

The Society for Romanian Studies



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 32 (2009) Nr. 2

edited by Dan Pennell <pennell@pitt.edu>

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As my term of office draws to a close, I am optimistic about the future of the Society for Romanian Studies. We had a very successful international congress in Constanța, we have expanded participation by younger scholars (especially through free memberships to graduate students and through the addition of a graduate student to the National Board), the Graduate Student Essay Prize is off to a good start (see below), we are very active in the South East European Studies Association, we have been in on the ground floor of trying to get Central Europeanists together at the AAASS, and we continue to have a significant selection of Romanian studies panels and papers at various national meetings. And, of course, our area of interest continues to evolve and change before our eyes, in ways expected and unexpected.

Mulți înainte! Spre orizont! Ș. A. M. D!

The nominating committee headed by Jim Augerot (University of Washington) is pleased to present its slate of officers for 2010-2012: for President-Irina Livezeanu (University of Pittsburgh); Vice-President-Bill Crowther (UNC-Greensboro); for National Board-Monica Ciobanu (Plattsburgh State University), Matt Ciscel (Central Connecticut State University), Dan Pennell (University of Pittsburgh), Peter Wagner (University of Wisconsin/Whitewater),

and Ashby Crowder (University of Maryland), graduate student representative. Continuing on the Board will be Alexandra Bley-Vroman (independent scholar), Peter Gross (Tennessee), and Adam Sorkin (Penn State/Delaware). I will be returning to secretary, Jim Augerot is treasurer, and Dan Pennell will continue as *Newsletter* editor. A ballot will be sent out after the AAASS convention to full voting members via eMail; there will be a provision for write in candidates and the return date will be December 1.

We will have an SRS business session at the AAASS Convention in Boston, on Friday, November 13, at 5 pm in the Yarmouth Room of the Boston Marriott Copley Place. At that time we will present the Graduate Student Essay Contest Prize, formally present the slate of officers for 2010-2012, continue to solicit suggestions for the site of the next International Congress on Romanian studies to be held in 2012, and discuss any other pertinent items of business.

That same evening at 7:00 pm in the Brandeis Room, a meeting of the South East European Studies Association will be held. You are invited to attend. (You are also encouraged to take up the joint SRS-SEESA membership option.) This will be followed at 7:45 by the Second Central European Studies groups networking reception (participation is by invitation only and these have been closed). Several SRS representatives will have a chance to meet with members and leaders of other area studies groups. The first such meeting last year proved to be edifying.

I want to express my gratitude to the members of the nominating committee—Jim Augerot, chair; assisted by Don Dyer (University of Mississippi), Lavinia Stan (St. Francis

Xavier), Margaret Beissinger (Princeton University)—and to the Graduate Student Prize Committee—Margaret Beissinger, chair, Lavinia Stan, and Ileana Orlich (Arizona State)—for their hard and excellent work. Of course, Margaret and Lavinia also win the coveted SRS Stakhanovite Award. The SRS board has also done a fine job in discussing various initiatives over the last several years. Many thanks to all of you; on the whole the SRS has been very fortunate in the work of its volunteers, something that should not be taken for granted and—believe me—it is not. See you in Boston.

Paul E. Michelson
Huntington University IN
President, the Society for Romanian Studies

IN MEMORIAM: MATEI CALINESCU

Matei Calinescu, distinguished man of letters and mentor to many younger scholars and writers in both his native Romania and his adopted country, the USA, died of lung cancer at his home on June 24, 2009. Born in București, on June 15, 1934, he was the first child of Radu and Dora Calinescu. On the paternal side, the future writer was related to the 19th century Romanian poet D. Bolintineanu. His life-long devotion to the life of the mind was apparent to all who knew him. Just last week, the literary journal *Observator Cultural*, run by young, post-communist writers of the 80's generation, devoted its issue of 18 June to "Matei Calinescu at 75" (www.observatorcultural.ro/Matei-Calinescu-la-75-de-ani).

With a degree in English from the University of București (1957), Matei contributed early to Romanian literary life, publishing six books of literary criticism, a novel, *The Life and*

Opinions of Zacharias Lichter, and three volumes of poetry. In 1960, he started his academic career, serving as an assistant professor, and later lecturer, in the Department of World Literature of the University of București. In 1972 he obtained a doctorate in Comparative Literature at the University of Cluj (1972). In 1973, he began his career at Indiana University as a Visiting Professor and Fulbright lecturer. He remained devoted to the university and settled with his family in lovely Bloomington, becoming an American citizen in 1979. At the time of his death, he was IU Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature (department chair between 1996-1998) and West-European Studies.

His publications in English included *Five Faces of Modernity: Modernism, Avant-Garde, Decadence, Kitsch, Postmodernism* (Duke University Press, 1997)—a standard text on numerous classroom reading lists. Translated into many languages, this highly regarded work of his American period has achieved international standing. In 1990, after publishing 14 books of literary criticism and over 150 articles, he stepped away from the "footnoting" requirements of academia and devoted himself to memoir writing. A notable result was *Matthew's Enigma* (Indiana University Press, 2009), a biographical portrait of his son based on copious diary entries kept over many years. A deep meditation on the fragility and enigma of life itself, the book had a sizable impact on many, judging by the outpouring of letters, e-mail messages, and telephone calls from people all over the country. The memoir was also a searching self-investigation, as his son's autistic condition had taught him how to "read differently" and greatly helped him write his now-classic book, *Rereading* (Yale University Press, 1993). In 2004, Matei began writing a "A Different Diary of Sorts: The Exit from Time," to be published posthumously, as a sequel to his *A Diary of Sorts: 1973-1981* (Polirom, 2005).

He was a Guggenheim fellow in 1975-1976, a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow (1991), and a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington DC. In 2000 he received Romania's highest honor, the medal *Pentru Merit* by the President of Romania, Emil Constantinescu, in recognition of his contribution to promoting Romanian culture abroad. In 2008 he was awarded a *Doctorate Honoris Causa* by the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj, Romania.

An erudite man "in the Borgesian manner," as he liked to present himself, "where erudition becomes a form of invention," Matei Calinescu offered the younger generations an alternative to ideological Manichaeism, cherishing the values of intellectual pluralism and integration. Upon hearing of his death, Norman Manea, the distinguished Romanian writer, living in New York City, commented: "In coming to the United



States, Matei gave up a great intellectual career in Romania, but drawing on his many talents, he continued his intense cerebral adventure in his new, foreign, yet democratic and stimulating environment. Romanian and American cultures lose a brilliant man of letters, and I will deeply miss an irreplaceable friend."

Matei Calinescu is survived by his wife of 46 years, Adriana (Uca); by his daughter, Irena Calinescu (Tom Simpson), and grandson Rory Calinescu Simpson, all of Los Angeles. In addition, he is survived by his sister, Marina Pascot (Frederic Georger); his niece Claudia Ghestin (Jean-Pierre), his grand nephew and god son Edouard Ghestin, and his grand-niece and god daughter Lucie Ghestin, all of Paris, France. He was predeceased by his parents and his beloved son Matthew.

(reprinted from www.forevercare.org)

FIRST SRS GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE

The graduate student prize committee, ably chaired by Margaret Beissinger (Princeton) and assisted by Lavinia Stan (St. Francis Xavier), and Ileana Orlich (Arizona State), has selected the essay by Roland Clark, a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, "Singing Fascist Style: Music in the Romanian Legion of the Archangel Michael," as the recipient of our first SRS Graduate Student Essay Prize. This award, which consists of a plaque and a \$300 check, will be presented at our AAASS meeting, on Friday, November 13. The committee wrote: "It was a very fine essay. We found that it was well written, well documented, with a clearly defined research question, and well argued. Clark's findings on the role of music in the Iron Guard were fascinating and his interpretations were superb. His essay contained definitions 'of appropriate terms ('legionary') based on a diversity of information sources, included Securitate documents obtained recently by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.' We also all felt that it was a topic that has not been covered adequately in the English-language literature on the Iron Guard."



GOT NEWS?

The next issue of the *NEWSLETTER* will appear in Spring of 2010. Please let the editor know if you have published anything of interest, given lectures, or done anything else relevant to Romanian studies. Suggestions are always welcomed. Contact Dan Pennell at <pennell.pitt.edu>. Thanks.

41st ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SLAVIC STUDIES (AAASS)

Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA November 12-15, 2009

Below is a selection of panels that include papers and specialists with Romanian interests.

Please note that the Society for Romanian Studies business meeting will take place on Friday, November 13, 5:00-6:45 in the *Yarmouth Room* of the Boston Marriott Copley Place. This will be followed at 7 pm by the business meeting of the South East European Studies Association (SEESA) in the *Brandeis Room* and the Central Europeanists reception at 7:45 pm in the Grand Ballroom Salon E (this reception is by invitation only).

Thursday, Nov. 12, 12:00-1:45

1-23 Sexuality and Gender under Communism - Harvard

Papers: Erin Kay Biebuyck, Indiana U

"The Collectivization of Pleasure: Sexual Ideals in Communist Romania"

1-37 Consciousness and Civil Society in Bulgaria and Romania - Tufts

Chair: Katherine M. Verdery, The Graduate Center, CUNY

Paper: Mihaela Serban, New York U

"Surviving Property: Property Ideologies and Rights Consciousness during the Transition to Communism (Romania, 1944–1960)"

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2:00-3:45

2-25 Transitional Norms: Diffusion, Learning, High-Jacking and Transformation in Russia and Eastern Europe - Maine

Chair: Radu R. Florescu, Boston College

Disc.: Henry (Chip) F. Carey, Georgia State U

2-37 The Cultural Politics of the National (Re)awakenings in Southeastern Europe - Tufts

Paper: Anca Mandru, Central European U (Hungary)

"Cheering the Nation, Hindering Nationalism: The Romanian Intelligentsia at the 1871 Putna Celebration"

Thursday, Nov. 12, 4:00-5:45

3-08 Civil Society and the Politics of Memory in Post-Communist Europe - Dartmouth

Chair: Vladimir Tismaneanu, U of Maryland

Paper: Lavinia Stan, St. Francis Xavier U (Canada)

"Truth Commissions in Post-Communism: The Overlooked Solution?"

Friday, Nov. 13, 8:00-9:45

4-19 Internationalizing the History of WWII in East-Central Europe - Grand Ballroom Salon H

Paper: Holly Case, Cornell U

"Axis Realignment: The Fate of the Little Entente during World War II"

4-31 Eugenic Thinking: Race, Gender, and Ethnicity in 19th and 20th-Century Central Europe - Orleans

Disc.: Maria Bucur, Indiana U

Friday, Nov. 13, 10:00-11:45

5-08 The Rule of Law in Post-Communist Societies - Dartmouth

Papers: Daniel Beers, U of Indiana-Bloomington

"The Rule of Norms: Examining the Institutional Culture

5-34 What's the Score on Moldova? Conflict and Identity as the Republic Approaches Twenty Years - Rhode Island

Chair: Matthew Ciscel, Central Connecticut State U

Papers: Luke March, U of Edinburgh (UK)

"The Consequences of the 2009 Elections for Moldova's International Relations"

Elizabeth A. Anderson, American U

"'And this is Democracy?' Young Moldovans' Reflections on the Past, Present, and Future"

Patricia Fogerty, Emory U

"National Identity and Development Discourse in Moldova's Social Investment Fun 'House Of Culture' Projects"

Disc.: Paul Quinlan, Providence College

5-40 Listening in on the Past II: Oral History and the Culture of Speaking Out Loud - Wellesley

Paper: Camelia Craciun, Central European U (Hungary)

"Monica Lovinescu at Radio Free Europe: 'Teze si antiteze la Paris'"

Friday, Nov. 13, 1:00-2:45

6-10 Perpetrators and Bystanders? The Dynamics of Mass

Murder of Jews in Southern Ukraine, 1941-1944 - Fairfield

Chair: John-Paul Himka, U of Alberta (Canada)

Papers: Diana Dumitru, UNC Chapel Hill

"The Friendship of Peoples Tested: Jews and Gentiles in Occupied Odessa (1941-1944)"

Vladimir A. Solonari, U of Central Florida

"A Conspiracy to Murder? Zealots, Compliers, and Evaders among Romanian Perpetrators"

6-27 Representing Religious Lives - MIT

Chair: Lavinia Stan, St. Francis Xavier U (Canada)

Paper: Roland Clark, U of Pittsburgh

"Conversion Accounts and Religious Frames in Romanian Fascist Biographies"

Friday, Nov. 13, 3:00-4:45

7-01 1989 Twenty Years Later: What Has Been Most Surprising- (Roundtable) - Arlington

Part: Ronald H. Linden, U of Pittsburgh

Friday, Nov. 13, 5:00-6:45

Society for Romanian Studies - (Meeting) – Yarmouth

8-26 The EU in the Balkans: Recent Entrants, Hopeful Aspirants - (Roundtable) - Massachusetts

Part: Ronald H. Linden, U of Pittsburgh

8-40 Writing and Performing Identity in East Europe and Russia - Wellesley

Susan Marie Williams, Indiana U

"Biographizing a Nation: Romani Publications in Interwar Romania"

Friday, Nov. 13, 7:00

South East European Studies Association - (Meeting)- Brandeis

Saturday, Nov. 14, 9:00

Morning Coffee Break in honor of the publication of *Stalinism Revisited, The Establishment of Communist Regimes in East-Central Europe*, edited by Vladimir Tismaneanu. The editor and numerous contributors will be in attendance. Sponsored by the Central European University Press in Booth #312 in the Exhibit Hall

Saturday, Nov. 14, 8:00-9:45

9-18 The Lives of Others: Surveillance, Researchers and Fieldwork in Eastern Europe - Grand Ballroom Salon G

Paper: Katherine M. Verdery, The Graduate Center, CUNY

"Observer Observed: Notes from My Securitate File"

9-27 Between the Sacred and Profane: Clericalism, Minorities, and the Quest for National Belonging in Greater Romania- MIT

Chair: Marius Turda, Oxford Brookes U (UK)

Papers: R. Chris Davis, U of Oxford (UK)

"The Brothers Martinas and the Romanianization of the Hungarian-Speaking Csangos"

Tudor Georgescu, Oxford Brookes U (UK)

"Father Alfred Csallner and the Saxon Eugenic Discourse in Interwar Romania"

James Kapalo, U of London (UK)

"Canonization of the Turkish Tongue: Mihail Çakir, Clerical Agency, and the Gagauz National

Movement"

Disc.: Vladimir Solonari, U of Central Florida

9-40 Representing Romani (Gypsy) Lives: The Politics of Identity in Contemporary Eastern Europe - Wellesley

Paper: Margaret H. Beissinger, Princeton U

"Born-Again Romani Musicians: Pentecostal Faith and Shifting Identities among Roma in Post-Communist Romania"

Sunday, Nov. 15, 8:00-9:45

13-17 2008 Parliamentary Elections and 2009 Presidential Elections in Romania - (Roundtable) - Grand Ballroom Salon F

Sponsored by: the Society for Romanian Studies

Part.: Peter Gross, U of Tennessee - Knoxville; Grigore Pop-Eleches, Princeton U; Michael Shafir, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (Czech Republic); Vladimir Tismaneanu, U of Maryland; F. Peter Wagner, U of Giessen (Germany)

Sunday, Nov. 15, 10:00-11:45

14-01 Socialist and Postsocialist Spaces of Identity in Contemporary Romania - Arlington Chair: Fedja Buric, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Papers: Diana Georgescu, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

"Socialist Spaces of Childhood in Ceausescu's Romania: From the Pioneer Palace to the Romanian Disneyland"

Alexandra Nacu, Sciences-Po (France)

"Asylum-Seekers in the Romanian Health System: Struggles of Legitimacy and Identity"

Oana Popescu-Sandu, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

"Imprisoned in Discourse: Representing the Communist Carceral Experience after 1989"

Disc.: Gail Kligman, UCLA

14-20 Gender and Everyday Life in State Socialist Eastern Europe and Russia - (Roundtable) - Grand Ballroom Salon

Part.: Maria Bucur, Indiana U; Jill M. Massino, Women's Research and Education Institute

Sunday, Nov. 15, 12:00-1:45

15-19 Old Warriors and New Men: The Legacy of the War and the Radical Right in the Successor States 1918-1939 -Grand Ballroom Salon H

Paper: Rebecca Haynes, U College London (UK)

"'Saving Greater Romania': The Legionary Movement and the 'New Man'"

15-30 Sustaining Historical Old Believer Attitudes - Northeastern

Axinia Crasovschi, U of Bucharest (Romania)

"Re-establishing Russian as a First Language (Mother Tongue for Lipovan Children in Romanian Schools)"

15-37 Great Musicians and Their Patrons - Tufts

Chair: Radu R. Florescu, Boston College

Paper: Matei Cazacu, CNRS, U of Paris (France)

"George Enescu and Queen Carmen Sylva"

News, Events, Announcements

Romanian Wins 2009 Nobel Prize for Literature

German author Herta Mueller has been awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize for Literature, the academy in Stockholm has announced. The Romanian-born writer follows last year's French winner Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clezio, while British writer Doris Lessing won in 2007.

Mueller, born in 1953, is renowned for her depiction of the harsh conditions under Nicolae Ceausescu's regime. She said she was "stunned and still cannot believe it". The Swedish academy praised Mueller for both her poetry and prose. It said the writer had an ability to "depict the landscape of the dispossessed" and wrote "with the concentration of poetry and the frankness of prose."

Mueller was born to a family from Romania's German minority and her mother was deported to a labour camp in the Soviet Union after World War II. She emigrated to Germany in 1987, after being dismissed from her job in Romania during the 1970s due to her refusal to co-operate with the regime's secret police.

Her first collection of German language short stories, published in 1982, was censored in Romania. Mueller's initial works were smuggled out of the country, while in later years she was awarded several literary prizes, including the Irish Republic's Impact Award in 1998. One of her later books, 2001's *The Appointment*, goes into great detail about living under a stagnated dictatorship. Only a few of the author's works have been translated into English, including *The Passport* (1986), *The Land of Green Plums* (1994) and *The Appointment*.

Mueller will receive a prize of 10 million Swedish Kronor (£892,000) along with her Nobel honour, which will be presented at a ceremony in Stockholm on 10 December.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the author "more than deserved" the prize. "Especially now, 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, it's a beautiful signal that such high quality literature and this life experience are being honoured," she said. "We are of course happy that Herta Mueller has found a home in Germany and I congratulate her from the bottom of my heart."

(reprinted from Razia Iqbal, BBC Arts correspondent)

2009 CONGRESS OF ROMANIAN AMERICANS ANNUAL MEETING

HILTON GARDEN INN, 8301 Boone Boulevard, VIENNA VA phone: 703-760-9777

NOVEMBER 19, 20, 21, 2009

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19:

6:30 pm. Early arrivals dinner at the residence of the Scalas

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20:

9:30 am.-10:30 pm. Chris. Smith, US Congress, R. NJ

10:45-11:45. To be announced.

12:00 pm. - 1:15 pm. Lunch. Dr. Paul Goble, "What'up in Central and Eastern Europe?"

1:30 - 4:30, To be announced.

4:30 - 5:15, Sheilah Kast, Amb. James Rosapepe, "Dracula is Dead"

6:30-10:00, Mark Meyer, Esq. Chair, Romanian-American Chamber of Commerce

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21:

9:15 am, International Orthodox Christian Charities, Romanian Grant

10:00-11-00, Wm. Schlickemaier, NSC The White House

11:30-1:00, Lunch-HE Adrian Vierita, Ambassador of Romania

For Information, contact: CORA-703-356-2280, FAX 703-356-1568

eMail= ROMANIANS@AOL.COM

Website: Romanianamericans.org

Indiana University Romanian Studies Conference

February 5 and 6, 2010

In February 2010, Indiana University's Romanian Studies Organization will host the third annual interdisciplinary Romanian Studies Conference for graduate students and recent PhDs in the humanities and social sciences. We are delighted to announce that Daniel Chirot, Job and Gertrud Tamaki Professor of International Studies and Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington in Seattle, will deliver the keynote address "Ideology and the Tragic Twentieth Century in Romania."

We welcome paper proposals from graduate students and recent PhDs on any topic related to Romania, Moldova, or the Romanian diaspora in any discipline or methodology, including but not limited to history, political science, economics, international relations, anthropology, literature, sociology, musicology, art history, and cultural studies. Especially encouraged are papers that take an interdisciplinary approach. Small travel grants may be available to aid student travel to and from the conference.

Please submit abstracts of 250-300 words, along with your contact information to RomSO@indiana.edu by **Friday, December 11, 2009**. We will be pre-circulating the papers so that our commentators can provide more extensive feedback. Therefore, if your paper is selected we ask that you submit a complete paper by Friday, January 15, 2010.

Any other inquiries about the conference may be directed to the Indiana University Romanian Studies Organization at RomSO@indiana.edu or to Alex Tipei at atipei@indiana.edu. Please forward this call for papers to anyone who may be interested in participating.

"Nations and States: On the Map and In the Mind"

will be the theme of the 15th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), April 15-17, 2010. It will be held in the International Affairs Building, Columbia University NY and sponsored by the Harriman Institute. See the website for more information www.nationalities.org; or contact the organizers by email=darel@uottawa.ca and darelasn2010@gmail.com

Qualitative Research Course Romania, May 12-June 2, 2010

Ball State University will be offering for the fifth time a research course in Romania. Graduate and undergraduates students from any discipline may apply to attend. This year we will look at 1 or 2 village sites whose information infrastructures were recently "modernized" by one NGO and we will take up some issues related to information/knowledge exchange, information technology, globalization and modernity. In the past students from Drexel, Emporia, Pratt, UConn, USF and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign have taken part.

ANTH 440/540 Summer Field Study (Romania). Students are invited to take part in this year's three week study visit to Transylvania, Romania (the home of Dracula). Students will carry out a field study in 1 or 2 rural Romanian villages. The course is designed to build competence and confidence in qualitative research methods, particularly ethnography. There will be opportunities to conduct collaborative (small group) qualitative research in areas of one's interest and to publish from data collected in the field. The course is intended to provide students with an analytical toolkit which they can apply to subsequent projects of their own. Two of the publications that emerged from this course in the past included: 2009 Catherine Closet-Crane, Susan Dopp, Jacqueline Solis and James M. Nyce. "Why Study Up? The Elite Appropriation of Science, Institution and Tourism as a Development Agenda in Maramures, Romania." *Advances in Library Administration and Organization*, 27:221-238; and 2009 Cheryl Klimaszewski and James M. Nyce. "Does Universal Access Mean Equitable Access?: What an Information Infrastructure Study of a Rural Romanian Community Can Tell Us." *New Library World*, 110(5/6): 219-236.

This summer we will focus on a number of issues - student defined issues. Among these

might be how the "digital divide" plays out in 1 or 2 particular villages. In the past we have focused on information technology, information/knowledge use and modernization in small scale, less developed communities. This summer any number of related issues related to the main themes described above can be explored. This study visit is sponsored the Rinker Center for International Programs and the Department of Anthropology, Ball State University.

For details about previous visits to Romania, please go to <http://www.bsu.edu/international/romania>. One student, Cheryl Klimaszewski, who went with us to Romania in 2007, has put together a website of her own: You might want to look this since it gives a student's perspective on these study visits to Romania. <http://www.onehandlaughing.com/viscri>

Students are welcome to email me re: this research/study visit. Class dates are May 12-June 5. The total cost including airfare, room & board and 6 undergraduate or graduate credit hours will be approximately \$5700.

(Submitted by J. M Nyce, Ball State University, jnyce@bsu.edu)



IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Fellowship

IREX is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2010-2011 Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Program. The Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Program (IARO) provides students, scholars and professionals with support to perform policy relevant field research, in the countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia. In addition to engaging in research in the region, the IARO fellowship affords scholars the opportunity to increase their understanding of critical, policy relevant issues, develop and sustain international networks, and collaborate with foreign scholars on topics vital to both the academic and policy-making communities. Among the Countries Eligible for Research are Moldova and Romania.

Applications and all supporting documents for 2010-2011 IARO Fellowship will only be accepted through the online application system found at:

http://www.irex.org/programs/us_scholars/uss_info.asp

Applications must be completed and submitted (including all required supporting documents) by November 17, 2009. Masters Students, Pre-doctoral Students, Postdoctoral Students, and Professionals with advanced degrees are eligible for the IARO Fellowship. IARO Fellowships cover the cost of international airfare, a living/housing stipend, visa support, travel insurance, and access to the resources available at any of our 25 area field offices.

Questions may be addressed to the IARO Program Staff at iaro@irex.org or by telephone at 202-628-8188.

IARO is funded by the United States Department of State Title VIII Program.



Book launch and roundtable: "Inventing the Jew. Antisemitic Stereotypes in Romanian and Other Central-East European Cultures" by Andrei Oisteanu

On the day of Commemoration of the Victims of Holocaust in Romania, October 9, 2009, RCINY organized the launch and a roundtable around **Andrei Oisteanu's** celebrated book *Inventing the Jew*, recently published in English at the University of Nebraska Press (Lincoln, 2009). A dialogue took place with **Randolph Braham**, Director of the Rosenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, **Vladimir Tismăneanu**, political scientist and professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, and professor **Moshe Idel**, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Romanian Cafe Society Takes Manhattan

By Jennifer Schuessler

The New York Times

Last year, the first foreign-language edition of the Book Review launched in Romania. Now, in another unexpected bit of cultural turnabout, Midtown Manhattan has gotten what must be its only Romanian bookstore. Well, sort of. From now until July 15, all you need to do to browse the hippest bookstore in Bucharest is stroll to 38th Street and Third Avenue, where a temporary outlet of the chain Carturesti has set up shop in the exhibition space of the Romanian Cultural Institute New York.

Oversize photos on the wall give a sense of the relaxed, Euro-cool mood of Carturesti's nine branches, which are known for funky designs selected in architectural competitions. Shelves and tables feature colorful and attractively designed novels, art books and poetry collections, as well as DVDs and CDs, along with some rustic stools — based on the famous three-legged chairs of Horezu — to sit on. Alas, you can't sample the full range of fine teas that Carturesti's cafe's are famous for dispensing, though you can peruse a book called "Confessions of a Coffee Drinker" (if you read Romanian, that is).

At the exhibit's opening, the novelist Filip Florian, whose book "Little Fingers" will be published by Harcourt Brace in July, stood out front smoking (but not complaining — apparently you can't smoke in Romanian bookstores either). Inside, guests mingled over coffee and croissants while Marius Parghel of Carturesti's Timisoara branch, who curated the exhibit, gave a tour of some literary highlights.

There were books of surrealist poetry, books of avant-garde plays, books about the Romanian royal family (quite strong sellers, apparently), books by the dissident journalist and politician Octavian Paler and the writer and Orthodox monk Nicolae Steinhardt. There was also a healthy selection of novels by Mircea Cartarescu, described by Parghel as "the only Romanian author with chances for a Nobel." His trilogy, "Orbitor" ("Glaring"), Parghel said, is an attempt to create "a mythology of Bucharest and its communist space," using metaphors

from medicine and alchemy, along with some techniques reminiscent of Latin American magical realists, to evoke an "underground of the mind." (Can't wait for the translation? Check out Cartarescu's short story collection "Nostalgia," available from New Directions.)

But one thing the bookstore didn't have, strangely, is a cash register, though the organizers say an English-language version of Carturesti's "libraria online" should be up and running soon.

(The Carturesti exhibit is on view until July 15 and again from mid-September through the end of the year at the Romanian Cultural Institute New York at 200 E. 38th Street.)

Romanian Films at AFI Festival, October 30-November 7, 2009

American Film Institute Film Festival in Los Angeles presented this year two Romanian Films, FELICIA, FIRST OF ALL (dir. Razvan Radulescu), at its US premiere, and POLICE, ADJECTIVE (dir. Corneliu Porumboiu). RCINY supported the participation of Corneliu Porumboiu in the festival events. POLICE ADJECTIVE (an IFC Films release) was this year's winner of the Grand Jury Award and the FIPRESCI Award of the Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival, and was recently presented in the main slate of movies at New York Film Festival, enjoying a great critical reception. Details at <http://www.afi.com/onscreen/afifest/2009/>

Performing Revolution in Central and Eastern Europe, November 2009-March 2010

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, in association with leading New York City cultural organizations, among which the Romanian Cultural Institute, presents **Performing Revolution in Central and Eastern Europe**. This five-month festival focuses on the performing arts as a powerful voice and contributing force in the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe. Spearheaded by The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, which will present a major exhibition on the themes of the festival, *Performing Revolution* features over 20 events throughout New York City, with a specific focus on performing arts in the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia.

Performing Revolution in Central and Eastern Europe explores the revolutionary mindset of performing artists through theater, music, and dance performances, exhibitions, film screenings, readings, and symposia. While certain festival events illustrate how artistic resistance in the 1980s contributed to the profound political changes in 1989, others comment on the different contexts that continue to characterize revolution in performance today.

Additional information can be found at the festival website: <http://www.performingrevolution.org/>

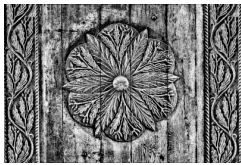
As If Communism Never Happened

Presented by The Harriman Institute at Columbia University in association with the Polish Cultural Institute in New York, the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York, and Austrian Cultural Forum, a panel discussion at the Harriman Institute at Columbia University on November 6, previewed

a February 2010 conference to be entitled *After Communism: Achievement and Disillusionment since 1989*, taking place in the frame of *Performing Revolution*. Bringing together intellectuals and artists from Austria, Czech Republic, Poland and Romania.

4th Romanian Film Festival in NYC, December 4-6, 2009

The festival will feature, along with new releases from 2009, a retrospective dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the '89 Romanian Revolution and the fall of communism. The program will include the most important cinematic works related to this historical era, provocative contributions from video artists, and a sample of censored films.



PUBLICATIONS

David A. Kiedeckel, *Getting By in Post-Socialist Romania: Labor, the Body, and Working-Class Culture* (Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 2008)

Andrei Oisteanu, *Inventing the Jew: Antisemitic Stereotypes in Romanian and Other Central-East European Cultures* (Lincoln NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2009)

Constantin Iordachi, Dorin Dobrinu, eds., *Transforming Peasants, Property and Power: The Collectivization of Agriculture in Romania, 1949-1962* (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2009)

Alta Ifland, *Elegy for a Fabulous World* (Rome GA: Ninebark Press, 2009), fiction.

Mihaela Albu, *Cultură și identitate. Ziarul Lumea Liberă din New York* (Craiova: Editura Universitaria, 2008)

Sheilah Kast and Jim Rosapepe, *Dracula Is Dead: How Romanians Survived Communism, Ended It, and Emerged since 1989 as the New Italy* (Baltimore: Bancroft Press, 2009). Website at www.draculaisdead.com.

Rîpeanu, Bujor T. *Filmat în România: filmul documentar: 1897-1948* (București : Meronia, 2008), 654 pp. ISBN 9789737839404

Institutul Național de Statistică. *Knowing Romania: (București : Institutul Național de Statistică, 2008), 500 pp. ISBN 9789738864900 comes with CD.*

The Society For Romanian Studies

The Society for Romanian Studies (SRS) is an inter-disciplinary academic organization, founded in 1973 to promote professional study, criticism, and research on all aspects of Romanian culture and civilization. It holds meetings to promote Romanian studies, publishes newsletters to keep its membership informed, and carries out other activities designed to foster advancement of the field of Romanian studies. The SRS Home Page is located at: www.huntington.edu/SRS.

The SRS is generally recognized as the premier professional organization for North American scholars concerned with Romania. It is affiliated with the South East European Studies Association (SEESA), the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), the American Historical Association (AHA), and the American Political Science Association (APSA).

2008-2009 NATIONAL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

Paul E. Michelson, Department of History
Huntington University, Huntington IN 46750
phone: 260/359-4242 or 260/356-5518
eMail=pmichelson@huntington.edu

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Ileana Orlich, Department of English
Arizona State University, Tempe AZ 85287
phone: 602/965-2503; eMail=orlich@asu.edu

SECRETARY/TREASURER

James Augerot, Slavic Department Box 353580
University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195
phone: 206/543-5484 or 206/543-6848; eMail=bigjim@u.washington.edu

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Daniel Pennell, G20-X Hillman Library
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA 15260
Email=pennell@pitt.edu>

NATIONAL BOARD

Class of 2006-2009:

Margaret Beissinger, Princeton University; Maria Bucur, Indiana University; and Bill Crowther, University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

Class of 2008-2011:

Alexandra Bley-Vroman, University of Hawaii; Peter Gross, University of Tennessee; Irina Livezeanu, University of Pittsburgh; and Adam Sorkin, Penn State/Delaware.

SRS Membership

You are invited to renew your membership in the Society for Romanian Studies or to join today. There are three **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES** in the SRS: 1) Voting Memberships; 2) Free Non-Voting Graduate Student Memberships; and 3) Lifetime Voting memberships.

VOTING MEMBERSHIPS are \$15 on a calendar year basis. Voting members receive the calendar year issues of the newsletter, membership in the SRS eMail list, and can vote in SRS elections. Memberships are limited to persons with a North American mailing address.

GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP is free to all full-time graduate students with a North American mailing address. Graduate student members receive the same stuff as voting members but are not eligible to vote in SRS elections. (Individuals in the graduate student category who wish to be vote may do so by paying the regular \$15 membership above.) Though graduate student membership is free, you will need to confirm your graduate status by the end of January each year to remain on the lists. You will continue in this status to the end of the calendar year even if you graduate by summer or take a full time position. Please provide the same information below requested of voting members.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS: For \$150 (soon to go up), you can become a lifetime member of the SRS and avoid those nagging feelings of guilt over not having paid your dues recently. If this option appeals to you, send \$150 to Jim Augerot with the appropriate notation.

We also have an attractive, money-saving **JOINT MEMBERSHIP** option. North American voting members of the SRS may opt for a \$33 Joint SRS/SEESA Membership, which includes membership in both the Society for Romanian Studies and the South East European Studies Association (separate memberships are \$45 so you save \$12 with joint membership). Joint members get both the SRS and SEESA newsletters as well as the SEESA journal, *BALKANISTICA*. And you only need to send one check to Jim Augerot---your one-stop power shopping site for Romanian and South East European Studies.

Can LIFE MEMBERS and non-voting GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERS get a joint SRS/SEESA Membership? Yes! You, too, can take advantage of the joint SRS-SEESA membership by sending in an additional \$22 with the notation that this is for SEESA membership. This saves you a few bucks on the SEESA membership.

Dues should be sent to: Jim Augerot, University of Washington
Slavic Department, Box 353580
Seattle WA 98195

Please include the following information with your dues/membership application:

Last Name; First Name; Institutional affiliation; eMail address; mailing address (city, state, zip); office phone; position; fields of interest