

Constantin ARDELEANU is Senior Researcher at the Institute for South-East European History and Long-Term Fellow at the New Europe College, Bucharest. Formerly, he was Professor of Modern History at the Department of History, Philosophy, and Sociology of “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați.

Ardeleanu is interested in the social and economic history of Danubian Europe and the Black Sea region since the eighteenth century. He has published extensively on various topics connected with the opening of the Black Sea to international trade and shipping and the market integration of South-Eastern European port cities. He has been a member of different national and European research teams and is currently PI of a Romanian-funded research project (2022–2024) entitled “Entangled Histories of the Danubian Quarantine System (1774–1914)”.

In TransCorr, Ardeleanu will lead the second investigative direction, “Old practices, new interactions? Favouritism, interests, patronage,” a sub-group working on specific patron-client bonds within Central-South-East Europe. The sub-group’s members aim to craft a series of micro-historical case-studies that focus on four key areas, thus furnishing an empirical basis for the entire team’s synthetic analysis of the variety of forms of favouritism, patron-client ties, and informal associations that actors mobilized during the period: (a) vocabularies of patronage; b) construction and reproduction of networks; c) actors in their networks and d) actors’ agenda. Within this analytical framework, Ardeleanu will study how mercantile networks adapted to the emergence of modern capitalism and the market integration in and beyond the region, and how the merchants’ interactions within the mercantile world and with public authorities reconfigured the political and economic landscape in South-East Europe’s imperial borderlands.

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Selected publications:

The European Commission of the Danube, 1856–1948: An Experiment in International Administration, Brill, 2020

Making Ukraine: Negotiating, Contesting, and Drawing the Borders in the Twentieth Century, McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2022 (co-editor, with Olena Palko)