ICGA was established on 25 December 1986 by the city of Ljubljana.

The ICGA takes care of the extensive collection of prints and artist books produced after the Second World War. Works from the collection are available to view in the... [read more](#)

Location:

Ljubljana Pod turnom 3, Slovenia 1000

Web link:

<https://www.mgic-lj.si/>

Official name:

International Center of Graphic Arts

Mednarodni grafični likovni center

Date of founding:

1986

Operator of:

[EY 112/15 Group Collection](#)

Owner of:

[EY 112/15 Group Collection](#)



NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE (CZECH REPUBLIC)

The National Film Archive (NFA) is a Czech film archive that was established in 1943. Thus, it is the oldest film archives in the world. Since 1946, The NFA has been a member of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF). In 1997, it became a founding member of the Association of European Film Archives (ACE).

After its founding in 1943, the NFA changed its name and organizational structure several times. [read more](#)

Location:

Czech Republic, 130 00, Prague 3, Malašická 12

Web link:

Archives as agents - questions

F1: the genesis and trajectories of the collections	← WP2: Registry →	WP4: Exhibition
F2: the political and social roles of the collections		
F3: the role of the exile		WP5: Country Reports
F4: the material culture represented in the collections		
F5: the organisation of the collections		WP6: Curriculum
F6: the working staff (life-trajectories)		
F7: the sociology of institutions & stakeholders		WP7: Handbook
F8: the networking and cooperative potential of the collections		

What We Ask?



What are the **genesis** and typical **trajectories** of collections? How did the **transition** of collections from opposition to mainstream and (if relevant) from private to public occurred?



What the **political and social roles and uses** of the collections were before 1989 and have been since then? What efforts have been made by national governments to preserve, maintain or add to them?



What were the **role of the exile** in supporting, preserving and disseminating these collections beyond the Iron Curtain and back home? How those collections were used that were created by the exile community?



How is the **material culture** represented by the documents, objects and audio-visual footage? What was and what was not regarded as worthy of collection and preservation? What objects were deemed important as potential historical sources or relics and what objects were omitted or discarded?

What We Ask?



How collections are **organized** (dataset and reference systems)? How is the material **collected**?



What is the social background of the **working staff** (including age and gender)? How are their life trajectories?



How are the legal frameworks, financial backgrounds, ownership and management of institutions and stakeholders (their **sociology** in general)? What is the social and cultural composition of their audiences?



What are the **networking and cooperative capacity** of different types of collections?
What are the existing and possible platforms and forms of cooperation and public presentation? How can we contribute to the development of strategies with which to strengthen cooperation among the collections?

Country Reports

How were the concepts and institutions that govern the collections established?

How they have evolved from the late socialist period to the present day?

Who are the major actors? Which are their hopes and strategies?

What are the patterns of changes in the political, legal, financial and cultural contexts?

Social Relevance

What uses may the heritage of cultural opposition have?

How to make the cultural opposition in the state socialist countries part of a pan-European cultural heritage?

How to link the collections with commemorative events to keep the heritage of cultural opposition alive?

How to use the collections for educational purposes?

Policy Recommendations

Legal,
institutional
and financial
frameworks

Identification
of problems
and of best
practice

Networking
and visibility
on a European
scale

Raising
consciousness
among local
and national
decision
makers

Please, contact us: <http://cultural-opposition.eu/>

Dr Sándor Horváth (Institute of History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)
Primary Coordinator Contact
horvath.sandor@btk.mta.hu

Dr Péter Apor (Institute of History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)
Coordinator Contact
apor.peter@btk.mta.hu

Dr. Tamás Scheibner (Institute of History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)
scheibner.tamas@btk.mta.hu
