



SEMESTRIAL REPORT SPRING – SUMMER 2023

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

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A Word to Our Readers:

The Foundation *Scientific and Cultural Centre NEC Bucharest – Zug* Celebrates 25 Years of Existence

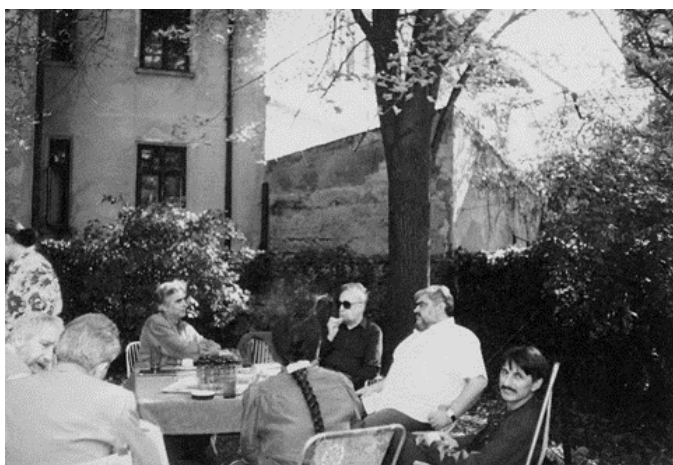
(...) J'ai parlé sur le thème de la liberté. J'ai exhorté mes compatriotes à n'oublier jamais que nos libertés et tout d'abord celle de l'esprit sont la raison d'être de notre pays. « L'Etat, chez nous, leur ai-je dit, n'est pas une divinité infaillible, dictant ses lois à des esclaves muets de terreur ou éperdus d'adoration. C'est une maison que nous avons bâtie nous-mêmes, à notre mesure, pour y vivre ensemble, fraternellement. Nous l'aimons parce que chacun de nous a conscience d'avoir travaillé, de travailler encore à la rendre plus solide, plus belle, plus accueillante ».

J'ai mis nos gens en garde contre ceux qui leur conseillent de jeter bas cette vieille maison pour construire de toutes pièces une demeure neuve. J'ai conclu : « Vive la Suisse libre ! »

[René de Weck, « *Journal de guerre (1939-1945) – Un diplomate suisse à Bucarest* » (SHSR & La Liberté, 2001), écrit le 2 août 1940.]

Every house has a story. The house on Plantelor street 21 has a very special story, a past steeped in history and a present marked by friendship. Old and new friendships, long-lasting ones, friendships among nations and, above all, among people.

When Andrei Pleșu founded the NEC, and the Wednesday seminars of its first fellow cohort started in January 1994, there was no official meeting place for these gatherings. Fellows met at Rector Andrei Pleșu's home, or in the garden of NEC's first Executive Director Marina Hasnaș. For the second year, an apartment in the city center was rented, and when NEC grew and its Fellow community became international the institute eventually moved to a small house in Matei Voievod street.



As two Swiss institutions – the state of Switzerland and the Landis & Gyr Foundation – were among the first and most robust funders of the NEC, it happened quite often that Jean-Claude Joseph, the then ambassador to Bucharest, attended lectures or academic events. He soon realized that the cramped spatial conditions limited the radiance of this center of excellence – and he remembered that the Swiss state still owned an old, rather derelict building, but well-placed on Plantelor street, that could perhaps be used as a home for NEC. When the NEC leadership and their closest friends and allies heard about this



possibility, they immediately became active. Heinz Hertach, President of the Landis & Gyr Foundation, was the motor and mastermind. A solution had to be found to the complex challenge of whether and how Switzerland could make its property available to a private scientific institution in a foreign country. An important step on the way was the establishment of an intermediary foundation in Zug, the *Scientific and Cultural Centre NEC Bucharest – Zug* in 1998 – a quarter of a century ago.

Board members of this foundation include representatives of all three parties involved: the *Confoederatio Helvetica*, the Landis & Gyr foundation, and the New Europe College. Together, all the follow-up questions were tackled. An

architectural project was developed to make the premises fit for hosting an academic institute; considerable sums of money had to be raised. Re-/construction works began in the autumn of 1998. Just one and a half years later, the "Casa Elvețiană" was inaugurated. The picture shows Heinz Hertach, handing over the key to the NEC Rector.



The earlier story of the house on Plantelor 21 shows parallels, and has significantly to do with another ambassador: René de Weck, Plenipotentiary Minister for Switzerland in Romania, Yugoslavia and Greece, was stationed in Bucharest 90 years ago, in spring 1933.¹ He is well known for having protected Jews in the times of war and atrocities – not only Jews of Swiss nationality, but many others. During the interwar period, when a sizable number of Swiss citizens lived and worked in the Romanian kingdom, the desire arose to have a meeting place where they could exchange advice or ideas and cultivate Swiss traditions. De Weck, a true diplomat, convinced the Swiss Federal Department of Finances to agree with purchasing a house in Bucharest. The Swiss Confederation had initially refused the plan, fearing unexpected additional liabilities: Since the Swiss Association in Bucharest did not own a legal personality, it was the Swiss government who would become the owner of the house.

But the ambassador did not give up easily. When eventually the occasion came up to acquire a private house, dating back to the beginning of the 1900s, he obtained the acceptance of the Confederation. The foundation "Haus der Schweizer in Bucarest" was established with the aim of enhancing the friendship between Switzerland and Romania, and the house was bought. The official documents date from April 25, 1940. Only three months later, on August 1, 1940, the house was inaugurated and the Swiss community celebrated their National Day. Plenipotentiary Minister de Weck used the opportunity to talk to the many members of the colony present about the importance of freedom (see the opening quote).

Documents show that in the years that followed the house in Plantelor street was tailored to the needs and activities of the Swiss Association. Among other facilities, it contained a large room for meetings and conferences, another one reserved for the Swiss Society Committee, a library, a reading room, rooms for classes (history, geography or traditional songs), a room reserved for the ladies and their knitting or sewing activities (the room of the "ants"), as well as a "Jass-Stube" (a room for the typical Swiss card game) and an exhibition area. It also had a garden and enough space to host traditional feasts. Yet the Swiss colony could not enjoy the fulfillment of their aspirations for



¹ CHINEZU, Claudia: "Elvețienii în România" / [The Swiss in Romania], Noi Media Print, București, 2011, Chapter V: "Casa elvețiană din București" / [The Swiss House in Bucharest], pp. 136-151

long. With the end of the Second World War, most Western foreigners left the country, and the overall situation changed drastically. Since it was the property of the Confederation, the house benefited from the privileges attributed to a diplomatic mission and could not be nationalized by the communist regime. Under communism, however, it became largely a ruin.

Such it was until Jean-Claude Joseph visited the newly established Institute for Advanced Study in Bucharest. Until Marina Hasnaş and Niculae Vlădescu (the architect she worked with) transformed the ruin, with knowledge and love for old houses, into a beautiful building. Generous donors assembled, making it all possible and bringing the Swiss House back to life – a life, in a way, so similar to its initial aim: Bringing people together, to a home far from home, all of them contributing to a better understanding and to freedom while fostering research in the humanities and social sciences. In Bucharest, on Swiss ground.



At the inauguration in 2000², Heinz Hertach began his talk by emphasizing precisely the importance of people who, all together, make a *Wissenschaftskolleg* possible:

„Ein Wissenschaftskolleg besteht nicht aus Steinen und Ziegeln, sondern aus Menschen. Diese Menschen brauchen aber, um zeitgemäß arbeiten, sich begegnen und diskutieren zu können, Räume.“

Among many other beautiful words and witty talks, the Federal Chancellor of the Swiss Confederation, Annemarie Huber-Hotz, also said:



„Aber, meine Damen und Herren, ein Gebäude mag noch so schön und funktionell sein – und es liegt mir fern, die Architekten beleidigen zu wollen – im Grunde genommen jedoch ist es nichts weiter als die Summe seiner Wände und des Daches. Leer macht dieser Platz keinen Sinn. Er muss bewohnt werden. Diejenigen, die es tun, die Menschen, die sich der Forschung oder dem Studium widmen, sind es, die dem Platz Leben verleihen, auf gewisse Weise Seele einhauchen müssen, auf jeden Fall eine Daseinsberechtigung geben müssen. Und sie können auf diese Weise zur intellektuellen Entwicklung ihres Landes beitragen.“

The Swiss House has a great purpose, as it had and has the luck to be inhabited by extraordinary people. Valentina Sandu-Dediu, Rector of the New Europe College since 2014, and Lelia Ciobotariu,

² Brochure for the inauguration of the new institute headquarters on October 6, 2000: „New Europe College Bukarest – Das neue Institutsgebäude – Str. Plantelor 21” (written by Katharina BIEGGER, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin).

Executive Director since 2015, continue with devotion and excellence the mission entrusted to them. And we are deeply grateful to the foundation Scientific and Cultural Centre NEC Bucharest – Zug for making the property available to the NEC over now 25 years, and for ensuring its maintenance with substantial annual contributions.

This (hi)story emphasizes once again how important it is when people strongly believe in their missions, when they refuse to give up and when they live for higher goals than their own interests. René de Weck beautifully used the house on Plantelor street 21 as a metaphor for the state.³ The house – likewise the state – should be guarded from those who want to tear it apart. It should keep its dignity and freedom, and remain true to fundamental values of humanity: love, a sense of community and responsibility, unity and at the same time openness towards the other. He mentions inhabiting the house and living in togetherness, in a continuous effort of making it stronger, more beautiful and more welcoming. This is what we hope and wish for states all around the world, for the Swiss-Romanian friendship, as well as for the house on Plantelor street 21 and the New Europe College.



Ana BUCULEI
Katharina BIEGGER

³ DE WECK, René, « Journal de guerre (1939-1945) – Un diplomate suisse à Bucarest », SHSR & La Liberté, 2001, p. 124, 2 août 1940.

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.

The Relevance of the Humanities in the Digital Age Fellowships (since 2021)

The 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.

TANDEM, Author with Translator – Translator with Author (since 2023)

This program is exclusively dedicated to literati, writers and translators, with the aim to promote authors from the Black Sea Region by encouraging the translation of their work into the local languages. The program is supported by S. Fischer Stiftung, Germany. *Tandem* means a stable partnership of one author and her/his translator, who have applied jointly to elaborate the translation of a specific work. Within the well tried-and-trusted setting of the NEC, they will be able to concentrate fully on the text that shall be translated while they enjoy, like the other fellows, the comprehensive support of the Institute and share in the stimulating intellectual atmosphere of the NEC.

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

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

UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (2021-2023)

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

The research project is coordinated by **Camelia Crăciun**, NEC Alumna and Associate Professor in Jewish Studies, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest. 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 Long-Term Fellow **Constantin Ardeleanu**, formerly Professor at the “Lower Danube” University of Galați and currently 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)

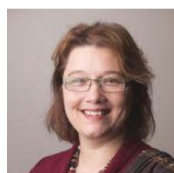
UEFISCDI Postdoctoral Research (2023-2025)

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.

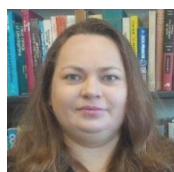
2022 – 2023 Fellows



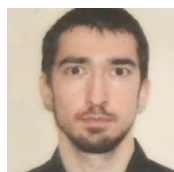
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(Ireland)



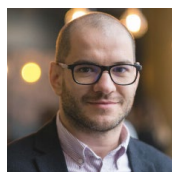
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Alexandru
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(Romania)



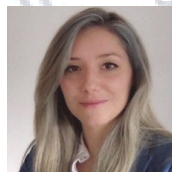
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(Russia)



Alexandru
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(Romania)



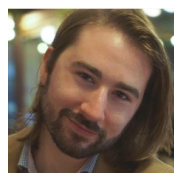
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Beatrice Andreea
SCUTARU
(Romania)



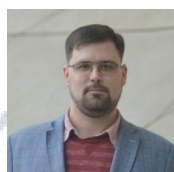
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(USA)



Artem
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Iurii
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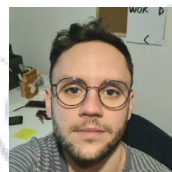
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(Ukraine)



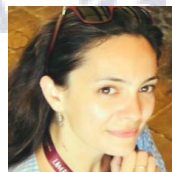
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Diana GEORGESCU
(Romania/USA)



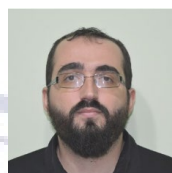
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MINEA
(Romania)



Alexandra TEODOR
(Romania)



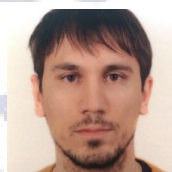
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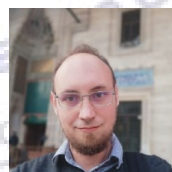
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Cosmin KOSZOR-
CODREA
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Volodymyr
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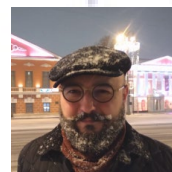
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(Poland)



Mohamed
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(France)



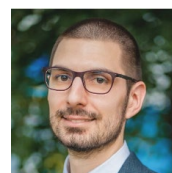
Andra
JUGĂNARU
(Romania)



Dragoș-Gheorghe
NĂSTĂSOIU
(Romania)



Aliaksandra
VALODZINA
(Belarus)



David
DIACONU
(Romania)



Dumitru
LISNIC
(Moldova/Romania)



Adrian
SCHIFFBECK
(Romania)



BESLAMA BLADI: MAGHREB, DIASPORA AND LITERATURE

Mohamed BAYA
(France)

NEC International Fellow
October 2022 - July 2023

Independent Scholar

Presentation on March 1, 2023

The 20th century has witnessed an unprecedented migration of North African populations to Europe in the aftermath of their national independences, and it is now almost axiomatic to state that the early twenty-first century is an age of migration. The cultural production of the Francophone Maghrebi diaspora has received significant attention, and recent publications show a growing interest in the cultural production of the Maghrebi diaspora in Belgium, the Netherlands, Israel, Spain and Italy. The literature of the Maghrebi diaspora in English, however, has received only limited consideration. Some scholars of Maghrebi literature have argued that the early diasporic production in French consists in mere sociological testimonials (Durmélet 1995). Similarly, scholarship on the Italian “letteratura della migrazione” has noted that the texts produced by the first-generation Maghrebi writers in Italy belong to the autobiographical genre, and share a focus on the everyday life’s vicissitudes of Algerian, Moroccan or Tunisian migrants spread all over the Italian peninsula (Gnisci 2003). To date, however, none of these works have thoroughly examined the relationship between the generic classification of the early literary production of the Maghrebi in French and Italian and the recent literary creation in English.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE IN CONTEMPORARY POLITIES: SOME LESSONS FROM CLASSICAL ATHENS

Alexandru VOLACU
(Romania)

NEC-AMEROPA Fellow
October 2022 - July 2023

Associate Professor, University of Bucharest

Presentation on March 8, 2023



Photo: Pericles' Funeral Oration, painted by Philipp Foltz (1852)
(commons.wikimedia.org)

The phenomenon of democratic backsliding has become globally widespread in the past decade. The aim of this project is to pursue a novel line of inquiry in the literature on democratic resilience, by conducting a normative analysis focused on the deconcentration of political power at the institutional and individual levels. While mainly positioned within the field of political theory, the project will have an interdisciplinary character, drawing on both historical insights and political science.





MUSIC, MAGIC, AND MIGRATION: GYÖRGY LIGETI'S "SÍPPAL, DOBBAL" AS SONIC HEALING

Joe CADAGIN
(USA)

DigiHum Fellow
October 2022 – July 2023

Independent Scholar

Presentation on March 15, 2023

In his final vocal work, *Síppal, dobbal, nádihegedűvel* (2000), composer György Ligeti invents a nostalgic fantasy of childhood that interacts with his Hungarian ethnic identity and his status as an exile. Scored for mezzo-soprano and percussion, this song cycle sets poetry by Ligeti's friend and compatriot, Sándor Weöres, whose nonsense verses are a staple of Hungarian children's literature. The title, however, is lifted from a traditional nursery rhyme in which a child heals a stork "with pipes, drums, and reed fiddles"—an allusion to the magical noisemakers employed in ancient Magyar shamanism. Drawing on manuscript sources, I argue that *Síppal, dobbal* enacts an analogous process of emotional healing for an aging Holocaust survivor working through the

trauma of
his past.

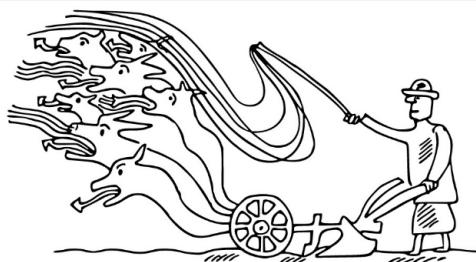


Photo: © Illustration by Don Aldridge in Sándor Weöres, "If All the World Were a Blackbird", trans. Alexander Fenton (Aberdeen: Aberdeen University Press, 1985)

LONG LIVE THE FOREST! INSTITUTIONS AND FOREST EXPLOITATION IN THE CASE OF THE ROMANIAN COMMUNAL VILLAGES

David DIACONU

(Romania)

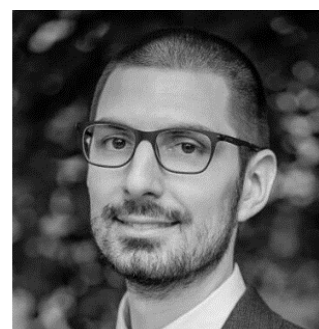
Ştefan Odobleja Fellow

October 2022 – July 2023

Lecturer, National University of Political Studies and
Public Administration

Presentation on March 22, 2023

The present research project is based on *new-institutional analysis*. As defined by Douglass North (1990), "institutions are the rules of the game in a society, or more formally, are the humanly devised constraints that shape human interaction. In consequence, they structure incentives in human exchange, whether political, social or economic" (North 1990, p.3). More specifically, I will follow the approach developed by Elinor Ostrom – of institutions as „sets of working rules" (Ostrom 1990, p.51) – in pursuing an in-depth analysis of the overexploitation of forests managed by the communal villages. The process of forest overexploitation or, more generally, of the commons was broadly discussed in the economics literature in response to Hardin's *tragedy of the commons* (1968). The Ostromian IAD added a new perspective to the study of collective action dilemmas. One of the major insights of the Ostromian framework is that context matters (Aligică & Sabetti 2014, p.253). Assuming that context matters, the institutional analysis of the Romanian Communal villages does not represent another Ostromian case study, but different institutional arrangements that may be observed through Ostromian theoretical lenses.





**PERFORMING GENDER IN A ‘CONTACT ZONE’:
TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL ROLES OF
ORTHODOX NOBLE WOMEN IN LATE-
MEDIEVAL TRANSYLVANIA
(14TH-16TH CENTURIES)**

Dragoș Gheorghe NĂSTĂSOIU
(Romania)

Ștefan Odobleja Fellow
October 2022 – July 2023

Independent Scholar

Presentation on March 29, 2023

This project assesses the changes in the performance of female gender roles by Orthodox noblewomen in late-medieval Transylvania, a contact zone where different confessions and ethnicities mutually influenced each other. By conceptualizing the experience of living under “foreign” rule, it assumes that the religious and ethnical “Othering” could become a catalyst of social change, determine the emergence of new social identities, and have an emancipating impact on gender performance.



Photo: Votive composition showing Katarina Crepović and Mara Ovičarović holding the model of the church, fresco, 1562-72, St. Nicholas Church in Bârsău (Hung. Berekszó), Hunyad County (Photo © Dragoș Gb. Năstăsioiu)

**THE (IM)POSSIBLE ALLIANCE: ROMANIA AS
INITIATOR AND BENEFICIARY OF THE
HUMANITARIAN AID (1970-1989)**

Luciana JINGA
(Romania)

Leader of the research project *RoHumAid*
June 2022 – May 2024

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

Presentation on April 5, 2023

RoHumAid (a project financed by UEFISCDI, Young Research Teams, TE-PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2021-0778) 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. It 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.





A NETWORK ANALYSIS OF JEROME'S LETTER COLLECTION – PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Andra JUGĂNARU

(Romania)

Ștefan Odobleja Fellow

October 2022 – July 2023

*Ancient Greek Instructor, Dan Slușanschi School for
Classical and Oriental Languages, Luciana Blaga
University, Sibiu*

Presentation on April 26, 2023

The aim of the proposed research is to explore the epistolary corpus of Jerome of Stridon (ca. 347-420) using new research tools from the field of digital humanities. Jerome, later acknowledged as one of the pillars of the Latin Church due to his contributions to the translation and exegesis of the Bible, as well as to asceticism, was neither unchallenged, not unchallenging in his lifetime. Often accused for having a problematic personality, he wrote letters not only as a communication tool, but also in order to defend his scholarly and ascetic authority. Thus, he created, strengthened or broke connections, or he sought financial and ecclesiastical support for his literary and ascetic activities. On the one hand, he was fully supported by a group of rich pious ladies from Rome, whom he trained in asceticism and biblical exegesis. On the other hand, other ascetics and Church authorities contested and blamed him. Who were the actors involved in Jerome's social interactions? What role did they play in the construction of his reputation? How did Jerome use the connections created through letters in order to defend and promote himself? These are highly relevant questions, to which I aim to answer by analyzing Jerome's epistolary corpus with methods and tools belonging to network theory.

ROCKING UNDER THE HAMMER AND THE SICKLE: POPULAR MUSIC IN SOCIALIST ROMANIA BETWEEN IDEOLOGY AND ENTERTAINMENT (1948-1989)

Claudiu OANCEA

(Romania)

Leader of the research project *POPCOM*

April 2022 – April 2024

Independent Researcher

Presentation on May 3, 2023

POPCOM (a project financed by UEFISCDI, Postdoctoral Research PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2021-0244) 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).





NATURE AND THE STATE: THE RISE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RACE SCIENCE IN ROMANIA, 1870-1945

Cosmin KOSZOR-CODREA
(Romania)

Ștefan Odobleja Fellow
October 2022 – July 2023

Researcher, Oxford Brookes University, Centre for Medical Humanities, UK

Presentation on May 10, 2023

The main objective of this research is to explore the interrelationship between the history of science and environmental history, from the perspective of the key figures of Romanian naturalism and alpine associations between 1870 and 1940. It analyses the ways in which the scientific development of nature protection, contributed to the production of Romanian national identity and the maintenance of power relations through scientific institutions, eugenic and racial concepts. Studies dealing with Romanian environmental history legitimately focused mostly on part of the founders of Romanian ecology, nationalism and on deforestation (Dorondel and Mitroi, 2017; Mateescu, 2017; Vasile, 2018; Coțofană, 2021), leaving unexplored the contribution of the late nineteenth and twentieth-century naturalists and their discussions of the conservation of nature, national identity and race. Moreover, most historical studies of Eastern Europe often see the region as an outsider to the field of eugenics, racialization and whiteness, perpetuating in this way the endless debates around the idea of the national paradigm (Bucur, 2002; Turda, 2007; McMahon, 2016; Bjelić, 2021).

DNIPRO: AN ENTANGLED HISTORY OF A EUROPEAN CITY

Andrii PORTNOV
(Ukraine)
Invited Guest

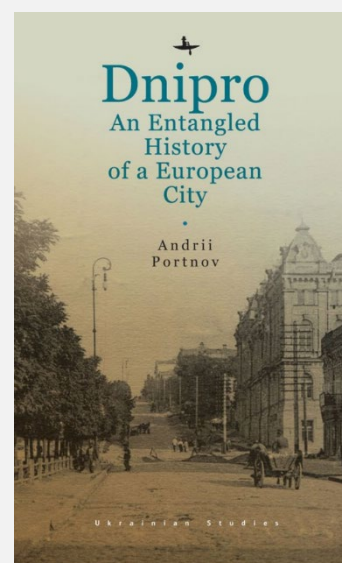
Professor of Entangled History of Ukraine at the European University Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder)

Presentation on May 17, 2023

This first English-language synthesis of the history of Dnipro (until 2016 Dnipropetrovsk, until 1926 Katerynoslav) locates the city in a broader regional, national, and transnational context and explores the interaction between global processes and everyday routines of urban life. The history of a place (throughout its history called 'new Athens', 'Ukrainian Manchester', 'the Brezhnev's capital' and 'the heart of Ukraine') is seen through the prism of key threads in the modern history of Europe: the imperial colonization and industrialization, the war and the revolution in the borderlands, the everyday life and mythology of a Soviet closed city, and the transformations of post-Soviet Ukraine. Designed as a critical entangled history of the multicultural space, the book looks for a new analytical language to overcome the traps of both national and imperial history-writing. (Source: academicstudiespress.com)

Andrii Portnov is Professor of Entangled History of Ukraine at the European University Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder). He graduated from Dnipro and Warsaw Universities, and defended his PhD dissertation in Lviv. He conducted research and lectured in Amsterdam, Basel, Berlin, Brussels, Cambridge, Geneva, Lyon, Paris, Potsdam, and Vienna. His publications are devoted to intellectual history, historiography, genocide, and memory studies in Poland, Russia, and Ukraine.

Winner of the 2022 *Ab Imperio* Award for the Best Study in New Imperial History and History of Diversity in Northern Eurasia





THE STRANGERS TO THE WORLD: ATTITUDES ON SOLITUDE AND COMPASSION IN BUDDHIST AND ORTHODOX MONASTERIES FROM JAPAN AND ROMANIA

Adrian SCHIFFBECK

(Romania)

Ştefan Odobleja Fellow

October 2022 – July 2023

Independent Scholar

Presentation on May 24, 2023

Solitude and compassion are central to both Christian and Buddhist monasticism. Starting from a lack of comparative approaches on the subject in the scientific literature, this qualitative research investigates the way monks in an Orthodox monastery from Romania, and those living in a monastery from Japan, live and understand solitude and compassion. Ethnography and semi-structured interviews will reveal the way generosity (as a result of compassion) may be achieved during isolation.



*Photo: Samye Ling Monastery and Tibetan Buddhist Centre,
Eskdalemuir, Scotland*

HERETICS MATTER: THE EXPLICIT AND HIDDEN PURPOSES OF THE 11TH AND 12TH-CENTURY CATHOLIC NARRATIVES

Aliaksandra VALODZINA

(Belarus)

Gerda Henkel Fellow

October 2022 – July 2023

Independent Scholar

Presentation on May 31, 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.

By the term "East" in this project, I will understand all the lands of Eastern Europe, the Balkans and the Middle East. In the 21st century Europe once again faced the issue of the "dividing line" between the West and the East, first and foremost in terms of migration. The migrants are coming both from neighboring countries and from farther away, they may differ quite obviously from the local population in skin color or eye shape, or may look similar to the "native" Europeans. Their faith may be more or less close to Christianity. This whole set of features and criteria is reflected through the mass consciousness and produces a large number of images of "a foreigner" with varying degrees of hostility or friendliness.





**YIDDISH CULTURE IN GREATER ROMANIA
(1918-1940): IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE
EMPIRES AND CHALLENGED BY THE NEW
NATIONAL STATE**

Camelia CRĂCIUN
(Romania)

Leader of the research project *YIDCULT*
January 2021 – December 2023

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

Presentation on June 7, 2023

This project is financed by UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2020-0317). It offers a new perspective on the (cultural) history of the Romanian Jewry and it brings a more complex and nuanced understanding of interwar cultural Romanian history. Yiddish cultural life needs to take its proper place within the history of Romanian Jewry, as well as within Romanian cultural life, in fostering scholarship focusing on cultural minorities and their interactions. The impact such an innovative perspective would generate consists in a better understanding of interwar Jewish as well as Romanian cultural life, since so far historians focused only on the contribution of Jewish intellectuals to the creation of Romanian society and culture on the one hand, and on the contribution of Romanian Jewry to the history of Jewish people on the other, while ignoring the population defined by Yiddish culture as well as the impact of Yiddish culture on the Romanian society. Broadly speaking, the current project would bring a significant reassessment of the recent scholarship concerning Romanian interwar cultural history, as well as the history of Romanian Jewry.

**DO FASCISTS DREAM OF ELECTRIC TRAINS?
A CRITICAL PERIODISATION OF
CONCEPTUALISING INFRASTRUCTURE,
CORRUPTION, AND ANTISEMITISM
IN ROMANIA**

Raul CĂRSTOCEA (Romania)

Postdoctoral Researcher, *CanCor* Project
June 2022 – December 2024

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

Presentation on June 14, 2023

This seminar is organized within the research project *Colonial Anxieties, Corruption Scandals and Xenophobia in Nineteenth-Century Infrastructure Development in Romania*, Exploratory Research (PN-III-P4-PCE-2021-0399), supported by UEFISCDI. It 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. 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, 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, 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.





DISABILITY IN ROMANIAN HISTORY: STRUCTURES, DISCOURSES, SILENCES

Maria BUCUR
(Romania/USA)
DigiHum Fellow
March – July 2023

Professor in Gender Studies, Indiana University,
Bloomington

Presentation on June 21, 2023

My project seeks to bring scholarly attention to the history of disabilities in Romania in the twentieth century. I will focus my research on three inter-related areas: 1. The science discourses about disability and policies they generated for persons with disabilities; 2. The ways in which persons with disabilities represented themselves in public interactions; and 3. Cultural representations of disability.

My research in the history of Romania goes back to 1992. For the past thirty years I have examined the history of biopolitical discourses and state policies in the interwar period; the memorialization of the losses experienced in the two world wars; the gender dimensions of citizenship since 1945; and, most recently, the development of the first comprehensive social welfare programs through the veterans' administration after 1918. The presence and significance of persons with disabilities in Romanian history did not become a point of interest for me until my latest book, when the category of "invalid" became central to my understanding of how discourses about heroism, citizenship rights, and medical science produced specific policies and expectations on the part of disabled veterans and their families.

THE RELEVANCE OF THE HUMANITIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Roundtable with fellows in the *Porticus*
research programs from
NEC Bucharest and CAS Sofia

June 28, 2023



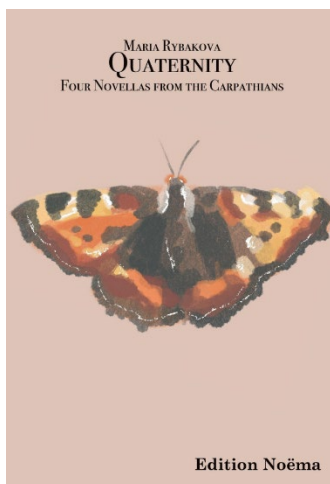


**TRANSLATING MARIA RYBAKOVA,
“QUATERNITY: FOUR NOVELLAS FROM THE
CARPATHIANS”/ “CETVEROVECINOST”/
“CUATERNITATE. PATRU NUVELE DIN
CARPAȚI” FROM ENGLISH/RUSSIAN INTO
ROMANIAN**

Maria RYBAKOVA, Writer (Russia / USA) and
Marina VRACIU, Translator (Romania)
Tandem Fellows
June – July 2023

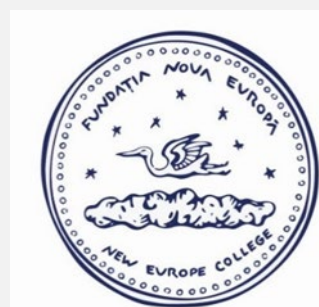
Presentation on July 5, 2023

A collection of four novellas published in September 2021. Four thematically linked novellas that focus on obsessive relationships, stolen identities, and illusions of grandeur in the post-1989 Carpathian-Balkan region: An American expat in Europe appropriates the identity of a Romanian orphan in her desperate search for love. A dictator’s daughter learns, while on a study trip to France, that her parents have been overthrown and are about to be executed. A minor character from a novel confronts her own insignificance. A wife announces to her husband of forty years that she’s just been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.



**Fellows in the 2022–2023
Academic Year: Citizenship**

Belarus	1
France	1
Ireland	1
Moldova / Romania	2
Poland	1
Romania	14
Romania / USA	2
Russia	1
Russia / USA	1
Ukraine	4
USA	1
Total:	29



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)

The YIDCULT team finalized the manuscript of the *first monograph dedicated to Yiddish culture in interwar Romania* to be published soon by an international academic publisher (consisting of the following chapters: Valentin Sandulescu's "The Jewish Community in Interwar Romania and Yiddish Culture: Context and Challenges"; Irina Matei's „Yiddish life in Greater Romania: the quest to identify the institutional framework”, Francisca Solomon's "The emergence and the evolution process of the Yiddish cultural field in interwar Romania. Political, cultural, literary and journalistic landmarks” and Camelia Craciun's "Yiddish Theatre in Interwar Romania: Establishing a National Institution”). The team of researchers also drafted the book proposal accompanying the manuscript and already received positive reviews. The monograph is in an advanced stage, hopefully a publication contract will be found soon.

The second goal of the project was to publish a *special section in an international journal* specialized in the area of our expertise and dedicated to Yiddish culture in interwar Romania, focusing on case studies encountered by the team members during their research. Thus, the YIDCULT team finalized the section consisting of individual articles which are currently under evaluation (namely Valentin Sandulescu's „Yiddish Culture as Threat: A Look at a Less Explored Dimension of Antisemitism in Interwar Romania”; Irina Matei's „The Paradoxes of Yiddish Education in Interwar Romania”; Francisca Solomon's „Yiddish – ,a distorted German’? Some aspects of the disputes between Hebraists and Yiddishists reflected in the *Ostjüdische Zeitung* periodical” and Camelia Craciun's „The Vilna Troupe in Interwar Romania: A True Love Story”). The initial reactions were very positive, especially since this initiative is the first focusing on Romanian Yiddish culture in interwar Romania.

The last publication included in the YIDCULT project is a *volume of edited documents* related to Yiddish culture in interwar Romania to accompany the above mentioned monograph as a research tool. So far, the team managed select, transcribe, edit and translate (from Yiddish and German) the main items to be published. During the following months, research team will continue editing, indexing and writing the explanatory notes necessary to contextualize the texts. The volume is under preparation to be published by one of the Romanian top academic publishers during the next months.



Lupta (29 martie 1923)

During these months, the project members participated in several international academic events, mainly *conferences*, aiming to disseminate the collective work as follows:

1) Camelia Craciun presented a lecture on *Yiddish theatre in Interwar Romania: the process of redefining modern Jewish identity* within the *20th Century Jewish Exile Remembered* conference (online) organized on March 13, 2023 by Transylvania University of Braşov;

2) Camelia Crăciun gave an individual lecture *Stars are no longer wandering. Yiddish theatre in interwar Romania* at the invitation of the Romanian Cultural Institute in Lisbon on May 29, 2023, on the occasion of the National Day of Yiddish Theatre and Language in Romania, moderated by Prof. Jorge Palinhos (University of Lisbon) and funded externally (by the Romanian Cultural Institute in Bucharest).

3) On June 7, 2023, the YIDCULT team presented for the New Europe College academic community the project progress through a series of four individual lectures, namely Valentin Sandulescu's *Yiddish Language and Culture in Context: a Look at the Jewish Community in Interwar Romania*; Irina Matei's *Yiddish: National Language vs. "Jargon" in the Political Projects of the Jews in Greater Romania*; Francisca Solomon's *Jiddische Literatur- und Kulturzentren im Rumänien der Zwischenkriegszeit. Eine homogene oder heterogene Landschaft?* (Yiddish literary and cultural centers in interwar Romania. A homogeneous or heterogeneous landscape?) and Camelia Craciun's *Establishing a Jewish National Theatre in interwar Romania: between Theory and Practice*, receiving a very useful feedback from our audience which helped us shape further our articles and book chapters in preparation (<https://nec.ro/events/yiddish-culture/>).

4) Camelia Craciun participated in the Twelfth EAJIS Annual Congress „Branching Out. Diversity of Jewish Studies” of the **European Association for Jewish Studies** (16-20 July 2023) in Frankfurt, Germany, with the individual lecture *Di Vilna Trupe in Romania: Revolutionizing the Jewish Cultural Life*.

Aside from the regular *administrative* activities necessary for the continuity of the project (monthly progress reports, electronic correspondence with publishers and colleagues regarding the publications of the project and participations in disseminating events, preparing the proposals of the books and the necessary translations, team meetings and coordination), this past period represented the start of the preparations concerning the YIDCULT conference to take place at NEC on November 13-14, 2023. Namely, this meant identifying the most representative specialists, able to offer us feedback and integrate our work within their own expertise and research interest, addressing them invitations to participate and starting the logistics related to this.

Team members – Project Leader:

Camelia CRĂCIUN, PhD, Associate Professor in Jewish Studies,
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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, Iaşi
Valentin SÂNDULESCU, 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)

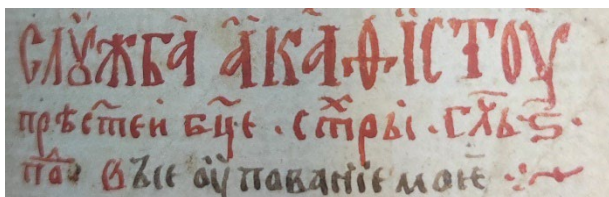
The project focuses on one of the most influential liturgical pieces dedicated to Virgin Mary, the *Akathistos Hymn*, a text which was composed in the fifth century and was included in the liturgy of the Orthodox Church not before the ninth century. Its 24 stanzas represent the source of the iconographic 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-George Hâncu, Daniar Mutalâp), historians (Lidia Cotovanu; Ovidiu-Victor Olar, affiliated researcher) and art historians (Oana Iacubovschi). They endeavor to edit the oldest Romanian versions of the Akathistos Hymn and to describe the literary, theological and artistic context in which they emerged.

In this period, the researchers involved in the project discovered new manuscripts of the Akathistos Hymn. Daniar Mutalâp identified a yet unknown Romanian manuscript in the Museum of Oltenia (Rom MS I 529, Craiova). The manuscript was copied by Teofil, a monk from Neamț Monastery, the end of the 17th century. It resembles the oldest Romanian manuscripts of the Marian poem (MSS Rom 540 and 170, Romanian Academy Library, Bucharest): they all preserve Slavic fragments and multiple translations; all of them contain the *Psalter*, followed by the *Odes*, the *Akathistos Hymn* and the *Paraklesis to Theotokos*.

Mihail-George Hâncu, a specialist in Slavonic philology, published the first results of his research on the bilingual Slavo-Romanian *Akathistos Hymn* preserved in MS 1348 (Romanian Academy Library, Bucharest).

The members of the project continued their research into the relation between the inscriptions on fresco related to the Akathistos cycle and manuscript texts. Mihail-George Hâncu and Oana Iacubovschi particularly focused on a *prosomion* present in a Slavonic manuscript of the Akathistos Hymn (MS 495, Romanian Academy Library, Bucharest) and an inscription on the frescos of Cozia Monastery (images 1,2).



Oana Iacubovschi conducted research on the transmission of Marian iconography on priestly garments throughout the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and she focused on two liturgical stoles featuring the Akathistos Hymn to the Virgin, which she associated with embroidery

workshops based in Constantinople. The first *epitachelion* she examined is preserved at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore and belonged to Metrophanes of Thebes, who served as metropolitan of Cyzicus during the second part of the seventeenth century. To date, no research has been conducted on the Akathistos stole preserved in Baltimore. The embroidery was publicly displayed on a single occasion,

specifically during the 1947 *Early Christian and Byzantine* exhibition held at the Baltimore Museum of Art. During a study trip to Istanbul in May 2023, she was able to examine and photograph a second *epitrachelion* embroidered with scenes from the Akathistos Hymn that is housed in the collection of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (image 3). The dedicatory inscription on the embroidery was lost, presumably removed during a restoration that took place in the nineteenth century. This may be inferred from a later dedicatory inscription on the reversed side of the stole, which records the name of patriarch Joachim III of Constantinople (1878–1884; 1901–1912). However, the *epitrachelion* kept in the patriarchal *skeuophylakion* can be dated to the first half of the seventeenth century by comparison to a similar one preserved in the collection of the Great Lavra. The embroidered stole presently located on Mount Athos was manufactured in the same workshop, using the same drawing pattern, and belonged to the metropolitan Anthim of Adrianoupolis. This association implicitly indicates that the stole can be dated back to the first half of the seventeenth century.

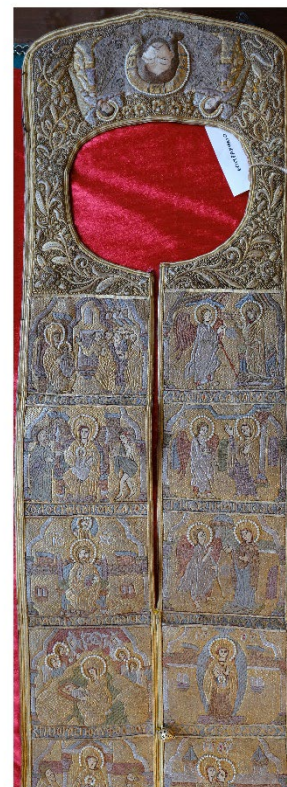


Image 1: prosomion, inscription, Cozia Monastery (copy-right Oana Iacubovschi)

Image 2: prosomion, MS SI 495, Romanian Academy Library, Bucharest

Image 3: liturgical stole, Ecumenical Patriarchate (copy-right Oana Iacubovschi)

Team members

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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 March until July 2023, I undertook archival research in several archives in Bucharest, as well as in the cities of Oradea and Timișoara. In Bucharest, I continued my research in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, covering the late socialist period, namely from the late 1960s until the 1980s. While, at first glance, one would be hard pressed to find a connection between the topic of pop music during socialism and the foreign policy of the Romanian socialist state, sustained archival research has shown that pop music could play a very important role in the foreign policy of communist Romania, regardless of its relations with other socialist states from Eastern Europe, or with Western capitalist states. Especially noteworthy are the cultural treaties of collaboration between Romania and other states from the so-called Global South, which constitute the subject of numerous files in the Archive of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The historical details contained therein are indicative of how socialist Romania sought to present itself on the global arena, in particular in its relations with other developing countries, and how it constructed its official cultural image while also incorporating elements of popular music genres.

One should mention that, to date, the history of popular music transfers regarding socialist Romania has only followed the influences permeating across the Iron Curtain, on the traditional East-West divide. We can explain this to a certain degree, when we consider that music genres, such as rock or jazz, originated in the capitalist West and developed in the East bearing this stigma of Western pop music genres, representative of the decadence and turmoil that accompanied the image of capitalist regimes in the eyes of state socialist propaganda.

Notwithstanding this very important aspect, the routes from the capitalist West to the socialist East were often more complex and intertwined than meets the eye, and they included countries from the Global South. As socialist Romania developed political, economic, and cultural relations with a myriad of countries from Africa and the Middle East, this allowed the latter to become a filter through which Western popular music, otherwise unavailable, would make its way to Romanian audiences. This happened either directly in Romania,



The Band Basorelief at the Club A Festival, 1981
(Claudiu Oancea Collection)

through foreign students, or in certain foreign countries, where Romanian citizens were sent, on state-approved work contracts. This allowed them to have a first direct contact with rock or jazz concerts, or to access music tapes and discs, which they, later on, brought home to Romania.

During this period, I have continued my extensive research in several libraries in Bucharest (The University Central Library, The Metropolitan Library, The Library of the Academy, The National Library). I was primarily interested in the collections of several cultural magazines from the socialist era, such as “Săptămâna”, “Cronica”, or “Tribuna”. I should mention that 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 scarce, these magazines put forth 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.

These are just a few of the preliminary findings I have construed based upon archival research in Bucharest. I have also undertaken research trips to Oradea and Timișoara. While Timișoara had already been on the research trip list in 2022, Oradea has proven to be especially rewarding in terms of research results. The Bihor county archives provided numerous insights into the mechanisms of cultural and political interactions at a local level. I have also collected a series of oral history interviews with members of the local pop music scene, both musicians and fans.

In July 2023, a first book chapter was published with Bloomsbury Academic, as part of the collective volume “The Life, Death, and Afterlife of the Record Store”. Entitled “Music on the Turntables When the Tables are Turning: A History of Record Stores in Romania from Late Socialism to the Present”, the chapter focused on how popular music has been marketed through formal and informal record stores in Romania, during socialism and beyond. The book chapter aimed to analyze how record stores in an East European country like Romania have a story (and history) of their own. A story that differs from that of Western record stores, but also from that of music stores from other East European countries. This is a story of official stores, of black markets, of informal connections and networks. A history of ruptures and of continuity, which mirrors the tumultuous history of Romania over the 20th century. From interwar capitalism, to postwar Stalinism, from 1960s and 1970s detente to 1980s consumer restrictions, from 1990s transition to European Union membership, Romania has experienced the ups and downs of a fluctuating historical trajectory, which is part of my own past, in terms of musical consumption and not only.

Based on the recollections that I have gathered for the chapter and on the sources that I found on the history of record stores in Romania, I consider that, regardless of social background, historical context (socialist, post-socialist), or musical genre, this view of the “record store” as a marker of cultural identity has known similar construction patterns, that cross iron borders and years of rupture and continuation.



The Band Quadrant in Concert (Lucian George Păiș Collection)

As I have mentioned in my previous reports, I should stress once more that my work for the project during this time, whether in terms of research or writing, has been facilitated significantly by the promptness and efficiency of the New Europe College academic and administrative staff, without whom many of my academic endeavors would have been considerably less methodical.

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.



Photo source: The National Library of Romania

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”.

We expect the project to advance scientific knowledge beyond the state of the art and have a significant impact on the reflexive historicization of the vocabulary of “colonialism” and “corruption”, both in Romanian historiography and more generally. Aside from its novelty in a national context, the project also allows for comparing regional and European nationbuilding and contributes to global/colonial history by analysing their different semantic meanings in the European semi-periphery. It will also lay the groundwork for a transnational (East) European 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.

Publications:

Constantin Ardeleanu, “ ‘Commercial and political needs demand the establishment of a Black Sea port’: Infrastructure development, opportunities and anxieties in an Eastern European periphery (1860s–1870s),” *The Journal of Transport History*, 0(0), 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00225266231180284>

Raul Cârstocea, “The Unbearable Virtues of Backwardness: Mircea Eliade’s Conceptualisation of Colonialism and His Attraction to Romania’s Interwar Fascist Movement”, in Siegfried Huigen, Dorota Kołodziejczyk, *East Central Europe Between the Colonial and the Postcolonial in the Twentieth Century*, Palgrave Macmillan Cham, (April) 2023, p. 113-140.



Locomotive built by Malaxa

Team members

Project Leader:

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Andrei-Dan SORESCU, PhD, Researcher

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

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

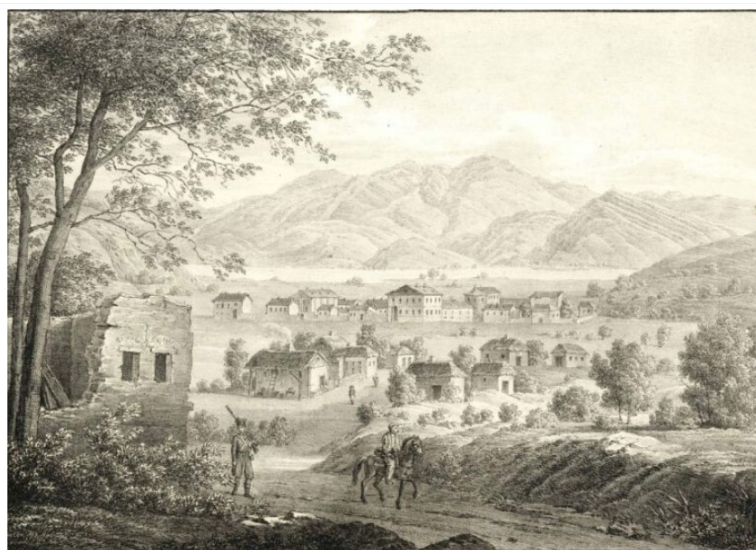
Report on activities by **Constantin Ardeleanu**, Project Leader
UEFISCDI Exploratory Research (2022-2024)

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.



Lazaretto of Orșova, 1820s

The project is structured into three main components, touching on different historical scales. These components are: 1) *Setting up an anti-epidemiological barrier along the Lower Danube. From imperial to national projects*; 2) *Knowledge and technology transfers in a peripheral quarantine system*; 3) *Life and death in the lazarettos on the Danube*.

The project started in June 2022 and has progressed according to schedule. Team-members have studied Romanian and foreign archives and libraries, and several papers have been already published. One of them is authored by

Constantin Ardeleanu and is titled “Between Cholera and Ottoman Abuses: The European Commission of the Danube and the Quarantine Regime of the Maritime Danube (1856–1878)” (Historical Yearbook, no. 19/2022). The paper analyses the public health policies adopted by the European Commission of the Danube (ECD), an international organisation tasked to improve navigation along the Maritime Danube. The ECD, a techno-political institution whose attributions were continuously extended after its foundation in 1856, came to be deeply involved in proposing quarantine regulations meant to balance free navigation and sanitary precautions. However, to prevent turning quarantine restrictions into a burden for Danube navigation, the ECD adopted a proactive attitude and tried to simplify quarantine restrictions in cooperation with riparian state authorities. It also cooperated with other transnational institutions, such as Superior Board of Health that worked in the Ottoman capital to prevent the spread of epidemics.

On 4–5 May 2023, NEC hosted the first workshop of the project, which gathered almost two dozen researchers from Romania and who presented case-studies related to quarantines, epidemics, physicians and public health in the Danubian principalities/Romania. A collection of these papers is prepared for publication.

Team members

Project Leader:

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Experienced Researcher:

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Postdoctoral Researchers:

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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)

The *Rule of Law at the European Periphery: (Dis)incentive Structures and Conceptual Shifts* project, 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, post-communist, 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. Current general-applicability soft-law and hard-law instruments 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”).

Several scientific events will be organized within this project. A workshop in Bucharest and an international conference are planned for the beginning of the next academic year. The workshop will take place in September at New Europe College. Prof. Peter L Lindseth from U Conn School of Law, will give a lecture on Transatlantic Functionalism that will be followed by a roundtable discussion. The annual international conference will also take place in September, in Timișoara, and will be hosted by the West University of Timișoara and co-organised by UVT and NEC.

Team members – Project Leader:

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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.

During the timeframe March – July 2023, 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, UNHCR, 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, 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 the knowledge transfer. Romania offered scholarships and trained high school, undergraduate and doctoral students. In the same, Romanian experts had been sent in the beneficiary countries. Communist Romania also offered helps in several refugee crisis (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 the 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 American 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.

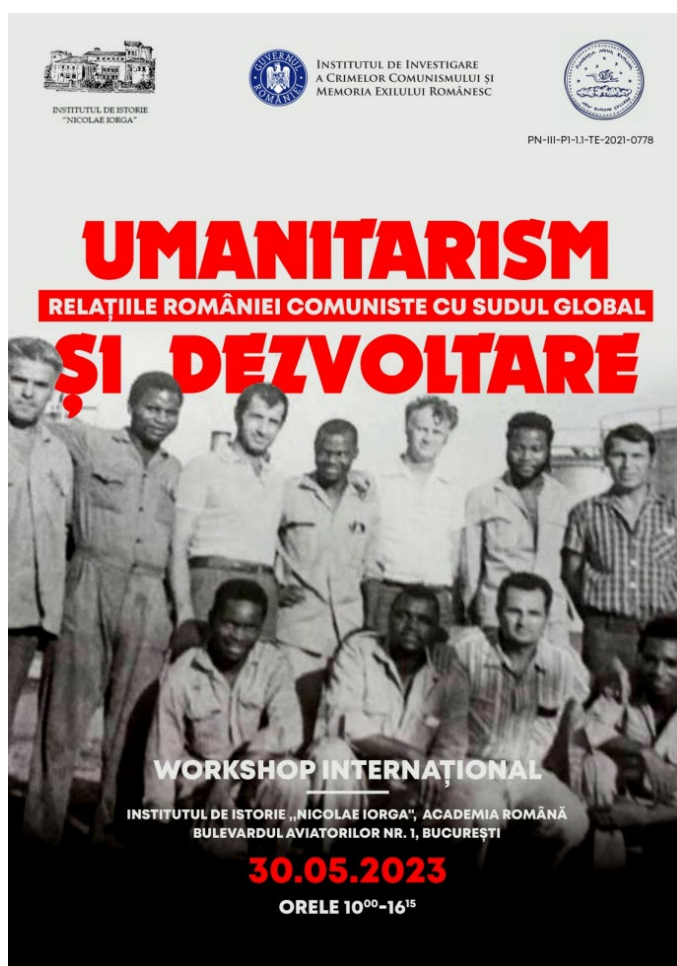
All the team members focused on the dissemination of the preliminary research results and took part in international conferences.

In March 2023, Luciana Jinga presented the paper “Moving from Global North to Global South. Romania as Initiator and Beneficiary of Humanitarian Aid (1970-2007)” in the panel: *From communism to post-communism: Romanian paradoxes*, during the 2023 British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) annual conference held from the 31st of March to the 2nd of April and hosted at the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom. During the same scientific event, Stefan Bosomitu, Dalia

Bathory and Daniel Filip organized the panel *Juggling with the Transnational: Romanian Humanitarian Networks after Ceausescu's Nationalist Turn*. Stefan Bosomitu presented the paper “Romania and the Scholarships Programs for African Students during the 1980s”, Dalia Bathory presented the paper “Solving the National-Transnational Paradox in Ceausescu’s Romania: Humanitarian Networks and East-West Relations after 1971” and Daniel Filip focused on “Romanian Policy in the United Nations towards the Humanitarian Aid in the 80s”.

Daniel Filip participated at the ASN 28th Annual World Convention, May 18-20, 2023, with a presentation on *Romanian Foreign Policy in the United Nations Towards the Humanitarian Aid in the 1980s: A Counterhegemonic Strategy?*

On the 30th of May 2023, the RoHumAid project, in partnership with the Institute of History “Nicolae Iorga” of the Romanian Academy and the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile organized the International Workshop *Humanitarianism and Development. The Relations between Communist Romania and the Global South*. Luciana Jinga presented the paper *Romania and the Humanitarian aid towards the Global South (1970-1989)*, Dalia Bathory presented the paper *Exporting a developmental model. The Romanian contribution towards the Global South*, Ștefan Bosomitu presented the paper *Humanitarianism and developmental aid provided by Communist Romania to third world*; Daniel Filip presented the paper, „Against the Wind”: *Romania and the its contribution for the humanitarian aid inside UN during the 1980s*.



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:

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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

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

Report on activities by **Cătălin Țăranu**, Project Leader
UEFISCDI Postdoctoral Research (2023-2025)

The project explores the emotional life of medieval English elites as reflected in the texts they enjoyed and produced (from heroic verse and chivalric romance to sermons and letters). My approach combines sociological and cognitive methodologies with reader-response theory and digital humanities to provide a fresh perspective on emotions as structured social action whose rhythms can be extracted from these texts in a way that allows tracing patterns of change over time and in adaptation to various socio-political contexts. The first semester was dedicated to the first article in this project, which focuses on what I identify as one of the main problems in the history of emotions – its assumption about the sense of self and how it relates to emotion. My article argues against the prevailing tendency when studying emotions of people in the past to ascribe them to a sense of selfhood, inwardness, and individualism assumed to be one of the universal features of what it means to be human. Instead, drawing on recent work in cognitive science, psychology, and anthropology and analyzing a wide range of case studies (from Old English elegies and Scandinavian sagas to Japanese medieval novels), I propose an alternative view of emotion as emerging from interactions between people, or between people and other non-human actors (animals, artifacts, landscape etc.) rather than, as in post-Enlightenment Western cultures, an occurrence taking place within one's individual self. This is a necessary first step in the theoretical foundations of this project and will provide an alternative methodology to future researchers investigating emotions, whether literary scholars, historians or philosophers.

The first semester in my activity as a director of the project *Grammars of Emotion: Shame and the Social Economy of Honour in Medieval Heroic Literatures* was quite eventful. Besides working on the first article planned as one of project's outputs, I presented my research at three international conferences, and started running a monthly workshop series and a bi-monthly reading group.

The individual research work for this first output was enriched and informed by the scholarly dialogue I took part in at two types of venues where I tested my ideas and disseminated my findings. On the one hand, there were the three international conferences I took part in: 'Medieval Identities: (Re)Constructing the Self and the Other' at the University of Freiburg, Germany



Photo: "Apparition de Dieu", Apocalypse of Saint Sever (www.wikipedia.org)

(May 23), 'New Approaches to the Mind in the Early North' at the University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland (May 11-12), and 'International Medieval Congress' at the University of Leeds, UK (July 2-5). There, I discussed extensively with colleagues and received valuable feedback on my work, all of which contributed to my research and the process of writing the article.

On the other hand, I was able to further similar dialogue and extend it outside the boundaries of the field or even of academia by my organizing two series of events. The 'Emotions Through History' Working Group, held monthly and which enjoyed much success both in Romania and abroad (via online participation), brings together academics and graduate students interested in the history of emotions from a variety of fields (philosophy, the study of literature, sociology, anthropology). Each meeting is dedicated to a topic of interest to everyone (translating emotion, authenticity and convention, visual media and representing emotion etc.). The lively conversations that I lead start from a theoretical text all participants read beforehand, and are providing a friendly environment for open debate and mutual edification. The Medieval Literature Reading Group is a bi-monthly event aimed primarily at students and members of the general public where I guide the participants into reading a medieval text in the original language (so far Old English, and Old Norse and Middle English will be featured in the future), while also discussing aspects of medieval history, society, and culture. Based on my previous experience running such groups in the UK, they are an invaluable venue channeling the interests of enthusiastic non-academics to academic activities – and another opportunity to disseminate the results of my project while providing a public service not found elsewhere.

All in all, this has been a productive semester when my project took wing and has been able to contribute to the vibrant research environment at New Europe College – generously hosted by NEC, without whose staff none of this could have happened.

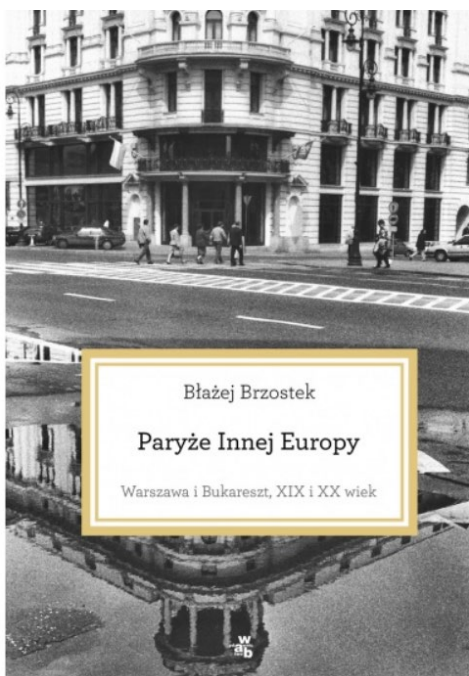
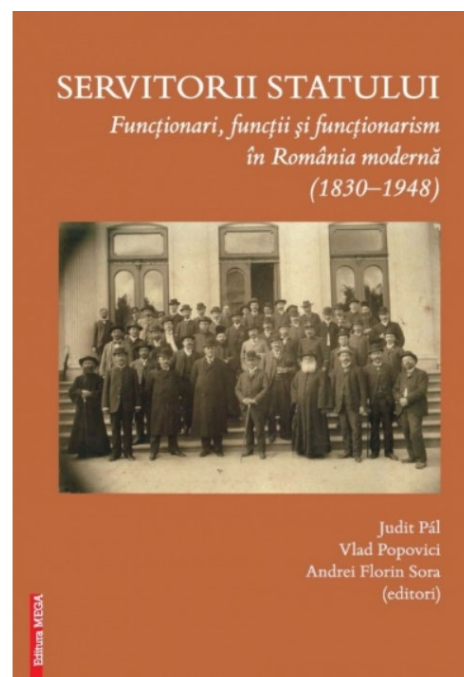


Reflections on the Political and Social History of the 18th and 19th Centuries (GRiPs)

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 March 23, 2023, **Constanța VINTILĂ** and **Silvia MARTON** invited to a debate on the book *Servitorii Statului: funcționari, funcții și funcționarism în România modernă (1830-1948)* [*State Servants: Officials, Functions and Civil Service in Modern Romania (1830-1948)*], published by the Mega Publishing House (2022) and edited by Judit Pál, Vlad Popovici and Andrei Florin Sora. The three editors were invited to participate in the debate. The history of administration and civil servants in 19th and 20th century Romania has been attracting increasing interest in recent years, not only from specialists in the field of law or from historians, but also from researchers in political science, sociology, anthropology and even the general public. Dealing with topics such as the history of the Romanian state, of the (local) administration, of the political and administrative elites, of various socio-professional groups, of the relationship between citizens and administration or between the



governed and the governors, etc. facilitates the understanding of the transformations (at macro and micro level) of the Romanian society and can provide explanations for current problems (such as corruption, politicization, incompetence, differences between the legal framework and realities). Moreover, the study of societal evolution cannot be carried out without pertinent and in-depth analyses of the ways, instruments, agents and brakes of our institutional development over the last two centuries.

A second event took place on April 27, 2023: *În căutarea „micului Paris”: București și Varșovia* [*In search of "Little Paris": Bucharest and Warsaw*]. **Błażej BRZOSTEK**, Professor at the Faculty of History of the University of Warsaw, talked about his research on the identity of two capitals, Bucharest and Warsaw, based on his book *The Paris of Another Europe*, published in 2015. What did the name "Little Paris" mean, what internal issues and aspirations did it reflect in the 19th and 20th centuries? What

did this identity say about the relations between elites and masses, between center and periphery, between the two cities and Paris? Returning to historical research he undertook in the past, Błażej Brzostek places it in the current context of his research activities that look at time and the measure of time in Eastern Europe.

A third lecture was given by **Eugen ISTODOR**, Lecturer at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Bucharest, on May 18, 2023: *Cilibi Moise. Omul nu poate fi ceva decât atunci când se va simți că nu este nimic. Un umorist marginal, dar bine-dispus în iarmaroc* [*Cilibi Moise. Man Can Only Be Something When He Feels that He Is Nothing. A Marginal yet Cheerful Humorist in the Funfair*]. Eugen Istodor portrayed Cilibi Moise, a tradesman from the 19th century, who looked at his life experiences and discovered what “good” he could sell at fairs: humour. Perhaps because he firmly believed that “everyone is mortal except writers”.

Finally, a fourth event was held within the GRiPs research group, on June 26, 2023 by Felicită TRAMONTANA: *The Custody of the Holy Land and the “Globalization of Catholicism” (17th-18th centuries)*. Felicită Tramontana is Associate Professor of Early Modern History at the University Roma Tre; Honorary fellow at the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance (University of Warwick), and Principal Investigator of the research project HOLYLAB, funded by the European Research Council. The seminar explored how the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land (est. 1342) took part in and was affected by the so-called “Globalization of Catholicism” in the 17th and the 18th centuries. It addressed the issue from two complementary perspectives: first it explored how during the early globalization the Custody’s network expanded, similarly to missionary ones, and contributed to the global circulation of friars, devotional objects and practices. Furthermore, the paper also investigated how the functioning and tasks of Custody were influenced by the expanding authority of De Propaganda Fide (est. 1622) – the Roman congregation in charge of the global expansion of catholic tradition – over it. More specifically, through the analysis of correspondence, reports and account documents, the paper reconstructs how the Custody – initially established for the maintenance of the Holy Shrines – started to be increasingly framed as one of the overseas missions overseen by Propaganda and in charge of the global diffusion of Catholicism. In a broader perspective the paper contributed to our understanding of the relationship between religious orders and the global ambitions of the early modern Church.

Emotions Through History

Research Group, since 2023

The *Emotions Through History* research group is the product of the collective interests and expertise of its conveners and participants, open to suggestions, ideas and questions. It was created by **Cătălin ȚĂRANU**, NEC Alumnus and scientific researcher, leader of the research project *Grammars of Emotion: Shame and the Social Economy of Honour in Medieval Heroic Literatures*, UEFISCDI Postdoctoral Research. His main interest is, obviously, the research emotions – especially the social function of emotions (in particular shame) in a range of Old and Middle English genres, from heroic verse and chivalric romance to homiletic prose. In the cultural production of past societies, we encounter emotional landscapes that appear alien to our sensibilities. Inspired by the recent growth of research dedicated to exploring the inner worlds of people in the past, *Emotions Through History* is a cross-disciplinary working group dedicated to discussing the recent developments on this topic. Scholars and students interested in the theoretical issues arising from the understanding of past affects, passions, sentiments – from antiquity to the modern era, in history, literature, philosophy, and beyond – are warmly welcomed. In the timeframe March – July 2023 the research group met once a month. Below the topics and questions that were addressed in the monthly meetings.

Emotion as a Social Practice, March 27: A conversation revolving around newer theories of emotion bypassing this binary logic: emotion seen as a system of social practice, action, and gestures, as a performance determined by cultural scripts, as a phenomenon that emerges out of the interactions with other humans and objects. Emotion is often conceptualized in the terms of a post-Romantic and post-Freudian discrepancy between the private, ineffable feelings of one's inmost being and its outward expression fraught with the dangers of misunderstanding and repression by other people.

Subjectivity, Selfhood, and Emotion, April 24: The discovery of the individual self (pushed back by successive generations of scholars from the Renaissance to the High Middle Ages to Classical Antiquity and out of Western Europe to other cultures and societies) appears to be central to the narrative framing of emotions, and vice versa: emotions are central to the construction of selfhood. And yet, are there other ways of conceptualizing emotion which do not presuppose a subject/self at the center of the world?

The Seat of Emotions, May 15: A discussion about various theories of emotion, focusing particularly on the locus where affects arise: various regions of the body, the soul, the heart, the brain, touching upon Classical as well as vernacular/folk theories of emotion.

Visual Emotions, June 19: Hand gestures, blushing, blood rushing out of the hero's ears out of anger. Emotions are not just felt or practiced, but seen. There is a visual grammar of emotions peculiar to each society and cultural community that, for past eras, we glimpse in iconography whose relationship to lived reality is much debated. How are emotions codified visually and what is the connection between visual representations of emotion and social reality?

Emotions in Translation, July 17: Emotions and language. Does emotion reside anywhere else but language? From the (im)possibility of translating the verbal expression of emotion to power structures shaping emotions through discourse, we will discuss the role of language in shaping, expressing, concealing, and translating emotions.



Photo: Chute d'Adam et Eve – Adam et Eve chassés du Paradis (France, Paris, Bibliothèque Mazarine, Ms 38 f. 006v) | portail.bibliissima.fr

Aventurieri pe drumurile imperiilor și poveștile lor fabuloase, 1750-1830

[*Adventurers on the Roads of Empires and Their Fabulous Stories, 1750-1830*]

Constanța VINTILĂ

Senior Researcher, “N. Iorga” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy

March 2, 2023

Constanța Vintilă is a social historian who dedicates her research to the history of family, mobility, and material culture in pre-modern and modern South-eastern Europe. She started her career studying the history of family in the eighteenth-century Romanian society. Her scholarship has made important contributions to the history of the family in South-eastern Europe by exploring and analyzing a huge number of primary archives kept by the ecclesiastical and civil courts in Wallachia and Moldavia. Her international scientific visibility has increased after receiving an ERC Consolidator Grant. In the framework of the ERC project *Luxury, Fashion and Social Status in Early Modern South-Eastern Europe* (LuxFaSS), she focused on luxury and social status, and material culture across South-eastern Europe.

This lecture aims to officially close the LuxFaSS ERC project and presents stories of people who wandered the roads of empires in the early 19th century. Their stories are, in fact, themes of reflection for her current research, since – after thorough archival research – such spectacular characters with fabulous stories have emerged, contributing with/through their biographies to the construction of a modernity in South-Eastern Europe. Anne Clarambaux, Niccolo Ramelli, Elisabeth Arnault Belleville, Leopold Benedict or Fany



Leyvraz navigate between Brabant, Chișinău, Chernivtsi, Istanbul, Vienna, Iași or Bucharest, writing incessantly in Greek, French, German or Italian about their problems. Many of these foreigners live in the shadow of their protectors, Wallachian or Moldavian boyars, Phanariot princes, consuls of the great powers, Russian or Austrian generals, Ottoman beys or ayans. Through them we aim to analyze the relationship between mobility and knowledge, between change and the adventurous foreign travelers who participated in the social, political and cultural changes in south-eastern Europe.

România din afara granițelor

[Romania Beyond its Geographical Borders]

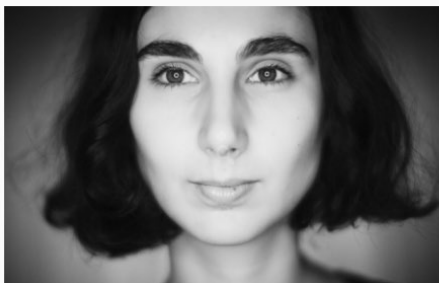
Elena STANCU and Cosmin BUMBUȚ (Teleleu)

March 6, 2023

Journalist Elena Stancu and photographer Cosmin Bumbuț gave up their rented studio in Bucharest, moved into a trailer and started traveling to see how Romanians live outside their country. They are documenting Romanian communities in Europe: Spain, Portugal, Germany, England, Italy, Holland, Denmark and Sweden. So far, they have published more than 80 stories about Romanians picking strawberries in Spain, caring for the elderly in Italy, singing on Europe's big stages, treating patients in hospitals in England, building ships in Denmark, working in tourism in Portugal or teaching at universities in the Netherlands. The stories of Romanians in the diaspora will be collected in a second book to be published by *Humanitas* publishing house at the end of their project. Until then, new stories, articles and photographs appear on the *Teleleu* webpage, www.teleleu.eu (the Romanian word "teleleu" meaning walking around without a precise goal). However, they do have a precise goal: to raise awareness of and to better understand the complexity of migration.

The event was organized within the *Spiru Haret* Fellowship Program, a program financed by UEFISCDI and targeting young Romanian researchers/academics in the humanities and social sciences whose projects address questions relating to migration, displacement and diaspora. Cases are seen in a larger historical, geographical and political context, in thus broadening our understanding of such contemporary developments.

I imagined Europe as a giant slide show, printed with strawberry fields, apple orchards, butchers, doctors and engineers "that do not pamper themselves", "badante" with their worn hands, or Romanian children who have already made friends with new worlds, without longing or nostalgia, a slide show that Elena and Cosmin regularly collect and unfold from their caravan, as if they were going back on the track of Time. In the frail photographs, of farms, building sites, schools or homes, life flows unprocessed, and there is more relaxation, hope and meaning on their faces. They render the communities of Romanians in Italy, Spain, Germany, England, Denmark, etc. - a relative estimate shows that almost 5.7 million Romanians (MAE study, 2021) live in the diaspora - and those islands where identity has become a ball of emotions, questions and an open concept. "Before I started the Plecat [Departed] series, I documented several years of disadvantaged social groups: extreme poverty, domestic violence, life in prisons. In the Buziaș Educational Centre, for example, many of the young people we interviewed had parents who had gone abroad," says Cosmin. So, they realized that key people were missing from the stories of those they were photographing and decided to start documenting their work abroad. The first country they stopped the caravan in was Spain, where they stayed for eight months. Nearly 40,000 Romanians live in the



eastern Mediterranean province of Castellón, also known as 'Little Romania'. The provincial capital, Castellón de la Plana, with its magnificent Gothic cathedral in the center, along with the neighboring towns that make up the metropolitan area, received a huge wave of immigrants in the early 2000s. Spain was experiencing strong economic growth at the time. Jobs were easy to find in construction, agriculture, housekeeping and services, and Romanians "brought each other along," says Elena. In Spain, they noticed that Romanians in newly formed communities abroad very often came from specific geographical regions of the country, coming together as if through an invisible process of translation. In Castellón, for example, most came from the county of Dâmbovița, while in the Roquetas de Mar area most came from Bistrita. "They usually have a support network. They call their neighbors; their cousins and they all get together. It would be interesting to carry out studies to compare a map of Romanians in the diaspora on a map of Romania. But it would take a lot of resources," adds Elena. (...)

Ana-Maria SÎRGHI, *Market Watch*,
Nr. 253, April 2023

Ce face muzica clasică cu mintea noastră? Ipoteze și demonstrații

[What Does Classical Music do With Our Minds? Hypotheses and Demonstrations]

Dan DEDIU

NEC Alumnus, Composer, Professor, National University of Music, Bucharest, Romania

March 9, 2023

There are several possible answers to the above question and they are open to comments: 1. it virtually draws us a chart of time; 2. it gives us the main role in the film of inner listening; 3. it throws us into the arms of the future with a virtual baggage of existential reflexes. Thus, concentrated listening to classical music can also be understood as a subtle form of martial arts. Arguments and pianistic demonstrations will complete the ideas path of the discourse.

Foto: „Andanté de la Symphonie in La” de Eugène Louis Lami
(www.beethoven.de)



Dan Dediú graduated in composition at the Academy of Music in Bucharest in 1989, where he studied with Stefan Niculescu, Dan Constantinescu, Dan Buciú, and Octavian Nemescu. He later attended post-graduate courses with Francis Burt, Günter Kahowez and Wilhelm Zobl at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Vienna in 1990-91, as well as the annual Coursus de Composition et Informatique



Foto: www.festivalnec.ro

Musicale at IRCAM in 1994. He earned his PhD at the National University of Music in Bucharest in 1995. He composed more than 180 works covering almost all musical genres: 5 symphonies and 20 other pieces for orchestra, 11 concertos (saxophone, viola, violin, piano, cello, trombone, guitar, double concerto for violin, cello, triple concerto for flute, clarinet, cello, triple concerto for violin, cello, piano), 7 string quartets, chamber music in various ensembles, piano music, choirs, five operas (*Post-ficțiunea*, *Münchhausen*, *Eval*, *O scrisoare pierdută*, *D'ale Carnavalului*) and a concert opera (*Wagner Under*). He has won several national and international composition prizes and was artistic

director of the International Week of New Music Festival in Bucharest (in 1999, 2001, 2007, 2008, 2016-2023). Dan Dediú is Professor of Composition; Artistic Director of the *Profil* Ensemble and he was Rector of the National University of Music in Bucharest from 2008 to 2016. Several Universities awarded him the title of Doctor Honoris Causa – the George Enescu University of Arts in Iași, the University of Craiova and the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts in Chișinău. In June 2022 he was elected President of the Romanian Union of Composers and Musicologists. In 1997/98 he was fellow of the New Europe College and ever since he returns to the Institute to hold conferences and to give concerts.



A Whirlwind Tour of Deep Learning. Learning, Meta-learning and Interaction in the Context of Deep Learning

Florin GOGIANU

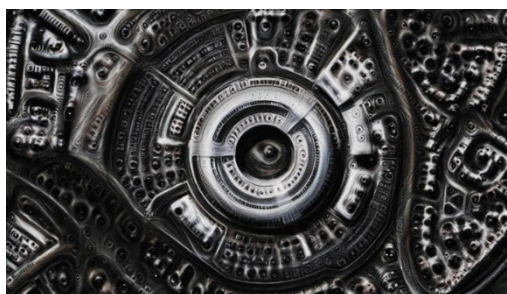
Researcher at Bitdefender; currently enrolled in a PhD in Deep Reinforcement Learning at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca

Q&A session moderated by **Andreea EȘANU**, NEC Alumna; Researcher, „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, Iași

March 30, 2023

Recent deep learning models are starting to demonstrate human-level abilities on an increasingly broader range of tasks spawning domains such as language understanding, reasoning, vision and decision making. The talk introduced the core technologies and technical trends driving these breakthroughs. It then turned to some of the more unexpected and interesting properties these models exhibit, along with their current shortcomings. Finally, it touched upon what future developments of deep learning models could look like. The aim of this lecture was to provide the background understanding necessary to assessing the societal and ethical implications of the large-scale deployment of artificial intelligence.

Florin Gogianu is a researcher at Bitdefender, with an initial background in philosophy, currently doing a PhD in deep reinforcement learning at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, under the supervision of prof. Lucian Bușoniu.



Ukraine Is Not What You Think It Is. Some Observations on (Mis-)Understanding Ukrainian History

Andrii PORTNOV

Professor of Entangled History of Ukraine at the European University Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder)
May 16, 2023



“Does Ukraine Have a History”, that was the title of the famous Mark von Hagen’s article published in 1995. In the context of the dissolution of the Soviet Union von Hagen asked about the historiographical legitimacy of Ukrainian topics and suggested several ways to make them relevant and productive for the broader research field. More questions could be added nowadays: Whose language do we speak, touching the Ukrainian topics? How the full-scale Russia’s aggression influenced history writing? Are there any signs of the *Zeitenwende* when it comes to historical narratives? How the histories of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union could/should be written in a new geopolitical context? Andrii Portnov’s talk described the existing narrative strategies and approaches to writing Ukrainian history and reflected on the possibilities of broadening theoretical scope and topical focus for future research.

Andrii Portnov is Professor of Entangled History of Ukraine at the European University Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder). He graduated from Dnipro and Warsaw Universities, and defended his PhD dissertation in Lviv. He conducted research and lectured in Amsterdam, Basel, Berlin, Brussels, Cambridge, Geneva, Lyon, Paris, Potsdam, and Vienna. His publications are devoted to intellectual history, historiography, genocide, and memory studies in Poland, Russia, and Ukraine.

Dacian Sanctuaries, Gods and Heroes in the Romanian Music of the 1960s and 1980s

Valentina SANDU-DEDIU

Professor of Musicology, National University of Music Bucharest

Rector of New Europe College

June 22, 2023

Lately, Valentina Sandu-Dediu has been preoccupied with tracing certain paths of post-war Romanian composition and musicology, in order to observe the effects of nationalism and of the ideological censorship exercised by the communist power. She is currently studying the impact of an idea promoted during Ceaușescu's regime, namely thracology, which underpins the millennia-old antiquity of Romanians. For this lecture, she looked at musical works from the 1960s and 1980s that announce Dacian themes in their titles and examined the composers' choices and their very different attitudes to these themes. For instance, Ștefan Niculescu's Symphony II, *Opus dacicum* is a case study for further examination to see how the composer starts from the numerical proportions of the Sarmizegetusa shrine to shape his own modal system.

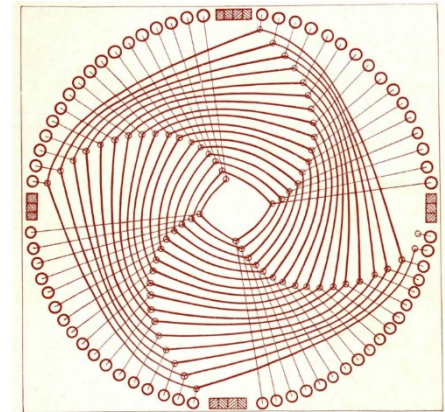


Photo: Capture from the cover of Ștefan Niculescu's Symphony II, "Opus dacicum" (Ed. Muzicală, 1982)

The conference was followed by a short piano concert for four hands (Valentina Sandu-Dediu & Dan Dediu), in honour of His Excellency, the Swiss Ambassador to Bucharest, Arthur Mattli.

Valentina Sandu-Dediu graduated in musicology from the National University of Music Bucharest in 1990. She has been teaching at the same institution since 1993 (professor of musicology and stylistics). She wrote and edited 12 books, over 40 studies and 300 articles, see *Ipostaze stilistice și simbolice ale manierismului în muzică* (Stylistic and Symbolic Hypostases of Mannerism in Music, Bucharest 1995); *Rumänische Musik nach 1944* (Saarbrücken, 2006); *Despre stil și retorică în muzică* (About Style and Rhetoric in Music, Bucharest 2010); editor of *Noi istorii ale muzicilor românești* (New Histories of Romanian Musics, Bucharest, 2020). She played piano in chamber music (CDs released in Romania with Aurelian Octav Popa, in Germany/ Neos with Dan Dediu, and in Boston / Albany with Ray Jackendoff).

Valentina Sandu-Dediu was fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin in 1999/2000 and fellow of the New Europe College in 1996/97. Among many distinctions, she received the Peregrinus-Stiftung Prize of Berlin-Brandenburg Akademie der Wissenschaften in 2008. Since 2014 she is the Rector of the New Europe College.



International Workshops and Symposia

During the timeframe March – July 2023 the New Europe College organized and hosted several national or international Workshops and Symposia. They are listed below; further details regarding the one- or two-days programs can be found on www.nec.ro

Carantine, epidemii, medici și sănătate publică în Principatele Dunărene/ România (1774-1914)

[*Quarantines, Epidemics, Doctors and Public Health in the Danube Principalities/ Romania (1774-1914)*]

This workshop is organized within the project *Entangled Histories of the Danubian Quarantine System (1774–1914)*, financed by UEFISCDI (2022–2024)

May 4-5, 2023

Participants:

Constantin ARDELEANU, Constantin
BĂRBULESCU, Virginia BLÎNDA,
Octavian BUDA, Simion CÂLTÎA,
Adrian-Bogdan CIOBANU, Alin CIUPALĂ,
Călin COTOI, Gabriel Felician CROITORU,
Andrei EMILCIUC, Sorin GRIGORUȚĂ,
Ligia LIVADĂ-CADESCHI, Silvia MARTON,
Bogdan MATEESCU, Ștefan PETRESCU,
Nicoleta ROMAN, Andrei SORESCU,
Thomas ȘINDRILARIU, Lidia TRĂUȘAN-MATU,
Constanța VINTILĂ

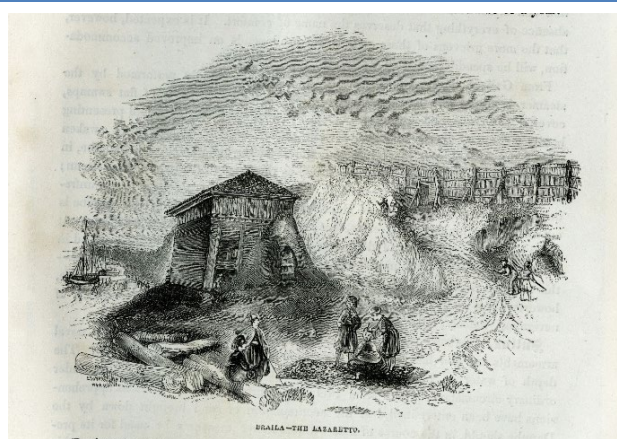


Photo: William Henry Bartlett, Lazaretul din Brăila, cca. 1840

Minorities at War from Napoleon to Putin | BASEES Study Group for Minority History Biennial Conference 2023

Event organized in collaboration with the BASEES Study Group for Minority History and the Centre for Governance and Culture in Europe – University of St. Gallen

May 11-12, 2023



Conveners:

Constantin ARDELEANU, Raul CÂRSTOCEA,
Samuel FOSTER, Olena PALKO

Participants:

Anna ADORJÁNI, Mikhail AKULOV, Constantin
ARDELEANU, Tomas BALKELIS, Lesia BIDOCHKO,
Béla BODÓ, Raul CÂRSTOCEA, Masha CEROVIC,
Doina Anca CREȚU, Sergiu DELCEA, Igor DESPOT,
Anca FILIPOVICI, Samuel FOSTER, Karina
GAIBULINA, Semion GOLDIN, Maciej GÓRNY,

Kostis KARPOZILOS, Pavlos Ioannis KOKTSIDIS, Gennadii KOROLOV, Giuseppe MOTTA,
Olena PALKO, Aleksandar PAVLOVIĆ, Jan RYBAK, Cristina STOICA, Alexandr VORONOVICI

International Symposium “Compositional bridges between Germany and Romania” | International Week of New Music, XXXII. Edition

Event organized by New Europe College and the Union of Composers and Musicologists in Romania

May 26, 2023

Participants:

Joseph CADAGIN,
Valentina SANDU-DEDIU,
Michael HEINEMANN,
Andreea KISELEFF, Olguța LUPU,
Florinela POPA, Dörte SCHMIDT,
Vlad VĂIDEAN



Shifty Muds. Land, Water and Life in a ‘Patchy Anthropocene’

Workshop is organized by the ‘Francisc I. Rainer’ Institute for Anthropology of the Romanian Academy, the Institute for Southeast European Studies and New Europe College

June 8-9, 2023



Photo: Gârcov Island

Convenors:

Ștefan DORONDEL, Adrian DEOANCĂ
and Stelu ȘERBAN

Participants:

Constantin ARDELEANU,
Bengi ÇAKMAK, Peter COATES,
Mészáros CSABA, Suchismita DAS,
Adrian DEOANCĂ, Ștefan DORONDEL,
David ECKERSLEY, Cornelia FLOREA,
Eben KIRKSEY, Ognjen KOJANIĆ,
Annelies KUIJPERS, Laurent LESPEZ,
Tarini MONGA, Mareike PAMPUS,

Michał POSPISZYL, Sara RICH, Astrid SCHRADER,
Manu P. SOBTI, Joana SOUSA, David STRADLING, Gabriela Ioana TOROIMAC, Anna VARGA

Profesorul Alexandru Mironescu și Rugul Aprins

[Professor Alexandru Mironescu and Rugul Aprins]

Semicentennial Alexandru Mironescu (1903-1973)

June 20, 2023

Opening word:

Andrei PLEȘU

Participants:

Vasile BĂNESCU, Virgil CIOMOȘ,
Anca MANOLESCU, Vianu MUREȘAN,
Dionisie PÎRVULOIU, Mihail SĂSĂUJAN,
Bogdan TĂTARU-CAZABAN,
Ioan Alexandru TOFAN,
Marius VASILEANU, Sever VOINESCU



Normative and Conceptual Perspectives on Democratic Resilience

Workshop organized within the *Ameropa* Fellowship Program at New Europe College, financed by the AMEROPA Foundation, receiving academic support from the Centre for Government and Culture at the University of St. Gallen

June 29, 2023

Conveners:

Alexandru VOLACU and Andrei POAMA

Opening Remarks:

Valentina SANDU-DEDIU, New Europe College
Andreas ZIVY, AMEROPA Foundation
Alexandru VOLACU, New Europe College
Andrei POAMA, Leiden University

Participants:

Carlo BURELLI, Arina COCORU, Cristina CHIVA,
Alina DRAGOLEA, Camil PÂRVU,
Joanna RAK, Vlad TERTELEAC, Tom THEUNS,
Alexandru VOLACU, Fabio WOLKENSTEIN



Unboxing Muzeul Abandonului. Urgențe memoriale. Arhive digitale

[Unboxing Muzeul Abandonului / the Museum of Abandonment. Memorial emergencies.
Digital Archives]
May 19, 2023

Invited Guests:

Oana DRĂGULINESCU, Founder of the
Muzeul Abandonului (MA)

Simina BĂDICĂ, Co-Founder MA, historian
and curator, House of European History,
Bruxelles

Iris ȘERBAN, anthropologist, Romanian
Peasant Museum, coordinator of the MA
archive

Corina DOBOȘ, historian, Scientific
Researcher at the National Institute for the
Study of Totalitarianism (Romanian Academy)



The presentation of the museum project will be followed by a debate with the extended team of the Museum of Abandonment: Ioana CĂLINESCU, Co-Founder MA, Ana Maria CIOBANU, writer and editor of the MA podcast *Pe urmele abandonului* ["On the trail of abandonment"], Ciprian FĂCĂERU, architect and set designer of virtual spaces.



The Museum of Abandonment. A digital and participatory museum-forum is an independent project that aims to map the culture of abandonment and to give a historical narrative of the phenomenon of child abandonment in Romania. In less than two years it has managed to develop and establish itself as a museum of the future through digital innovation and the development of a spectacular virtual reality application. At the same time, the project has distinguished itself through an important social impact,

achieving an extraordinary accomplishment – creating a consistent and active community around the museum before it even existed. In the 30 years since the change of political regime, there has been no official action by the Romanian state to publicly acknowledge the trauma of the survivors of the child protection system. The Museum of Abandonment aims to become a safe and healing space of dialogue for a huge community whose collective trauma has never really been publicly acknowledged and discussed – that of the hundreds of thousands of abandoned and institutionalized children in communist and post-communist Romania.

The multiple lives of the Old Town in Bucharest

A presentation of the book by its author, **Emanuela GRAMA**, and a discussion around it in the company of **Justina BANDOL**, **Oana MATEESCU** and **Răzvan VOINEA**
May 25, 2023

Emanuela Grama invited us to a discussion about the multiple lives of the Old Town in Bucharest, based on her book, *Socialist Heritage: The Politics of Past and Place in Romania* (Indiana University Press, 2019), and on its Romanian translation, soon to appear under the title *Centrul Vechi din București. Politică și Patrimoniu* (Polirom, 2023) in Justina Bandol's translation. The book traces the transformation of the Old Town, from a socially and ethnically diverse place in the early 20th century, into an epitome of national history under socialism, and then, starting with the 2000s, into the historic center of a European capital.

In collaboration with translator Justina Bandol, the author revised the Romanian edition, including new sections based on original archival research. The discussion engaged with the arguments of the book, as well as its interdisciplinary methodology and the process of translation.

Emanuela Grama is an associate professor in the History department at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA. She is also a NEC Alumna.

Justina Bandol is a freelance translator based in Bucharest. She studied Slavic Languages and Literatures at UCLA and is the translator of Gail Kligman and Katherine Verdery's *Peasants under Siege: The Collectivization of Romanian Agriculture, 1949-1962* (Romanian edition published by Polirom in 2015).

Oana Mateescu is a lecturer in the Sociology department at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj. She holds a PhD in Anthropology and History (University of Michigan). She is also a NEC Alumna.

Răzvan Voinea is a historian specialized in Urban History, NEC Alumnus and manager of Studio Zona NGO.

Emanuela Grama

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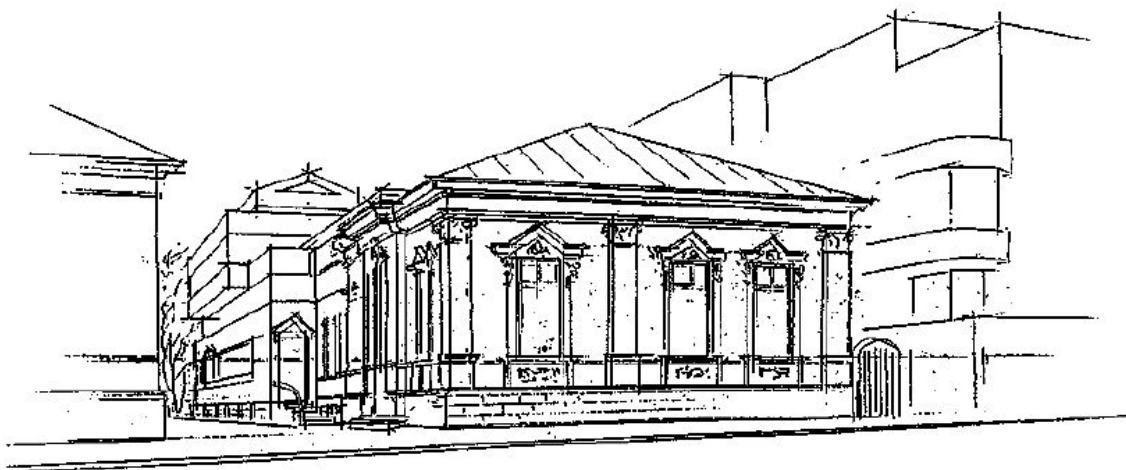


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