



FILOZOFSKI FAKULTET  
SVEUČILIŠTA U ZAGREBU

ODSJEK ZA POVIJEST  
DOKTORSKI STUDIJ  
PREDMODERNE POVIJESTI

*Javno predavanje*

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***Constructing the Past, Contesting the Present:  
The Legacy of Samuel's State and the Politics of History in the  
Balkans (19th and 20th Centuries)***

**Srijeda, 28. svibnja 2025., u 17:00  
Filozofski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu  
Konferencijska dvorana Knjižnice (2. kat)**

The lecture will examine the complex and diverse layers of interpretation, conceptualization, and representation of Samuel's State, which have obscured its historical identity since the Byzantine era. It will focus on how Balkan political and intellectual elites throughout the late 19th and 20th centuries rediscovered and reimagined this medieval polity to advance political agendas, military strategies, and territorial or ethnic claims linked to the Macedonian Question. By tracing shifting narrative strategies, the lecture will shed light on the interplay between historiography and power that has shaped the construction, appropriation, and contestation of the memory of Samuel's State over time. This analysis will ultimately reveal how the legacy of Samuel's State has been continually used for political ends, highlighting the broader conflicts over history and identity in the Balkans.

**Mitko B. Panov** is Professor of Byzantine and Medieval Studies and Director at the Institute of National History, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje. He has published extensively on Byzantium and the medieval Balkans, including *The Blinded State: Historiographic Debates about Samuel Cometopoulos and His State (10th–11th Century)* (Brill, 2019), which was translated into Macedonian in 2021. Panov has edited more than thirty books and conference proceedings. He is founder and president of the International Symposium on Byzantine and Medieval Studies, "Days of Justinian I". In 2023, he was awarded the Order "Knight Star of Italy" by the President of Italy in recognition of his contributions to scientific and cultural cooperation.