



# UNDERSTANDING 1989 WAR VS. REVOLUTION IN EAST-CENTRAL EUROPEAN ART 1989

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On East-Central  
European Art

SARAJEVO, 19.-26.3.2023

# Understanding 1989 in East-Central European Art. War vs. Revolution

The program is designed as a series of seminars debating different aspects of 1989 and deepening a scholarly understanding of its role in the development of art and culture with a uniquely transnational perspective. It is based on the assumption that comparative research on the status of 1989 is necessary to interpret the ruptures appearing during this time.

The seminars in Sarajevo, Bucharest, in Poznań and lastly on Zoom which will take place during the years 2023 and 2024 will offer quite different intellectual and geographical scope of the task. Two main aspects elaborated during the seminars are war and revolution. These are juxtaposed in two specific regions - post-Yugoslav and post-Soviet, reflecting upon the tension between the events of 1989 and the notion of war which constitutes particular danger to the stability of both European and global culture. The structure behind four seminars connects the two understandings of 1989 – first, as war (in Sarajevo) and as revolution (in Bucharest). The latter two seminars, in Poznań and online, will offer contemporary interpretations to both notions. These will be: understanding the complicated interdependence of war waged by nationalism and revolutionary common past (Zoom) and perceiving revolution as labor that transforms both class and economic divisions of the post-communist societies (Poznań). The notion of the revolution in the context of 1989 will be framed in a new way, enabling a break away from national isolationism of individual countries in the region and reaching its shared historical and cultural past connected with left-wing ideas and historical background. Such interpretation is to enable critical re-examination of the process of transition that resulted in economic inequalities which were later effectively used in the region as a tool to establish the far-right authoritarian regimes that appropriated 1989 in order to legitimize their own indispensability. Such a frame will allow us to understand art oriented on class divisions in the postcommunist context and thus to revisit the problem of 1989 as potentially critical towards the dominance of the Western and market-oriented interpretations of art.

## Thematic foci and format of individual seminars



The first seminar, located in the often omitted and underestimated center of the region will focus on offering an alternative to the narratives of national divisions in the region, the oppressive category of the Balkans as well as the indiscriminate attempts to favor Western paradigms of identification equating democracy and capitalism.

Sarajevo is relevant for the seminar because of its intense and rich history, particularly the siege of Sarajevo (1992-1996) and the well-documented production of resistance through the establishment of an extremely relevant artistic alternative scene. Despite its critical potential, the positionality of Sarajevo as a central point for art history narration is rather rare. By placing this seminar in Sarajevo and inviting different guests, the program aims to shift the narrative, both in the interrelated intellectual and geographical aspects.

The seminar in Sarajevo will be an intense overview of the conditions which lead to and the consequences of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina; a study of the cultural production during the Siege of Sarajevo, as well as a critical analysis of existing narratives and contexts.



**History Museum of BiH, central location of our seminar. Architect: Boris Magaš**



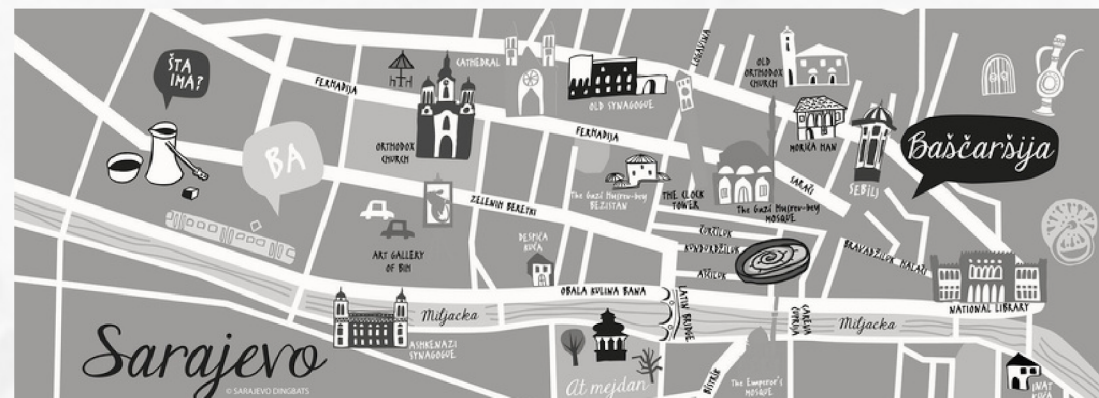
## Tips

### Other tourist spots

The Trebević Cable Car  
 War Childhood Museum  
 Gallery 11/07/1995  
 Zuta tabija (View Point Old Fortress)

### Local tourist goods to take with you

History Museum BiH - posters, memorabilia  
 Bazedžan - local artist and designer goods  
 Molimao - fashion  
 Crvena Jabuka - local food  
 Buybook - literature and translations  
 Kazandžiluk street - memorabilia



Illustrated map of Sarajevo's popular tourist attractions. Author: Aleksandra Knežević

## Seminar locations

Hotel Holiday  
 Zmaja od Bosne 4,  
 71000 Sarajevo

T. +387 33 288-200  
 W. [www.hoteleuropegroup.ba/en/holiday](http://www.hoteleuropegroup.ba/en/holiday)

History Museum of BiH  
 Zmaja od Bosne 5  
 71000 Sarajevo

T. +387 33 226-098  
 W. [www.muzej.ba](http://www.muzej.ba)

Kino Meeting Point  
 Hamdije Kreševljakovića 13  
 71000 Sarajevo

W. [www.kinomeetingpoint.ba](http://www.kinomeetingpoint.ba)

Ars Aevi Collection  
 Vijećnica - City Hall  
 71000 Sarajevo

W. [www.vijecnica.ba](http://www.vijecnica.ba)

Bosanski Kulturni Centar BKC  
 Branilaca Sarajeva 24  
 71000 Sarajevo

W. [www.bkc.ba](http://www.bkc.ba)

## Other locations

Restaurant Chat Noir  
 (Klub Slovenaca)  
 Hiseta 21

1000 Sarajevo  
 bistro.chat.noir

Cafe Tito  
 Zmaja od Bosne 5  
 71000 Sarajevo

T. +387 33 226-098  
 W. [www.muzej.ba](http://www.muzej.ba)

Kino Meeting Point  
 Hamdije Kreševljakovića 13  
 71000 Sarajevo

W. [www.kinomeetingpoint.ba](http://www.kinomeetingpoint.ba)

Restaurant Avlija  
 Avde Sumbula 2  
 71000 Sarajevo

[www.avlija.ba](http://www.avlija.ba)

ARK D-0: Tito's Nuclear Bunker Konjic  
 Polje Bijela bb  
 88400 Konjic

W. [www.bunker.ba](http://www.bunker.ba)

The inscription "Viva la Transicion!" is painted in plain Times New Roman font on the side of a public transportation tram, visible as the machine slowly glides and makes perpetual circles along the city rails.

"Viva la Transicion!" is a broken idiom, Stojčić's own personal artist statement. It's a nod to the revolutionary proclamation "Viva la revolución" or "Vive la révolution" but also a subversion of its own meaning, a sigh with which he encompasses various conditions arising from the perpetual transition, the geopolitical - and other - state of change.

This installation was the artist's gift to his hometown on the eve of 6th of April, Day of the City of Sarajevo, a day which both celebrates the Liberation in 1945 and commemorates the start of the dreadful Siege in 1994.

The tram itself, a modified ČKD Model Tatra K2YU, produced in the famous Czechoslovakian tram factory in 1977, was specifically designed for Sarajevo on the basis of Eastern Europe's favorite K2 tram.

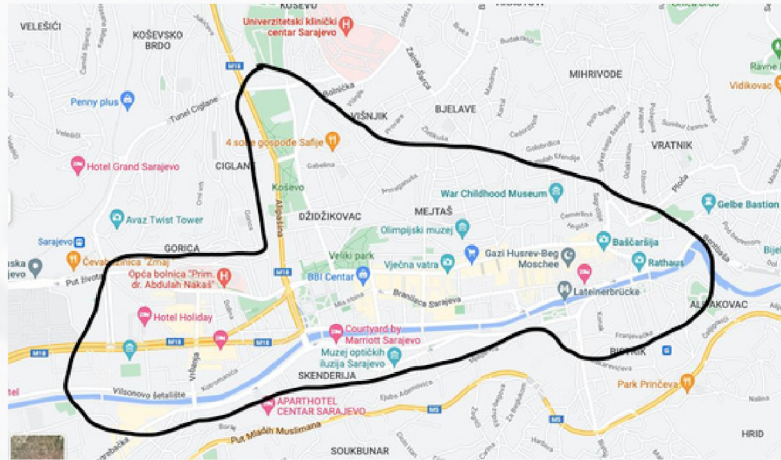
Bought from a state not in existence anymore, by a state and for a state also long gone, this tram still operates Sarajevo's railroad, which is famous for its simplicity and almost perfectly round shape.

Bojan's "Viva la Transicion" tram thus made rounds and stops, picked up and dropped off its passengers along it.

The tram is still in operation, but the message was replaced.



Bojan Stojčić: "Viva la Transicion", acrylic painting on a tram, 2015. Collection Duplex10m2



## Getting around

The circled part of Sarajevo is the city center. Sarajevo is a walkable city. From our seminar locations to the Old Town - Baščaršija, there is a 20 minute walk. The central street follows the river, while the rest of the city is rather steep and uphill.

Taxi is affordable. However, be advised that taxi drives might charge more if you stop them on the street. Therefore, it is advisable to call a taxi, and to use the company CRVENI Taxi. Tel. +38733760600

Tram and bus tickets can be purchased in the vehicles.

## A tip:

Ramadan starts on 23.3.

It is a special time of the year to experience the city and its communal ways. During the month of Ramadan, urban daily life and rhythm of Sarajevo do not change and our schedule is therefore not influenced by it.

Special kind of bread, *lepinje*, are available only during this time of the year and are worth a try. For a truly local experience, get in line to get them at Pekara Mahir Kovači right before dawn.

## Gastronomy:

Non-vegetarian:  
Ćevapi, burek, hadžijski ćevap, Sogan dolma, Punjene paprike

Vegetarian options:  
bamija, buranija, klepe, pita

Vegan options best at:  
AsDž, Veganer, Baoli, BarSa, Začin, Avlija, Regina

## Helpful numbers

Emergency  
033 611 111  
Kolodvorska 14

Police Center  
033 283 200  
Augusta Brauna 5

Hana  
061 519 898

## Currency

Please note that in Bosnia the currency is BAM / KM (fix exchange rate with Euro: 1 Euro = around 2 KM)

In most places it is not possible to pay by card. The exception are some restaurants, cafes and larger stores.

Thus, we would advise you to bring some cash (Euros) – if needed you can easily exchange money at any bank, as well as exchange shops.

## Weather

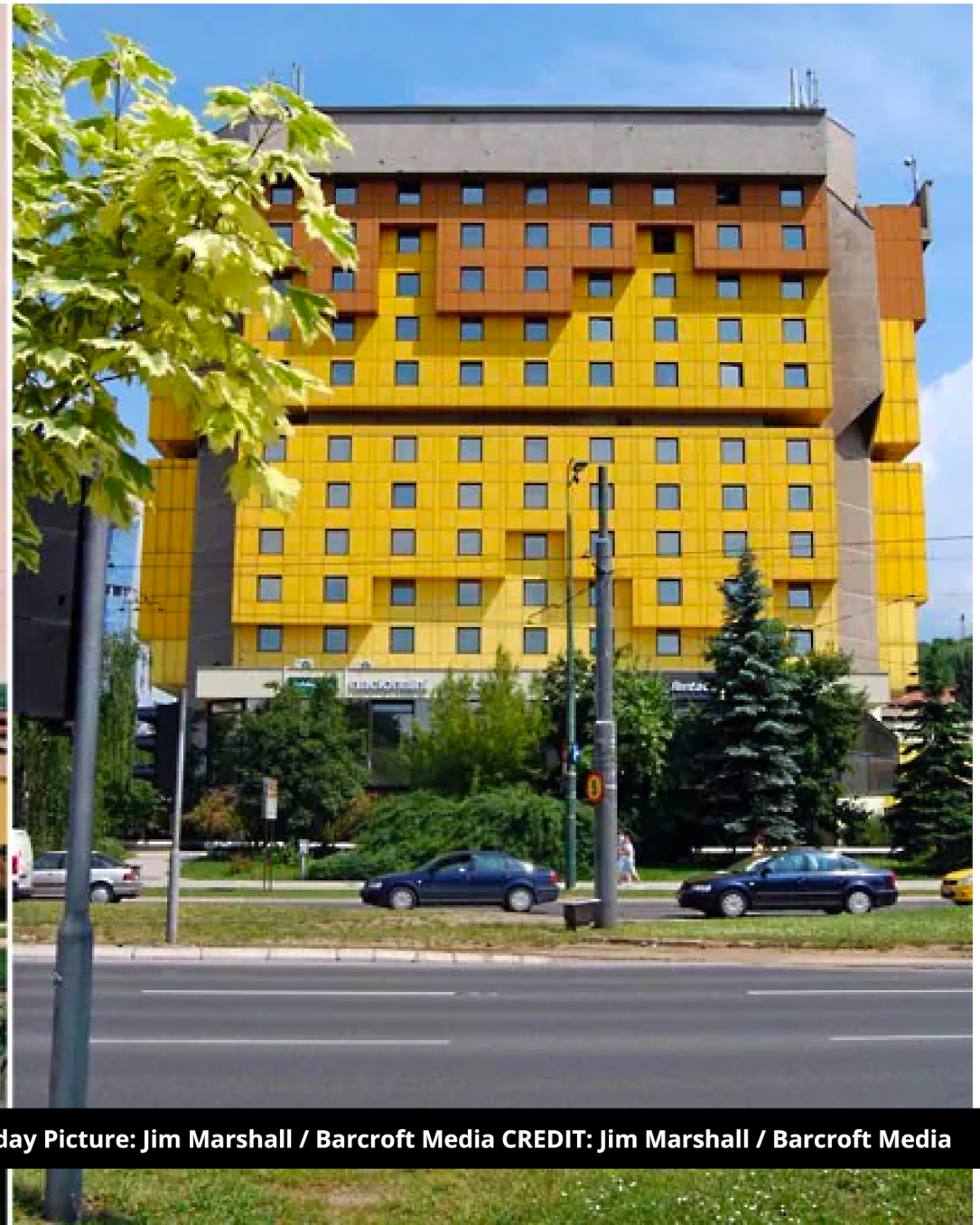
In March, Sarajevo weather can be unpredictable. It can either be an extremely pleasant introduction to spring or a cold winter. Remember to bring layers and a warmer jacket.

## Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available in most public locations and in all locations of our seminar.

If you would like to purchase mobile data to have access to network at all times, you can buy Ultra Tourist Package SIM card online or in most tobacco and convenience stores.

<https://www.bhtelecom.ba/en/tourist-2/tourist-offer>



The Holiday Inn in Marijin dvor, in 1996 and today Picture: Jim Marshall / Barcroft Media CREDIT: Jim Marshall / Barcroft Media

"Walks through Non-Fictional Hoods" is a bilingual publication that brings together five original contributions exploring various historical, spatial, and social relationships and forms that can be observed, read, and interpreted in Sarajevo, using its history and geography as a source material.

The contributions were written as authorial interventions following research-educational walks organized and carried out between November 2021 and February 2022.

The introduction by Danijela Dugandžić and Boriša Mraović reflects on walking and strolling as a general methodology of critique and analysis of everyday life and its extension through time and space. The articles, written by Haris Sahačić, Andreja Dugandžić, Nedim Mutevelić and Dunja Kravac, Boriša Mraović and Jasenka Čakarić, explore various elements of Sarajevo's historical geography and psycho-geography. Partly guide, partly reflections on patterns and possibilities, the publication does not necessarily lead you down a predetermined path, but invites you to walk and explore some of the possible ways.

The entire publication is visually commented on and complemented by original illustrations by Neven Misaljević.





Schedule subject to change. Set times highlighted above event titles.

# Schedule

Sunday, 19.3.2023	TIME	Monday, 20.3.2023	Tuesday, 21.3.2023	Wednesday, 22.3.2023	Thursday, 23.3.2023	Friday, 24.3.2023	Saturday, 25.3.2023	Sunday, 26.3.2023
	08:00 - 09:30	BREAKFAST HOLIDAY	BREAKFAST HOLIDAY	BREAKFAST HOLIDAY	BREAKFAST HOLIDAY	BREAKFAST HOLIDAY	BREAKFAST HOLIDAY	BREAKFAST HOLIDAY
ARRIVALS  PICKUP AT THE AIRPORT  FROM 18:00 DINNER HOTEL HOLIDAY  20:00 DRINKS TOGETHER HOTEL HOLIDAY LOBBY BAR  Note: for arrivals after 23:00, dinner will be provided at the reception during check- in	09:30 - 11:00	Introductions of participants, logistical information  HISTORY MUSEUM	Seminar Magdalena Radomska Art in Besieged Sarajevo  HISTORY MUSEUM	Seminar Edit Andras War, Women, Violence: Rape as a Weapon of War  HISTORY MUSEUM	Seminar Magdalena Radomska  HISTORY MUSEUM	Discussion Iva Vukušić  HISTORY MUSEUM	At 09:00 in front of Hotel Trip to Konjic	DEPARTURES
	11:00- 11:30	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	Group transport to Tunnel of Hope		
	11:30- 13:00	Seminar Boris Buden War: An Introduction  HISTORY MUSEUM	Seminar Magdalena Radomska  HISTORY MUSEUM	Seminar Caterina Preda The Art and Politics of Memory of the Wars in Yugoslavia  HISTORY MUSEUM	Discussion Rastko Močnik  HISTORY MUSEUM	Tunnel of Hope tour	From 12:00 Tito Bunker Tour	
	13:00 - 14:30	LUNCH MUSEUM	LUNCH MUSEUM	LUNCH BAŠČARŠIJA	LUNCH MUSEUM	13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH MUSEUM	LUNCH KONJIC	
	14:30 - 16:30	History Museum Tour  Seminar Boris Buden War in Context: History, Politics, Culture  HISTORY MUSEUM	Seminar Caterina Preda The Wars in Yugoslavia  HISTORY MUSEUM	15:00 Artist talk Šejla Kamerić Film screening & Discussion  CINEMA MEETING POINT	Colloquium Visit to Ars Aevi Collection  VIJEĆNICA - CITY HALL	14:00 Anti-fascist Sarajevo tour	Return to Sarajevo	
	16:30 - 19:00	Colloquium Film screening Želimir Žilnik, Tito second time among the Serbs  Discussion in Cafe Tito	18:00 Film screening Jasmila Žbanić, Blum Film screening  CINEMA MEETING POINT	Free	Free	17:00 Discussion with Jasmila Žbanić  HISTORY MUSEUM	Colloquium All professors  Film screening: Hito Steyerl, Journal I (21 min)  Final discussion  HISTORY MUSEUM	
	Evening	From 19:30 DINNER CHAT NOIR	From 20:00 DINNER HOLIDAY	19:00 Public lecture Rastko Močnik BKC	20:00 Public lecture Iva Vukušić BKC	Visit to DKC Sarajevo	From 19:30 DINNER AVLIJA	
	After			From 21:00 DINNER HOLIDAY	From 21:00 DINNER HOLIDAY	From 20:00 DINNER HOLIDAY		

## Rastko Močnik and Boris Buden

### Wednesday, 22.3. 19:00

#### DEPENDENT CAPITALISM AND WAR

Prof. Dr. Rastko Močnik  
visiting professor, Faculty of Media and Communications, Belgrade

With the restoration of capitalism in post-socialist countries, wars broke out among the new states on the territories of the Yugoslav federation and the Soviet Union. We still do not fully understand the connection between the two. We know that the restored capitalism is a dependent capitalism, unequally integrated into the constructions of the collective imperialism of the "West". We also know that capitalism has been restored by a state-led „primitive accumulation“ of capital in the conditions of legal vacuum and socio-political disenfranchisement of the population at large. However, we have only scarce knowledge of the class relations in the new capitalist countries and of the way how class conflicts relate to the war conflicts. The presentation will offer some insight into these open questions and suggest some tentative answers.

## Iva Vukušić and Boris Buden

### Thursday, 23.3. 20:00

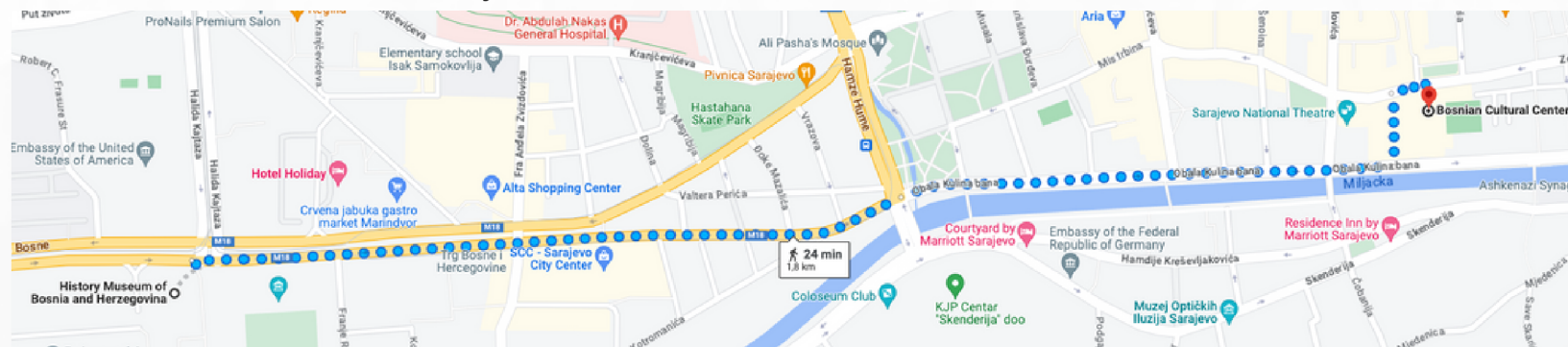
#### STATE OUTSOURCING VIOLENCE: PARAMILITARIES IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA AND UKRAINE

Dr. Iva Vukušić  
assistant professor, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Contemporary conflicts across the world feature a great number of diverse irregular armed units. Different terms are used to describe them: "paramilitaries", "militias", "non-state actors", "mercenaries", "vigilantes", "death squads", etc. They describe groups of people, most commonly men, who fight and attack civilians on behalf of a state with which they have no formal relation. This session will build on examples from the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s and Ukraine today to discuss what paramilitaries are, how and why states use them, and what kinds of violence they perpetrate against civilians. Furthermore, during the session, we will discuss war crimes trials and the challenges in holding paramilitary perpetrators of mass violence accountable for the crimes they commit.

## Venue

### Bosanski Kulturni Centar, Branilaca Sarajeva 24



Once you are in the login zone on the website (password:1989), find all the readings uploaded in this section.

Please note: obligatory readings should be read prior to the seminar.

Please also note: it is advised to read additional readings proposed by Iva Vukušić and Rastko Močnik (added in the additional readings page) prior to the public lectures.

## ***Sarajevo Seminar***

*/ 19-26.03.2023*

- [practical info](#)
- [obligatory readings](#)
- [additional readings](#)
- [what's app](#)

Abstract:

## ***Bucharest Seminar***

*/ 9-16.06.2023*

- practical info
- obligatory readings
- additional readings
- what's app

## ***Glocal Seminar***

*/ online*

- practical info
- obligatory readings
- additional readings
- what's app

## ***Poznań Seminar***

*/ May 2024*

- practical info
- obligatory readings
- additional readings
- what's app



<http://understanding1989.amu.edu.pl/>