



SEMESTRIAL REPORT AUTUMN – WINTER 2022–2023

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

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A Word to Our Readers:

Places for Dialogue

*The war creates no absolutely new situation; it simply aggravates the permanent human situation so that we can no longer ignore it. Human life has always been lived on the edge of a precipice. Human culture has always had to exist under the shadow of something infinitely more important than itself. If men had postponed the search for knowledge and beauty until they were secure, the search would never have begun. We are mistaken when we compare war with "normal life." Life has never been normal. Even those periods which we think most tranquil, like the nineteenth century, turn out, on closer inspection, to be full of crises, alarms, difficulties, emergencies. Plausible reasons have never been lacking for putting off all merely cultural activities until some imminent danger has been averted or some crying injustice put right. But humanity long ago chose to neglect those plausible reasons. They wanted knowledge and beauty now, and would not wait for the suitable moment that never comes. – C. S. LEWIS, *Learning in War-Time*, 1939*

After the arduous process of adapting to life in time of pandemic, 2022 could have been the year of resettling in daily routines closer to what we might call normality. After experiencing isolation and a continuous state of alert, after facing fear and loss, many of us probably remembered to value kindness and togetherness more than we usually do when our daily routines are taken for granted. But then another war broke out, questioning so many international political and economic structures built in the last decades, and somehow testing both our togetherness and kindness. One year later, in February 2023, this war is far from being over. Debates about the reduction of CO2 emissions are suddenly accompanied by discussions about nuclear weapons. Digitalization and artificial intelligence should improve our modern societies, assuring more efficient workflows, creating new jobs, improved research tools and better living perspectives. At the same time, tanks are invading cities and people are struggling to survive. Humanity is in a state of deep antithesis.

We often ponder on the role an Institute for Advanced Study can and should play in our societies, about the importance of research not only in exact sciences, but also in humanities and social sciences. The world cannot function only in algorithms, without the great questions that are on debate in humanities. Discussing biology and genetics, without reflecting on the entire context of human existence would not be possible and vice-versa. Cultural, historical, ethical, religious and so many more aspects are needed in order to understand each other. Not to mention our search for beauty, or the experience of perplexity in front of a masterpiece, be it literary, musical or visual. However, all these examples seem to lose relevance when faced with war and suffering. In a way they do. In another way, it is precisely when some of the most profound questions need to be asked. Not in search for the best answer – that may or may not be found – but for the dialogue that is so much needed in order to bring people and peoples together.

New Europe College is an Institute for Advanced Study founded with support from prestigious western institutions, in a country that became the Eastern border of the European Union and NATO. During the last decade NEC has been encouraged and financially supported to strengthen its role in the region. It became a place where researchers from countries around the Black Sea met and discussed with colleagues from prestigious universities around the world. New Europe College's network of alumni from the region grew stronger (among many others, around 80 in total, we count 27 Ukrainian scholars and 19 scholars from Russia). Last summer we had the opportunity and the privilege to look back on 12 years of targeted research support from the VolkswagenStiftung. A symposium was organized on this occasion and representatives from the VolkswagenStiftung, among them Dr. Georg Schütte, the Secretary General of the foundation, met with alumni and fellows of the *Black Sea Link* and *Pontica Magna* Fellowship Programs. We are confident that, in a way or another, the effort to support scholars from the Black Sea region will continue also in the years to come, and New Europe College will hopefully consolidate its role as a place for dialogue between talented researchers from the region and beyond, who are in search for good questions and answers, knowledge and beauty.

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.

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.

Spiru Haret Fellowships (since 2017)

The *Spiru Haret* Fellowship Program, sponsored through a UEFISCDI grant, targets young Romanian researchers/academics in the humanities and social sciences whose projects address questions relating to migration, displacement, diaspora. Candidates are expected to focus on Romanian cases seen in a larger historical, geographical and political context, in thus broadening our understanding of contemporary developments. Such aspects as transnational mobility, the development of communication technologies and of digitization, public policies on migration, ways of employing transnational communities, migrant routes, the migrants' remittances and entrepreneurial capital could be taken into account. NEC also welcomes projects which look at cultural phenomena (in literature, visual arts, music etc.) related to migration and diaspora.

Lapedatu Fellowships (since 2018)

According to its Statute, the Lapedatu Foundation 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 a generous financial contribution from the Lapedatu Foundation, NEC invites 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 the NEC. At this colloquy, the Lapedatu fellows and their guests will present scientific papers and initiate debates on a theme that covers important topics of the Romanian and Southeastern European history in both modern and contemporary epochs.

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.

DigiHum Fellowships (since 2021)

The 'Relevance of the Humanities in the Digital Age' Fellowship Program, proposed jointly by the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia and the New Europe College Bucharest and developed with the financial support of the Porticus Foundation, aims to underscore the cognitive functions of the Humanities and their potential as critical disciplines by opening them up to issues relevant in/for the contemporary digital world – issues that are “practical”, but also epistemological, ethical, philosophical, etc. The program is intended to accommodate a broadest range of themes pertaining to Humanities and Social Science disciplines provided that they link up to contemporary debates about or major challenges to the human condition stemming from the technological advances and ‘digital modernity’. The program is guided by the belief that there is a considerable added value for Humanities scholars across the academe, whatever their field, to be encouraged to rethink their topics in terms of their broader contemporary relevance (be it political, ethical, religious or academic), yet necessarily of significance for the world we are living in. The program addresses international scholars.

GCE St. Gallen Fellowships (since 2022)

This program is supported by the University of St. Gallen's Center for Governance and Culture in Europe (GCE) and targets Ukrainian and Russian scholars in the humanities and social sciences whose academic careers have been affected by the current war in Ukraine.

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

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.

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 Grăciun**, NEC Alumna and Associate Professor in Jewish Studies, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest. It is developed with the financial support of *the Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation* (UEFISCDI) of the Ministry of Education in Romania, within the Exploratory Research PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2020-0317.

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. It is developed with the financial support of the *Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation* (UEFISCDI) of the Ministry of Education in Romania, within the Exploratory Research PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2020-0995.

Rocking under the Hammer and the Sickle: Popular Music in Socialist Romania between Ideology and Entertainment (1948-1989) UEFISCDI Postdoctoral Research (2022-2024)

The proposed project aims to examine the history of popular music in socialist Romania, from 1948 until 1989, focusing, in particular, on the genres of jazz, rock, and light music and on their role in performing communist and nationalist ideologies, as well as in addressing demands of cultural consumption for various audiences. The project takes an interdisciplinary approach, as it brings together instruments of analysis from cultural and social history, cultural anthropology, and musicology. The research project construes the popular music genres of jazz, rock, and light music as spaces of interaction/negotiation between audiences and musicians, musicians and cultural activists/representatives of political authority, as well as between musicians themselves, depending on their social background, musical education and influences, and administrative authority/ies. While it focuses on the Romanian national context, the project also relies on an asymmetrical historical comparison with other national case studies of popular music behind the Iron Curtain (Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union).

The research project is coordinated by the NEC Alumnus **Claudiu Oancea**, under the mentorship of **Valentina Sandu-Dediu**, Rector of the New Europe College, Professor at the National University of Music in Bucharest. It is developed with the financial support of the *Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation* (UEFISCDI) of the Ministry of Education in Romania, within the Postdoctoral Research PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2021-0244.

Colonial Anxieties, Corruption Scandals and Xenophobia in Nineteenth-Century Infrastructure Development in Romania (CanCor) UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (2022-2024)

The CanCor project examines the surprising historical relevance of rail and fluvial-maritime transportation infrastructure for the self-imaginings of nation-building and the narratives of modernization in the Romanian Principalities/Romania, from the 1840s to 1914. Given the dual nature of such transportation infrastructures, imagined as both “progressive” and “disruptive”, their construction brought immense pressure upon local decision-makers. The project has three main goals: First, it will examine anxieties over the possibility that the Principalities/Romania would be subject to economic and even demographic colonization, fears generated by the asymmetrical political and economic interactions with Europe’s Great Powers and neighbouring empires. Second, it will examine the corruption scandals surrounding infrastructure construction that generated and constantly reshaped colonial anxieties in the process of nation-state-building, when faced with Great Powers and their imperial and colonial-like aspirations of political and economic influence. Third, the project will historicize the semantic usages of “colonialism” and “corruption” and their inherently political uses in

nation-building in Romania and in the process of infrastructure construction, arguing that, on both accounts, reflexively situating their meanings is necessary as a way of disentangling them from the ex-post analytical vocabulary normatively employed by (contemporary) scholars.

The research project is coordinated by the NEC Alumna **Silvia Marton**, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Bucharest. It is developed with the financial support of the *Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation* (UEFISCDI) of the Ministry of Education in Romania, within the Exploratory Research PN-III-P4-PCE-2021-0399.

Entangled Histories of the Danubian Quarantine System (1774–1914) (DaQuaS) **UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (2022-2024)**

This project aims to investigate – from an entangled and global histories perspective and in connection with recent developments in the transdisciplinary field of quarantine studies – the various functions of the quarantine system established in the eighteenth century and institutionalized after 1829 along the Lower Danube. A special focus will fall on the period stretching between 1829 and 1853, the climax of the Danubian preventive system, but it will also document quarantine arrangements made, in the second half of the nineteenth and in early twentieth centuries, by an international organization, the European Commission of the Danube, and by riparian states (Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania).

The project will bring empirical and theoretical insight to the burgeoning field of quarantine studies, turned mainstream in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Empirically, it will showcase the Danubian quarantine system as a hybrid version of the Russian, Austrian and Mediterranean models and will reveal how transnational sanitary cooperation looks like from the vista of small states. Lazarettos will be turned into paradigmatic hubs for the transfer of knowledge, technology and human resources in peripheral societies. Theoretically, the project aims to devise a model for how sanitary crises fuel modernization, based on a polynomial function that considers geopolitical, political, economic, societal, and sanitary factors.

The research project is coordinated by the NEC Alumnus and Permanent Fellow **Constantin Ardeleanu**, Professor at the “Lower Danube” University of Galați and researcher at the Institute for South-East European History in Bucharest. It is developed with the financial support of the *Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation* (UEFISCDI) of the Ministry of Education in Romania, within the Exploratory Research PN-III-P4-PCE-2021-1374.

Rule of Law at the European Periphery: (Dis)incentive Structures and Conceptual Shifts (ROLPERIPHERAL) **UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (2022-2024)**

The project deals with the way in which evolving rule of law conditionalities and associated institutional discourses influence the operation of national constitutions of the EU member states and, conversely, contribute to the shaping of European constitutionalism at the interface between legal orders. The rule of law is the dominant contemporary constitutional discourse, both at the national and supra/international level. However, the mechanics of its unfolding, the determinations contributing to it, and the complexity of the conceptual and contextual strands intertwined in legal practices are largely ignored and understudied. The project focuses on systemic interactions at (related to) the “periphery”, since the growth of rule of law instruments at the level of the European Union and its sister organization, the Council of Europe, is directly correlated with developments related to the liminal, Central and Eastern European, jurisdictions, i.e., the new member states and the current candidates in the so-called Western Balkans (as well as, more recently, Ukraine and Moldova).

The NEC Alumnus **Bogdan Iancu**, Associate Professor at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Political Science, is coordinating this research project. It is developed with the financial support of the *Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation* (UEFISCDI) of the Ministry of Education in Romania, within the Exploratory Research PN-III-P4-PCE-2021-0319.

The (Im)possible Alliance: Romania as Initiator and Beneficiary of the Humanitarian Aid (1970-1989) (RoHumAid)

UEFISCDI Young Research Teams (2022–2024)

RoHumAid analyses the participation of Central and East European countries in the humanitarian aid effort, both as initiator and beneficiary, using as case study Romania, between 1970 and 2004. The project focuses on three major axes/objectives. A first objective is to identify the principal characteristics of Romania – considered a Second world country – as provider and beneficiary of the human aid, and how the fall of the communist regimes, by modifying the geographic imaginary of Global North and Global South, dramatically changed the general discourse towards the region and subsequently the role as humanitarian aid actor. A second objective is to identify and to compare the Romania's humanitarian grassroots actions, both as initiator and beneficiary, before and after 1989. A third objective is to identify and catalogue the most important transnational humanitarian networks that worked in Romania/for Romania.

The research project is coordinated by the NEC Alumna **Luciana Jinga**, Researcher at the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile and Associate Lecturer at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of History. It is developed with the financial support of the *Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation* (UEFISCDI) of the Ministry of Education in Romania, within the Young Research Teams TE-PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2021-0778.

Grammars of Emotion: Shame and the Social Economy of Honour in Medieval Heroic Literatures (GRAMMOTION)

UEFISCDI Postdoctoral Research (2023-2025)

This project will provide a holistic and fine-grained understanding of the emotional life of medieval Northwestern European elites by investigating the emotional performance of shame and its function in the socio-cultural economy of honour across a broad corpus of heroic verse and saga from the ninth to the twelfth century. It proposes a novel approach combining sociological and computational methodologies with the history of emotions and literary analysis that will establish a comparative cross-cultural synthesis of medieval emotional vocabularies and functional grammars of honour by using shame, the most social and most intimate affect, as a privileged entry-point.

GRAMMOTION will open new horizons in the study of historical emotion by approaching its performance as structured social action whose linguistic and stylistic patterns can be identified, formalized, and compared on an unprecedented scale by using statistical corpus analysis in synergy with culturally-situated case studies. This work enables the tracing of patterns of change over time, in transition between cultural spaces, and in adaptation to various socio-political needs. This project will set the standards for more sophisticated approaches to analyzing emotion in the digital study of language and literature, also providing novel pathways for future work at the conjunction of all these cutting-edge areas of research. Its main output will consist in four articles providing a methodological toolkit for future researchers investigating emotions in premodern corpora, for Digital Humanists, and for social historians, as well as an interdisciplinary workshop bringing together scholars in all of these areas.

The NEC Alumnus **Cătălin Țăranu**, a literary-historical scholar working on the vernacular poems and cultures of early medieval Northwestern Europe, is coordinating this research project. It is developed with the financial support of the *Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation* (UEFISCDI) of the Ministry of Education in Romania, within the Postdoctoral Research PNRR-III-C9-2022-I9.

2022 – 2023 Fellows





ENTANGLED HISTORIES OF THE DANUBIAN QUARANTINE SYSTEM (1774–1914)

Constantin ARDELEANU
(Romania)
Long-Term Fellow

Professor of Modern History, The “Lower Danube”
University of Galați, Romania

Presentation on October 19, 2022

This project aims to investigate – from an entangled and global histories perspective and in connection with recent developments in the transdisciplinary field of quarantine studies – the various functions of the quarantine system established in the eighteenth century and institutionalized after 1829 along the Lower Danube. A special focus will fall on the period stretching between 1829 and 1853, the climax of the Danubian preventive system, but it will also document quarantine arrangements made, in the second half of the nineteenth and in early twentieth centuries, by an international organization, the European Commission of the Danube, and by riparian states (Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania).

The project will bring empirical and theoretical insight to the burgeoning field of quarantine studies, turned mainstream in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Empirically, it will showcase the Danubian quarantine system as a hybrid version of the Russian, Austrian and Mediterranean models and will reveal how transnational sanitary cooperation looks like from the vista of small states. Lazarettos will be turned into paradigmatic hubs for the transfer of knowledge, technology and human resources in peripheral societies.

OTTOMAN WRITS ON THE IMPERIAL PERIPHERY: MAKING SENSE OF READING AND MATERIALITY IN THE EARLY MODERN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

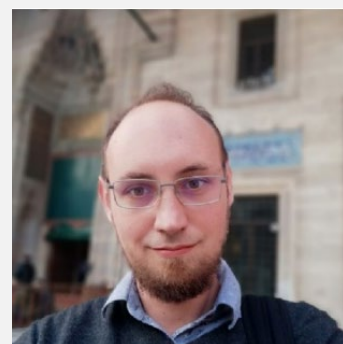
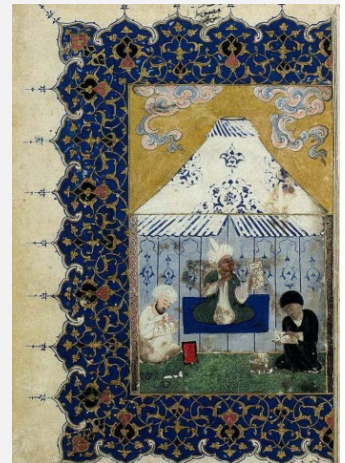
Michał WASIUCIONEK
(Poland)

Porticus N+N Fellow,
October 2022 - July 2023

Research Assistant,
Nicolae Iorga Institute of History, Bucharest

Presentation on October 26, 2022

The project envisions a detailed study of the patterns of Ottoman pragmatic literacy on the early modern periphery of the empire – Moldavia and Wallachia. It seeks to investigate how a largely illiterate audience with little knowledge of Ottoman Turkish accessed imperial writs by reconstructing the social and physical space of such interactions, arguing that rather than reading, the documents constituted part of a broader audio-visual communication process.





NARRATIVES ON MIGRATION AND THE INSIDIOUS ANXIETY OF ABANDONMENT

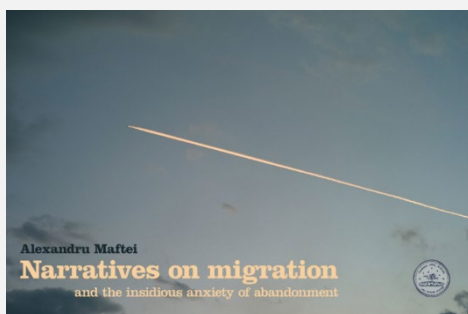
Alexandru MAFTEI

(Romania)

Spiru Haret Fellow, October 2022 – July 2023

Presentation on November 2, 2022

The project is a personal investigation of the migration dilemma. I plan to analyze the narratives of migration of some very good friends of mine belonging to the “latchkey generation” (Generation X) who left the country during the '90s. The point of view is of a person that never left Romania for good, but who was recently confronted with his daughter's migration and discovered an old anxiety of abandonment.



ROMANIA'S CHILD AMBASSADORS: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMPS, CULTURAL DIPLOMACY AND TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIONS IN THE GLOBAL COLD WAR (1960s-1980s)

Diana GEORGESCU

(Romania / USA)

Porticus N+N Fellow,

October 2022 – July 2023

*Assistant Professor, UCL School of Slavonic and East
European Studies*

Presentation on November 9, 2022



Photo source: Fototeca online a comunismului românesc, Cota: 106/1979

The project explores international children's camps as forms of cultural diplomacy in the global Cold War from the “pericentric” perspective of the Romanian Pioneer Organization. Examining interrelated East-East and East-West youth exchanges in the Soviet bloc and Western Europe, it will produce the first archive-based study of the Romanian Pioneers' international agenda and contribute to debates in the history of childhood and youth, internationalism, cultural diplomacy and the Cold War.





ANTIQUITY IN USE IN URBAN CONTEXTS: RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES

Alexandra TEODOR

(Romania)

Ștefan Odobleja Fellow,
October 2022 - July 2023

Teaching Assistant, “Ion Mincu” University of
Architecture and Urban Planning

Presentation on November 16, 2022

Antique structures still in use, documented in situ within modern urban contexts from Europe, will be analyzed in order to determine patterns of reuse throughout history. The focus will be on the urban scale overlapping of ancient and modern structures, and on the architectural scale integration of ancient structures into modern ones. Awareness of such patterns of reuse would assist urban archaeology in approaching less well documented and endangered ancient structures of modern cities.



CENTRUM STUDIORUM MEDIAEVALIUM AND THE RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN HALYCH (UKRAINE)

Myroslav VOLOSHCHUK

(Ukraine)

Porticus N+N Fellow,
October 2022 – July 2023

Professor, Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National
University, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

Presentation on November 23, 2022



The project involves the collection of written sources (especially from the different archives and libraries) relative to the history of Halych and Galicia until 1772. At first, it's important to visit the National Archive of Romania (Arhivele Statului) in Bucharest and the National Library of Romania (Biblioteca Națională a României). The collective of the scholars of Centrum Studiorum Mediaevalium provides a comprehensive study of the history of Halych and Galicia.





**COLONIAL ANXIETIES, CORRUPTION
SCANDALS AND XENOPHOBIA IN
NINETEENTH-CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA (CANCOR)**

Silvia MARTON (Romania)

*Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Science,
University of Bucharest and Director of the research
project CanCor*

Constantin ARDELEANU (Romania)

*Professor of Modern History, The “Lower Danube”
University of Galați / Institute for South-East
European History, Bucharest and Researcher within
the project CanCor*

Presentation on December 7, 2022

CanCor examines the surprising historical relevance of rail and fluvial-maritime transportation infrastructure for the self-imaginings of nation-building and the narratives of modernization in the Romanian Principalities/Romania, from the 1840s to 1914. Given the dual nature of such transportation infrastructures, imagined as both “progressive” and “disruptive”, their construction brought immense pressure upon local decision-makers. The project has three main goals: It will examine anxieties over the possibility that the Principalities/Romania would be subject to economic and even demographic colonization; it will examine the corruption scandals surrounding infrastructure construction that generated and constantly reshaped colonial anxieties in the process of nation-state-building; it will historicize the semantic usages of “colonialism” and “corruption” and their inherently political uses in nation-building in Romania and in the process of infrastructure construction.

**SOCIAL POLICY AS FOREIGN POLICY?
DIFFERENTIAL INTERNATIONALIZATION AND
SOCIAL POLICY TRANSFERS IN INTERWAR
ROMANIA: THE SINUOUS TRAJECTORIES OF TWO
ILO CONVENTIONS**

Sergiu DELCEA

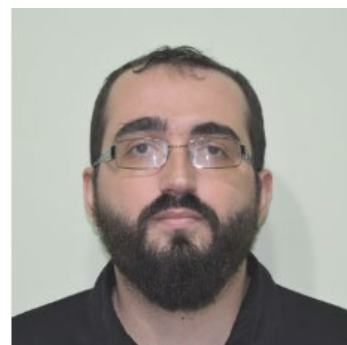
(Romania)

Ștefan Odobleja Fellow,
October 2022 - July 2023

Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Sciences,
University of Bucharest

Presentation on December 14, 2022

The project examines how interwar Romanian political elites selectively defined ratification and implementation or lack thereof of specific ILO conventions. Focusing on two mirroring conventions, I argue that policy learning is not homogenous and can only be explained in bottom-top fashion. Since actors define transfers simultaneously in cultural, political and economic terms, I show that internationalization often involves goal displacement, resulting from open-ended elite ideational debates.





THE STIGMERGY OF GRAFFITI: HOW DID THE 16TH – AND 17TH – CENTURY VISITORS OF MOLDAVIAN CHURCHES DECIDE WHERE TO LEAVE THEIR MARK?

Anna ADASHINSKAYA
(Russia)

Extension of the “Periodization in the History of Art” research program,
January – July 2023

Independent Scholar

Presentation on January 4, 2023

The present project addresses the graffiti (carved secondary inscriptions) and dipinti (carved secondary drawings) left by the pilgrims and visitors of Moldavian churches during the 16th and 17th centuries, and relates their appearance to the concept of stigmergy. Using this theoretical lens explaining the interaction between the inscriptions and the environment and the relations among the graffiti themselves, it proposes to regard the



©Anna Adashinskaya | Caption from Sucevița Monastery, Romania

graffiti’s content in its connection to the images they are attached to and the spaces they are situated in. Thus, my research

proposes to deal with the material that has been almost completely neglected by scholarship on Moldavian art and history but, nevertheless, may bring a significant contribution to such areas of study as the local cults of saints, history of liturgy, pilgrimage routes, history of literacy, paleography, ethnic composition of population, historical geography, and prosopography.

REDEFINING CITIZENS, KITH AND KIN: CROSS-BORDER MIGRATIONS BETWEEN ROMANIA AND THE SOVIET UNION, 1960-1990

Irina NICORICI
(Moldova / Romania)
Gerda Henkel Fellow,
October 2022 – July 2023

Independent Scholar

Presentation on January 11, 2023

This project focuses on the transnational movements between Romania and the USSR during a period often assumed as rife with ideological splits and isolation. Based on unique materials, I advance a counter argument: while high politics may have reached a nadir, cross-border migrations remained lively. In one Soviet republic, every third applicant for citizenship originated from Romania. I unpack the practical logic animating such heightened mobility that has so far remained invisible.



1930 Soviet migrant labor recruitment poster





**CHILDREN OF THE COLD WAR:
EXPERIENCES OF FORCED MIGRATION AND
HUMANITARIAN AID IN SOCIALIST ROMANIA
(WARCHILD)**

Beatrice Andreea SCUTARU

(Romania)

Spiru Haret Fellow,

October 2022 – July 2023

Assistant Professor in History,
Trinity College, Dublin

Presentation on January 18, 2023

Children of the Cold War aims to understand the impact of migration on the lives of North Korean, Greek & Macedonian, and Chilean children displaced to Romania during the Cold War (1947-1989). By exploring the lives of children moving across geographical and ideological borders, WARCHILD aims to contribute not only to a neglected aspect of Romanian history, but also to the new Cold War history, and the fields of Childhood Studies, Refugee Studies and Humanitarianism.

**SOVIET AND RUSSIAN OCCIDENTALISM IN PAST
AND PRESENT**

Volodymyr RYZHKOVSKYI

(Ukraine)

GCE St. Gallen Fellow,

October 2022 – February 2023

Independent Scholar

Presentation on January 25, 2023

The project explores the twentieth-century history of Soviet medieval studies as a paradigmatic case of the formation of the Western-centric Soviet intellectual elite and the rise of Moscow as the new imperial center, where the revolutionary project of asserting intellectual and cultural primacy over the West proved to be more efficient in maintaining the distance between the Occidentalist imperial center and the increasingly parochial and nationalized Soviet peripheries.





**LABELLING AND LISTENING TO THE
WALDENSES: OTHERING A MEDIEVAL
RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT AND TRACING THEIR
IDENTITY FORMATION**

Aliaksandra VALODZINA
(Belarus)
Gerda Henkel Fellow,
October 2022 – July 2023

Independent Scholar

Presentation on February 1, 2023

This project aims to analyze the anti-heretical works of the Catholic authors from 1131 to 1415; summarize mentions about the East; recreate the image of the East in the worldview of the Medieval inquisitor and/or polemicist; compare this image with the image of heresy.

Furthermore, the project focuses also on the translation of some of the most important texts from Latin (the language of the original sources) into Belarusian.



*Photo: Adoration du bonz, Jean Tinctor, "Traité du crime de vanderie"
(Le Maître de Marguerite d'York, enlumineur, Bruges, vers 1470-1480).
© Bibliothèque nationale de France*

**ALGORITHMIC BODY AWARENESS: ON
SUBJECTS, OBJECTS AND BOUNDARIES**

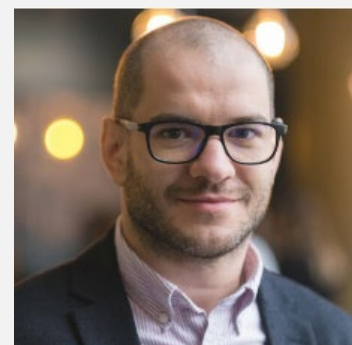
Alexandru DINGOVICI
(Romania)
Ștefan Odobleja Fellow,
October 2022 – July 2023

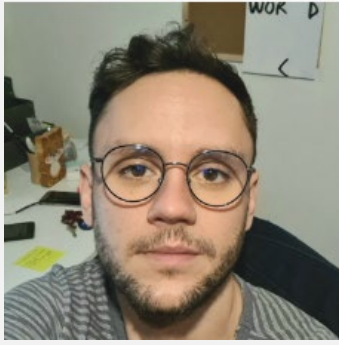
Associate Lecturer, National University of Political
Studies and Public Administration

Presentation on February 8, 2023



The project explores the ways in which wearable technologies aimed at measuring bodily activity intersect with medical practices and discourse, as well as the types of sociometrical practices they produce and the ontologies they bring into being. The research is embedded into the wider context of self-optimization, with an approach combining Foucault's work on subjectivation with the more recent debates from the ontological turn in anthropology and science and technological studies.





THE EXPLORATION OF RURAL ARCHITECTURE AND OF THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE IN INTERWAR ROMANIA

Cosmin Tudor MINEA

(Romania)

Ștefan Odobleja Fellow,
October 2022 – July 2023

Independent Scholar

Presentation on February 15, 2023

The project is an analysis of the way ideas about the cultural and natural heritage of Romania developed after 1918, when Transylvania, Bukovina and Bessarabia became part of Romania. It will focus on (1) the promotion of folk material heritage as nationally significant, especially in the newly acquired regions where the folk was associated with the Romanian ethnicity; and (2) the promotion of the Carpathian range with the emergence of tourist guides, hiking clubs, trails and mountain shelters.



*Photo: The Wooden Church in Hârnicești (Maramureș) in Victor Brătulescu, „Biserici din Maramureș”, *Buletinul Comisunii Monumentelor Istorice*, Anul 34, (1941), p. 14*

JEWISH, KARAITE AND TURKIC STUDIES IN UKRAINE DURING THE RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

Yurii RADCHENKO

(Ukraine)

GCE St. Gallen Fellow,
October 2022 – July 2023

Associate Professor, Institute of Oriental Studies and International Relations “Kharkiv Collegium”;
Director, Center for Interethnic Relations Research in Eastern Europe

Presentation on February 22, 2023

The historiography of the fate of the Karaites of Eastern Europe during the Nazi occupation is quite extensive. At the same time, many issues on what happened to the Karaite population in many areas of Nazi-occupied Ukraine at the local level have not been reflected in scientific, popular science and journalistic texts. My project is dedicated to the destiny of Ukrainian Karaites and their relation with Jews, Tatars, Ukrainians and Russians in 1941-1944.



Fellows in the 2022–2023

Academic Year: Citizenship

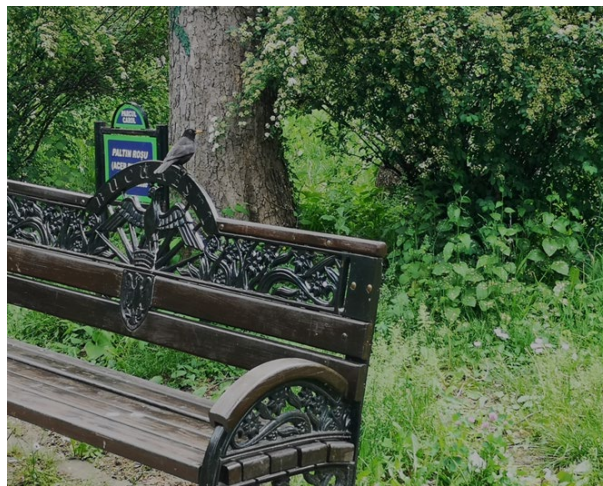
Belarus	1
France	1
Moldova / Romania	1
Poland	1
Romania	13
Romania / USA	2
Russia	1
Ukraine	4
USA	1
Total:	25

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

Report on activities by Ștefan Dorondel
Horizon 2020 Project, 2020–2024

In the period October 2022–February 2023 we continued to work on the educational package of the project *Citizen Science for Environmental Citizenship: Backyard Birding and the Potential for Cultivating Green Engagement* funded within the Horizon 2020 Framework. We organized a meeting with birdwatchers from Bucharest, on December 9, 2022, at NEC: *Spații nu-numai-umane* (“More-than-human-spaces”).

People interested in birdwatching, but also sociologists, anthropologists and historians attended the event. Several findings of the research have been presented, as well as the implementation of the school program issued from the project. Some of the results focused on the experiences of amateur birdwatchers, showing how curiosity and a thirst for learning



Spații
nu-numai
umane



about 'others' (here, birds) opens up 'a new world'. This opening of the world means that spaces become visible not only as human spaces, but also as spaces in which a lot of different creatures live. Whether it is the route to the office, the tree in front of the balcony, the island of greenery in the middle of traffic or the city parks, through the eyes (and binoculars) of birdwatchers, these spaces are seen as ways in which people and birds live together.

Ștefan Dorondel was invited to give a lecture at the Faculty of Communication, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Studies. The lecture, entitled *The Crisis of Environment in Late Modernity, Green Citizenship and the scientific Communication: Anthropological and Historical Perspectives*, and targeted especially MA and PhD students.

Furthermore, we worked on designing the materials which were going to be used in schools by teachers in a rural school from Romuli village (Bistrița). In October–January teachers in the school worked with the pupils on different activities regarding knowing the birds. Children were engaged in activities learning about bird songs, they were taught to recognize birds and drafted reports on observed birds in their village. They seemed to be very interested in these activities as they continued their research in local libraries and on the internet. On February 26–28, 2023, Ștefan Dorondel and Ágota Ábrán visited the school and interviewed the professors involved in this project. Most probably, teachers from two other villages neighbouring Romuli will take over the program to be implemented in their own schools. By doing so, the usual exclusion of rural schools from many such programs and projects was avoided. The children (5th to 7th grade) involved in the program also attended a drawing competition, focusing on birds as children see them. At the meeting that took place at Uppsala University (February 13–15, 2023) other members of the team agreed to exhibit some of the children’s drawings within our next meeting in

Brussels. One or two teachers from Romuli will hopefully join this meeting in order to present the drawings and to share their experience to a larger international audience.

I started to look for birds, I became more and more attentive to this aspect. I started to actively look for them, and if before I used to walk through parks (...) without seeing anything apart from the lake and a few trees... Now I started to see. (Quote from an interview with a birdwatcher, RO4)



Camelia Groza: Harta păsărilor (București)

Participants:

University of Stavanger (Coordinator)
 The Estonian Academy of Sciences
 Cyprus Center for Environmental Research
 and Education
 New Europe College
 Radboud University
 University of Extremadura
 Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Researchers:

Finn Arne Jørgensen
 Elle-Mari Talivee
 Andreas Hadjichambis
 Ștefan Dorondel
 Ágota Ábrán
 R. J. G. (Riyan) van den Born
 Diana Villanueva Romero
 René van der Wal

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

Report on activities by **Camelia Crăciun**, Project Leader
UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (2021-2023)

During this period, the team had finished the stages of the project involving completion of the primary research and the processing of the collected materials and started drafting the texts for publication (as there are several deliverables which are scheduled to be ready during 2023).

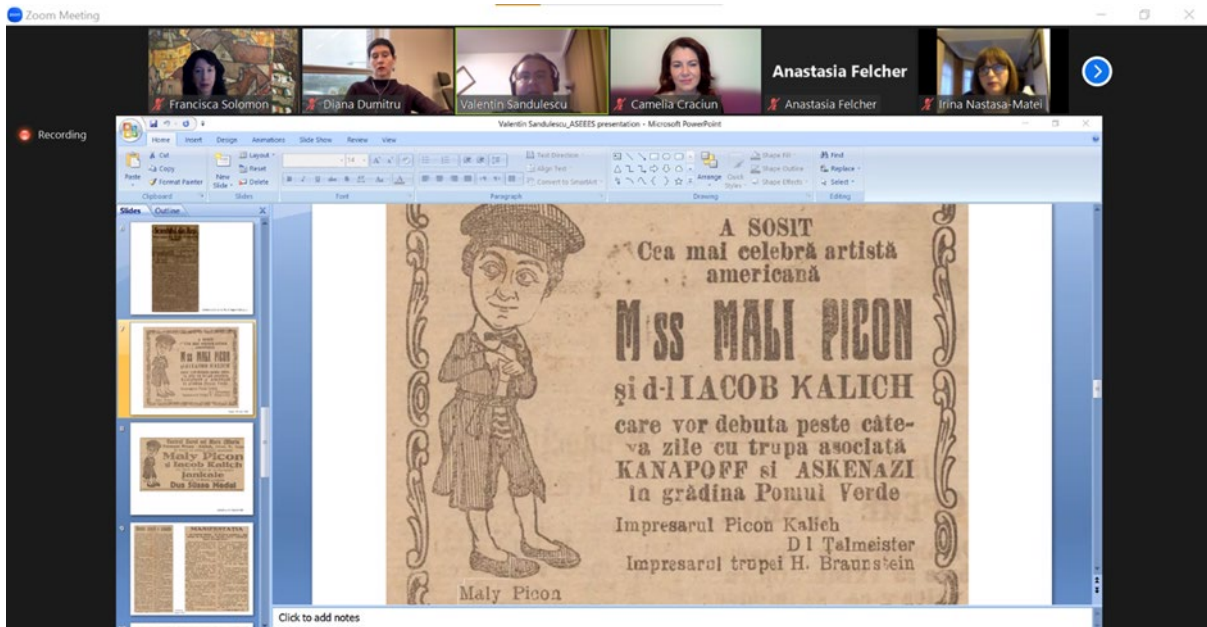
First, we finished the selection of documents to be included in our anthology of texts dedicated to Yiddish culture in interwar Romania. The anthology was conceived as an auxiliary for researchers and the summary consists of over 200 documents (archival material, legislation, press articles, correspondence, memoirs, interviews, fiction, etc.) reflecting the areas of each of our research team member's expertise. After submitting to the publisher, the final list of documents to be included in the anthology for discussion, we started to transcribe them and put them in an editorial format.

We have also started working on the journal articles and on the individual studies to be published in the collective volume, so this is the most intense period of the project timeline as it consists both of individual analysis of the collected materials, but also team work for identifying common topics, references and connections in our individual research for the coherence of the final, collective product. We expect our studies for the collective volume to be ready for submission by mid-April and the journal articles by early June.

The whole team participated in the 54th *Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies Annual Convention* (October 13-14, 2022) in online format with a distinct project *panel*, designed for intermediary dissemination and early, working feedback, called *Yiddish Culture Facing State Institutions in Interwar Romania: An Overview*. Camelia Crăciun gave an individual talk dedicated to Solomon Segall's *Anthology* and its reception during the interwar period, *Translating Romanian-Language Classics into Yiddish: The Public and Institutional Reception of 1922 Sol(omon) Segall's Anthology*; Francisca Solomon presented her paper on the *Cultural Mobility in Interwar Romania: The Yiddish Axis Cernăuți-Bucharest*; Irina Matei delivered her research on *The Paradoxes of Yiddish Education in Interwar Romania* and Valentin Sandulescu concluded the panel with a paper titled *Considerations Regarding the Interactions of Yiddish Culture Representatives with State Institutions in Interwar Romania*.

This semester, Camelia Crăciun completed a short research trip to Bruxelles, November 3-13, 2022, at *Musee Juif de Belgique, Institut d'Etudes du Judaïsme and House of European History*, where she consulted the specific libraries and archives, established professional contacts for the project dissemination and assisted to relevant lectures (Prof. Tomasz Gergely). She also identified posters and materials tracing the activity of some institutions and individuals relevant for her research, as well as secondary literature dedicated to her topic.

The periodical online meetings of the project members continued with (bi)monthly frequency (for establishing the individual work progress, for discussing the research connections between individual topics and drafts, the future dissemination events, the internal deadlines for deliverables, the content of the volume of articles and of the document anthology, the structure of the journal issue, the conference participations, etc.). Nevertheless, the online correspondence and the meetings with the future publishers were extremely important, as all the three deliverables will be ready for publication by the end of the year.



Yiddish Culture Facing State Institutions in Interwar Romania: An Overview, presented at the 54th Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies Annual Convention (October 13-14, 2022)

Team members

Project Leader:

Camelia CRĂCIUN, PhD, Associate Professor in Jewish Studies,
Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest

Experienced Researchers:

Irina NASTASĂ-MATEI, PhD, Lecturer, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest

Francisca SOLOMON, PhD, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Letters,
“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, Iași

Valentin SĂNDULESCU, PhD, Assistant 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)

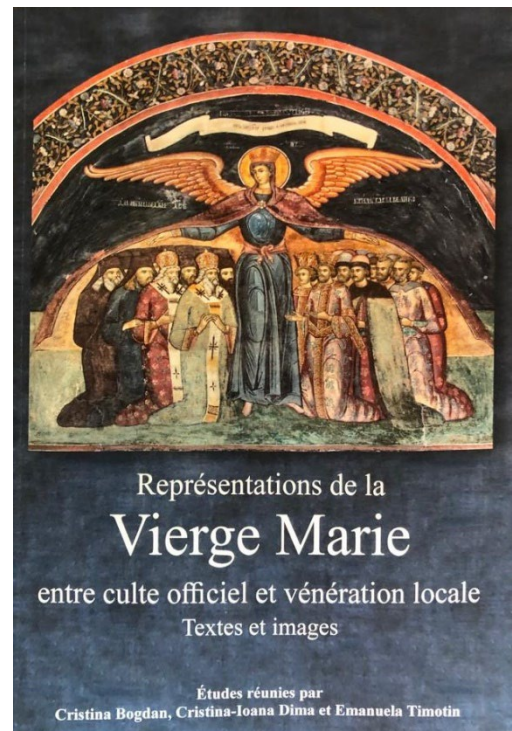
Report on activities by **Emanuela Cristina Timotin**, Project Leader
UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (2021-2023)

The project focuses on one of the most influential liturgical pieces dedicated to Virgin Mary, the *Akathistos Hymn*, a text which was composed in the fifth century and was included in the liturgy of the Orthodox Church not before the ninth century. Its 24 stanzas represent the source of the iconographic theme known as the ‘Akathistos cycle’ since late thirteenth century – beginning of the fourteenth century.

The researchers involved in the project are philologists (Emanuela Timotin, principal investigator; Cristina-Ioana Dima, Mihail Hâncu, Daniar Mutalâp), historians (Lidia Cotovanu; Ovidiu-Victor Olar, affiliated researcher) and art historians (Oana Iacubovschi). They endeavour to edit the oldest Romanian versions of the Akathistos Hymn and to describe the literary, theological and artistic context in which they emerged.

In October 13–15, 2022, all the researchers organised the Conference *The Akathistos Hymn in Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Tradition. The History of a Liturgical Masterpiece between Text and Image*, which took place in excellent conditions at New Europe College in Bucharest. The conference reunited fifteen historians, art historians, philologists and musicologists from Romania and abroad. All the participants presented papers on the history of the Akathistos Hymn.

Here are the titles of the papers: ‘The ‘Saturday of the Akathist’ Reflected in Moldavian Miscellanea and Marianic Imagery (Late 15th - Early 16th c.)’ (Vlad Bedros); ‘Contributions à l’histoire de l’impression des Akathistes en Valachie, dans la seconde moitié du XVII^e siècle)’ (arhim. Policarp Chițulescu); ‘Les destinataires de l’œuvre manuscrite de Matthieu de Myres. Nouvelles constatations’ (Lidia Cotovanu); ‘La première version de l’Hymne Acathiste imprimée en roumain. Réflexions sur un livre peu connu du métropolite Dosoftei’ (Cristina-Ioana Dima); ‘The Musical Tradition of the Akathistos Hymn during the Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Era. A Survey of the Greek Musical Manuscripts (13th-19th Centuries)’ (Nicolae Gheorghîță); ‘One Side of the Coin: The Seventeenth-Century Slavonic Manuscripts of the Akathist from the Library of the Romanian Academy’ (Mihail-George Hâncu); ‘Embroidered *Epitrachelia* with the Akathistos Hymn and Their Commissioners (16th-17th Centuries)’ (Oana Iacubovschi); ‘Aspects Concerning the Research, Conservation and Restoration of the “The Mother of God with Child and the Akathist Hymn” Icon from Frumoasa Monastery, Iași (Romania)’ (Mina Moșnegău); ‘Shapes, Forms and Uses of the Akathist Hymn in the Eighteenth-Century Romanian Manuscripts and Printed Books’ (Daniar Mutalâp); ‘La tradition melkite de l’Hymne Acathiste au XVII^e s: Art et liturgie’ (Charbel Nassif); ‘The Arabic Akathistos Hymn: Multilingualism and the Challenge of Standardization’ (Samuel Noble); ‘From the Romanian Principalities to Mount Sinai: The Odyssey of Codex Sinaiticus græcus 203’ (Ovidiu Olar); ‘The Standardization of the First Romanian Translation of the Akathistos Hymn. The Double Readings in Ms. 170’ (Emanuela





Conference *The Akathistos Hymn in Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Tradition. The History of a Liturgical Masterpiece between Text and Image*, New Europe College, participants of the conference looking at the Akathistos Cycle in Colțea Church in Bucharest.

Timotin); ‘The Reception of the Akathistos Hymn in Byzantine Poetry’ (Maria Tomadaki); ‘Icônes avec le cycle de l’Hymne Acatyste dans les monastères de Roumanie (XVIIIe-XIXe siècles). Interactions spirituelles et culturelles entre Lavra Petcherska et le Mont Athos’ (Mother Atanasia Văetiși).

Various depictions of the Akathistos Hymn, preserved in churches and museums in Bucharest were seen and discussed during the last day of the conference.

For a better understanding of the role of the Akathistos Hymn within the Marian devotion, Emanuela Timotin and Cristina-Ioana Dima co-edited a volume including 19 contributions on Marian cult: *Représentations de la Vierge Marie entre culte officiel et vénération locale. Textes et images* (textes réunis par Cristina Bogdan, Cristina-Ioana Dima et Emanuela Timotin, Heidelberg, Herlo Verlag, 2022, 352 pages). The publication represents an important achievement of the present project.



Source: Robert Garrett collection, Princeton University Library

Team members

Project Leader:

Emanuela Cristina TIMOTIN, PhD,
Senior Researcher of the Institute of Linguistics of the Romanian Academy

Experienced Researchers:

Lidia COTOVANU, PhD, Senior Researcher
at the “Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy

Cristina Ioana DIMA, PhD, Lecturer at the Faculty of Letters,
University of Bucharest

Oana IACUBOVSKI, PhD, Senior Researcher at the Institute for
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Postdoctoral Researcher:

Mihail-George HÂNCU, PhD, Scientific Researcher at the
Institute for South-East European Studies of the Romanian Academy

PhD Student:

Daniar MUTALÂP, Junior Researcher at the “Iorgu Iordan – Alexandru Rosetii”
Institute of Linguistics of the Romanian Academy

Affiliated Researcher:

Ovidiu Victor OLAR, PhD, Senior Researcher at the “N. Iorga” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy

Rocking under the Hammer and the Sickle: Popular Music in Socialist Romania between Ideology and Entertainment (1948-1989) (POPCOM)

Report on activities by **Claudiu Oancea**, Project Leader
UEFISCDI Postdoctoral Research (2022-2024)

This project aims to construe the history of popular music in socialist Romania, from 1948 until 1989, focusing, in particular, on the genres of jazz, rock, and light music and on their role in performing communist and nationalist ideologies, as well as in addressing demands of cultural consumption for various audiences. The project takes an interdisciplinary approach, as it brings together instruments of analysis from cultural and social history, cultural anthropology, and musicology. The research project analyzes the popular music genres of jazz, rock, and light music as spaces of interaction/negotiation between audiences and musicians, musicians and cultural activists/representatives of political authority, as well as between musicians themselves, depending on their social background, musical education and influences, and administrative authority/ies. While it focuses on the Romanian national context, the project also relies on an asymmetrical historical comparison with other national case studies of popular music behind the Iron Curtain (Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union).

From October 2022 until February 2023, I undertook archival and library research in Bucharest. I was particularly interested in the collections of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archives, which enclose the socialist period. During the fall of 2022 and early 2023, I consulted a series of files from the 1970s, which cover socialist Romania's relations with Western capitalist countries, fellow socialist states, as well as countries from the Global South, which had begun to exert an increasing amount of interest from both the capitalist and socialist systems. Such relations were primarily political and economic, as both parties sought to increase their financial output, as well as their national significance on the international political arena. Notwithstanding, cultural relations always flourished in the wake of such collaborations, and they included educational agreements, art exhibitions, as well as mutual artistic tours undertaken by various Romanian and foreign ensembles and performers. Such cultural agreements were extremely important for the development of popular music in socialist Romania. First, they gave musicians the opportunity to perform in front of international audiences and, thus, to acquire a new symbolic status within their own domestic scene, as cultural ambassadors. Secondly, it allowed them to make use of transnational and informal networks, and to smuggle or get hold of better musical equipment and instruments, as well as everyday consumer products that were unavailable in socialist Romania. The Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hold numerous accounts of such tours, organized through the Romanian Agency for Artistic Management (or ARIA), which were based on the cultural collaboration agreements Romania had signed with various states. These reports include details about approval procedures, negotiations, as well as problems which were encountered on the way by Romanian musicians.



Valentin Farcas, In concert at the Sibiu Jazz Festival, 1979
(Valentin Farcas personal collection)

During this period, I have also done extensive research in various libraries in Bucharest (The University Central Library, The Library of the Academy, The National Library, The Metropolitan Library). I was interested in the collections of several cultural magazines from the socialist era, such as “Săptămâna”, “Cronica”, or “Tribuna”. These magazines were primarily devoted to highbrow cultural issues, but they also covered popular music, in particular the new “young music”. Although the printing space allotted to such an issue was limited, the magazines covered various international and domestic rock bands and jazz ensembles, had their own music charts, and, at times, even indulged in essays regarding the importance of pop music for the building of socialism. Thus, they offer a significant amount of data regarding the histories of many Romanian pop bands and their popularity among young readers and radio audiences. In my library research I was also interested in the collections of several other newspapers and magazines, such as “Scânteia tineretului”, “Viața studentească”, “Amfiteatru”, “Napoca universitară”, etc. The latter cover the daily lives of student and youth organizations in socialist Romania, including the artistic and cultural activities undertaken by student ensembles at various competitions and festivals across the country. The stories portrayed within the pages of such magazines offer a multitude of details regarding the evolution of pop bands in socialist Romania and the interrelations between student life and musical activity.

I have also used the information found in such magazines as basis in my preparation for several oral history interviews with musicians who were part of several Romanian jazz and rock bands during the 1970s and 1980s. Among these, I would mention Valentin Farcaș (Experimental Q, Experimental Q2), Călin Coldea (Experimental Q, Modal Q), Marius Luca (Compact, Metropol, Metrock), Lucian George Păiș (Modal Q, Quadrant, Triptic), Mihai Manea (sound engineer). As part of my entrepreneurial project, I have also organized two more concerts with Marius Luca and Valentin Farcaș, both in October 2022.

Furthermore, I have organized an international workshop, entitled “A Music So Popular That No Curtain Could Contain: Popular Music and Cultural Transfers during the Cold War”. Held on December 5, 2022, in hybrid format, the workshop set its purpose to investigate the means through which popular music developed in the Eastern Bloc and circulated across borders and the Iron Curtain (on either side). In particular, the workshop aimed to explore how popular music was influenced by cultural, technological, and informal transfers, by the larger processes of modernization and development of leisure life, as well as by institutional cooperation between various states, either within the Socialist Bloc, or beyond it. The workshop brought together twenty-three participants from several countries, including Romania, Croatia, Poland, USA, Austria, Ukraine, and Luxembourg.

During the period of October 2022 – February 2023, I have also revised a series of book chapters I will publish as part of several collective academic endeavors. The first of these is devoted to the history of record stores in Romania, including the socialist period: “Music on the Turntables when the Tables are Turning: A History (and Some Stories) of Record Stores in Romania from Late Socialism until Present”.

The chapter will be published in the summer of 2023 with Bloomsbury Academic, as part of a collection which centers around record stores as social spaces of forming cultural communities.

Last, but definitely not least, I should stress once more that my work for the project during this time, whether in terms of research, writing, or entrepreneurial, was facilitated significantly by the promptness and efficiency of the New Europe College academic and administrative staff.



Metrock, In concert, early 1980s (Marius Luca personal collection)

Colonial Anxieties, Corruption Scandals and Xenophobia in Nineteenth-Century Infrastructure Development in Romania (CanCor)

Report on activities by **Silvia Marton**, Project Leader
UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (2022-2024)

CanCor examines the surprising historical relevance of rail and fluvial-maritime transportation infrastructure for the self-imaginings of nation-building and the narratives of modernization in the Romanian Principalities/Romania, from the 1840s to 1914. Given the dual nature of such transportation infrastructures, imagined as both “progressive” and “disruptive”, their construction brought immense pressure upon local decision-makers. The project has three main goals: First, it examines anxieties over the possibility that the Principalities/Romania would be subject to economic and even demographic colonization, fears generated by the asymmetrical political and economic interactions with Europe’s Great Powers and neighbouring empires. Second, it examines the corruption scandals surrounding infrastructure construction that generated and constantly reshaped colonial anxieties in the process of nation-state-building, when faced with Great Powers and their imperial and colonial-like aspirations of political and economic influence. Third, the project historicizes the semantic usages of “colonialism” and “corruption” and their inherently political uses in nation-building in Romania and in the process of infrastructure construction, arguing that, on both accounts, reflexively situating their meanings is necessary as a way of disentangling them from the ex-post analytical vocabulary normatively employed by (contemporary) scholars.

There has thus far been no attempt to systematically look at how transportation infrastructure construction in the nineteenth century had an impact on shaping the political vocabulary of Romanian nation-state-building via the historical actors’ notions and historical controversies over “colonialism” and “corruption”.

**Muzeul Militar Național,
Podul de fier de la Cosmești, 1917**



The project breaks **(a)** new ground in Romanian historiography. Rather than strictly considering the ex-post normative inclusion of Romania into a global colonial semi-periphery or “decolonial” microreadings of the regional inter-imperial context, the project examines how the colonial became both anxiogenic and normative, and how the semantics of “colonialism” and “corruption” allowed actors to reflect upon their place in a global age of empire in the process of building transportation infrastructure.

(b) CanCor also contributes to current debates in the study of colonialism by examining how the language of “colonialism” shaped the political imaginary of nation-state-building itself.

(c) And the project brings an important contribution to the recent discursive turn in the study of political corruption, which has opened up for investigation the concept’s diachronic transformations and contextual semantics. While recent literature has investigated the connection between colonialism and corruption as a colonial legacy, and corruption as a specific subject of enquiry in the Spanish, British, Dutch and French overseas imperial rule, there are no studies on the connections between “corruption” and land-based empires in continental Europe, let alone between “informal empire”, nation-building and “corruption” in South-East Europe.



Locomotive built by Malaxa

infrastructure history in the nineteenth century, and a transnational history of rail and fluvial networks, technology transfer, and international finance as “soft colonialism” tools in South-East Europe, a concept more often associated with the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The project’s exploratory nature also opens a new research direction on national-colonial-corruption discursive entanglements in Romania and the region for the post-1918 period.

Team members

Project Leader:

Silvia MARTON, PhD, Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest

Experienced Researcher:

Constantin ARDELEANU, PhD, Professor, The “Lower Danube” University of Galați / Institute for South-East European History, Bucharest

Postdoctoral Researchers:

Raul CÂRSTOCEA, PhD, Lecturer in Twentieth-Century European History, Department of History, Maynooth University, Ireland

Andrei-Dan SORESCU, PhD, Researcher

Project website: <https://cancor.nec.ro/>

Entangled Histories of the Danubian Quarantine System (1774–1914) (DaQuaS)

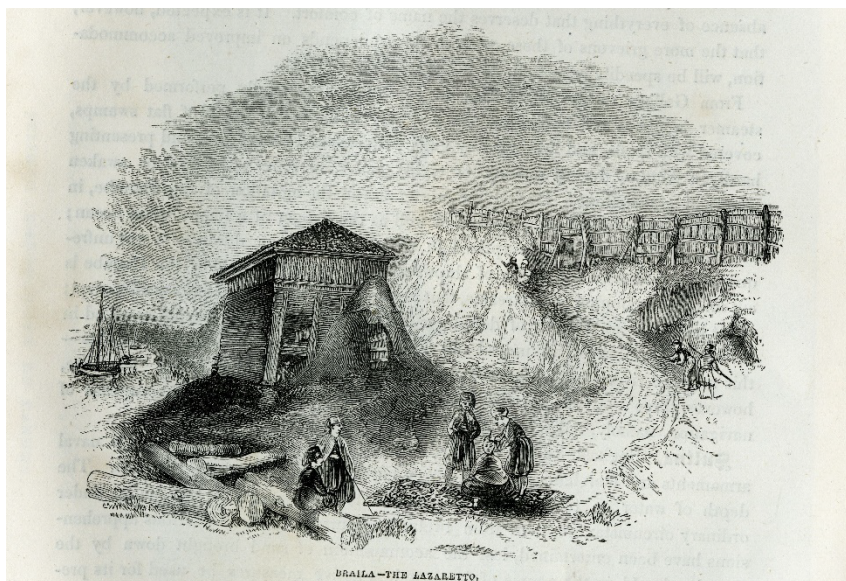
Report on activities by **Constantin Ardeleanu**, Project Leader
UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (2022-2024)

This project aims to investigate – from an entangled and global histories perspective and in connection with recent developments in the transdisciplinary field of quarantine studies – the various functions of the quarantine system established along the Lower Danube, in the principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia/Romania. Used intermittently since the eighteenth century, the quarantine system was institutionalized after 1829 and was continuously transformed to fit to Romania’s changing political, economic, and sanitary needs and the increased scientific understanding of the nature of disease transmission.

Public health crises in the form of pandemics have been critical junctures in the making of the modern world. Scholarship in quarantine studies has insisted on the role that the fight against pandemics

contributed to nation and state-making, but also to transnational cooperation and the “unification of the world by disease”. Epidemiological concerns played a similarly major role in the making of modern Romania, an aspect that has not been thoroughly studied in Romanian and international historiography. This project aims to contribute to this emerging field by bringing to the forefront the case of the Danubian quarantine from about 1774 to 1914. It will thus capture the clash and cooperation of different interests, from those of the Austrian and Russian empires (initially interested to use the river as a sort of natural barrier against the spread of disease) to those of the new nation-states established in the region (Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia), which struggled to find a balance between the economic function of the river (making it a busy transportation infrastructure) and the risks associated with the mobility of disease.

The project is structured into three main components, touching on different historical scales. These components will be briefly presented below.



1) *Setting up an anti-epidemiological barrier along the Lower Danube. From imperial to national projects.* This part will map the institutionalization of the quarantine system from 1774 to 1853, at the start of the Crimean War, insisting on its political and medical functions in a period in which it was an extension of Austria’s and Russia’s anti-epidemiological defense, but it also contributed to state- and nation-building in the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia.

2) *Knowledge and technology transfers in a peripheral quarantine system.* This part will look at quarantine stations as hubs of knowledge and technology transfer between interested parties, from imperial powers to riparian nation states and commercial circles. With the establishment of the European Commission of the Danube (ECD) after the Crimean War, the ECD was an important actor in keeping the region linked to mainstream forms to combat epidemics while keeping the river open for business.

3) *Life and death in the lazarettos on the Danube.* This part is a micro-history of Danubian lazarettos presented as busy global hubs. It considers lazarettos as contact zones that defy traditional divisions between private and public spaces; passengers would spend four to 24 days in a socially, nationally and culturally mixed company that strengthened or challenged specific social roles.

Team members

Project Leader:

Constantin ARDELEANU, PhD, Professor, The “Lower Danube” University of Galați / Institute for South-East European History, Bucharest

Experienced Researcher:

Silvia MARTON, PhD, Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest

Postdoctoral Researchers:

Andrei EMILCIUC, PhD, Researcher, The Institute of History, Chișinău

Andrei-Dan SORESCU, PhD, Researcher

Project website: <https://daquas.nec.ro/>

Rule of Law at the European Periphery: (Dis)incentive Structures and Conceptual Shifts (ROLPERIPHERAL)

Report on activities by **Bogdan Iancu**, Project Leader
UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (2022-2024)

ROLPERIPHERAL (*Rule of Law at the European Periphery: (Dis)incentive Structures and Conceptual Shifts*, <https://nec.ro/programs/rolperipheral/>) grapples with centre/periphery interplays in the evolution of rule of law (RoL) conditionalities. The concepts of *centre* and *periphery*, as used here, build on a formal distinction, constitutive of the Enlargements and arguably still relevant in many ways. Post-Copenhagen Criteria Enlargement was predicated upon a neat and realistic dividing line separating the EU-15 of 1995 (predominantly Western, stable liberal democracies) from peripheral candidates (poorer, postcommunist, unstable). Romania and Bulgaria, until recently, were additionally subject to a *sui-generis post-membership* conditionality, the CVM. The instruments assumed that EU Enlargement was/is civilizational, that it should spread “democracy, the rule of law, fundamental rights”. In time, the “rule of law” became the dominant narrative of action and reaction towards the periphery (rule of law crises, rule of law backsliding, rule of law monitoring/mechanism/conditionality, CJEU jurisprudence pegged unto the rule of law element -value- of Art 2 TEU). Current general-applicability soft-law (RoL Mechanism) and hard-law instruments (Regulation 2020/2092) arguably reformulate procedural forms, standards, normative and policy representations constructed/tested vis-à-vis the periphery, via Copenhagen or CVM monitoring.

The concreteness of policies advanced as peripheral panacea under the canopy of the rule of law does not square the conceptual and contextual circles. Rather, it raises new questions. Is, for example, anticorruption, when promoted as *the rule of law*, conducive to peripheral *rule of law*, as traditionally understood in central jurisdictions? Otherwise put, is this policy creating a higher degree of systemic political probity or does it induce, particularly in peripheral systems, pathologies? Does an insistence on particular institutional frameworks, adapted to perceived reform needs at the periphery (e.g., enhanced prosecutorial autonomy or judicial councils) result in systems that function according to (ideal-typical/idealized) representations concerning a functional Western liberal-constitutional justice (rule of law!) system? Furthermore, can reforms created for peripheral stabilization purposes be reserved for the periphery or will they produce ratchet and boomerang effects? Should not all EU jurisdictions be encouraged, prodded, cajoled to adopt the council model, prosecutorial independence, anticorruption watchdogs? If they do not, what could be the justification? How much can be left to contextual determinations and how much should be formalized and generalized, according to EU formal premises of state equality and Fullerian expectations of uniformity (i.e., “the rule of law as a law of rules”).

Team members

Project Leader:

Bogdan IANCU, Dr.iur, Associate Professor, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Political Science
(Department of Constitutional and Political Theory and History)

Experienced Researchers:

Marius Nicolae BALAN, Associate Professor, Al. I. Cuza University of Iași, Faculty of Law

Raluca BERCEA, Professor, West University of Timișoara, Faculty of Law

Bianca SELEJAN-GUȚAN, Professor, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Faculty of Law

Postdoctoral Researchers:

Dr. Cosmin CERCEL, Researcher in Legal History and Theory

Dr. Martin MENDELSKI, Postdoctoral Researcher in Political Science

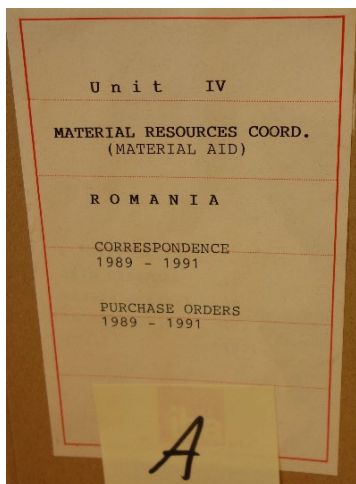
(February 1, 2023-December 2024)

The (Im)possible Alliance: Romania as Initiator and Beneficiary of the Humanitarian Aid (1970-1989) (RoHumAid)

Report on activities by **Luciana Jinga**, Project Leader
UEFISCDI Young Research Teams (2022-2024)

RoHumAid analyses the participation of Central and East European countries in the humanitarian aid effort, both as initiator and beneficiary, using as case study Romania, between 1970 and 2004. The project focuses on three major axes/objectives. A first objective is to identify the principal characteristics of Romania – considered a Second World country – as provider and beneficiary of the human aid, and how the fall of the communist regimes, by modifying the geographic imaginary of Global North and Global South, dramatically changed the general discourse towards the region and subsequently the role as humanitarian aid actor. A second objective is to identify and to compare Romania's humanitarian grassroots actions, both as initiator and beneficiary, before and after 1989. A third objective is to identify and catalogue the most important transnational humanitarian networks that worked in Romania/for Romania.

For the first 10 months of the project, the research efforts concentrated on recuperating the story of Romania as an actor of humanitarian aid during the communist regime, and therefore debunking the main post-communist historiographic discourse that excluded this experience. The team members



identified and retrieved data from both national (The Romanian National Archives, the Diplomatic Archives, the National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives) and international archives (UN-UNOG, International Committee of the Red Cross, World Council of Churches). The findings confirm the first part of our research hypothesis, namely that after 1970 Romania became an actor of the humanitarian aid, as beneficiary of formal (after important natural disasters) and informal aid (directed towards religious and/or ethnic minorities), networks that represented the core for the humanitarian missions during post-socialism. At the same time, as part of its foreign policy, Romania deployed economic, medical and educational assistance programs to “Third World” countries. As donor, communist Romania initiated and conducted development projects in various fields (agriculture, industry, technology, infrastructure, health and education) in socialist/developing countries from the Global South. An

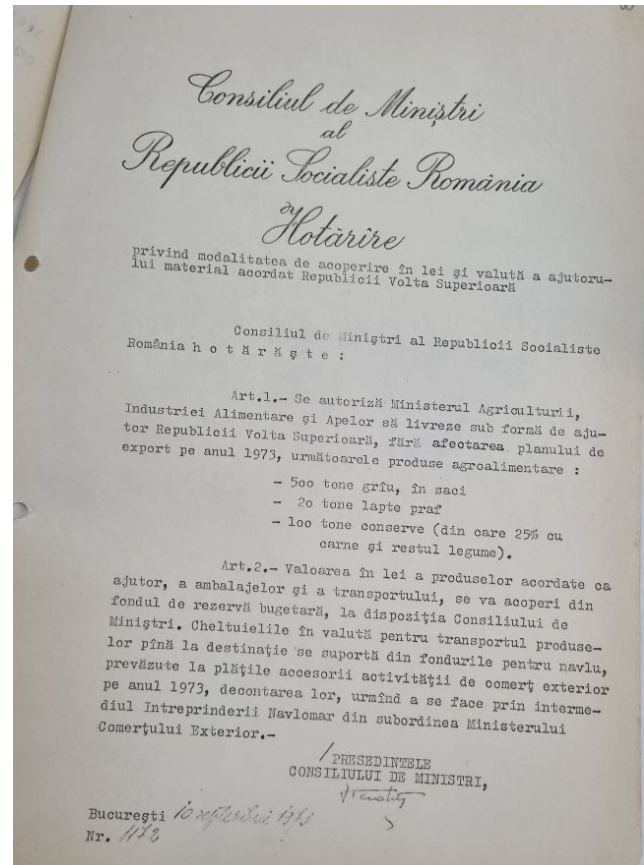
important part of this mission was knowledge transfer. Romania offered scholarships and trained high school, undergraduate and doctoral students. At the same time, Romanian experts were sent to the beneficiary countries. Communist Romania offered help in several refugee crises (the Greek Civil War, the Korean War, the Chilean and Palestinian cases). Romania also provided emergency aid in case of natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, fires) for both Global South and European states (Italy, Greece, Bulgaria).

Romania started to receive humanitarian aid after two episodes of catastrophic flooding in the early 1970s, and the earthquake of 1977. 60 countries offered financial, logistic, medical aid to Romania, in a total amount of more than 70 million US dollars. International NGO's and ordinary people contributed 3 million dollars. We believe that the networks of private donors formed in the 1970s continued the humanitarian work through the 1980s, as a precursor for the Opération Village Roumain movement.

All the team members focused on the dissemination of the preliminary research results and took part in international conferences.

Luciana Jinga presented a series of papers at several national and international conferences and workshops. Thus, in September, she presented a paper with the title "From partner to assisted: The

evolution of narratives in humanitarian aid campaigns for Romania (1970-2000)” at the *National Congress of Romanian Historians*, (Alba Iulia, between September 8-10, 2022). The paper focused on the analysis of the discourse towards Romania as mostly beneficiary for the humanitarian aid after 1989. In October she presented two papers: “A story that got forgotten: Romania as initiator for humanitarian aid during the 1970' and 1980” at the international conference “Transforming State Socialism in East-Central Europe Historical Sociology of the Long Change”, which took place in Warsaw from September 30 to October 1, 2022 and "Transnational Humanitarian Associations and Actions in Favor of Romanian Children after 1989. Case study: Médecins sans Frontières" at the international conference “Interferences. Past, present, future”, which took place in Oradea, October 12-14, 2022. In November, Luciana Jinga participated in the round table "Reflections on Researching the Files of the Romanian Revolution of December 1989", hosted by ASEES 54th Annual Convention, which took place in Chicago, IL - Palmer House Hilton (November 10-13, 2022). The paper presented the importance of the revolution of 1989 in triggering humanitarian aid in favor of Romanian children.



Team members

Project Leader:

Luciana JINGA, Researcher, Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile; Associate Lecturer, University of Bucharest, Faculty of History

Experienced Researchers:

Dalia BATHORY, Researcher, Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile

Ștefan BOSOMITU, Researcher, Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile

Daniel FILIP-AFLOAREI, Researcher, Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile

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

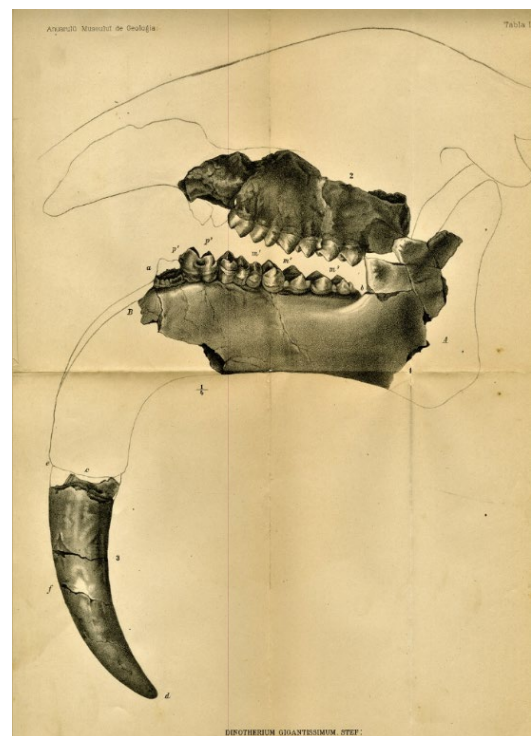
Research Group, 2009 – present

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** and **Silvia Marton**.

On December 8, 2022, **Constantin Ardeleanu**, **Andrei Cușco**, **Silvia Marton** and **Constanța Vintilă** invited to an event co-organized with the *Society for Romanian Studies, Pre-1918 History Working Group* about the history of the popularization of evolutionary theory in Romania between 1859 and 1918. The discussion builds on **Cosmin Koszor-Codrea's** research that makes the subject of his PhD thesis: *The Word of Science: Popularising Darwinism in Romania, 1859-1918*. Placing the theory of naturalist Charles Darwin (1809-1882) in the Romanian historical context is important from several points of view. Firstly, the analysis of the development of the local science provides an insight into the interconnection between the political and the scientific, but also reveals the hegemonic practices of the formation of local naturalist groups. Secondly, this research traces the multiple directions of scientific ideas, highlighting their circulation in several public spheres. Thus, the discussion focuses on the contextualization of science in the socio-political scene, tracing the reception of Darwinism from the point of view of material culture (discussions of Darwinism in various scientific journals and institutions), politics (in ideological debates), and science (in epistemological negotiations).

Participants:

Raluca ALEXANDRESCU, Călin COTOI,
Ștefan DORONDEL, Cosmin KOSZOR-CODREA



Sketch made by Gregoriu Ștefănescu (1836-1911), after some locals from the village of Mânzați, together with the local teacher, discovered the fossils of a Proboscidian mastodon in 1889. It was recovered by Ștefănescu and in 1894 renamed *Dinotherium Gigantissimum Stef.* Source: Yearbook of the Museum of Geology and Palaeontology, 1895-1896.

A second event took place on January 12, 2023: *Crearea trecutului vizibil: cercetarea, transformarea și demolarea monumentelor istorice în România în primele decenii ale secolului al XX-lea* ("Creating the Visible Past: Research, Transformation and Demolition of Historical Monuments in Romania in the First Decades of the 20th Century). **Cosmin Minea**, Ștefan Odobleja Fellow, launched a discussion about the Historical Monuments Commission that was founded in 1892 out of a desire to change the way historical monuments were restored, as well as to promote Romanian architects as restorers and heritage researchers.

The following decades, although they did not bring new methods of restoration, linked monuments more closely to national history. If for architects such as André Lecomte du Noüy (1844-1914) or Ion Mincu (1851-1912) the built heritage had to prove Romania's historical belonging to Europe, in the 20th century restorations sought to restore the originality and specificity of Romanian architecture. Nationalism remained an



© Cetățuia. Casele egumenesti, după restaurare. *Buletinul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice*, 1913, anul VI, Octombrie-Decembrie, p. 172

essential element even after 1918, when architects and researchers sought to promote monuments considered Romanian in Transylvania, even if this meant small wooden churches or rural art. But the vision at the official level was not always in line with that of the local communities. For the Romanians in Transylvanian villages, wooden churches were more a sign of the poor past and therefore, in many cases, they were replaced by new wall churches. Therefore, the presentation aimed to identify different attitudes towards historical monuments in Romania in the first part of the 20th century and also to explore possible wider meanings of cultural heritage and historical architectural styles.

transformationis digitalis: quo vadis, scientia?

Prof. Dr. Roland S. Kamzelak

Head of Development / Deputy Director, German Literature Archive, Marbach

Professor Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg

October 21, 2022



Digital transformation is more than a catchword: It is political agenda, it is a necessity for funding in science and it is also still a riddle to be solved. Is there a legitimate aim to the powerful drive in all societies? Is there academic merit in this transformation? How and with what cost? The presentation opened the field and raised questions, which might lead to a path that humanists can follow.

During his talk, Roland S. Kamzelak exemplified how digital transformation could be understood and what it could mean for science, focusing on digital humanities. He showed how by including the digital component in the field of humanities this leads to evolution, not to radical change, offering new research perspectives and opening new questions that still have to be answered by scholars. In doing so, the digital becomes a tool that helps humanists to excel in their fields of study. At the same time, scientific communication fosters the digital evolution, that is already part of the world and cannot be ignored. In his talk, Roland Kamzelak beautifully described how Institutes for Advanced Study play a significant role in this evolutionary process, by bringing together researchers from several fields of study and by providing the necessary space for debates, for critical thinking and rethinking. Thus, the initial question referred to in the title found an answer: *quo vadis, scientia? – communiter imus ad progressibus!*

Roland S. Kamzelak was born in Subiaco, Australia, and grew up in Germany. He received his PhD at the University of Tübingen with “E-Editionen. Zur neuen Praxis der Editionsphilologie. Ida und Richard Dehmel – Harry Graf Kessler. Briefwechsel 1898-1935.” Since 2000 he is Head of Development and Deputy Director of the German Literature Archive Marbach, with focus on academic editing and digital humanities. Roland S. Kamzelak is also Professor for Digital Humanities at the University of Würzburg, and holds several other visiting lectorates at institutes or universities in Germany.

Tanja Clement,
*Using Digital Tools to Not-Read
Gertrude Stein’s “The Making of
Americans”, an example of how
digital methods can be used in
literary analysis.*

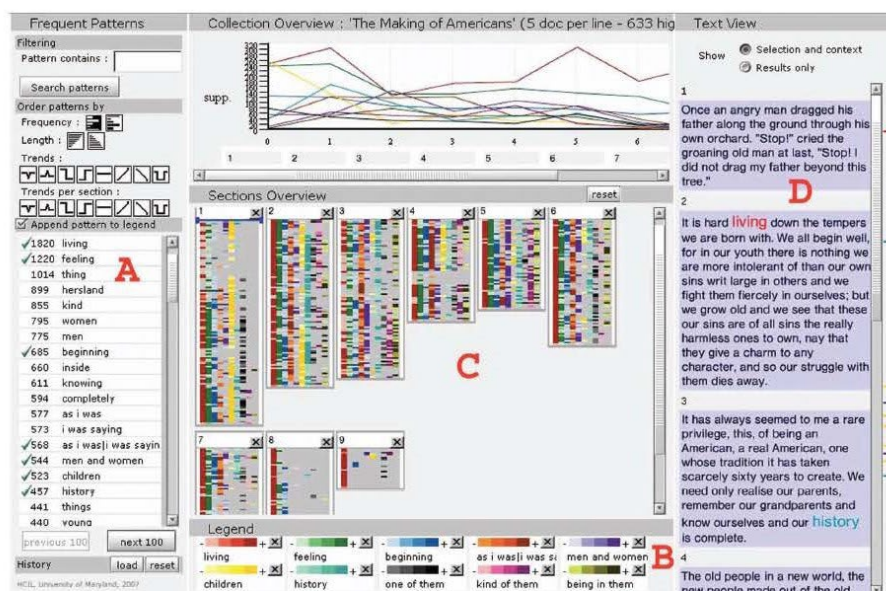


Fig. 2 Chapters 1–9, *FeatureLens*.¹¹ (Colour image available as supplementary data in *Literary and Linguistic Computing* online.)

Nationalism, Populism, Fascism and Democratic (In)stability in Eastern Europe. Historical Continuities and Transformations

An event organized within the *Ameropa* fellowship program at the New Europe College, with the support of AMEROPA Holding.

September 28, 2022

This workshop aimed to analyze and problematize the resurgence of (ultra)nationalism and radical right movements in the Eastern European region. The political transformations that emerged with the regime change after the fall of communism and the multiple crises that impacted the region during capitalism – from financial to migration, pandemic and war – have proven to be a fertile soil for the consolidation of ultranationalist, right-wing populist and far right groups and parties. This process has also been facilitated by a revisionist rhetoric that rehabilitates and normalizes fascist ideas, minimizing the historical impact they have had in different countries.

At the same time, an instrumentalization of the antifascist rhetoric in Russia's claims of "denazification" in Ukraine can be seen, to justify a war started on grounds of nationalist / imperialist ambitions by a regime that is increasingly held to be quasi-fascist itself. It is yet unclear what consequences this capture and reframing of the antifascist discourse might have on the existing efforts to combat growing antisemitism, racism, xenophobia and neo/post-fascism in Europe.

In this context, the discussion engaged multiple perspectives regarding the different shapes that ultranationalism and the radical right take in Eastern Europe today with a focus on (but not limited to) Romania, Ukraine and Russia, and the extent to which they preserve and put back into circulation interwar far right ideas or reshape and adapt them so as to bypass the norms of liberal democratic society.

Discussions also aimed to disambiguate, theoretically and empirically, concepts like *ultranationalism*, *populism*, *fascism*, considering their current manifestations in the region and their relation to democracy. To what extent are they compatible with the democratic framework or rather threaten democratic stability in the region? All the more so in the context of the war in Ukraine which has led to increased militarization, nationalist rhetoric, an accelerating slide into authoritarianism and erosion of rights and liberties in the region, together with the co-option of formerly radical-right groups (like the Azov Battalion) as legitimate forces of national(ist) resistance.

Interest was also shown in uncovering the role of different socio-political actors like the media or the Orthodox Church in rehabilitating the far right and ultranationalist movements, on the one hand, and in legitimizing Russia's war in Ukraine, on the other, as well as the role that the delegitimization of leftist movements and consolidation of anti-socialist hostility after the fall of communism has played in this process in countries like Romania.

Convener:

Adina MARINCEA (2021/ 2022 *NEC-Ameropa* Fellow)

Participants:

Constantin ARDELEANU, Anca Diana AXINIA, Lesia BIDOCHKO, Ionuț BILIUȚĂ, Maria BUCUR, Raul CĂRSTOCEA, Cosmin CERCEL, Constantin IORDACHI, Aleksandra KONARZEWSKA, Adina MARINCEA, Diana MĂRGĂRIT, Manuel MIREANU, William TOTOK, Dana TRIF, Veda POPOVICI, Andreas UMLAND

Disturbance on the Danube: State, Infrastructure and the Environment

Workshop organized within the project *Contested Waterway. Governance and Ecology on the Lower Danube, 1800–2018*, supported by the Leibniz Association (2020–2023).
September 29-30, 2022

In 2020, the European Environmental Agency warned that climate change is expected to increase the frequency of ‘once-in-a-century’ river floods in most regions of Europe, which it called one of the most damaging extreme climate events. Adaptation to flooding – adjusting to both seasonal overflows and more devastating deluges – has always been a constant feature of communities living near rivers. Being the most international river on the continent, the Danube is a particularly pertinent case study to analyze perceptions of and responses to flooding, and provides a variety of contexts showing how humans have coped with natural disasters. This conference explores how flood prevention and infrastructure development have been intertwined on the Middle and Lower Danube. Combining anthropological and historical methodology, it applies a *longue durée* perspective to assess the scale of political, social, economic, and ecological transformations triggered by the technological remaking of the river.

In order to disentangle the nexus consisting of floods, states, and infrastructure, we employ the concept of ‘disturbance’. ‘Disturbance’ is used in river management literature to gauge human-induced perturbations to an ecosystem. Such disturbances may be short-term, acute episodes such as a spillover of chemicals, or long-term disturbances when humans make physical changes to a river, for instance by changing its course. Disturbances lead to a loss of biodiversity and species, and impoverish the previously rich environment. However, from the



perspective of riparian communities and states (especially modern states), flooding also constitutes a disturbance. Catastrophic floods have resulted in the loss of human life and serious economic damage. Thus, since their inception, states have tried to control rivers by building dams and levees, and to harness their force. We suggest here that there are two different perspectives on a river’s disturbances. One concerns disturbances caused to rivers by humans and states. This is the perspective of the river distressed during human history, mainly by large infrastructure. The second perspective is that of humans and states. For both actors, a flooding river – especially catastrophic flooding – is a major disturbance to the local and national economy and the riparian population.

Conveners:

Constantin ARDELEANU, Ștefan DORONDEL, Luminița GĂTEJEL

Participants:

Constantin ARDELEANU, Deniz ARMAĞAN AKTO, Ivelina EFTIMOVA, Luminița GĂTEJEL,
Gertrud HAIDVOGL, Onur INAL, Constantin IORDACHI, Merve NEZIROGLU,
Maja PETROVIC ŠTEGER, Milica PROKIC, Stelu ȘERBAN

Digital Storytelling and Research Dissemination in Eastern Europe and Black Sea Region

Workshop supported by the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe at the University of St. Gallen and New Europe College.

October 12, 2022

The workshop presented the results of the GCE-HSG Research Dissemination Grant Program “Borderland Studies in Eastern Europe and the Black Sea Region.” The digital projects presented at the workshop engage with interdisciplinary studies on borderlands. The workshop covered a broad set of issues on methods, opportunities, and challenges of digital storytelling about physical, symbolic, and imaginary borders. The event was supported by the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe at the University of St. Gallen and included following presentations:

Tiberiu VASILESCU (Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology, Romanian Academy)
(In)Visible Ottoman Heritage in Dobruja: Mapping Muslim Traces in a Borderland Region

Tomasz KOSIEK (University of Rzeszow), Ignacy JÓŹWIAK (University of Warsaw),
Ignacy JÓŹWIAK (University of Warsaw)
*Broadcasting from the Forgotten European Borderlands:
Carpathian Watershed in the Polyphony of Voices*

Tatiana VAGRAMENKO (University College Cork), Bojan MIJATOVIC (Sarajevo Graphic Group)
Digital VR Exhibition “The Underground: Lived Religion on the Margins of State and Society”

Silvana RACHIERU (University of Bucharest)
ADAKALE (Hi)STORIES – Framing the Lost Paradise and Archiving the Memory of an Island

Bogdan MATEESCU (Nicolae Iorga Institute of History, Romanian Academy)
A World in a Census. Family, Household and Rural Society in 1838

Martin-Oleksandr KISLY (Kyiv-Mohyla Academy)
Crossing Physical and Imaginary Border: Crimean Tatar’s Return Home

Convener:

Oleksii CHEBOTAROV, NEC Alumnus,
SNSF Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Eastern European History, University of Vienna

Discussants:

Leonid KLIMOV (Dekoder, Berlin), Taras NAZARUK (Center for Urban History, Lviv)

Participants:

Ignacy JÓŹWIAK
Martin-Oleksandr KISLY
Tomasz KOSIEK
Bogdan MATEESCU
Silvana RACHIERU
Tatiana VAGRAMENKO
Tiberiu VASILESCU



Rural Voices

An event organized in connection with the *Lapedatu* Fellowships at NEC,
sponsored by the Lapedatu Foundation.
November 11, 2022

Most current research on rural Romania is based on sources written by urban elites (doctors, sociologists, folklorists, bureaucrats, etc.) rather than by rural people themselves. The workshop, organized as part of the *Lapedatu* Fellowships research program at the NEC, aimed to distance itself from this mediated image of the village world and bring 'rural voices' to the fore. What do peasants say/ write about themselves and their world when they 'start talking'? What does this unmediated social history look like? A panoramic view of the Romanian village of the 19th and 20th centuries, by going through important historical themes and moments, and "listening" to communities as diverse as the Moții of the Carei region, the Roma of Dobrogea, the shepherds of Dolj or the old-style Christians.

Conveners:

Constantin ARDELEANU, Iuliana CINDREA-NAGY and Roland CLARK

Participants:

George ANDREI, Constantin ARDELEANU, Constantin BĂRBULESCU, Cătălin BERESCU,
Philippe Henri BLASEN, Iuliana CINDREA-NAGY, Roland CLARK, Adriana CUPCEA, Sergiu DELCEA,
David DIACONU, Andreea KALTENBRUNNER, Cosmin KOSZOR CODREA, Răzvan ROȘU



ISSEE Lectures

A series of lectures organized in collaboration with the
Institute for South-East European Studies of the Romanian Academy

Debate on the volume

„Corespondenții români de presă și publicațiile emigrației balcanice (1877–1916)” by Ștefan Petrescu

(*Romanian Press Correspondents and Publications of Balkan Emigration, 1877-1916*)

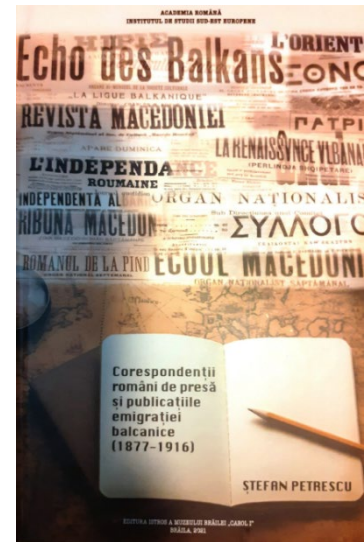
Istros Publishing House (Carol I Museum), Brăila, 2021

(In Romanian)

December 7, 2022

Participants:

Raluca ALEXANDRESCU (University of Bucharest),
Daniel CAIN (ISSEE), Carmen IONESCU (Rador) and
Ștefan PETRESCU (ISSEE)



Consultanți, specialiști și experți în relațiile internaționale ale României (secolele XIX–XXI)

(*Consultants, Specialists and Experts in Romania's International Relations, 19th-21st Centuries*)

(In Romanian)

February 17, 2023

Organizers:

Constantin ARDELEANU, Adrian-Bogdan CEOBANU,
Adrian VIȚALARU

Participants:

Constantin ARDELEANU, Daniel CAIN, Adrian-Bogdan
CEOBANU, Marius DIACONESCU,
Lucian LEUȘTEAN, Silvana RACHIERU, Andrei Florin SORA, Stelu ȘERBAN,
Mihai-Răzvan UNGUREANU, Adrian VIȚALARU



Photo: Delegația României de la Conferința de Pace de la Paris, 1919
(www.mvu.ro)

This event is organized in collaboration with the Institute of South-East European Studies (ISSEE) of the Romanian Academy, the Romanian Centre for Russian Studies (University of Bucharest) and the Faculty of History (University "Alexandru Ioan Cuza", Iași).

Dezbatere pe marginea cărții: „Panorama postcomunismului în România”

(Debate on the book: "The Panorama of Post-Communism in Romania")

Coordinated by Liliana Corobca, Polirom, 2022

(In Romanian)

January 10, 2023



Opening remarks:

Valentina SANDU-DEDIU, Rector, New Europe College

Invited guests:

Cristian PREDA, Dean, Faculty of Political Science,
University of Bucharest

Daniel ȘANDRU, President, Institute for the
Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania
(IICCMER)

Participants from among the authors:

Liliana COROBCA (Moderator),
Ruxandra IVAN, Dorica BOLTASU, Raluca OANCEA,
Augustin IOAN, Cosmin NĂSUI, Cristian VASILE

„What follows after the fall of the communist regime? A long period of transition, generically called *post-communism*. We can say that the three decades after 1989 are not just a number but an era. An era ended, first by the global pandemic, which changed the world, bringing up phrases like "post-pandemic world", then by Russia's full-fledged war on Ukraine (which is not over

yet!), and already constitute a distinct historical period that we can analyze and relate to – even if often with the subjectivity of direct witnesses and participants in the events/phenomena in question. While much has been written about communism, summaries of post-communism, such as this book, have not existed until now. Naturally, more than half of the topics in this volume are successors of those in *Panorama of Communism in Romania* (Polirom, 2020): state symbols, education, economy, literature, music, theatre, film, international relations, secret services, religion, daily life, etc. Others have been adapted to the new realities, such as studies on presidential elections and the party phenomenon instead of those on the Communist Party and its leaders. Some themes have disappeared (collectivization, deportations, dissidence, etc.) but have been replaced by new ones (the emergence of civil society, the University Square phenomenon, Romanian capitalism, civil society organizations, the environment and its protection, migration, digital culture, etc.). The 48 authors, reputed specialists, university professors, researchers in the main scientific institutions in Romania, but also in diaspora, analyze the changes in the most important socio-political and cultural fields, in a vast and exciting *Panorama of post-communism in Romania*, a reference document of this period and a tool for a better understanding of the times we live in.” – Liliana COROBCA

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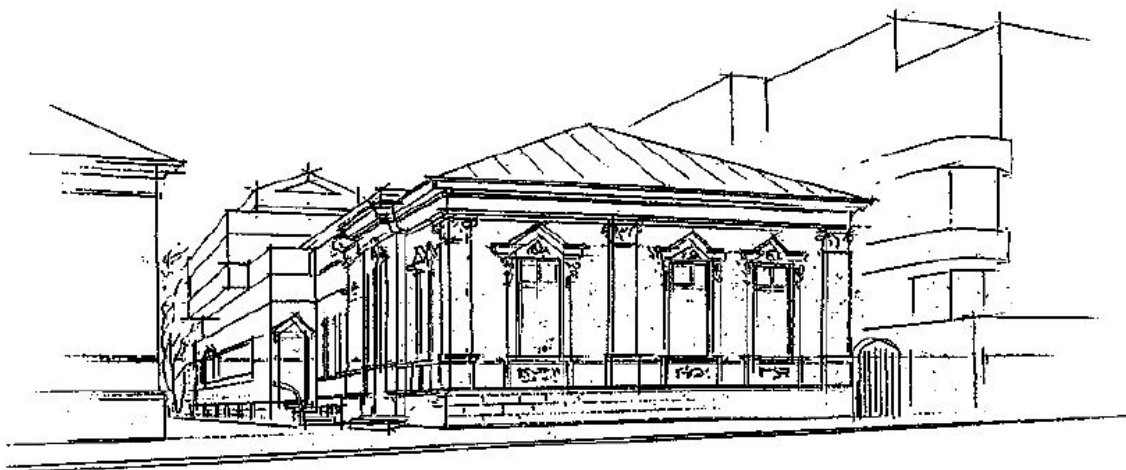
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