

Teaching the Past:
**Skanderbeg and History
Education in Socialist Albania**

by **Dr Gentiana Kera (University of Tirana)**

Thu, 7 May 2026
6pm

Ágnes-Heller-Haus
1st floor, SR 7



XVI. GEORGIVS CASTRIOTA
Dictus Scanderberg.

The central question of this lecture is how the Albanian National hero, Skanderbeg, and his war against the Ottoman Empire, was depicted in pre-tertiary education history textbooks used in Albania during socialist period. Historiography, pedagogy, and political ideology intersected and played a crucial role in the construction of the image of the national hero, and school history textbooks were more than just educational tools. They were considered as instruments that could be used to cultivate to young generations loyalty to the Party,

national identity, and historical consciousness in line with Marxist-Leninist principles. Skanderbeg occupied a central position within this framework. The lecture will analyze how the portrayal of Skanderbeg and his period in history textbooks aimed to reinforce the official narrative of Albanian resistance and to align this narrative with socialist ideology.