

# Buchpräsentation

Institut für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte &  
Research Center for the History of Transformations (RECET)

Aleksej Kalc, Mirjam Milharčič Hladnik and Janja Žitnik Serafin,  
**Daring Dreams of the Future: Slovenian Mass  
Migrations 1870–1945**

Thought, Society, Culture – Slovenian and South Eastern European  
Perspectives Vol. 5, Berlin et al.: Peter Lang 2024

**Dienstag, 28. Mai 2024, 18.00–19.30 Uhr**

Moderation: Annemarie Steidl (Uni Wien)

Ort: Lesesaal der Fachbereichsbibliothek Geschichtswissenschaften,  
Hauptgebäude Universität Wien (Universitätsring 1), Stiege 8, 2. Stock

*Aleksej Kalc and Mirjam Milharčič Hladnik are researchers, Janja Žitnik Serafin is a retired researcher at the Slovenian Migration Institute of the Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts.*

In the second half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, nearly one-third of the population of today's Slovenia permanently settled in countries around the world. Many more were traveling back and forth, searching for work to ensure the survival of the family members left behind at home and the prosperity for the families and communities they were creating abroad. From one of the smallest nations in Europe, barely reaching one and a half million inhabitants at the time, people departed in numbers reaching 440,000. This book tells their stories about the “daring dreams of the future,” as the Slovenian poet Oton Župančič—whose words open the book—so beautifully put it. The people who left took recipes for their foods, accordions for their music, and love for their culture and language, which was, and has remained, a linguistic island between Vienna and Venice. In their new communities, they built homes, churches, and cultural institutions that have survived until today.

