



SEMESTRIAL REPORT AUTUMN – WINTER 2020–2021

**New Europe College –
Institute for Advanced Study**

www.nec.ro



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A Word to Our Readers:

About *Space* in Times of Pandemics

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary displays 10 main different meanings for the word “space”: From a “period of time”, to a “blank area separating words or lines”, but also from “the region beyond the earth's atmosphere or beyond the solar system” to “one of the degrees between or above or below the lines of a musical staff”. Space is also “a boundless three-dimensional extent in which objects and events occur and have relative position and direction”, as well as “the distance from other people or things that a person needs in order to remain comfortable”, to name only some of the meanings. Physics, Mathematics, Music, Psychology, Writing, Perception, not to mention literary spaces, cultural spaces, virtual spaces – somehow the whole universe is space, we live in spaces, enter spaces, create spaces for ourselves and between ourselves.

It is a word with a special meaning for an Institute for Advanced Study – a space for intellectual encounter, dialogue, intercultural experiences, debate and research. A hub. A meeting place. A bridge. All metaphors and images used to show the diversity such an institute offers and the valuable connections it establishes. Between people, sciences, cultures. A small ideal, almost utopic world, where knowledge creates understanding, nourishes curiosity and stimulates progress.

It is, unfortunately, a special word also for a time of a global pandemic. We have all experienced massive changes in our life routines and “keeping space” has become a leitmotif of every social encounter. The “distance from other people or things that a person needs in order to remain comfortable” has drastically changed from person to person. It seems like new rules govern our world and what used to be common ground is nowadays rediscovered.

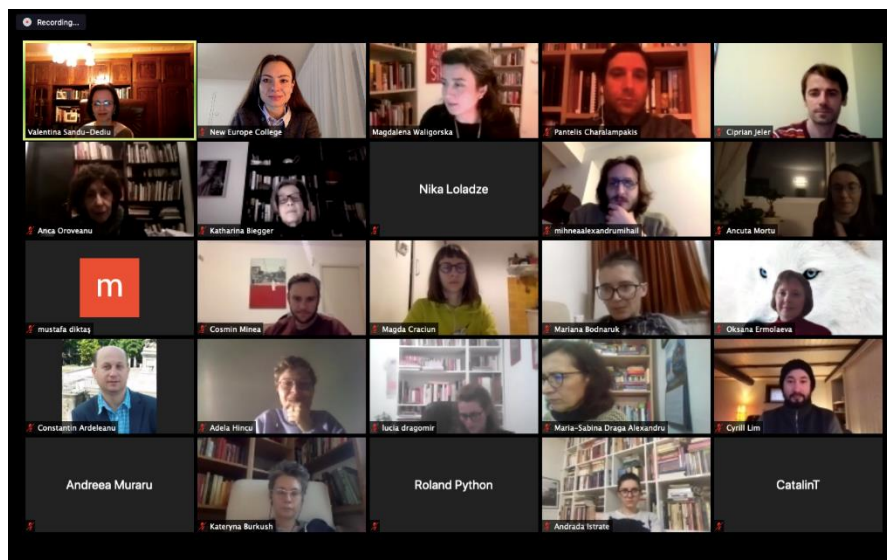
For the timeframe (space!) of one year, special spaces like Institutes for Advanced Study, usually lively and crowded, have experienced the contrast of emptiness and silence. The houses remained mostly closed, at least for those periods of time when the pandemic situation worsened, and (partially) reopened their doors, taking special measures into account, when the situation allowed it. What happened, however, is remarkable. A new space has been created. One cannot call it simply “virtual space”, it is far too real and has saved us from isolation and anxiety. It is indeed the “online” that made it possible, but calling it “online space” doesn’t reflect its diverse facets either. It isn’t by far ideal, it has its major downsides and it is probably and hopefully only a necessary substitute in times of crisis. It shouldn’t become a “new normality” and it is not a viable alternative to face to face communication.

This new space however allowed New Europe College to continue its daily activities with the same dedication despite all lockdowns and interdictions. For the Academic Year 2020 – 2021 we called it “on-site and on-line activity”. Once again, Fellows from all around the world have been invited to interact with each other, some of them joined from home, others came to Bucharest. Weekly seminars, conferences, workshops were organized online, so were the discussions or working meetings between Fellows or members of the staff. As bizarre as joining an online conference might feel (staring into a screen and seeing tiny faces in little squares, including one’s own), it definitely has its benefits. It will never replace the real encounters in conference rooms – with laughter, whispering, applause, coffee breaks (with the smell of fresh brewed coffee) or the taste of wine and pretzels in good company (never!), but it opens new valuable possibilities. Time and space boundaries are redefined. Anybody, regardless of how spatially far or close – meaning from practically anywhere, at nearly any time can connect to a world of knowledge. NEC seized this opportunity and initiated a new series of conferences in cooperation with Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin: The Thursday Lectures, a series of events whose protagonists are Fellows or Alumni of the Wissenschaftskolleg. The variety of invited lecturers increased, while the audience broadened.

The diversity of online platforms which can host such encounters, as well as the number of technical devices that can broadcast them is remarkable. One can give a lecture or listen, comment, ask questions or hide behind a muted microphone and a turned-off camera, still listening. By choosing to join

with a turned-on camera, one shares something, even while staying silent: a little piece of one's own, private space. Within the following pages we will share with you New Europe College's on-site and on-line activity during the first semester of an academic year that will definitely occupy a special space in our memories.

Ana Buculei
Program Coordinator / Assistant to the Rector



Zoom Conference, January 14, 2021. Magdalena Waligorska gives a talk entitled *The Rise of Religious Populism and the Symbol of the Cross in Poland's Contemporary Political Clashes*.

New Initiatives

As already mentioned above, despite the pandemic situation, NEC managed to continue its academic activity and, even more, to pursue new initiatives. Thanks to the support of Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, the Rector of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, and of Daniel Schönplflug, the Academic Coordinator of the same prestigious institution, **Fellows from the Wissenschaftskolleg have been invited to give online public talks** (on Zoom) for the academic community of the New Europe College. Three such online events took place already during the first semester of the current academic year – as this report will present in one of its following chapters (pages 35, 36 and 37) – and others are planned to follow during the second semester. It is a unique way to benefit from a situation of crisis: For most of the Fellows currently spending one year at the Institute of Advanced Study in Berlin, travelling to Bucharest for a one-hour talk would have been rather difficult. An online conference however, connects Berlin and Bucharest in seconds, as well as the many guests choosing to attend from various corners of the world.

Strongly connected to this aspect of organizing online events, as well as supporting the entire adapting process NEC and other IAS have been going through during this difficult period of time (facilitating remote working conditions, digitalizing research resources, updating the institute's webpage etc.), the **Porticus Foundation approved a new Fellowship Program focusing on Digital Humanities: *The Relevance of the Humanities in the Digital Age* (DigiHum)**, a joint project of the New Europe College and the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia, which aims to underscore the cognitive functions of the humanities and their potential as critical disciplines by opening them up to issues relevant in and for the contemporary digital world. A call for applications was launched in November 2020 (alongside all the other Fellowship Programs of the NEC) and Fellowships in Bucharest within the framework of this program will start in October 2021. Hopefully by that time Fellows will be able to work on research projects connected to the relevance of humanities in the digital age not only digitally, online, or working remotely, but in person,

at NEC. Personal encounters between Fellows, between researchers, personal discussions (and by that we mean “in flesh”) will always be more beneficial, even when the topic they relate to is highly digitalized.

New Europe College’s new webpage: www.nec.ro has just been mentioned. It was not the pandemic situation that triggered the initiative of updating, rewriting and redesigning the webpage. This project acknowledged 25 years of existence of the New Europe College, being also a necessary step in order to keep up with the diversity of projects and initiatives, not to mention the digitalized era we are living in. It has been launched at the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year and ever since it is constantly mirroring the institute’s activity. Alongside with this significant step towards online presence and visibility, NEC also introduced the **online Application Form for all its Fellowship Programs**. Quite a few years ago, the deadline for submitting an application was synonym for a crowded lobby, as well as for piles of paper. Applying via e-mail then significantly simplified the entire process; finally, as of November 2020, applicants have the possibility to simply upload the application documents on a platform.



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INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Current Fellows

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At the beginning of November 2020, the *Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation – UEFISCDI*, of the Ministry of Education and Research in Romania, once again formally recognized the outstanding scientific activity of the NEC, granting another institutional prize for coordinating a third ERC grant. A part of this prize was once again used to create the **UEFISCDI Award Program**, consisting of Fellowships targeting young international researchers, also meant to complement and enlarge the core Fellowship Program. Beyond this, the program allows NEC to initiate and support research groups on topics relevant to NEC Alumni and to the network of researchers, as well as to continue the guest lectures program, inviting outstanding Romanian and international scholars or professors to give public lectures. Last but not least, the UEFISCDI Award will hopefully make it possible to continue the mobility program for Fellows and Alumni (if the pandemic situation will allow it), facilitating their participation in national and international scientific events. As mentioned in a following chapter of this report (pages 33 and 34), two new research groups have been initiated thanks to this Award Program, one on History: *Society and Economy on the Fringes of Empires. The Romanian Principalities in a Regional Context in the Premodern and Modern Periods*, coordinated by Constantin Ardeleanu, NEC Alumnus and Long-Term Fellow at NEC, Professor of modern Romanian history at The Lower Danube University of Galați, and another one on Musicology: *Nationalism and its Effects on Music in Central and Eastern Europe since the Second Half of the 19th Century*, coordinated by Valentina Sandu-Dediu, Rector of the New Europe College and Professor of Musicology at the National University of Music of Bucharest.

These research groups show how strongly Alumni are involved in shaping the research initiatives of the institute. Furthermore, some of them apply with own projects choosing NEC as a host institution. Three such project received financial support from the *Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation – UEFISCDI*, one within the framework of the **Young Research Teams** competition, and another two within the **Exploratory Research** competition: *Networks of Devotion: The selection of saints as marker of religious identity in Post-Byzantine Moldavian representations (wall-paintings and texts)*, a project coordinated by Vlad Bedros, NEC Alumnus; *Yiddish Culture in Greater Romania (1918-1940): in the Aftermath of the Empires and Challenged by the New National State*, whose coordinator, Camelia Crăciun, is a NEC Alumna; and *The Oldest Romanian Manuscript and Printed Versions of the Akathistos Hymn (17th C). The History of a Liturgical Masterpiece Between Text and Image*, also coordinated by a NEC Alumna, Emanuela Cristina Timotin.

Current Fellowship Programs and Research Projects

Fellowship Programs

NEC Fellowships (since 1994)

At its foundation in 1994 NEC was offering up to ten Fellowships to young Romanian scholars. This program represented its core and still does, while developing in time two branches, which have distinct sources of funding: The **International Fellowships**, enjoying the financial support of NEC's institutional sponsors, complemented through funds resulting from an award granted for the first time in 2016 by the Romanian *Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation*, the **UEFISCDI Award Program**; and the **Ștefan Odobleja Fellowships** (since 2008), targeting young Romanian researchers, supported also by UEFISCDI. The Fellows are chosen by the NEC international Academic Advisory Board for the duration of one academic year or one term. They gather for weekly seminars to discuss the progress of their research and participate in all the scientific events organised by NEC. The Fellows receive a monthly stipend and are given the opportunity of a research trip abroad, at a university or research institute of their choice. At the end of their stay, the Fellows submit papers representing the results of their research, to be published in the New Europe College Yearbooks.

The Pontica Magna Fellowships (since 2015)

This program, supported by the VolkswagenStiftung (Germany), invites young researchers, media professionals, writers and artists from the countries around the Black Sea, but also beyond it (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine), for a stay of one or two terms at the New Europe College. Besides hosting Fellows, NEC organizes within this program workshops and symposia on topics relevant to the history, present, and prospects of this region. In the framework of this program, NEC offers Alumni of the *Black Sea Link* and *Pontica Magna* Fellowship programs the opportunity to apply for a research stay of one or two months in Bucharest. The stay should enable successful applicants to refresh their research experience at NEC, to reconnect with former contacts, and to establish new connections with current Fellows.

The Gerda Henkel Fellowships (since 2017)

This program, developed with the support of Gerda Henkel Stiftung (Germany), invites young researchers and academics working in the fields of humanities and social sciences (in particular archaeology, art history, historical islamic studies, history, history of law, history of science, prehistory and early history) from Afghanistan, Belarus, China (only Tibet and Xinjiang Autonomous Regions), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, for a stay of one or two terms at the New Europe College, during which they have the opportunity to work on projects of their choice.

The Lapedatu Fellowships (since 2018)

This program is supported by the Lapedatu Foundation, which supports research activities on 'the life and work of Lapedatu family members and the socio-cultural and political context' during which they lived. Thanks to its generous financial contribution, NEC invites to Bucharest scholars who present scientific papers and initiate debates on Romanian and Southeastern European history in modern and contemporary epochs. The contribution of the Lapedatu family members to the development of Romania is particularly taken into consideration. During the Academic Year 2020-21 NEC invited to Bucharest a foreign researcher specialized in the field of Romanian Studies, who is currently conducting research in one of the world's top universities. On this occasion, he will spend a month in Romania and work with a young Romanian researcher to organize an academic event hosted by NEC.

Porticus N+N Fellowships (since 2020)

The *Nations and Nationalisms* (N+N) program, developed with financial support from the Porticus Foundation, aims to approach one of the main challenges faced by societies around the globe, but mostly in Central and Eastern Europe: a growing tension between nationalizing and globalizing forces in a world dominated by migration, entanglement, digitization and automation. The N+N Fellowships are open to international researchers working in all fields of the humanities and social sciences with an interest in the study of nations, varieties of nationalism and/or populism, and the effects of globalization on national identities. Fellowship criteria are aligned with those in the other programs hosted by the institute. NEC aims to use the expertise of the N+N Fellows to encourage scholarship and critical thinking among targeted groups of students in Romania and the region.

Ameropa Fellowships (since 2020)

Organized with financial support from Ameropa and its subsidiaries in Romania, and with academic support from the Centre for Government and Culture at the University of St. Gallen, this program aims to investigate the conditions and prerequisites for democratic stability and economic prosperity in Romania and the neighbouring region. The Ameropa Fellowship Program is open to early career Romanian researchers in history, anthropology, political science, economics or sociology. Their projects should focus on aspects relevant for the challenges to democratic consolidation, economic development and strengthening of civil society in Romania and the region. Each year, an annual workshop will be organized in the framework of the Ameropa Program.

Landis & Gyr Fellowships (since 2000)

These Fellowships are awarded under the umbrella of the studio program for artists, writers and cultural critics in London, Zug, Budapest, Bucharest and Sofia, offered by Landis & Gyr Stiftung, Zug (Switzerland). Landis & Gyr Foundation (one of the main supporters of NEC since its inception) has the use of one of the apartments on the NEC premises, where recipients of a grant offered by the Foundation are hosted. They work on their own projects, give presentations of their current work and are welcome to take part in all NEC activities.

Research Projects

Luxury, Fashion and Social Status in Early Modern South-Eastern Europe (LuxFaSS) ERC Consolidator Grant (2015–2020)

This ERC Consolidator Grant, coordinated by **Constanța Vintilă-Ghițulescu**, NEC Alumna and Senior Researcher at the „Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest, as Principal Investigator and conducted by an international team of historians, aims to investigate the Christian elites of Ottoman-dominated Europe in the Early Modern period (17th to 19th centuries) from several perspectives, and to look at how they defined their social status and identity at the intersection of East and West. In such an analysis, the Westernization of South-Eastern Europe proceeds not just through the spread of Enlightenment ideas and the influence of the French Revolution, but also through changes in visual culture brought about by Western influence on notions of luxury and fashion. This approach allows a closer appreciation of the synchronicities and time lags between traditional culture, developments in political thought and social change in the context of the modernization or “Europeanization” of this part of Europe.

After five successful years, this project came to an end in December 2020.

Art Historiographies in Central and Eastern Europe. An Inquiry from the Perspective of Entangled Histories (ArtHistCEE)

ERC Starting Grant (2018–2021)

This ERC Starting Grant proposes a selective account of the art histories produced in present-day Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia between 1850 and 1950, from an entangled histories perspective. The team members look at the relationships between the art histories produced in these countries and the art histories produced in Western Europe. But more importantly, they propose to investigate how the art histories written in the countries mentioned above resonate with each other, either proposing conflicting interpretations of the past, or ignoring uncomfortable competing discourses.

The untimely demise of the Principal Investigator, **Ada Hajdu**, has led to a process of phasing-out of the project (initially granted until 2023), which will continue for a limited period of time, during which some of its objectives will be finalized.

Periodization in the History of Art and its Conundrums. How to tackle them in East-Central Europe

Supported by the Getty Foundation as part of its *Connecting Art Histories* initiative (2018-2021)

This program consists of a series of three research seminars of one-week duration each, discussing periodization and related issues in the history of art, whose addressees are early-career art historians from East-Central Europe, and which include a number of invited guest speakers, from this region, and outside it. Though a sense that the conventional periodizations are in need of revision can be detected earlier, a more pointed reflection on this topic can be noticed after the demise of communism and the dismantling of the colonial system. In the aftermath of the 1989 events in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, a number of scholars felt the pressing need to reconsider the place of local art histories within the established narratives, and to reflect on how these local histories might fit within the Western canon, or to question its authority. Art historians dealing with modern and contemporary art were particularly sensitive to such questions, but this gradually became a more general concern, affecting the writing of histories of art of earlier periods. Frictions between the generally accepted periodizations and local trajectories in art became more apparent, making it necessary to reflect on approaches that could address such concerns, and on the instruments art historians may put to use in order to tackle particular case studies. It thus seems to us that periodization, with the many issues related to it, is a topic likely to elicit interest from colleagues and younger scholars from countries in the region, and to lead to fruitful exchanges not just across the discipline, but across national borders, and – through the presence of the invited speakers – across regional ones.

The research program is coordinated by **Anca Oroveanu**, Academic Coordinator of the New Europe College and Professor of History and Theory of Art at the National University of Arts in Bucharest.

Citizen Science for Environmental Citizenship: Backyard Birding and the Potential for Cultivating Green Engagement (EnviroCitizen)

Horizon 2020 (2020-2024)

The EnviroCitizen project brings together seven partners in Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, and Cyprus to uncover the processes by which citizen scientists working in environmental-based activities can strengthen their environmental citizenship. The team of researchers has selected to study birding activities because they hold great potential for developing environmental citizenship. The project received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program. One of the team's members, **Ștefan Dorondel**, is a NEC Alumnus and Senior Researcher at the "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest. The researchers aim to (1) assess the evolution of citizen involvement in citizen science birding activities; (2) evaluate how citizens learn about and enact environmental citizenship through their citizen science birding activities; and (3) develop innovative community interventions designed to complement existing citizen science birding programs in order to cultivate environmental citizenship in the future.

Networks of Devotion: The selection of saints as marker of religious identity in Post-Byzantine Moldavian representations (wall-paintings and texts) (NoDeS)

UEFISCDI Young Research Teams (2020–2022)

The project proposes a case study of a delimited corpus: the iconic portrait of saints in Moldavian monuments, cca. 1490–cca. 1530, with a view at elaborating a methodology for the study of South-Eastern European cultural transfers. Its aim is to investigate the peculiar selection of saints, contextualizing it within the Moldavian monastic culture and spirituality during the late 15th and early 16th c. and within the already inventoried Late and Post-Byzantine pictorial tradition. The devotional peculiarities, the interplay between written evidence and artistic practice, the theological culture, and its relevance for the study of cultural heritage, are still rarely addressed topics in local scholarship. For the study of these issues, we will make use of recent approaches in the history of art: the geography of art, cultural transfers, and hybridization. We intend to assess the peculiar Moldavian sanctoral, either as a result of specific devotions of the monastic milieu, or as a consequence of integrating workshop traditions from the Post-Byzantine Balkans.

The research project is coordinated by **Vlad Bedros**, NEC Alumnus, Researcher within the Department for Medieval Art and Architecture of the “G. Oprescu” Art History Institute in Bucharest and Assistant Professor at the National University of Arts in Bucharest.

Yiddish Culture in Greater Romania (1918-1940): in the Aftermath of the Empires and Challenged by the New National State (YIDCULT)

UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (2021-2023)

The project aims to investigate one of the most prolific periods in the history of Yiddish culture in Romania, starting from the fact that, after the creation of Greater Romania, old traditional Yiddish centers such as Tshernovits/Czernowitz, Satmar/Szatmar or Keshenev/Kishinev, but also Yos/Jassy had to reconfigure their position within the Yiddish-speaking Eastern European world as a consequence of the fall of empires and construction of new nation states such as Greater Romania. In this context of peripheralization of old centers within the new state, the activity of the traditional Yiddish centers declined as local activists and intellectuals started to migrate to Jassy or Bucharest, looking for better professional opportunities and visibility and, as a consequence, new centers of Yiddish culture flourished in regions without a previous strong tradition (Bucharest), while communication and synchronization with reputed centers such as Vilna/Vilnius or Varshe/Warsaw increased. The project aims to investigate what were the socio-cultural mechanisms responsible for restructuring Yiddish cultural life after the changes brought by the end of World War I and by the creation of Greater Romania, and how this process occurred by tracing relevant individuals, institutions and projects until the first laws and decrees of the political regimes forbid the activity of Yiddish theatres, press and, eventually, the usage of Yiddish, thus making cultural life impossible.

The research project is coordinated by **Camelia Crăciun**, NEC Alumna and Associate Professor in Jewish Studies, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest.

The Oldest Romanian Manuscript and Printed Versions of the Akathistos Hymn (17th C). The History of a Liturgical Masterpiece Between Text and Image (AKATHYMN)

UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (2021-2023)

The interdisciplinary team involved in this project intends to study a most influential liturgical piece dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the Akathistos Hymn, from a philological and historical perspective. They will focus on the multilingual textual tradition (Greek, Slavonic and Romanian) of the Akathistos Hymn which develops simultaneously in the Romanian-speaking regions in the 17th century, and on the flourishing iconography of the Akathistos cycle, present in mural representations and in illuminations. The first Romanian versions of the Akathistos Hymn appear as manuscripts and printed texts in the 17th century. These important documents for the history of old Romanian and for the history of liturgy in Romanian remained unstudied, although two metropolitans, key-figures of the old Romanian literature, Dosoftei and Antim, printed the Akathistos Hymn in 1673 and 1698 respectively. The relation of the Romanian tradition with the contemporary Slavonic texts, from which it originates,

has never been studied, nor have been its connections with the Greek illuminated manuscripts of the Akathistos Hymn which high Greek clergymen executed in Wallachia in the first half of the 17th century. The present project attempts to evaluate the dynamics of this multilingual 17th-century tradition of the Akathistos Hymn, to edit the oldest manuscript and printed Romanian versions, and to assess the relation between the textual and the iconographic traditions.

The NEC Alumna **Emanuela Cristina Timotin**, Senior Researcher at the “Iorgu Iordan – Al. Rosetti” Institute of Linguistics of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest, is coordinating this research project.

These last three projects are developed with the financial support of the *Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation* (UEFISCDI) of the Ministry of Education and Research, Romania.

2020 – 2021 Fellows



Nargiza
ARJEVANIDZE
(Georgia)

Volodymyr
ARTIUKH
(Ukraine)



Galyna
BABAK
(Ukraine)

Alberto
BASCIANI
(Italy)



Mariana
BODNARUK
(Ukraine)

Elena-Cristina
BRĂGEA
(Romania)



Elena
BRODEALĂ
(Romania)



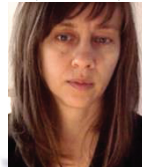
Kateryna
BURKUSH
(Ukraine)

Pantelis
CHARALAMPAKIS
(Greece)



Kirill
CHUNIKHIN
(Russia)

Elena Magdalena
CRĂCIUN
(Romania)



Mustafa Yakup
DIKTAŞ
(Turkey)

Maria Sabina
DRAGA-
ALEXANDRU
(Romania)

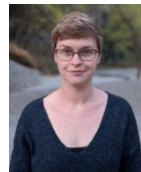


Lucia
DRAGOMIR
(Romania)



Andrei
EMILCIUC
(Moldova)

Oksana
ERMOLAEVA
(Russia)



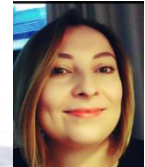
Adela-Gabriela
HÎNCU
(Romania)

Andrada-Mihaela
ISTRATE
(Romania)



Ciprian
JELER
(Romania)

Luciana-Marioara
JINGA
(Romania)



Cyril
LIM
(Switzerland)



Dumitru
LISNIC
(Moldova)

Nika
LOLADZE
(Georgia)



Ioana
MANEA
(Romania)

Ancuța Maria
MORTU
(Romania)



Sergei
MUDROV
(Belarus)

Andreea-Maria
MURARU
(Romania)



Andriy
POSUNKO
(Ukraine)



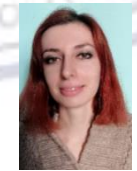
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RADU
(Romania)

Lola
SAN MARTÍN
ARBIDE
(Spain)



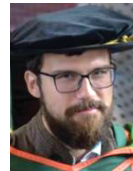
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(Russia)

Aram
TERZYAN
(Armenia)

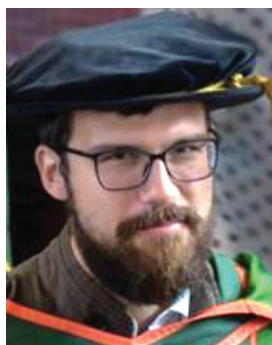


Irina
TROCAN
(Romania)

Spyridon
TSOUTSOUMPIS
(Greece)



Cătălin
ȚĂRANU
(Romania)



THE DARK SIDE OF HONOUR: SHAME IN THE EMOTIONAL LIFE OF MEDIEVAL HEROIC POETRY

Cătălin ȚĂRANU

(Romania)

October 2020 – July 2021

Ștefan Odobleja Fellow

Independent Scholar

Presentation on October 14, 2020

This project aims to provide a more fine-grained understanding of the emotional life of medieval European societies via a novel approach combining social science-based approaches in the history of emotions to digital corpus analysis of expressions of shame in medieval heroic verse. It aims to establish cross-cultural evidence for a medieval socio-emotional vocabulary of honour as based on shame, its often secret antipode, by investigating a selection of Old English and Old Norse heroic poems and sagas.

Via affect theory and the social psychology of shame and gender, this project will trace the culturally-bound differences and diachronic trends in the linguistic, socio-emotional, and performative vocabularies of honour across a selection of medieval heroic literature, while outlining the socio-emotional economy of heroism and honour built around the ever-present spectre of shame underlying these changes and differences.

SEASONAL MIGRATION AND THE MAKING OF THE SOVIET BORDERLANDS: THE CASE OF TRANSCARPATIA (1950s–1980s)

Kateryna BURKUSH

(Ukraine)

October 2020 – July 2021

Pontica Magna Fellow

Independent Scholar

Presentation on October 21, 2020

This project aims to investigate the role of seasonal migration in shaping the social life of Western Ukrainian borderlands during the late Soviet period.

By using hitherto unexplored archival sources and oral interviews with veteran seasonal workers from the region of Transcarpathia, I challenge the widely shared idea that seasonal migration from the Western Ukrainian borderlands is a result of post-Soviet transformations.

To the contrary, I show that seasonal migrants carved the space for their (often illegal) economic activities within Soviet society, which was explicitly hostile to them.

Furthermore, over the post-Stalin decades labour migration had an increasingly strong impact on the borderlands' demographic, economic and social landscapes. This legacy shaped cultural predispositions for labour migration for the next generations, while economic factors of post-socialist period reinforced them.





TRUST, MONEY, AND DECEPTION IN POST-SOCIALIST ROMANIA

Andrada-Mihaela ISTRATE
(Romania)
October 2020 – July 2021

Ștefan Odobleja Fellow

Researcher, Centre for Research and Innovation in
Social Services, University of Bucharest

Presentation on October 28, 2020

This proposal deals with money, trust and deception in post-socialist Romania in the context of spectacular accumulation elicited by mutual-aid games, especially Caritas (Cluj-Napoca, 1991–1995).

I investigate the ways in which mutual-aid games insinuate themselves into the everyday life of people, their conversations, exchanges, and sociality. Looking into the implicit, taken-for-granted forms of trust that structure everyday life, I seek to explore the interactional, situational, and indexical aspects of trust that allow people to persuade themselves and others to invest money in mutual-aid games.

The main goal of this research project is to produce a theoretically informed analysis of trust in the early 1990s in Romania. At the same time, the NEC Fellowship will provide an excellent opportunity to continue my doctoral work by expanding and eventually publishing it as a book.

DRAMATURGY OF POPULISM: PROTEST IDEOLOGIES IN POST-CRISIS BELARUS

Volodymyr ARTIUKH
(Ukraine)
October 2020 – February 2021

Pontica Magna Fellow
Independent Scholar

Presentation on November 4, 2020

My NEC Fellowship will be dedicated to a study of the social protests that occurred in Belarus between 2011 and 2019, with a view to assessing the democratization potential of populist mobilizations in an authoritarian milieu.

Building on my doctoral research on Belarusian authoritarian populism, in this study I compile a database of the protests and analyze their triggers and consequences.

I hypothesize that these protests were triggered not by immediate economic deprivation, but rather by the breakdown of the protesters' identification with the image of "the people" as projected by populist discourse.





**“ORDINARY PEOPLE” AND THEIR
PROFESSIONS. THE CONTRIBUTION OF
SIGILLOGRAPHY TO THE STUDY OF
BYZANTINE SOCIAL HISTORY**

Pantelis CHARALAMPAKIS

(Greece)

October 2020 – July 2021

Porticus N+NFellow

Member of the Department of Numismatics and
Epigraphy, National Archaeological Institute with
Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Presentation on November 11, 2020

The main purpose of this project is to examine professions non-related to the State, the Church or the aristocracy, and practiced by "lesser figures" within the Byzantine Empire, from the 6th to the 12th centuries, through the – so far neglected – sigillographic evidence. Such professions are the merchants, sellers, butchers, bakers, jewellers etc. The sources are literary texts, inscriptions, and seals. The last will be collected from published studies, unpublished collections and auction catalogues and will form the core of the research.

The project will attempt to approach fundamental issues such as: who was sealing, why and how often; do the findspots of seals matter; onomastics; literacy, content, decoration and style of the seals.

This study – never attempted before – will reveal more aspects of the life of Byzantium's working class and will contribute to the study of Byzantine social history.

**THE EVOLUTION OF COMMERCIAL
INSTITUTIONS AND PRACTICES IN BESSARABIA
(1812-1918)**

Andrei EMILCIUC

(Moldova)

October 2020 – July 2021

Gerda Henkel Fellow

Researcher, Institute of History, Chişinău

Presentation on November 18, 2020

The primary aim of the research is to determine the role that the emerging European market has played through trade in spreading modern institutions and practices in the commerce of the Romanian Principalities / Romania in comparison with Bessarabia.

This implies that several objectives will be followed: the examination of the policies adopted by the governments of the Romanian Principalities / Romania towards the establishment of modern trade institutions; the assessment of the impact that European economic processes had on the spread of modern elements in the trade practices of the Romanian Principalities.

Through the study of these two aspects we aim to determine the particularities of development of commodity-money relations locally, but also regionally, beyond political borders.

In this regard, we intend to investigate to what extent modern elements in trade represented an impetus for the modernization of the sphere of production relations in different branches of the economy.





**GENDERED EXPERIENCES OF FORCED
DISPLACEMENT IN NARRATIVES OF
DISPLACED WOMEN FROM ABKHAZIA**

Nargiza ARJEVANIDZE
(Georgia)

October 2020 – February 2021

Pontica Magna Fellow

PhD Candidate, Department of Social and Political
Sciences, Tbilisi State University

Presentation on November 25, 2020

This research tracks the lives of women forcefully uprooted from Abkhazia, as a result of the armed conflict that erupted in the region at the beginning of 1990s. Based on ethnographic research and life-story interviews with internally displaced persons (IDPs), the project will focus on women's voices as they reflect on their lives during and after the armed conflict, while living in prolonged displacement. The project further explores how displaced women's experiences and memories of armed conflict are linked to their present circumstances and to their lives in peaceful times, distanced from the violent events, yet characterized by the uncertainty caused by the protracted nature of displacement and the indefinitely long rupture of the everyday.

In particular, I am interested in how displaced women have coped with the extremes of dramatic change and their consequences after displacement, and how the violent events of their past lives have become an inseparable part of the everyday. I will also explore the forms and tactics of everyday resilience during and after the armed conflict that allowed individuals to cope with and survive traumatic events – experiences of fragmentation, the disruption of unity and the rupture of the everyday.

**LISTENING TO THE CITY: PARIS IN MUSIC,
FILM AND LITERATURE, 1870–1939**

Lola SAN MARTÍN ARBIDE

(Spain)

October 2020 – July 2021

Porticus N+NFellow

Research Fellow, Centre de Recherches sur les Arts
et le Langage, EHESS, Paris

Presentation on December 2, 2020

This project examines the creative assimilation of the city of Paris into the music, film and literature of the French Third Republic (1870–1939). This study fits within a larger study focusing on singers, composers, authors and filmmakers to understand how they used the city and its sounds as creative force and political metaphor.

The study of overlooked, or totally ignored archival sources and cultural artefacts will enlighten our knowledge of how street culture and city life intersected with art. The project allows us to re-evaluate the politics of the city soundscape and its role in defining French identity.

It also reassesses established notions of modernity and its interaction with the urban context though the study of everyday sounds and music. By embracing novel ecomusicological methodologies, this project timely joins current debates within musicology and cultural geography on the capacities of sound to produce a sense of space and place.





THEORIZING TRANSVESTITE SAINTS: GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND FEMALE AGENCY IN THE LIFE OF PELAGIA

Mariana BODNARUK

(Ukraine)

October 2020 – July 2021

Pontica Magna Fellow
CEU, Global Teaching Fellow

Presentation on December 9, 2020

The above-mentioned presentation tangentially touches upon the research project *Making the Imperial Elite: Senatorial Aristocracy in the Later Roman Empire*. The increasing level of political and economic integration results in the development of pan-European administrative elites. Before the onset of modernity, the Later Roman Empire was the only political structure that provided a unified and centralized administrative framework. For the first time, aristocracies throughout the European continent were amalgamated in one hierarchically-structured institution. This project explores the social and cultural impact of the formation of a new governing class. The first part traces the new patterns of geographical and political mobility initiated by the new institutional arrangements, tracing the ways in which imperial officials conducted their relations with other representatives of imperial aristocracy, and with the local societies from which they originated. The second part looks at the effects of these transformations on aristocratic identity as mediated in art. The proposed research on the history and art history of senatorial elites will contribute to the comparative study of government in the pre-modern world. It will demonstrate that the growth of new supra-regional political institutions markedly changed the self-representation of the late Roman governing class.

THE IMPACT OF TRANSNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AID ON POST-COMMUNIST SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE: HUMANITARIAN AID AND POLITICS TOWARDS INSTITUTIONALIZED CHILDREN IN ROMANIA

Luciana Mărioara JINGA

(Romania)

October 2020 – July 2021

Ștefan Odobleja Fellow

Researcher, The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile, Bucharest

Presentation on December 16, 2020

The main objective of this project is to examine the extent to which the Transnational Humanitarian assistance for the Central and Eastern Europe in the 1990s shaped the post-communist transformations of the social sector, using as case study the humanitarian aid for children and the government politics towards institutionalized children in Romania (1990–2007).

The subject will be developed around three major axes: 1) to identify all the stakeholders involved in the humanitarian aid for children (local and European institutions, humanitarian organizations, support networks, the different categories of children that benefited from it) and the targeted problems; 2) to identify the grassroots activity of the humanitarian organizations involved in aiding the children, especially the correct proportion between medical help, basic necessities (food, shelter, clothing) and political intervention; 3) to analyze the response of the Romanian government to the actions of western humanitarians.





WOMEN AND CONSTITUTIONALISM IN POST-COMMUNIST ROMANIA

Elena BRODEALĂ

(Romania)

October 2020 – July 2021

Ștefan Odobleja Fellow

University of Zurich, Post-Doctoral Researcher

Presentation on January 6, 2021

By building on similar research on Russia, this research proposal asks why are there only three judgements on gender equality delivered by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) against Romania? This low number of judgements is paradoxical given that Romania, like Russia, is a very gender unequal country and has one of the highest numbers of applications pending before the ECtHR. Moreover, two out of the three mentioned judgements were brought by men.

By undertaking a socio-legal approach, the proposed research aims to uncover the barriers that women face in claiming their rights before the most powerful human rights institution in Europe.

Such a research is particularly important because of its contribution to the literature on gender and the law in former Communist countries and due to its potential to make a practical impact.

THE MAKING AND UNMAKING OF THE SYNAGOGUE IN BIRZULA: MATERIALITY, TEXTUALITY AND AGENCY IN THE EARLY SOVIET UNION

Dumitru LISNIC

(Moldova)

October 2020 – July 2021

Pontica Magna Fellow

PhD Candidate, Department of Study of Religions,
University College Cork, Ireland

Presentation on January 13, 2021

My research explores the anti-sectarian repressive policies, antireligious propaganda and forms of religious self-definitions which emerged under the influence of the Bolshevik discourse in the 1920s and 1930s. My PhD project focuses on the case of the Moldavian ASSR (1924–1940, part of Ukrainian SSR) and is based on data from the recently opened archives from Moldova and Ukraine.

The life of the religious minorities in the USSR has been the subject of a number of recent studies, but their focus was on particular cases of religious groups. They provided a very general analysis of the regime's policy and repressive mechanisms. Likewise, the alteration of religious identities under the influence of Bolshevik discourse is one of the unexplored aspects of the religious life in the USSR.

My research will contribute to a better understanding of the processes occurring in the religious landscape under the influence of propaganda and repressive campaigns and will cast more light on the evolution of Soviet repressive mechanisms in relation to religious minorities.





**TOWARDS OTTOMAN GRAPHOSPHERE:
CHANCELLERY CULTURES, WRITTEN WORD
AND ITS RECEPTION IN EARLY MODERN
SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE**

Michał WASIUCIONEK
(Poland)

Post-Doctoral Researcher, LuxFaSS ERC Project
Research Assistant, *Nicolae Iorga* Institute
Research Fellow, ICUB

Presentation, as guest, on January 20, 2021

Throughout the early modern period, the Ottoman Empire extended from the shores of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf in the south to modern Slovakia and Ukraine, encompassing a dazzling variety of peoples employing a plethora of languages, writing systems and traditions of letters and diplomatics. Whereas individuals partaking in each of those linguistic or textual communities brushed shoulders against one another, the dominant scholarly framework has generally perceived individual traditions in isolation from one another, underplaying the physical presence of multiple writing system within a shared physical and social space, and inadvertently adopting the perspective of specialized scribes rather than that of the recipients. The scope of the presentation is to explore the possibilities for remedying this bias, by employing the concept of “graphosphere” that focuses on the presence of the written word within a physical and social space, and focusing on points of contacts and interactions between different traditions of diplomatics and scripts in the early modern Ottoman ecumene.

**KILLERS, PATRIOTS AND RESCUERS:
RETHINKING VIOLENCE AND RESTRAINT
DURING THE BALKAN WARS (1912-1913)**

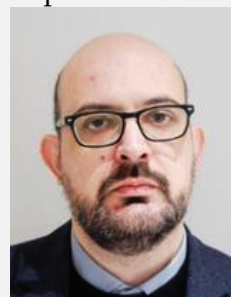
Spyridon TSOUTSOUMPIS
(Greece)

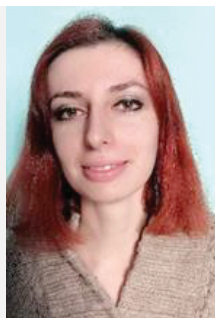
October 2020 – July 2021

Porticus N+NFellow
Independent Scholar

Presentation on January 27, 2021

The project explores the origins, articulation and legacies of paramilitary violence in 20th century Greece with a particular reference to the northern borderlands of Epirus, Macedonia and Thrace. The project discusses the motivation of rank and file paramilitaries, their role in the perpetration of violence and ethnic cleansing policies and the long-term impact of their activities in the nation-building process. Yet, my purpose is not to simply recount the story of a violent subset of men or discuss the history of a marginal border area. My intention is to use the story of the development and activities of local paramilitaries as a vantage point that would allow to question and reassess central assumptions about the relationship between paramilitary mobilization and nation-building and address issues which are at the heart of ongoing debates about paramilitarism in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe (SEE); recruitment and motivation of rank and file members, variations and patterns of violence, the relationship between the state and the militias, and the role of paramilitary actors in formulating new political practices and constellations of governance. It will therefore bring new insights both to current discussions about paramilitarism, and shed new light on the tortuous inception of the nation-state within and beyond South-Eastern Europe.





**KINEMA IKON IN ROMANIAN AUDIOVISUAL
HISTORY: THE OVERLOOKED PRECURSOR OF
DIGITAL MOVING IMAGES**

Irina TROCAN

(Romania)

November 2020 – July 2021

NEC UEFISCDI Award Fellow

Lecturer, Film Studies & Screenwriting Department,
Film Faculty, National Theater and Cinema
University "I.L. Caragiale"
Coordinator, *Acoperișul de sticlă* (Online Magazine)

Presentation on February 3, 2021

In the supposedly divergent fields of cinema and contemporary art, the Arad-based interdisciplinary group Kinema Ikon is an unacknowledged point of intersection. Already spanning fifty years of activity and acknowledged in the art world, KI is overlooked in most accounts of our national cinema, despite the centrality of the audiovisual component in their works and its original founding as a cineclub. Given the recent increasing mutability of practices and influences among the domains of installation art, new media and digitally made & distributed filmmaking, the Kinema Ikon group emerges as precursor to, or early exponent of, Romanian essay films. While essay film authors such as Radu Jude and Andrei Ujică have not cited them as influences, one might speculate on their relevance to not-yet-established artists working with moving images. Seeing the development of a local scene for digital experimental filmmaking/expanded cinema and drastically low funding from the National Council of Cinema, the history of KI is far more typical for the possibilities of contemporary filmmaking than pre-'89 state-funded, official cinema.

**THE LINE OF MIRACLE OR CONTAGION?
SFÂNTA PARASCHEVA AS A CONTESTED
PILGRIMAGE AMID COVID-19
PANDEMIC 2020**

Mustafa Yakup DIKTAŞ

(Turkey)

October 2020 – February 2021

Pontica Magna Fellow

Post-Doctoral Researcher, Hebrew University,
Jerusalem

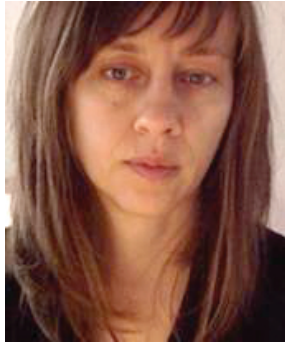
Presentation on February 10, 2021

Drawing on my previous doctoral work, this project will address the practices and discourses surrounding the shrine of Saint Paraskeva in Iasi, in north-eastern Romania. The annual pilgrimage to Paraskeva is one of the largest in Romania and one of the most important in Eastern Europe. Structured by the Romanian Orthodox Church, the pilgrimage, while not chaotic, involves a broad range of practices.

Based on ethnographic and archival work, the project will produce one of the first ethnographic monographs on Romania's most important woman saint, developing an understanding of pilgrimage through interpretative frames such as imagined community, narrative, performance and ritual.

Based on the premise that pilgrimage is a cultural construct which emerges from a specific social world, the work will also have a diachronic dimension. Not only will it capture the nature of the cult of Saint Paraskeva as it stood in the 2010s, but through interviews and examination of audio-visual, press and social-media coverage, it will examine how the pilgrimage has shifted in focus and scale in post-war Romania and notably since the end of the Communist period.





SUBJECTIFICATION AS MIDDLE CLASS IN CONTEMPORARY ROMANIA

Elena-Magdalena CRĂCIUN
(Romania)

October 2020 – July 2021

Ștefan Odobleja Fellow

Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Faculty of
Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

Presentation on February 17, 2021

During the NEC Fellowship, I will continue investigating ethnographically processes of subjectification as middle class in contemporary Romania and prepare new publication(s).

I will employ data on material practices and habitual means through which middle classness becomes an articulated self-positioning, which has already been gathered between 2015 and 2017 through ethnographic research in Bucharest.

In addition, I will collect more data about self-identification as middle class and the notion of “beautiful people”, with its aesthetic and ethical connotations, through semi-structured interviews and content analysis of mass media and social media.

My claim is that the middle class is a moral category rather than a social one, and this is reflected in self-positioning as the moral middle ground of society. I move thus beyond the common observation that middle class does not summon a sense of identity or allegiance to a group because it does not stand in opposition to another class.

POWER STRUGGLES, “GREY ZONES” AND CROSS-BORDER ENCOUNTERS: RUSSIAN KARELIAN BORDERLAND AT END OF THE XVIII- BEGINNING OF THE XXTH CENTURY.”

Oksana ERMOLAEVA
(Russia)

October 2020 – July 2021

Gerda Henkel Fellow

Associate Professor, Institute of History, Political
and Social Sciences, Petrozavodsk State University

Presentation on February 24, 2021

The research project, combining the local and global contexts of the region’s history, studies an example of the Russian state’s colonization of a multi-ethnic borderland of the European North in a comparative cross-disciplinary perspective.

The main aims of the project are to explore how external border demarcations and border shifts shaped the colonization patterns in the region, as well as the economic, social, and cultural processes there. Based on multidisciplinary methodology, the project uses the approaches of social, economic, and cultural history, structural-functional approaches, recent geopolitical theories, as well as discussions and modifications of the frontier approach in Western and Russian historiography. It attempts to explore the impact of the environment on border processes and the borderland’s history. The project adopts a comparative perspective with other Northern territories (in particular the Russian Arctic, the Kola peninsula). Thus, the project aims at transcending traditional hegemonic frameworks of old political and state narrative interpretations of the borderland’s history.



Fellows* in the 2020–2021
Academic Year (*including the Long-Term Fellow):
Citizenship

Armenia	1
Belarus	1
Georgia	2
Greece	2
Italy	1
Moldova	2
Romania	16
Russia	3
Spain	1
Switzerland	1
Turkey	1
Ukraine	5
Total	36



Luxury, Fashion and Social Status in Early Modern South-Eastern Europe (LuxFaSS)

Final Report on activities by PI Constanța Vintilă-Ghițulescu
ERC Consolidator Grant, 2015–2020

The project developed main directions of research summarized as follow: The formation of the discourse of luxury in South-Eastern Europe and its changing content; the relationship between aesthetic preferences, material culture and identity among South-Eastern European elites; the investigation of two crucial sartorial revolutions in early modern South-Eastern Europe: Ottomanization of tastes in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and “Europenisation” of taste in the nineteenth century. Also, the project tried to act as a conduit between local historiographies, scholars and institutions and global academia, fostering a mutually beneficial meeting ground for exchange of expertise; to introduce the results into academic circulation and a wider public; to build an open-access database comprising luxury objects from museum collections within South-Eastern Europe and beyond.

At the end of these five wonderful years I could say that the research project has contributed essentially to the advance of the field of history and humanities in South-Eastern Europe. LuxFaSS publications covered many unpublished regional sources, making them available to wider academic circles. Likewise, through research stages the team members explored those visual materials that were necessary to better understand the material culture of South-Eastern Europe. These sources (as well as others) are discussed and used in the collective volume on consumption due to appear in 2021. Such a team contribution brings new perspectives on a theme that has rarely been the object of a long-term approach.

During this time-span, the LuxFaSS project organized eight major international conferences. The conferences brought together renowned scholars and young promising researchers, making possible a fruitful scientific dialogue on luxury, consumption and social status in early modern South-Eastern Europe. The PI and the team members participated in national and international conferences, conventions and congresses (56), workshops (59), and some of them gave lectures or discussed their findings with students within seminars (29). The PI was especially active in making the project and its results known through lectures, both for academic and broader audiences. The number of research stages (66) enabled the team members to gather information about their topics and to contribute to the online database, a work still in progress. All the information can be accessed via the LuxFaSS website <http://luxfass.nec.ro>

Most of the scholarly events within the project were organized in Bucharest, which included noted specialists from various European countries, with the support of the host institution (New Europe College). Participants gave papers and the events were attended by a large public of scholars from various disciplines, proving once more the interest of these research topics. The project was also an opportunity for setting up a team which included international scholars, and to hold events at venues outside Romania, in prestigious institutions (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin, European University Institute of Florence), in thus establishing a large network of scholarly contacted with specialist interested in similar questions.

For attending successfully our objectives New Europe College was one of the best Host Institutions. NEC supported all the initiatives of the PI and team members, and its involvement was tactful, dedicated, and friendly. Its staff was essential and indispensable in the good progress of the project.

Latest Publications:

Constanța Vintilă (coord.), Giulia Calvi, Mária Pakucs, Nicoleta Roman, Michał Wasiucionek, *Consum, Lux și Statut Social în Sud-Estul Europei, secolele XVII-XIX / Consumption, Luxury and Social Status in South-Eastern Europe, 17th–19th Centuries*, București, Humanitas, 2021 (forthcoming – spring 2021).

Constanța Vintilă, *Looking Homeward: Ottoman Subjects, Protégés and Material Culture in South-Eastern Europe, 1750-1830*, Leiden, Brill, 2021 (forthcoming – fall 2021).

Viața lui Dimitrie Foti Merișescu de la Colentina scrisă de el însuși la 1817 [A braggart's boyhood: the life of Dimitrie Foti Merișescu, written by himself], critical edition by Constanța Vintilă-Ghițulescu, București, Humanitas, 2019.

Constanța Vintilă-Ghițulescu (ed.), *Women, Consumption, and the Circulation of Ideas in South-Eastern Europe, 17th–19th Centuries*, Leiden, Brill, 2017.

The team published three special issues dedicated to the themes of the project within:

1. Journal of Early Modern History - vol. 24, no. 4-5 – *Circulation of People* – coordinated by Michał Wasiucionek
2. Revista Istorică - t. XXIX, no. 1-2, 2018 - *Material Culture, Medical Consumption and Everyday Life in South-Eastern Europe* – coordinated by Constanța Vintilă
3. Cromohs – 21 (2017-2018) *From Comparative to Global History* – coordinated by Giulia Calvi

The entire list of publications can be accessed on the LuxFaSS website <http://luxfass.nec.ro>



A Turkish Lady at home - Calvert, Frederick (Baron Baltimore) - Eastern Costume, Engraved from the Collection of Lord Baltimore, after designs by Francis Smith, London, 1769



Images sources: [Europeana](#) [Gallica](#) [Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation](#)

Art Historiographies in Central and Eastern Europe. An Inquiry from the Perspective of Entangled Histories (ArtHistCEE)

Report on activities during June 2020 – February 2021 by Project Administrator Mihnea Mihail
ERC Starting Grant, 2018–2021

Our project (ArtHistCEE StG-802700, 2018–2023) was funded by the European Research Council under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program, through its Starting Grants Scheme. The core members of the project were Ada Hajdu (Principal Investigator), Shona Kallestrup (Senior Researcher, also affiliated with University of St Andrews), Magda Kunińska (Senior Researcher, also affiliated with Jagiellonian University), and Mihnea Mihail (Research Assistant). During 2019 and the first months of 2020 we opened two postdoctoral positions and hired the fifth and the sixth members of the team: Anna Adashinskaya, who graduated her PhD studies at the Central University in Budapest, and Cosmin Minea, who defended his PhD at the University of Birmingham. Following the tragic loss of Ada Hajdu, our Principal Investigator, on the 13th of July 2020, we had to formulate a new Grant Agreement that was to comply with the initial phasing out period (3 to 6 months). The remainder of July and the month of August were dedicated to the planning of the new Grant Agreement, including a renewed proposal, with adapted objectives and costs. The whole team worked together in order to recalibrate the project in response to its curtailed phase-out period. This activity took place under the close supervision and with the continuous support of the NEC staff and of the scientific supervisor of the project, Prof. Anca Oroveanu. Following our new project proposal, the ERCEA scientific board decided that the phasing-out period could be extended to the end of July 2021.

Our project proposes a fragmentary account of the art histories produced in Central and Eastern Europe in the second half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries, from an entangled histories perspective. Our plan was to look at the relationships between the art histories produced in the region and those produced in Western Europe and to investigate how the art histories written in present-day Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Russia resonate with each other, either proposing conflicting interpretations of the past, or ignoring uncomfortable competing discourses. Initially, our project was conceived according to the lines of inquiry of two main issues: 1. How do Central and Eastern European art historians adopt, adapt and respond to theories and methodologies developed elsewhere? 2. What are the periodizations of art produced in Central and Eastern Europe; what are the strategies for conceptualizing local styles; and how was the concept of influence used in establishing hierarchical relationships? Given that we had to reconsider our project in the time given, and that the ERC required that the phasing-out period had to include projects that were already under development, with no possibility of starting new activities, we had to limit ourselves to completing our individual projects and to concentrate our efforts on the publication of the collective volume that will be published as a result of the conference *Questions of Periodization in the Art Historiographies of Central and Eastern Europe*, that we organized at NEC and that took place on 29 November – 1 December 2019.

Like the research community more widely, our project has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Team has not been able to meet in person since December 2019. Conferences that team members were due to attend have either been postponed or moved online. Research trips scheduled in the revised Grant Agreement have not yet been able to take place.

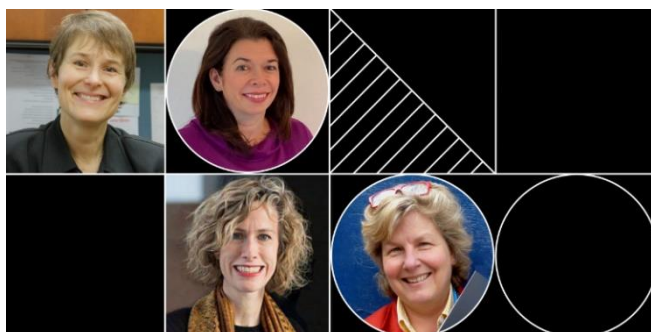
Project scientific activities

Following the sudden loss of our Principal Investigator, we had to reconfigure our activities and to focus on the completion of ongoing projects. We continued meeting online, via Microsoft Teams, every 2-4 weeks, in order to discuss the new Grant Agreement and, beginning with September 2020, to plan working steps for our main project outcome and to discuss various administrative issues. A team workshop

was scheduled at NEC at the beginning of 2021 in order to facilitate work on the co-edited Routledge volume and co-ordinate results from the final stages of our actions. However, due to the pandemic, this has had to be postponed. We hope that the international roll-out of the vaccine will permit us to hold a final meeting at NEC in July 2021.

Our ERC project developed in close dialogue with the research seminar *Periodization in the History of Art and its Conundrums. How to Tackle them in East-Central Europe*, coordinated by Prof. Anca Oroveanu and funded by the Getty Foundation through its *Connecting Art Histories* program. The third meeting of this research seminar was planned for November 2020, but the event was postponed. However, a webinar was organised by NEC on the 15th of October which was attended by all members of the team, with the exception of Mihnea Mihail.

After the loss of Ada Hajdu, Shona Kallestrup was assigned the role of Project Supervisor, working closely with the Research Assistant and NEC staff on administrative issues. Moreover, she was the main team member responsible for the preparation and successful submission of our conference volume to Routledge. She maintains a constant dialogue with contributors to our Routledge volume. Besides her supervisory role in the project, Shona Kallestrup was an invited speaker at the annual public lecture organised by the Association for Art History in the UK, 'Re-writing Women into Art History', where she delivered a talk on Queen Marie of Romania. Following this presentation, she was invited by two different radio producers to submit program pitches on Romanian history to the BBC. In addition, she presented our entangled histories project to the Research Seminar of the School of Art History at the University of St Andrews.



Annual Public Lecture | *Re-Writing Women into Art History*
December 3, 2020, Online

Magda Kunińska gave a public lecture entitled 'We, The Westerners: Some Remarks on Marian Sokołowski's Historiography' on the occasion of the Marian Sokołowski Prize for the best MA thesis in Art History at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. In addition, she participated in a webinar organized by Birkbeck, University of London, accompanying the opening of the exhibition *Ars Homo Erotica – Ten Years Later*.

From October 2020, Mihnea Mihail and Cosmin Minea participated in the weekly Fellows Seminar for the year 2020/2021, that is hosted online by the NEC via Zoom. Cosmin Minea was also a participant in the *Modern European History* seminar series organised by the University of Cambridge, and takes part in the 'Modernity and Religion in Central European Art and Architecture' online workshop organised by the *Continuity/Rupture: Art and Architecture in Central Europe 1918-1939 (CRAACE)* ERC Advanced Grant project. The workshop started on February 4 and will conclude on May 13. Furthermore, Dr Minea was invited by the Department of History and Theory of Art of the National University of Arts in Bucharest to give a lecture for third-year BA students entitled 'Restoration and Preservation of Architectural Monuments in Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries'.

Anna Adashinskaya gave a public lecture for the American Institute for Southeast European Studies, with the title 'Discovering History or Spying for the Country? Russian Imperial Research Expeditions by P. N. Milyukov and N. P. Kondakov to Macedonia'.

Publications and conference participations

After Dr Hajdu's passing, our effort as a team focused on having our conference volume accepted by Routledge, so that the book will be published as soon as possible in the one-year timeframe allocated by the ERC for reporting scientific outcomes after the termination of the project. The whole team took part in the preparation process of our volume proposal for Routledge. The final editorial work and submission of the proposal were the responsibility of the supervisor, Shona Kallestrup. Alongside the book proposal, we submitted three sample chapters, as required by the publishers. These texts belong to the team members and, in their final form, will be their contributions to the volume. Shona Kallestrup submitted a chapter entitled 'Problematising Periodisation: Folk Art, National Narratives and Cultural Politics in Early Twentieth-Century Romanian Art History'. Anna Adashinskaya submitted a chapter with the title 'Renaissances in Byzantium and Byzantium in Renaissance: The International Development of Ideas and Terminology in Art History'. Finally, Mihnea Mihail submitted a chapter entitled '1241-1242. Disaster and Renewal: The Transition from Romanesque to Gothic in the Historiography of Medieval Art in the Hungarian Kingdom'.

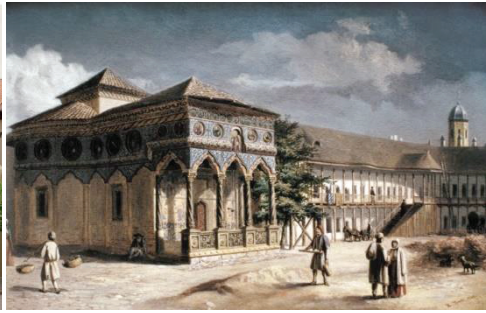
In addition to their contributions to the collective volume, the team members were involved in editorial and peer-review work and prepared several publications that are currently forthcoming or under review.

Shona Kallestrup reviewed papers and book proposals on the subject of Eastern and Central European art and architecture for the journals *Architectural History*, *Art East/Central*, and Bloomsbury publishing house. Together with Charlotte Ashby, she is co-editing a volume of collected essays entitled *Nordic Design in Translation: the Circulation of Objects, Ideas and Practices*, to be published with Peter Lang. She will contribute the introduction and a chapter entitled 'Scandinavian-Romanian Connections c. 1900: A Case Study of the International Dimensions of 'National' Art', the latter being an outcome of her research as part of our ERC project. Dr Kallestrup also wrote a blog post for our project website, with the title 'From Bucharest to Byzantium: the Entangled History of A Romanian Art History Book in St Andrews University Library' (which can be accessed here: <https://arthist.ro/2021/02/from-bucharest-to-byzantium/>).

Magda Kunińska is currently co-editing with Wojciech Bałus a collective volume entitled *Iconologies Between West and East: Local Diversities of the Method*, that will be published with Routledge. Besides the introduction, she wrote a chapter entitled 'Zofia Ameisenowa, W. Heckscher and the "Genesis of Iconology" (Bonn 1964)', which represents an outcome of her research in the project. As editor of the volume, she also worked on the chapter written by Ada Hajdu and Mihnea Mihail, with the title 'The Absence of Iconology in Romania. A Possible Answer'. Following the loss of Ada Hajdu, Mihnea Mihail wrote the chapter to be published in the *Iconologies Between West and East* volume and he was assisted by Cosmin Minea in editing the part that had to be written by Dr Hajdu. In addition, Dr Kunińska submitted a paper entitled 'The Dignity of the Art Historian', that was accepted for the Prague conference *Influence of the Vienna School of Art History II: The 100th Anniversary of Max Dvořák's Death*, that will be held on the 15-16 April 2021. She will also give a presentation at a conference organised by the Academia di San Luca in Rome, currently postponed due to the pandemic, where she will address the issue of 'Style as a tool for self-differentiation and the beginnings of the history of architecture in Poland'. Finally, she has been working on an article to be submitted to the journal *Jews and Slavs*.

Cosmin Minea completed two articles. The first one, entitled 'Art Nouveau Beyond the National Myth: Ion Mincu (1852-1912) and the 'Birth' of Modern Romanian Architecture', will be submitted to the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*. The second article, 'Medieval Art, National Architectural Heritage and Museum in Late 19th-Century Romania', was submitted and accepted for publication in the journal *Anastasis. Research in Medieval Culture and Art*. In addition to these journal submissions, Cosmin Minea wrote a blog post for our project website, with the title 'Restoration of Historical Monuments in Twentieth-Century Europe: The Battle of Stavropoleos' (which can be accessed here: <https://arthist.ro/2020/10/restoration-of-historical-monuments-in-twentieth-century-europe-the->

[battle-for-stavropoleos/](#)). Dr Minea has also taken over technical responsibility for our project website, following training by the contractor who initially built it.



Stavropoleos Church and Monastery, Bucharest. Credits: www.editiadedimineata.ro

Stavropoleos, early 18th century, watercolour by Henri Trenk. Credits: National Museum of Art of Romania, Bucharest

Stavropoleos, mid-nineteenth century. Credits: Irina Băldescu

Anna Adashinskaya participated in the conference *Actual Problems of Theory and History of Art* that was held from 26-31 October 2020, and organised by Saint Petersburg University in partnership with the Hermitage State Museum. Her paper was entitled ‘Donor Images in Byzantine Historiography: Interpretation, Typology, and Perception’. A written version of her contribution was submitted for the volume of conference proceedings and is currently under review. Anna also participated in the conference *Licht aus dem Osten? Natural Light in Medieval Churches Between Byzantium and the West* organised by the Freie Universität in Berlin from 26-27 November 2021. Her presentation, ‘Illuminated by Divine Presence: Arrangement of Light in the Naos of the Dečani Katholikon’, was also submitted in a written form for the volume of conference proceedings. Finally, she took part in the *International Graduate Conference of the Oxford University Byzantine Society* (26-28 February 2021) with a paper entitled ‘Pious Offerings to Meteora Monasteries (1348-1420s): Between Political Representation, Family Belonging, and Personal Agency’. She also wrote two blog entries for our project website: ‘An “Ancient Argonaut” in the Service of the Empire: the Research Expeditions of Nikodim Pavlovich Kondakov’ (<https://arthist.ro/2020/11/an-ancient-argonaut-in-the-service-of-the-empire-the-research-expeditions-of-nikodim-pavlovich-kondakov/>) and ‘From: Russia with (Winter) Love. Russian Postcards Celebrating the Winter Holidays. To: You’ (<https://arthist.ro/2020/12/from-russia-with-winter-love/>).

In sum, despite the tragedy of Dr Hajdu’s loss, and the difficulties of the pandemic, the team has come together strongly in its efforts to deliver the scientific outcomes presented in the revised Grant Agreement. Although the curtailed timeframe has inevitably limited the Team’s ability to fulfil Dr Hajdu’s original ambitions for the project, we are confident that we can honour her memory in the ongoing work of the final grant period.

Members of the ERC Starting Grant *Art Historiographies in Central and Eastern Europe. An Inquiry from the Perspective of Entangled Histories* during a seminar talk given by Ada Hajdu and Mihnea Mihail, within the framework of the International Seminar on *Periodization in the History of Art and its Conundrums. How to tackle them in East-Central Europe* (supported by the Getty Foundation, May 8, 2019). On the slide: *Relevance for writing Art History today*.



Periodization in the History of Art and Its Conundrums. How to Tackle Them in East-Central Europe

Third seminar, to take place in November 2021, by Anca Oroveanu, Coordinator

A program supported by the Getty Foundation as part of its *Connecting Art Histories* initiative, 2018–2021

We reported previously on the first and second seminar in a series of three, organized with support from the Getty Foundation in the framework of their *Connecting Art Histories* initiative. The first one was held in May 2019, the second in November 2019. According to the original schedule, the third should have been held in May 2020. Due to the Covid pandemic this has proved impossible, and in agreement with the Getty Foundation we originally postponed it for May 2021. As its date approaches, we realized that we had been over-optimistic in hoping to be able to schedule it live. The alternative would have been to hold it online; however, all the participants in the seminar were decidedly in favor of a live seminar, and with this in mind, we asked for yet another extension (which was granted), and scheduled it for mid-November 2021, in the hope that by then a live seminar (or at least a hybrid one) will be possible. We had in the meantime a webinar with the participants, on October 15, 2020, and are planning for another one, to be held on May 27, 2021. This being the current situation, we can only report on projects regarding the third (and last) seminar, rather than on achievements, even though, in an assessment that can only be provisional at this point, it can be said that so far it has been a success.

To remind you, the seminar series addresses young scholars from Central and Eastern Europe, and our selection resulted in 16 participants from Austria, Bulgaria, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Poland, Romania, Ukraine. The seminars, including 7 active days, are organized around three components:

- Discussions around key concepts related to the question of periodization
- Presentations of their projects by the young scholars selected in the program
- Talks given by guest speakers and by some of the consultants in the program

In deciding on the topics for the discussions around key concepts we were building on what appeared to us as being an already assured foundation provided by such discussions during the first two seminars, while also taking into account that this will be the last. We collaborated closely – as we have so far – with the Consultants in this program (Edit András, Ruxandra Demetrescu, Cristian Nae, Bojana Pejić, Mara Rațiu), but we also wished to involve the young scholars in a more direct way in the shaping of these discussions. As things stand now, their topics will be: *The Contemporary Condition* (introduced and moderated by Cristian Nae); *Spectatorship* (introduced by Ancuța Mortu, and moderated by her and Anca Oroveanu); *Decolonial-Global* (introduced and moderated by Bojana Pejić); *Writing National and Regional Art Histories* (introduced by Edit András, shaped with inputs from the young scholars); *What Do We Teach* (introduced by Ruxandra Demetrescu, shaped with inputs from the young scholars); *The State and Future of the Discipline* (a closing discussion, to be probably moderated by Anca Oroveanu, with inputs from all the participants).

As in the previous seminars, a number among the young scholars will present their ongoing research. They will be those who didn't yet have the chance to make these presentations: Mădălina Brașoveanu: *The Transversal Network: Mail Art Practices and International Contacts in Atelier 35, Oradea, and the MAMŪ group, Tîrgu-Mureș, in the early 1980s*; Cristina Moraru: *Expanded Art History "After the Global"*; Giorgi Papashvili: *Photography and the Twofold Origins of Modern Georgian Painting*; Radek Przedpełski: *Steppe Cosmotronics | Art as Engineering of Forces in Marek Konieczny and Beyond*; Zsuzsa Sidó: *Beyond Style? Problems in Periodizing 19th Century Art in Hungary*.

We had during all this time exchanges with the guest speakers invited for the third seminar. They confirmed their participation, some of them off- and one or two most probably online.

The guest speakers and their topics are:

- Zdenka BADOVINAC, curator and writer, who has served since 1993 as Director of the Moderna galerija in Ljubljana, with its two locations: the Museum of Modern Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova: *Lost and found in transition*

- Mieke BAL, Professor, co-founder of ASCA, the Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis: *Preposterous! Towards a Relational Inter-Temporality*

- Andrea GIUNTA, researcher, curator, Professor at Universidad de Buenos Aires, and visiting scholar at the University of Texas at Austin: *Against the Canon. Contemporary Art in a World Without Center*

- Romy GOLAN, Professor, 20th Century Art, The Graduate Center, and Lehman College, The City University of New York: *When Did the 20th Century Begin?*

- Christopher WOOD, Professor in the Department of German at New York University: *Does realism interfere with periodization schemas?*

As on previous occasions, the talks given by the invited guests will be open to the public.

Background literature for all the events mentioned above was posted on the platform we set up for this seminar series (<https://nec.ro/programs/getty/>), and made thus available to all the participants. We will most probably add to it until November, and / or make some adjustments and corrections, should they prove necessary.



Members of the Research Program on *Periodization in the History of Art*, December 3, 2019

Citizen Science for Environmental Citizenship: Backyard Birding and the Potential for Cultivating Green Engagement (EnviroCitizen)

Report on activities during the 1st semester of the academic year 2020–2021 by Ștefan Dorondel
Horizon 2020 Project, 2020–2024

The research project *Citizen Science for Environmental Citizenship: Backyard Birding and the Potential for Cultivating Green Engagement* funded under the Horizon 2020 call has started in April 2020. The project is conducted by prof. dr. Finn Arne Jørgensen from the University of Stavanger (Norway). The project proposes to explore the potential of citizen science, a concept recently coined by Irwin (A. Irwin, *Citizen Science: A Study of People, Expertise and Sustainability*. London and New York: Routledge, 1995). Citizen science refers to the involvement of passionate citizens in collecting scientific data in collaboration and under supervision of professional scientists. The EnviroCitizen project looks at birdwatchers in seven countries, including Romania, in order to understand how these citizens could contribute to the expansion of a “green ideology”.

As the responsible for Romania on behalf of NEC (one month per year) I have selected a postdoctoral student who is going to carry out the fieldwork and work with me in the project. In selecting the postdoc, I was interested in a young scholar who is acquainted with disciplines such as political ecology, environmental history and STS (Science-Technology-Society Studies). Agota Abran, the postdoctoral student I have selected for this project, earned a Ph.D. in Sociocultural anthropology at the University of St Andrews in Scotland on a topic bordering the disciplines I mentioned few lines above.

We should have met for the kick off workshop at the University of Stavanger but because of the Coronavirus outbreak, we have met online. We have established the program for the current year until the next meeting which is going to be in March 2021 (also online).

Within the project I have started to read some of the books and papers on birdwatchers and on citizen science as a theoretical concept. I have also contacted several institutions we would like to work with within the project. This included contacts with the Grigore Antipa Museum of Natural History Bucharest and the Romanian Ornithologic Society for further collaboration. I have also contacted three directors of elementary schools who will be involved in the project. Two of them accepted the collaboration whereas the third one declined it. The idea of the project is not only to look at birdwatchers and their role in building a sustainable future but also to involve several classes of young pupils to watch birds and then to build together a short booklet about their experience. One of the ideas of the project is to have at the end of the project a manual for pupils based on experience in seven European countries.



Reflections on the Political and Social History of the 18th and 19th Centuries (GRiPs)

Research Group, 2009 – present

Since 2009, several scholars meet at NEC to discuss topics on the political, social and cultural history of the 18th and 19th centuries from various theoretical and disciplinary perspectives. The members of this group and their guests are historians, political scientists, sociologists etc. who conduct research on different themes related to transformations and modernizations in the Romanian area or the Balkans. GRiPs' ambition is to establish a wider European and regional scientific network as well. GriPs is coordinated by NEC Alumnae [Constanța Vintilă-Ghitulescu](#) and [Silvia Marton](#).

Due to the pandemic situation research activities within this group have been conducted mainly on individual level. Members of the research group are planning a first online conference in March 2021. **Andrei Sorescu**, a NEC Alumnus and currently a post-doctoral researcher at ICUB (the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest) will hold a lecture about a loan middle class of Aromanians in 1848-1906 Romania (*O clasă de mijloc de împrumut? Aromânii și România, 1848-1906*).

Debates within the research group usually take following values and priorities as their starting-point(s):

-Recapturing the multiplicity of historical voices: The ‘famous’ names immortalised by traditional historiography and biographies are by no means the only actors worth studying. De-mythicising the existing historiography by means of critical appraisal is crucial for understanding Romanian modernity.

-Diversifying research objects: Discourses, practices, representations, institutions, processes and concepts must be studied through a broader and more varied source-base, much of which still remains unpublished. The dynamics of modernity themselves demand this – just as ‘modernity’ itself refuses to be constrained by neat periodisation (hence the difficulty in identifying the end of the ‘long’ 19th century), or political and geographical boundaries (hence the difficulty in narrativising Romanian state- and nation-building).

-Critical re-examination: The 'long' 19th century sees the founding of the Romanian nation-state's main social, political and cultural institutions. Their critical re-examination and, in some cases, their outright 'discovery' is crucial for understanding the subsequent evolution of political ideas and practices and institution-building. Only thus may we move beyond the traditional, obsessive narrative of the perennial 'ideal of state- and national unity'. Connections and comparisons with other imperial peripheries encourage the discovery of new analytical frameworks, both as perceived by historical actors, and as generated by contemporary research.

-A transnational perspective: The emergence of a transnational perspective in recent historiography has shown that shifting the focus from the nation-state as a unit of analysis is both necessary and methodologically productive. Bringing to the fore the study of cultural, social and institutional dynamics from the viewpoint of entangled history, the transnational turn can help us re-contextualize our objects of study. To write a history of the Romanian lands compels us to seriously consider contact with repressed ethnic, regional or religious representations and perspectives, which sometimes precede the nation-state.



The Bible in Its Linguistic Context: Hebrew

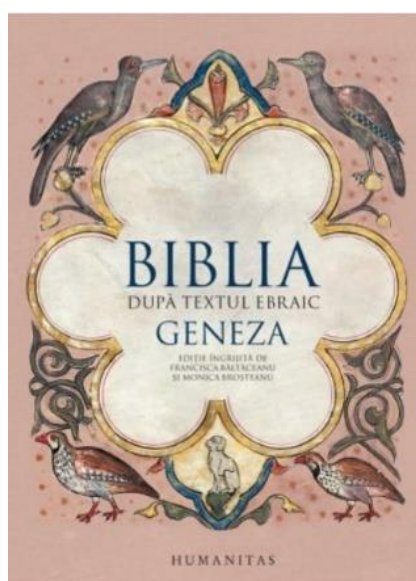
Research Group, 2013 – present

This research group aims at supporting and developing the scientific study of Biblical Hebrew within the Romanian academic context. Its members are both senior and junior specialists in the field of Biblical studies from various scientific backgrounds (theologians, classical philologists, philosophers). Their competence and experience with biblical texts of different linguistic traditions (Hebrew, Greek and Latin) go along with their rigorous understanding of modern scientific standards. The immediate goal of the group is to provide the Romanian culture with a new, complete, scientific, non-confessional, and accurate translation of the Hebrew Bible. By so doing it also envisages the reinforcement of the study of Biblical Hebrew on a sound scientific base within the Romanian academic milieu.

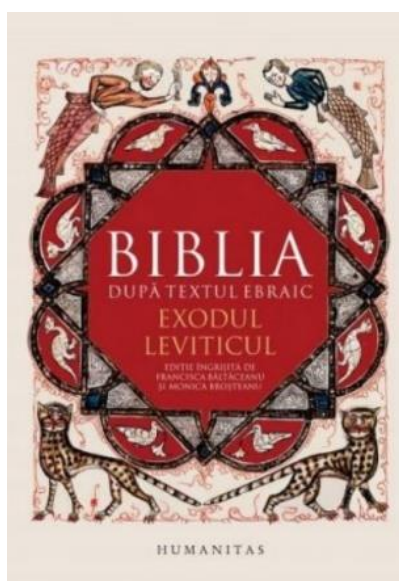
The research group is coordinated by **Francisca Băltăceanu** and **Monica Broșteanu**, two well known names in this field of study, formerly Professors of Biblical Studies at the Catholic Institute of Bucharest, currently still delivering courses at the University of Bucharest. One of the members of the research group, Ștefan Colceriu, is a NEC Alumnus and researcher at the Institute of Linguistics of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest. He was a member of the Septuagint translation project at New Europe College, Bucharest, led by Francisca Băltăceanu, and the organizer of another research group at NEC: *The Bible in Its Linguistic Context: Coptic* (2013 – 2019).

The first tangible result of this research group was the publication in 2017 of the translation from Hebrew of the Genesis: *Biblia după textul ebraic. Geneza*, followed by a second volume in 2019, the translation from Hebrew of the Exodus and of the Leviticus: *Biblia după textul ebraic. Exodul. Leviticul* (both volumes published by the *Humanitas* publishing house).

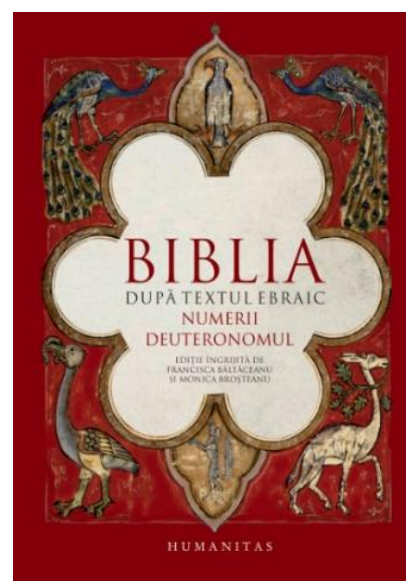
Due to the pandemic situation research activities within this group have been conducted mainly on individual level, however in 2021 a new volume of this translation project will be published at the same prestigious publishing house, the translation from Hebrew of the Numbers and of the Deuteronomy: *Biblia după textul ebraic. Numerii. Deuteronomul*.



Humanitas, 2017



Humanitas, 2019



Humanitas, 2021

Research Group, 2019 – present

Due to the pandemic situation research activities within this group have been conducted mainly on individual level.

Research Group, 2020 – 2021

Silvia MARTON, PhD, Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest
Mária PAKUCS, PhD, Senior Researcher, „Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History, Romanian Academy, Bucharest
Nicoleta ROMAN, PhD, Researcher, „Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History, Romanian Academy, Bucharest
Constanța VINTILĂ, PhD, Senior Researcher, „Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History, Romanian Academy, Bucharest

Nationalism and its Effects on Music in Central and Eastern Europe since the Second Half of the 19th Century

Research Group, 2020 – 2021

The founding of new states in nineteenth-century Europe – especially those in the central and eastern parts of the continent – inevitably generated and inspired creations whose musical ideas or motifs (emerging from folklore or religious music, with specific rhythms and harmonies, etc.) expressed their belonging to a country, an ethnic group, a religious community or even a geographical region. In the developing states of Central and Eastern Europe these national “sound identities” are significantly more prominent, being generated and reinforced on the one hand by independence movements and on the other by a certain reaction, subtly expressed, to the tradition of great European music, which dominated the era, although, paradoxically, local compositions made full use of the resources of the Western-type ones.

This newly established research group (November 2020) aims to investigate the forms and ways in which nationalism has left its mark, influencing and shaping music production in its various forms (composition, performance, musicology, etc.), as well as the establishment and mission of specialized institutions in the developing countries of Central and Eastern Europe, starting from the second half of the nineteenth century until after World War II. It is coordinated by **Valentina Sandu-Dediu**, Rector of the New Europe College and Professor of Musicology at the National University of Music of Bucharest. The research group is supported by a grant of the *Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation* – UEFISCDI, within the Prize for Excellence in Research awarded to New Europe College.

On **February 25, 2021** the research group hosted its first online event, a roundtable discussion organized on the occasion of a highly awaited book launch: *Noi istorii ale muzicilor românești* [*New Histories of Romanian Music*], a two-volume book, coordinated by Valentina Sandu-Dediu and Nicolae Gheorghiiță (also a member of the research group). All 14 authors who contributed with a chapter were present at the online event, as well as a notable number of guests and students from the field of Musicology. The discussion was moderated by Patrick Zuk, Professor at the Durham University in England.



Team Members:

Nicolae GHEORGHIȚĂ, PhD, Professor, National University of Music, Bucharest

Costin MOISIL, PhD, Associate Professor, National University of Music, Bucharest

Florinela POPA, PhD, Associate Professor, National University of Music, Bucharest

Corina-Antigona RĂDULESCU, PhD, Professor, National University of Music, Bucharest

Wiko meets NEC: The Thursday Lectures

A series of online lectures held by Fellows of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin

How God Became a Lawgiver: The Torah's Place in Ancient Legal History

Prof. Konrad Schmid, November 5, 2020

The series of Thursday Lectures with Fellows from the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin started on **November 5, 2020** with a public talk given by **Konrad Schmid**, Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. From 1999-2002 he was Professor of Hebrew Bible at Heidelberg University, Germany. He served as Member in Residence at the Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton (2006–07) and was a Fellow of the Israel Institute of Advanced Studies in Jerusalem (2012–2013), co-directing a research group on Convergence and Divergence in Pentateuchal Theory: *Bridging the Academic Cultures in Israel, North America, and Europe*. In 2017, he was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. In 2020-2021, he is a Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. Since 2017, he also serves as President of the *Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie* and as member of the National Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation. He currently is also the President of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT).



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The topic of his talk, *How God Became a Lawgiver: The Torah's Place in Ancient Legal History*, represents Professor Schmid's most recent research interest, pursued also during his Fellowship at Wiko, and imbedded in the broader framework of an ERC Advanced Grant he is currently working on. His talk introduced God as a lawgiver, described the historical evolution of the biblical God, explained the biblical notion of divine law and how it is presented in the Torah, finally inquiring why the Hebrew Bible developed this very unique idea of God as a law giver, as well as the idea of divine laws.

The Torah is God's law. This biblical concept is so prominent and is considered so self-evident that it has hardly been perceived as a historical problem until now. Traditionally, it was considered to be a basic element of the Bible within its historical context. But in fact, it represents an innovation in the ancient Near East, and for this very reason it should be investigated historically: In the ancient world, kings, not deities, are lawgivers. Only the legal tradition of ancient Israel developed the idea that God himself formulated laws and passed them on to his people. In the Torah, Moses plays a prominent role in this mediation. Divine laws then became a central element of these religions in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, but what historical circumstances and factors gave rise to them? The loss of kingship in Israel might have provided a major impact, but in addition to political and socio-historical developments, fundamental transformations in ancient Israel's intellectual history must also be considered, which could have led to the formation of the idea of God as a lawgiver. Due to new insights into the historical emergence of the Torah, which research has developed in recent decades, but also due to new findings on the legal tradition of the ancient Near East, there is both the possibility and the need for reconstructing the historical forces and factors that made the Torah God's law.



The Louvre stele of Codex Hammurabi, ca. 1750 BCE

Life's Work. Wagner's Tristan and the Critique of Biographism

Prof. Andreas Dorschel, November 26, 2020

A second public talk within the series of Wiko Thursday Lectures was given by **Andreas Dorschel**, also a Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin in 2020-2021, Professor of Aesthetics and Head of the Institute for Music Aesthetics of the University of Arts in Graz, Austria since 2002. Before that appointment, he taught at universities in Britain, Germany and Switzerland where, in 2002, the University of Bern awarded him the habilitation. Andreas Dorschel was Visiting Professor at Emory University in 1994 and at Stanford University in 2006. From 2010 on, he has been on the Board of the Royal Musical Association (RMA) Music and Philosophy Study Group. In 2014 he received the Caroline Schlegel Award for Essay. He was elected member of the London-based Academia Europaea in 2019. Andreas Dorschel is the author of six monographs; articles by him have appeared in *The Cambridge Quarterly* (OUP), *Philosophy* (CUP), *The Oxford Handbook of the New Cultural History of Music* (OUP) and *The Oxford Handbook of Western Music and Philosophy* (OUP).



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On **November 26, 2020** Andreas Dorschel entitled his talk *Life's Work. Wagner's Tristan and the Critique of Biographism*, discussing how art is related to life, and using this relation in order to offer an alternative to simplistic biographism.

How is art related to life? During the 19th century that seemed to be, both to the educated public and to scholars, a question of prime importance. The 20th century, by way of contrast, brought that issue in disrepute. Yet there is cause to reconsider it. Admittedly, there once was (and perhaps is, in popular literature) a psychological brand of simplistic biographism that was (and is) bound to fail. Reasons for categorical anti-biographism, however, are quite feeble. Simplistic biographism can be avoided, if we distinguish (at least) three potential relations between art and life. Firstly, art can become the image of life. Secondly, an artist may seek out experiences that fit his artistic vision, so that these experiences may 'fill his vision with life'. Thirdly, art is sometimes the antithesis of life, related to it as a negative image. A biographic poetics that is sensitive to historic context can disclose significant traits of a work of art, as a (though sketchy) case study of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* (1859) indicates.



The Rise of Religious Populism and the Symbol of the Cross in Poland's Contemporary Political Clashes

Prof. Magdalena Waligórska, January 14, 2021

Another Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin in 2020-2021, **Magdalena Waligórska**, a Polish Historian, chose to talk about *The Rise of Religious Populism and the Symbol of the Cross in Poland's Contemporary Political Clashes*. This topic also represents her research initiative at the Wissenschaftskolleg, where she is currently completing a book about the cultural history of the cross in the Polish political imagination. In the 19th century it was first used as a political symbol on a mass scale in the struggle for Polish independence. Her book further offers a view on the 19th and 20th centuries, including the interwar period and the early socialist era, touching upon topics like solidarity and revolution, to finally reaching the present day. As a Historian she is looking through the prism of this one symbol, aiming to reconstruct the constant change in meaning given to the symbol of the cross, but she also uses other interdisciplinary tools, in order to analyze how the definition of who is represented by the symbol of the cross changes in time. Arguing that the cross is constantly reappearing whenever the society is in a moment of social change, of turmoil, of crisis, she shows that it is not necessarily representing the idea of continuity of the old order or conserving values, but that it is rather representing the new, the radical and often the revolutionary idea that is coming up in a given moment.

Magdalena Waligórska's talk at NEC on **January 14, 2021** focused on the last chapter of her book and revisited the events of the year 2010, when a fatal crash suffered by the Polish presidential plane near Smolensk sent shock waves through society and triggered some of the most iconic symbolic clashes in the country's modern history. The rise of right-wing populism, which followed the Smolensk crash and laid the groundwork for the country's recent shift towards illiberal democracy,



coincided with a surge in the use of religious imagery, which came to dominate mainstream expressions of national pride and belonging. Taking as a case study the so-called “Smolensk cross” planted in front of the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, which for six months was fiercely defended by a group of the late President Kaczyński's supporters, her talk investigated the populist instrumentalization of Catholic symbols. The “Smolensk cross defenders,” protesting against the new, democratically elected, liberal president, Bronisław Komorowski, harnessed the symbol to frame an essentially partisan conflict in terms of a Manichean fight between good and evil. In their exclusionary narrative, Poland's liberal elites, as well as ethnic and sexual minorities, were labelled “enemies of the cross” and hence by default of “the people.” At the same time, prosecutorialists, who opposed the presence of the cross at the seat of the country's executive power, subversively hijacked the symbol to unsettle and provoke, enabling a carnivalesque “rite of reversal.”

Born in Slubice, Poland, Magdalena Waligórska studied English Philology at the Jagiellonian University in Poland, Political Sociology at Dalarna University in Sweden, and History and Civilization at the European University Institute in Italy. She is currently affiliated to the Humboldt University in Berlin, and she previously taught at the University of Bremen, being a Professor in the field of History and Culture of East Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, with a focus on Poland.



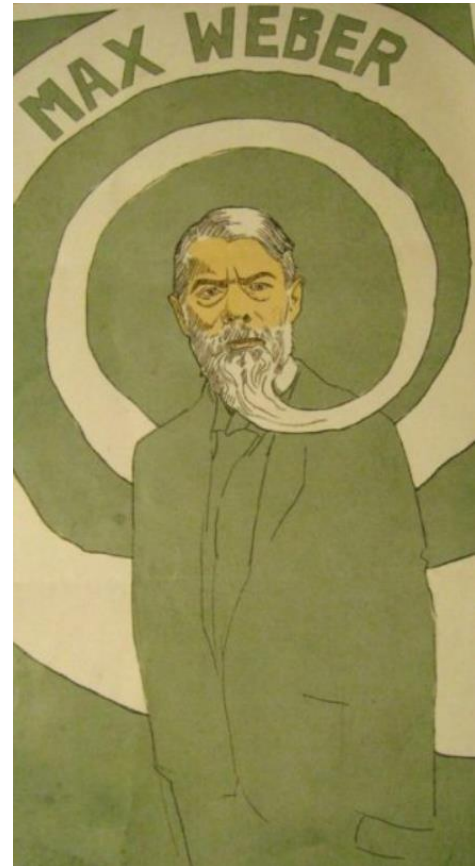
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Max Weber and Modern Capitalism

Prof. Hinnerk Bruhns, November 17, 2020

A frequent guest at the NEC, for years a member of its Academic Board, and one of NEC's constant supporters, Hinnerk Bruhns was invited by us to give a conference on Max Weber bearing in mind that 2020 has been an anniversary year for Weber, an occasion we felt appropriate to mark. A noted specialist on Max Weber, with a large number of publications, books and co-edited books on him, [Hinnerk Bruhns](#) chose to speak on this occasion on *Max Weber and Modern Capitalism* [*Max Weber et le capitalisme moderne*].

There is a tendency to look at the *Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism* as being Max Weber's essential contribution to the analysis of modern capitalism, indeed, as the only one worthy to be taken into account in such an analysis. While acknowledging the importance of Weber's thesis on the relationship between protestant ethics and capitalism, and of his ideas regarding the singularity of the Western process of rationalization in this context, the speaker proposed to insist on the ways in which Weber analyzed in his writings the capitalism of his own times. In his talk Hinnerk Bruhns also attempted to formulate an answer regarding the relevance of Weber's analytic concepts, of his scientific approach, and of his political vision of capitalism today, a century after his death, in a scientific, as well as social climate in which "capitalism" has become one of the hottest questions for political and social sciences.



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Hinnerk Bruhns is currently Research Director Emeritus at the CNRS, and member of the Center of Historical Research EHESS/CNRS. After having defended his PhD in ancient history at the University of Cologne, he taught at the University of Aix-en-Provence (1971-1975), at Bochum University (1976-1979) and starting with 1982 at the l'EHESS in Paris. Alongside his teaching and research activities, he held a number of positions in research administration in Paris: Deputy Director of the German Office for Academic exchanges (DAAD) between 1979 and 1984; in charge of French-German Programmes at the Department of Human Sciences and Society at the CNRS between 1985 and 1997; Deputy to the Administrator of Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme between 1997 and 2010. Between 2001 and 2012, Hinnerk Bruhns was member of the Academic Board of the New Europe College (NEC) in Bucarest, and between 2008 and 2012 President of the Academic Board of the Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung (ZIF) at Bielefeld University. He is founder and editor in chief of the electronic journal *Trivium. Revue franco-allemande de sciences humaines et sociales* (<http://trivium.revues.org>), which started to appear in 2008. A recent issue of this journal (n° 28/2018), coordinated by Hinnerk Bruhns in collaboration with Patrick Fridenson and Jürgen Kocka, focuses on the topic *Capitalisme / Kapitalismus*.

Hinnerk Bruhns' many writings on Max Weber approach him from various perspectives. To mention a few among the most recent titles: *Max Weber und der Erste Weltkrieg*. Tübingen 2017; *Max Weber: Discours de guerre et d'après-guerre*. Textes réunis et présentés par H. Bruhns, Paris 2015; *Max Webers historische Sozialökonomie / L'économie de Max Weber entre histoire et sociologie*, Wiesbaden 2014 ; co-edited with P. Duran: *Max Weber et le politique*. Paris 2009. In 2017 he gave at the NEC a talk entitled *Le sociologue et la guerre : Max Weber 1914-1919*.

Christianity Between Tradition and Utopia: An Inquiry into Monastic Time

Prof. Danièle Hervieu-Léger, February 18, 2021

Professor **Danièle Hervieu-Léger**, Director of Studies Emerita at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (Paris) and member of the Center of Studies in the Sciences on Religion, was invited to give a conference organized in collaboration with the Institute of the History of Religions of the Romanian Academy, which she entitled *Christianity Between Tradition and Utopia: An Inquiry into Monastic Time* [*Le christianisme entre tradition et utopie : une enquête sur le temps monastique*].

Based on an extensive inquiry concerning Benedictine and Cistercian monasticism in France during the interval from the 19th century to the 21st (in which she concentrated on France, and on male monastic communities), the talk proposed to shed light on the different temporal configurations shaping the relations between Christianity and the social world, and which also model its relation with a (post)modernity to which religion no longer prescribes its horizon. This analysis is put to use in an attempt at a sociological problematization of the changes within the religious field in the Western Christian context.



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The talk started by defining three regimes of temporality that have been governing monastic life: “the time of the world”, and the choice to retire from it; “the time of the Kingdom”, centered on its expectation; “the time of the Church”, a time of the promise which constantly recedes, entailing an engagement of a particular kind with the world: being in the world, without being of the world. Intersecting this general definition of regimes of monastic time, Danièle Hervieu-Léger proceeded in her research by operating what she defined as “non-historical divides”, through which she identified in her chosen field of research “typical moments, typical figures, typical sequences”, starting with the disruption caused in France by the Revolution, which affected deeply and lastingly monastic life. She thus identified three “privileged moments”, each leading to rearticulations within monastic life: a time of re-establishment of the monastic life after the Revolution (ca 1830-1914), and its longer-term sequels: a time of “wars between the two Frances”: the Catholic one, and that of citizenship, which also saw a hardening of the internal hierarchies within the monastic communities, and the predominance of the relationship (of submission) of the monk toward his master, the abbot, at the expense of community life, and promoted among the believers the idea that the Church is the only institution capable of providing a life model. Through its sequels, this model of understanding dominated religious – and especially monastic – life up until the 1950s. A different sequence is identified in the postwar era, and it remained dominant until the 1980s. It was characterized by the revisiting of the ancient sources of Christian thought, coupled with the rediscovery of the oriental contributions to it, and resulting in what has been called a “revolution in exegesis”; by the increased prominence of the œcumenical ideals of the Church (in particular through Vatican II); by a rediscovery of the importance and value of communal life. The third sequence – the current one, compels monasticism to face its precarious position in “post-Christian” times: monastic communities suffered a serious depletion, their members are preeminently old, while the authority of religion in human affairs has been significantly undermined. On the other hand, monasteries have become in recent times poles of attraction for a variety of persons in search of ways and means to cope with a world fraught with contradictions and conflicts of values, deeply affected by phenomena such as migrations and dislocations, for whom liturgical time is a respite and a promise, and in response to which monastic communities discover and cultivate the virtue of hospitality.

‘Shades of Grey’: Inquiries into Informal Practices in the Black Sea Region since the Eighteenth Century

November 3, 2020

This workshop is organized within the framework of the *Pontica Magna Fellowship Program* in partnership with the **Center for Governance and Culture in Europe (University of St. Gallen)** and is supported by the **VolkswagenStiftung**. It is part of a wider initiative, a project aiming to develop a better understanding of in-/formalities in Southeast Europe (SEE) by using the lenses of different disciplines. An actor-centered, bottom-up perspective will be complemented by governance and institutional perspectives to examine the questions about how and when individuals and communities resort to informal practices in their everyday lives. How is in-/formality perceived, interpreted and contested, and what are the potential conflicts resulting from dissonant in-/formality regimes in the European neighborhood? Is informality a transient characteristic of societies – or rather a structural, persistent one? The research literature points to a connection between periods of crises and the spread of informality. People in SEE have long been familiar with progressing loss of security, erosion of state institutions, or absence of a functioning welfare state. The Boundaries between legal and illegal became blurred in coping with these challenges. This is profoundly consequential for the future development of SEE and the Western Balkans in particular, a process that is saturated with hopes for social, economic and political harmonization with Central and Western Europe. Such harmonization is one of the great challenges to a common future, and its failure might have serious long-term destabilizing consequences. Albeit focusing on SEE, we pursue knowledge transfers that stimulate reflection on the meaning and social leverage of in-/formality in all of Europe.

A joint application for a Fellowship Program on this topic, together with CAS Sofia and partners from Humboldt University Berlin, Center for Governance and Culture in Europe, University of St. Gallen, and the Institute of Contemporary History, Belgrade, has been submitted to the VolkswagenStiftung, Hannover.

Conveners:

Constantin ARDELEANU and
Katharina BIEGGER

Participants:

Constantin ARDELEANU
Alexandra BARDAN
Katharina BIEGGER
Andrei EMILCIUC
Armen GRIGORIAN
Edgar HOVHANISSYAN
Rimantė JAUGAITĖ
Sergii PAKHOMENKO
Oleksandr SUKHOMLYN
Tsvetelina TSVETKOVA



'Lords of the border marches': Paramilitary mobilization, ethnic violence and nation-building in Anatolia and the Balkans during the European Civil War (1905-1949)

December 4, 2020

Why and under what conditions do states delegate their prerogative for violence to private actors? What motivates large numbers of individuals to join such groups and engage in violence? What meanings do they ascribe to their actions and practices? What is the impact of paramilitarism on the social and cultural structures of the societies afflicted by their violence? The workshop addresses these questions by providing an inter-disciplinary study of the social dynamics of paramilitarism in Anatolia and the Balkans during the 'European Civil War' (1905-1949).

The history of paramilitarism in Anatolia and the Balkans has been located firmly within a national context and analyzed as the product of specific ethnic culture and circumstances. Yet, as numerous studies of the early Ottoman period demonstrated the two areas constituted a continuous overlapping space of military mobility and cultural exchange. Political and religious ideas, military tactics and cultural tropes traversed constantly to and from the two areas with the help of inter-connected networks of migrants, artisans, clerics, mercenaries and merchants. The advent of nationalism in the early 19th century further enhanced connectedness 'nationalism brought the two areas even closer together it initiated a time of mobility and encouraged a level of violence that was unprecedented in the two areas.

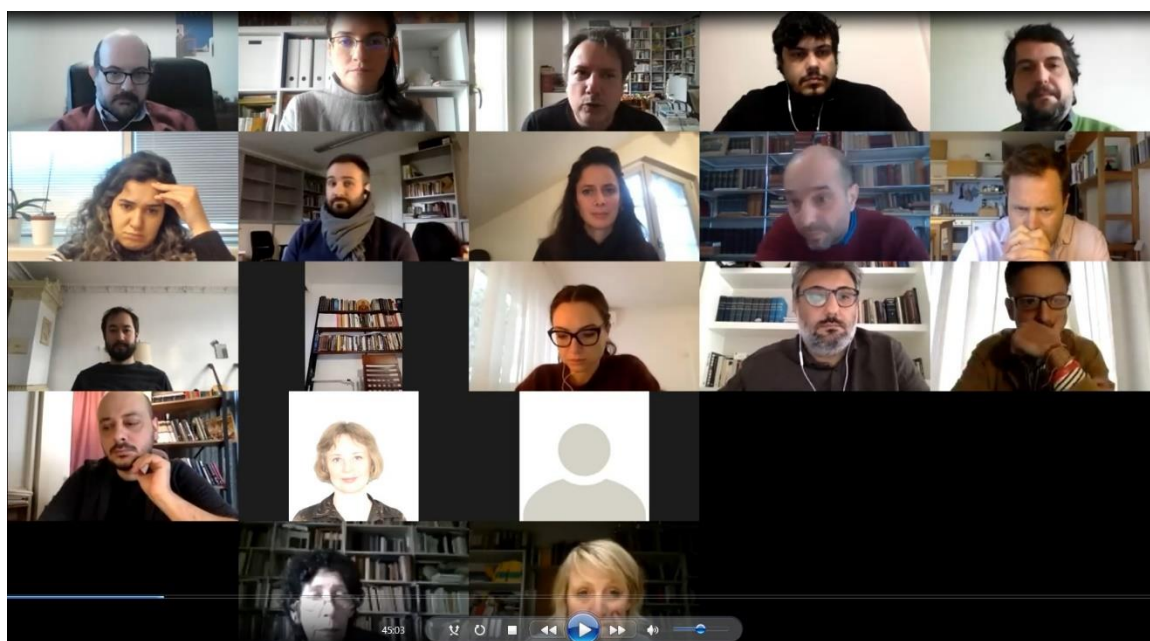
Techniques, methods and imaginings constantly crossed and re-crossed national barriers fostering a culture of clandestinity, extreme violence and radical rhetoric across the two areas. Paramilitary groups operated and moved within a transnational milieu of radical nationalists and revolutionaries where knowledge and tactics were widely diffused. Indeed, paramilitaries might have acted as the vanguard of the various nationalist projects however, their culture, tactics and modus operandi derived from a shared Late Ottoman culture of violence that was diffused across the different milieus and ethnic groups that inhabited Anatolia and the Balkans.

The presence and role of such ties challenges the idea of paramilitarism as the by-product of a specific national habitus and calls for a careful re-examination of the motivation of local actors, the processes whereby members of these transnational milieus were recruited into nationalist causes and became ethnicized as well as the impact of violence on the formation of new political communities in these diverse borderlands. The workshop addresses these issues by re-contextualizing paramilitarism within a broader transnational, longue durée perspective and exploring several key themes; recruitment and motivation, governance, repertoires of violence, that have been under-researched and under-theorized in the existing scholarship. Yet, our purpose is not to simply recount the story of a violent subset of men. Our intention is to use the story of the development and activities of local paramilitaries as a vantage point that would allow to question and reassess central assumptions about the relationship between paramilitary mobilization and state – building and address issues which are at the heart of ongoing debates about paramilitarism; the motivation of rank and file participants, variations in violence, the relationship between the state and the militias, and the role of paramilitary actors in formulating new political practices and constellations of governance.



Paramilitary 'ceta' in the province of Bitola/Monastir (1907)

This workshop was organized by the initiative of **Spyridon Tsoutsoumpis** within the framework of the **N+N Fellowship Program: *Research and Reflection. A Fellowship Program on Nations and Nationalisms*** supported by the **Porticus Foundation**. Dr Tsoutsoumpis is a Fellow of the N+N Fellowship Program during the academic year 2020-2021, currently working on a research project entitled *Lords of the Border marches: Paramilitarism and State-Making in 20th Century Northern Greece (1912-1967)*. The proposed workshop is part of a larger project in which he is working with Dr Umit Kurt, a research Fellow at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem. Dr Kurt holds a PhD from Clark University and has been awarded several prestigious Fellowships, at the University of California and Harvard University among others. He has recently completed his first book manuscript that is scheduled to appear with Harvard University Press. The ultimate purpose of this project is to produce several high-quality publications.



Zoom Workshop, December 4, 2020: 'Lords of the border marches': Paramilitary mobilization, ethnic violence and nation-building in Anatolia and the Balkans during the European Civil War (1905-1949)

Conveners:

Umit KURT and Spyros TSOUTSOUMPIS

Participants:

James HORNCastle, Vaios KALOGRIAS, Umit KURT, Jovo MILADINOVIC,
Charalambos MINASIDIS, John Paul NEWMAN, Ahmet ÖZCAN, DMITAR TASIC,
Spyros TSOUTSOUMPIS, Yektan TÜRKYILMAZ, Zeynep TÜRKYILMAZ,
Martin VALKOV, Franziska Anna ZAUGG

Inventing the Social in Romania, 1848-1914: Networks and Laboratories of Knowledge (Leiden: Brill, 2020)

HPS.CESEE Book Talk, December 14, 2020

HPS.CESEE (History of Science in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe) is an online platform about the history of science, aiming to facilitate the exchange of information between scholars in the region. New Europe College's current **NEC UEFISCDI Award Fellow Adela-Gabriela Hîncu**, an editor of the HPS.CESEE platform, had the initiative to organize and moderate a book talk: **Silvia Marton** (University of Bucharest) and **Karl Hall** (Central European University) were invited to comment on **Călin Cotoi's** recent book, *Inventing the Social in Romania, 1848–1914: Networks and Laboratories of Knowledge* (Leiden: Brill, 2020).

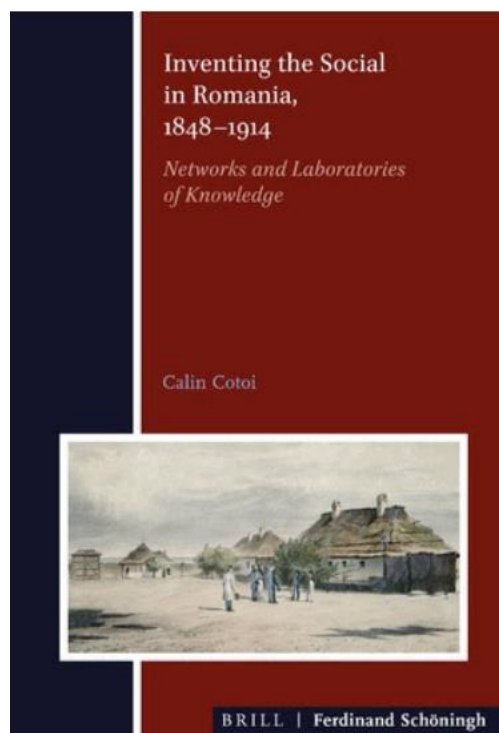
In *Inventing the Social in Romania*, Călin Cotoi brings to life several “obscure” anarchists, physicians, public hygienists, and reformers roaming the borderlands of Europe and Russia. The book follows individuals, texts, projects, sometimes even bacteria, traveling, meeting, colliding, writing, and talking to each other in surprising places, and on changing topics. All of them navigated the land, sometimes finding unexpected loopholes and shortcuts in it, and emerged in different and unexpected parts of the social, political, or geographical space. Using materials ranging from anarchists' letters, to social-theoretical debates and medical treatises, Călin Cotoi points to the larger theoretical and historical issues involved in the local creation of the social, its historicity, and its representability.

Călin Cotoi, Professor at the University of Bucharest in the Department of Sociology, is a NEC Alumnus and has published in the areas of political anthropology, history of sciences, environmental sociology, and ethnicity studies. He has been working on this book project during the three-year timeframe of his *How to Teach Europe* Fellowship, a joint project of the Centre for Advanced Study, Sofia and the New Europe College (2017–2019).

Karl Hall is Associate Professor in the Department of History, Central European University. Trained at Harvard University as a historian of science, he has written primarily about Soviet physics, including the canonical *Short Course* of Landau and Lifshitz.

Adela Hîncu holds a PhD in Comparative History from Central European University. Her research is in the social and intellectual history of 20th century East Central Europe, and the history of the social sciences and social thought under state socialism in particular. During her Fellowship at NEC, she is turning her dissertation into a book, preliminary titled *The “Social” in Socialist Romania: Marxism Humanism and Modern Expertise before 1989*.

NEC Alumna **Silvia Marton** is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest. Her research is focused on history and politics of corruption, and on nation- and state-building in the 19th century.



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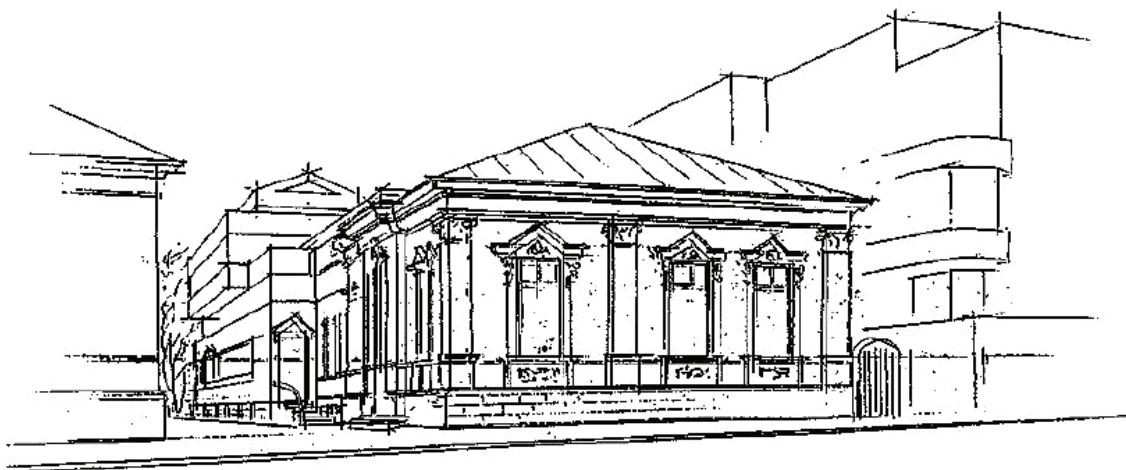


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