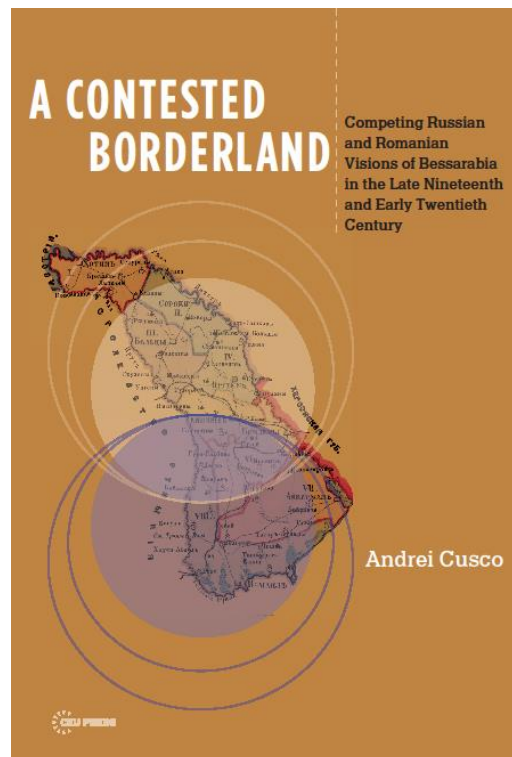




Book Launch and Roundtable Discussion

# *Contested Borderlands: Russian-Romanian Entanglements in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century*



**on Wednesday, November 15, at 15h00**  
at New Europe College (Plantelor 21)

Participants:  
Sorin ANTOHI, Călin COTOI,  
Andrei CUȘCO, Sergiu MUSTEAȚĂ

An event organized on the occasion of a recent editorial release:  
*A Contested Borderland: Competing Russian and Romanian Visions of Bessarabia in the Late Nineteenth  
and Early Twentieth Century* (CEU Press, 2017) by Andrei CUȘCO

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Bessarabia – currently divided between the modern-day Republic of Moldova and Ukraine – was the only territory representing an object of rivalry and symbolic competition between the Russian Empire and a fully crystallized nation-state: the Kingdom of Romania. This book is an intellectual prehistory of the Bessarabian question, focusing on the antagonism of the national and imperial visions of this contested borderland. Through a critical reassessment and revision of the traditional historical narratives, the study argues that Bessarabia was claimed not just by two opposing projects of ‘symbolic inclusion,’ but also by two alternative and theoretically antagonistic models of political legitimacy.

By transcending the national lens of Bessarabian/ Moldovan history and viewing it in the broader Eurasian comparative context, the book responds to the growing tendency in recent historiography to focus on the peripheries in order to better understand the functioning of national and imperial states in the modern era.

Andrei CUȘCO is Associate Professor of History at the Department of History and Social Sciences at Ion Creangă State University, Chișinău, Moldova, and a NEC Fellow and *Alumnus*.