

SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER



www.society4romanianstudies.org
Vol. 44 Fall Winter 2022 No. 2

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Roland Clark
University of Liverpool
SRS President

This is the last time I will be writing the President's Message, as my tenure finishes at the end of this year, as do those of Rodica Zaharia (Vice-President), Anca Șincan (Secretary), and Vladimir Solonari (Treasurer). It has been a privilege working with these outstanding scholars and wonderful human beings over the past four years, and I am excited to see what the future holds for the SRS. Please get in touch with the chair of the Nominating Committee, Lavinia Stan, at lstan@stfx.ca, if you are interested in running for one of these positions, or want to nominate someone else who you think would do a good job. This is also the last Newsletter that will be edited by Leah Valtin-Erwin, who has produced eight amazing issues

over the past four years. Leah's are big shoes to fill, and we are lucky to have three very talented editors working together to take her place in 2023 – Anna Batzeli, Ruxandra Canache, and Bronwyn Cragg. Leah was also the winner of this year's Graduate Student Essay Prize, for her essay on “Professional Customers: German Cash & Carry Wholesale in Romania (1996-1999).” Irina Nicorici's essay on “The Curious Case of Soviet Citizenship for Sale” won a well-deserved honorable mention. We were also able to launch the first Keith Hitchins Dissertation Prize in 2022, which was won jointly by Cosmin Koszor-Codrea from Oxford Brookes University for his dissertation on “The Word of Science: Popularising Darwinism in Romania, 1859-1918,” and Rucsandra Pop from Universitatea din București for her work on “Mihai Pop de la școala sociologică la școala etnologică—o biografie intelectuală.” It is exciting to see so much excellent new scholarship emerging and I hope to read more from all of these young scholars in the years to come.

One of the great highlights of 2022 for me was the SRS conference in Timișoara. We had 167 speakers taking part over three days, and two stimulating keynote speeches by Adriana Babeți and Maria Bucur. The conference also featured the exhibition *Antinostalgia*, curated by one of our sponsors, Muzeului Ororilor Comunismului în România, and a screening of the film *Fragile: The Series* (2021). We are very grateful to our hosts at Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara and Muzeul Național de Artă Timișoara, and particularly to Claudiu Mesaroș and Dumitru Tucan for their tireless work getting the conference ready in Timișoara. I still don't quite understand how Anca Șincan, as the chair of the conference organizing committee, managed to keep so many different balls up in the air all at once while she juggled the myriad of jobs that had to be done to make the conference a success, but she had a strong team helping her that included Philippe Blasen, Valentina Glajar, Alexandru Groza, Cristina Plămădeală, Vladimir Solonari, and myself.



President's Message

Despite having had to postpone the conference for a year due to COVID and with the high cost of plane tickets during the summer, it was wonderful to see people face to face and to be able to renew old friendships and make new ones.

The conference served as a springboard for many of the SRS's new Working Groups, which have been particularly active over the past few months, organising workshops, discussions, and book talks both online and in person. Many thanks to all of the convenors for your work organising these events as well as to those who have participated with their knowledge and expertise. This year has had its share of troubles too, and the SRS continues to stand in solidarity with embattled scholars in Russia and Ukraine who are opposing Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine. We also found ourselves forced to protest against the restricting of large numbers of files at the Romanian National Archives which are no longer open to researchers. Now that the text of the Government Decision (Hotărâre de Guvern) which promised to resolve the problem [has been made public](#), it appears that there is still a long way to go before we have open and unrestricted access to documents that were freely available to researchers as recently as Spring 2022. I continue to hope that we have not seen the end of this story and that there will be some light at the end of this particular tunnel. Christmas and Hanukkah are both just around the corner, and both are about celebrating new light, new life, and new hope. To those who celebrate and to those who don't, I wish you a very happy holidays and a new year filled with supportive reviewers and enthusiastic students.



SRS Board

As the calendar year draws to a close, so do four SRS executive mandates: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. According to our by-laws, the President and Vice-President serve for three years (January 2023 - December 2025), whereas the Secretary and the Treasurer serve for four years (January 2023 - December 2026). **The Nominating Committee would like to call for nominations to these four positions on the SRS Executive Board, to replace Roland Clark, Rodica Zaharia, Anca Şincan and Vladimir Solonari.**

Please send nominations or self-nominations, specifying clearly the position, by December 10 to Lavinia Stan, Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee, via e-mail at lstan@stfx.ca. The nomination should include a current email address and institutional affiliation, a 200-word bio, as well as a brief personal statement about your goals on the SRS Executive Board (up to 300 words). Please consult the SRS by-laws for details about SRS governance, available at <https://society4romanianstudies.org/srs-bylaws/>

The Society for Romanian Studies is an international interdisciplinary academic organization dedicated to promoting the professional study, criticism, and research of all aspects of Romanian culture and civilization, particularly concerning the countries of Romania and Moldova. The Nominating Committee strives to promote balanced representation in regard to age, gender, professional background, locations of residence, and geographical and disciplinary areas of specialization, but is not bound by any particular formula.

Qualifications include being a member of SRS and being actively engaged in the field of Romanian Studies. To be eligible for election as Treasurer a person must be a member in good standing for at least the calendar year prior to election. *(more information on the following page)*

OPEN POSITIONS

The open positions and a brief description of duties are as follows:

The President shall call and preside at all meetings of members and shall be the Chair of the Executive Board. She/he shall sign all contracts, agreements and other instruments which may be entered into by or on behalf of the SRS. The President shall appoint as needed non-voting members as advisory to the Board (committee chairs, such as the prize committees, program committee chairs, or ad hoc committee chairs) with the approval of the Board. The President (assisted by the Vice-President) shall be responsible for monitoring Board participation and making recommendations to the Board in cases of perceived nonfeasance, misfeasance, or malfeasance.

The Vice-President shall assist the President in the execution of her/his functions and perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President. She/he shall also perform those specific duties assigned by the Executive Board.

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Society and of the National Board; shall maintain the Archives of the Society; shall keep current the list of the Society's liaison/representatives to other societies and associations that the SRS is affiliated or related to, as well as informing the President and the Board when replacements need to be made; shall receive and answer correspondence addressed to the Association in consultation with the president; and shall send out, receive, and tabulate election ballots, and report the result of elections to the Board. The Treasurer will also serve as an acting Secretary for purposes concerning the organization's financial transactions.

The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all funds of the Society which shall come into her/his hands, shall deposit the same in such manner and in such banks as the Executive Board or the President may direct, and shall disburse such funds under the direction of the Board. She/he shall keep true books of account and render statements thereof whenever required, and in no case less frequently than once a year, at the annual meeting of the Society; shall manage the collection of dues, and keep accurate lists of the members in each category; and shall provide to the annual meeting of the Society a written statement of disbursements and assets for the current fiscal year.

Please send nominations or self-nominations to the chair of the Nominating Committee, Lavinia Stan, at lstan@stfx.ca until **December 10, 2022**:

SELECTION PROCESS

SRS selects Board members through an electronic ballot of all members in good standing. Open balloting will take place from December 12-24, 2022 and the results will be announced no later than January 1, 2023.

The nominating committee consists of:

Lavinia Stan (chair), St. Francis Xavier University, Canada, lstan@stfx.ca
Ruxandra Trandafoiu, Edge Hill University, UK, trandar@edgehill.ac.uk
Matei Gheboianu, University of Bucharest, Romania, matei.gheboianu@gmail.com

Keith Hitchins Dissertation Prize

For the inaugural competition of the [Keith Hitchins Dissertation Prize](#), the committee received dissertations completed in five different countries, in fields ranging from sociology and art history to history of science. Their breadth in topics and methods are testimony to the cultural richness that Romania presents for scholars all over the world.

The selection committee (Maria Bucur, Călin Cotoi, and Radu Vancu) is pleased to announce the co-winners of the inaugural competition for best dissertation in Romanian studies (2022): [Cosmin Koszor-Codrea](#) and [Rucsandra Pop](#). In the spirit of our organization and in recognition of the languages in which these two projects were completed, we offer a brief description in the language of each dissertation.

Cosmin Koszor-Codrea, “The Word of Science: Popularising Darwinism in Romania, 1859-1918,” Oxford Brookes University, 2021.

Cosmin Koszor-Codrea’s doctoral thesis places Charles Darwin’s evolutionary theory within the Romanian cultural context of the second half of the nineteenth century, a period of great activity in the area of science research and writing. In doing so, he presents a fascinating case study of the twin political and scientific construction of knowledge, and of the ways in which cultural hegemonies have been challenged and created. The research focuses on both the written and spoken word of the leading voices of Romanian nineteenth-century naturalists. The impact of Darwinism is followed in a comparative way, secular and religious. In addition, a closer look is reserved to the ways in which scientific ideologies served different political and racial local and transnational ideologies. Koszor-Codrea provides an original and rich contribution to the field of history of sciences, to East European studies, and, more broadly, to the social history of scientific ideas.



Rucsandra Pop, “Mihai Pop de la școala sociologică la școala etnologică—o biografie intelectuală,” Universitatea din București, 2020.

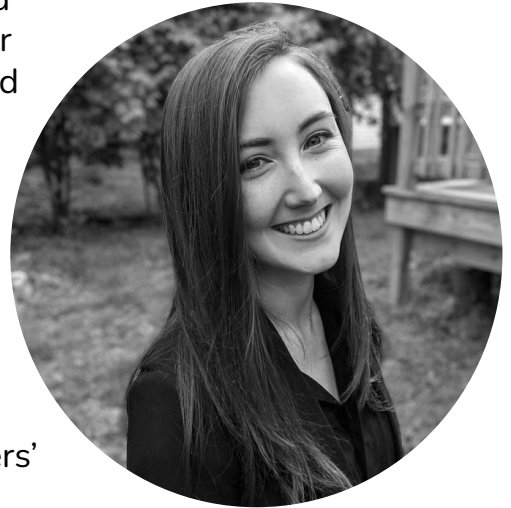
Biografia intelectuală a lui Mihai Pop, așa cum a fost ea proiectată și realizată de către Rucsandra Pop, reprezintă considerabil mai mult decât o anunțată titlul ei: ea nu e doar reconstituirea unui destin individual – ci reconstituirea metonimică, pars pro toto, a destinului științelor umaniste din România inter- și postbelică. Fiindcă Rucsandra Pop alege să vadă (și justifică admirabil această alegere) în persoana și opera lui Mihai Pop unul dintre agenții modernizatori esențiali ai umanioarelor românești: intelectual arhetipal al Europei Centrale, cu o poliglosie acoperind nu doar limbile uzuale ale culturilor majore, ci și pe cele ale culturilor din întreaga Mitteleuropă, participant direct la constituirea școlii de la Praga, acceptat inter pares de Roman Jakobson & co., activ deopotrivă și în mediile intelectuale care construiau sociologia română, în interiorul căroră transferă seminal și în timp real ideile occidentale, Mihai Pop mediază ideal prin opera lui (prin care Rucsandra Pop subînțelege nu doar opera scrisă, ci și întreaga acțiune instituțională și personală) circulația ideilor între “estul și vestul științific”, sincronizând decisiv câmpul științific autohton cu centrele relevante de cercetare din întreaga lume. Întemeiată pe 15 ani de interviuri și de muncă de teren, coagulând cantități masive de informație din domenii dintre cele mai diverse, originând într-o mobilitate intelectuală extraordinară (comparabilă cu a subiectului lucrării), teza Rucsandrei Pop articulează strălucitor o istorie socială a întregului câmp intelectual românesc din ultimul secol.



Graduate Student Essay Prize

The **Fourteenth Annual Graduate Student Essay Prize** is awarded to **Leah Valtin-Erwin**, PhD Candidate, Department of History, Indiana University Bloomington, for her submission entitled “Professional Customers: German Cash & Carry Wholesale in Romania (1996-1999).”

The entry examines, based on the case study of Metro Cash and Carry, the transformation of the retail industry in Romania under the entrance of foreign competitors. The analysis is going behind the common discourse on the benefits of foreign investments, looking to the ways foreign companies appealed “economic anxieties and historically-situated ideas about culture and commerce to make customers of Eastern European entrepreneurs – and their clients – in the 1990s.” The investigation proposed by Leah Valtin-Erwin received appreciation based on the interesting approach that question the civilizational discourses and the savior position foreign companies, as Metro, promoted itself. The entry caught reviewers’ attention by drawing a rich literature, a wealth of sources (from periodicals to interviews), a coherent chronological structure, and a well written paper.



An interview with **Leah Valtin-Erwin** can be found on page 10 of the [Fall 2020](#) newsletter.

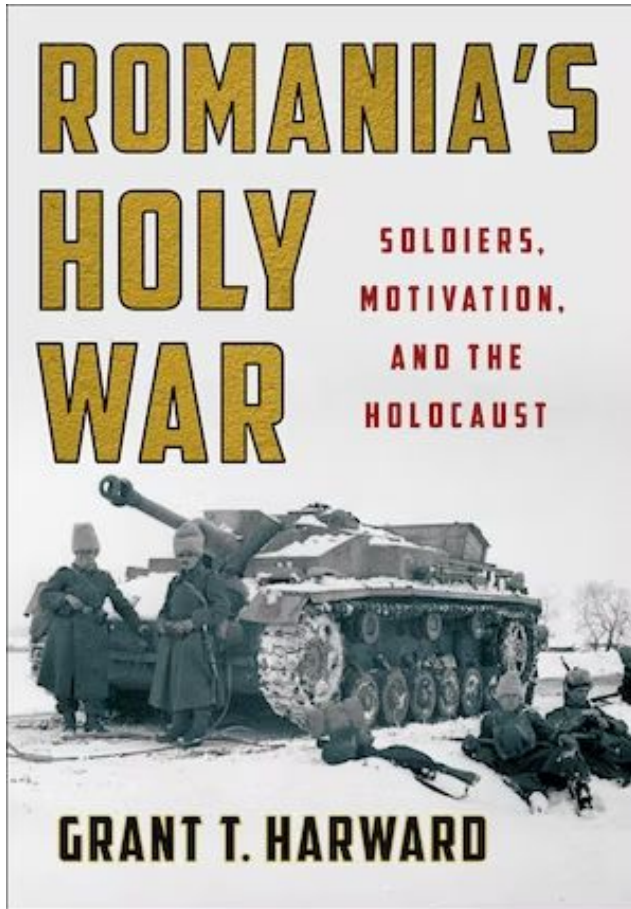


An honorable mention is extended to **Irina Nicorici**, PhD student, Sociology, Rutgers University, for the entry “The Curious Case of Soviet Citizenship for Sale.” It was a very close runner-up for the prize given Irina’s unique contribution on citizenship for sale phenomenon (the investor citizenship) in late Soviet Moldova. The entry contributes to a reconsideration of the welfare socialist state, based on a rich literature and on recently opened archives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of Moldova.

***Irina Nicorici** is an advanced PhD student in Sociology at Rutgers. Her dissertation focuses on the Soviet migration policies and the bureaucratic processing of applications for entry into or exit from the USSR. Empirically, she investigates how the Soviet Union and its heirs collected data about their inhabitants and visitors between 1960 and 2000, how the state machineries accounted for and controlled who belonged, and how the publics responded to such evaluative metrics. In addition to the sociology of citizenship, she is also interested in the gendered logics of stratification, migration control, state organization and economic governance, as well as race and ethnic relations.*

With many thanks to the prize committee, consisting of Rodica Milena Zaharia (chair), Iemima Ploscariu, and Marius Wamsiedel.

SRS congratulates [Grant T. Harward](#), whose book *Romania's Holy War: Soldiers, Motivation, and the Holocaust* (Cornell University Press, 2021) was awarded the [Barbara Jelavich Book Prize](#) for a distinguished monograph published on any aspect of Southeast European or Habsburg studies since 1600, or nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ottoman or Russian diplomatic history.



***Romania's Holy War* rights the widespread myth that Romania was a reluctant member of the Axis during World War II.** In correcting this fallacy, Grant T. Harward shows that, of an estimated 300,000 Jews who perished in Romania and Romanian-occupied Ukraine, more than 64,000 were, in fact, killed by Romanian soldiers. Moreover, the Romanian Army conducted a brutal campaign in German-occupied Ukraine, resulting in the deaths of thousands of Soviet prisoners of war, partisans, and civilians. Investigating why Romanian soldiers fought and committed such atrocities, Harward argues that strong ideology—a cocktail of nationalism, religion, antisemitism, and anticommunism—undergirded their motivation.

Romania's Holy War draws on official military records, wartime periodicals, soldiers' diaries and memoirs, subsequent war crimes investigations, and recent interviews with veterans to tell the full story. Harward integrates the Holocaust into the narrative of military operations to show that most soldiers fully supported the wartime dictator, General Ion Antonescu, and his

regime's holy war against "Judeo-Bolshevism." The army perpetrated mass reprisals, targeting Jews in liberated Romanian territory; supported the deportation and concentration of Jews in camps or ghettos in Romanian-occupied Soviet territory; and played a key supporting role in SS efforts to exterminate Jews in German-occupied Soviet territory.

Harward proves that Romania became Nazi Germany's most important ally in the war against the USSR because its soldiers were highly motivated, thus overturning much of what we thought we knew about this theater of war. *Romania's Holy War* provides the first complete history of why Romanian soldiers fought on the Eastern Front.

Harward is a US Army Medical Department Historian, a former Fulbright Scholar, and a former Research Fellow at the Mandel Center of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



CfA: PLURAL Prize

In 2020, the **PLURAL Forum** established a **prize for original research articles based on archives or collections** held in Moldova or in the neighbouring regions and counties in Ukraine and Romania.

The prize is awarded every year to one MA-, PhD-, or postdoc-level student in the field of history, the social sciences, or other humanities. It is intended for persons under 40 years of age, who are still enrolled in an MA or PhD programme or who have defended their PhD thesis within the last five years from the date of the beginning of the application period. The author may apply directly or be nominated by a scholar familiar with the author's research and academic background.

The application should consist of the following documents:

in case of a direct application, a short narrative CV (maximum 1 page), including the applicant's year of birth, institutional affiliation, and current academic status (mentioning the year of enrollment into the MA/MA2/PhD/postdoc programme, and, if applicable, the date of thesis defence);

in case of a nomination by another scholar, a letter of recommendation (maximum 1 page), including relevant personal and academic details of the nominee (see above);

the article submitted for consideration. The article must have been published in an indexed journal or a collective volume printed by an established publisher, in the year when the application period begins or in the previous calendar year. The text must be written in English, French, German, Romanian, or Russian. The length of the article must not be less than 4,000 words and should not exceed 12,000 words. In both cases, the word count includes the footnotes, but not the bibliography or the appendices. The article must be based on primary sources (documents or artefacts) held in public or private archives or collections in the Republic of Moldova, the Region of Chernivtsi, the Region of Odessa (Ukraine), or the counties of Suceava, Botoşani, Iaşi, Vaslui, or Galaţi (Romania). Topics relating to marginal(ized) social, ethnic, and religious groups, as well as to non-mainstream subjects are particularly taken into consideration.

Applications can be submitted every year during a two-month period beginning on **December 1** and ending on **January 31**. The selection committee will consist of members of the PLURAL Academic Council. The selection will be based on the originality and the coherence of the article. The winner of the prize will be notified at latest on March 31 and announced on this website and on Twitter.

The prize amounts to EUR 300 net.

If the article was not originally published in English, the winner is given the opportunity to publish an English version in the *PLURAL* journal.

Please send your applications to prize@plural.md.

Previous Recipients



**Anastasia
FELCHER**

"Alexander Pushkin
in Bessarabia"



**Andreea
KALTENBRUNNER**

"Modernization
Struggles in Interwar
Romania"

2022 SRS Conference

Conferencing after COVID: The SRS Conference in Timișoara

This June was the first in-person meeting of the SRS after the pandemic twice postponed our conference. In Timișoara, 200 members of the SRS got together to discuss *Borders and Transfers* which was the theme the conference ran under in 2022. With the help of the Universitatea de Vest, the Plural Forum of Interdisciplinary Studies, the Muzeul Ororilor Comunismului in Romania, and the Muzeul Național de Artă in Timișoara, the organizing committee set out to create a meeting space to exchange ideas, network, and even just meet in person for the first time in a couple of years for academics and students, specialists in Romanian and Moldovan Studies.



Panels were put together on imagined frontiers, migration, minorities, the global versus the local, regions, nations and empires, imperial legacies, competitive pasts, and many other exciting subjects. Round tables were organized to discuss the current status quo in Romanian studies, religious studies in Romania, doing interdisciplinary research in Romanian studies, and Romanian museums of communism. Book panels brought to the attention of the specialists the newest published research in Romanian Studies. From philo-Germanism to Transnistria, from the National Cathedral to the Secret Police counterrevolution, Roma studies to the Goga government, the conference reflected the vast array of research in Romanian Studies.

The conference was opened by Professor Adriana Babeți from Universitatea de Vest, who took us through borderlands and imagined communities with the help of literature situating Timișoara in *Mittel Europe* and the Balkans, in empires, nation states, and regions throughout the centuries. A fascinating excursus undertaken under the guidance of an extraordinary public intellectual.

Closing the conference was the keynote of Professor Maria Bucur from Indiana University in Bloomington, who unpacked for us the thought process of the researcher embarking into a new area of research. We were party to the, at times, private process of putting together a research project that was familiar and personal to the audience.

Our collaboration with Muzeul Ororilor Comunismului in Romania and Muzeul Național de Artă from Timișoara resulted in the Antinostalgia exhibition, Andrei Pandele's photodocumentary of life during communism organized by Alexandru Groza and Irina Hasnaș, and a film screening of the documentary series *Fragile* presented by Rucsandra Pop.



Report by Anca Șincan



SRS Thematic Working Groups

Since spring 2022, SRS has set up fifteen **thematic working groups**. They are run by convenors, who bring together junior and senior researchers, and organise an online event once a year. The SRS currently has 15 functioning working groups, of which two are jointly run by the SRS and its partner, the PLURAL Forum for Interdisciplinary Studies, and one by the SRS and Indiana University Bloomington. For further information, please visit the SRS website. SRS members interested in joining a working group can address the convenor directly:

Anthropology Convenor: [Gerard Weber](#). Paying members: 5. Events: underway.

Art History Convenor: [Alexandra Chiriac](#). Paying members: 3. Events: underway.

Cultural Studies Convenor: [Valeska Bopp-Filimonov](#). Paying members: 20. Events: online discussion about “Mămăligă, Zacuscă, and their components. Gastronomic and linguistic myths in Romanian terminology and history of food” on October 28 (report on page 22),

Gender Studies Convenor: [Maria Bucur](#) (Indiana University Bloomington). Paying members: 6 paying. Events: online workshop on 1 April; online talk on 28 March; newsletter.

Graduate Students and ECRs Convenor: [Alexandra Ciocănel](#). Paying members: 15. Events: informal Facebook meetings.

Holocaust and Second World War Convenors: [Diana Dumitru](#) (PLURAL) and [Grant Harward](#). Paying members: 17. Events: online discussion of Radu Jude’s film *Amintiri de pe frontul de est*, 15 October.

Interwar History Convenor: [Anca Cretu](#) (current), [Anca Filipovici](#) (from January 2023). Paying members: 22. Events: underway.

Law, Memory, and Justice Convenors: [Mihaela Șerban](#) and [Monica Ciobanu](#). Paying members: 12. Events: underway.

Literature Convenor: [Marina Cap-Bun](#). Paying members: 11. Events: meeting at Ovidius University on April 19 and lecture by Amanda L. Andrei on October 6.

Democracy and Politics Convenor: Dana Trif. Paying members: 4. Events: underway.

Pre-1918 History Convenors: [Constantin Ardeleanu](#) and [Andrei Cușco](#) (PLURAL). Paying members: 6. Events: underway.

Religious Studies Convenor: [James Kapaló](#). Paying members: 17. Events: book discussion on November 22 and workshop in January 2023.

Sociology Convenor: [Mihai Rusu](#). Paying members: 11. Events: underway.

Postwar Politics, History, and Culture Convenors: [Dragoș Petrescu](#) and [Ruxandra Trandafoiu](#). Paying members: 11. Events: [series of lectures](#) within the Master Program in Comparative Politics (MCP) at the University of Bucharest from November 3.

Minorities Studies Convenor: [Gábor Egrý](#) and [László Fosztó](#). Event: scheduled for December 13.

New Books Network

The SRS welcomed the [New Books Network](#) (NBN) as an organisational partner in May 2022. The NBN is a network of 120 author interview podcasts focused on academic books. It currently publishes 75 new interviews every week, has published over 14,000 interviews, and it reaches approximately a million listeners a month. It has listeners in every country in the world save North Korea. NBN listeners download between three and five million interviews a month.

SRS members will be particularly interested in the [NBN Channel on Eastern European Studies](#), which is hosted by Roland Clark, Jill Massino, and Lavinia Stan, among others.



Some of the books featured on this channel in 2022 included:

- Eleanor Knott, *Kin Majorities: Identity and Citizenship in Crimea and Moldova* (2022)
- Ion Popa, *The Romanian Orthodox Church and the Holocaust* (2017)
- Andreea Kaltenbrunner, *For the Faith, Against the State: Old Calendarism in Romania (1924-1936)* (2022)
- Máté Rigó, *Capitalism in Chaos: How the Business Elites of Europe Prospered in the Era of the Great War* (2022)
- Cynthia M. Horne, *Building Trust and Democracy: Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Countries* (2017)
- Alex Drace-Francis, *The Making of Mămăligă: Transimperial Recipes for a Romanian National Dish* (2022)
- Marc Roscoe Loustau, *Hungarian Catholic Intellectuals in Contemporary Romania: Reforming Apostles* (2022)
- Dennis Deletant, *In Search of Romania* (2022)
- Philippe Henri Blasen, *La "primauté de la nation roumaine" et les "étrangers": les minorités et leur liberté du travail sous le cabinet Goga et la dictature royale* (2022)
- Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, *Maria Theresa: The Habsburg Empress in Her Time* (2022)
- Maria Bucur, *The Nation's Gratitude: World War I and Citizenship Rights in Interwar Romania* (2022)
- Marc David Baer, *The Ottomans: Khans, Caesars, and Caliphs* (2021)
- Melissa Feinberg, *Communism in Eastern Europe* (2021)
- James Koranyi, *Migrating Memories: Romanian Germans in Modern Europe* (2021)

The NBN is actively recruiting new hosts. If you are interested in becoming a host, you can find more details [here](#).



National Archives

Cătălin Botoșineanu is a historian and archivist at the National Archives in Iași (where he was director between 2008-2012) interested in the history of Romanian education in the interwar period and the archives of Romanian communism.

Archives and the Culture of Secrets in a Democratic Society

The public image about the Archives as an institution in Romania is generally connected with the storing of documents with practical value, which serve the interests of citizens who wish to retire, who need to obtain evidence of property ownership from the past, or who need copies of documents that they no longer have. This simplification cannot, however, sum up the profile of an organization which periodically tests the level of democratisation and the maturity of a society. Although the Romanian state has made steps towards overcoming its communist inheritance, authoritarian habits crop up periodically within different post-Decemberist governments. The instrumentalisation of the past by restricting access to certain categories of documents, or by purely and simply eliminating the documentary traces of certain subjects are evidence of stereotypical practices seen over a long period in regimes within the space of the former Soviet Bloc.

Within the Romanian National Archives, in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 a group of archivists from Iași, Cluj, Harghita and Maramureș drew the attention of the organisation's leadership and of the Ministry of the Interior to certain profoundly illegal practices. Entire categories of classified documents were destroyed by institutions under the authority of the Ministry, with its militarized structures, without requesting the approval of the county archives. The abuses were carried out by the Ministry's secret service, the DGPI. The same practices were taking place in civil institutions as well, impacting documents by important people; this time involving documents classified by the SRI: mayors of municipalities and towns, county leadership structures, prefectures, large universities or large industrial enterprises. The documents were created both under Communism and after 1990, many of them forming part of the the National Archivist Fond, making the subject into one of extreme importance, with major implications for the institutions involved.

This was the basis upon which, in Spring 2022, the DGPI began an extensive campaign to verify all classified documents within all parts of the National Archives. What shocked us was that officers of the secret service of the Ministry of the Interior asked to verify the usage information not only of classified documents issued or created by elements of the National Archives, but especially of documents from the historical collections held in the archival deposits. They thus arrived at the conclusion that documents produced by the gendarmerie in the 1920s, by prefectures in the 1940s, or by the Communist authorities, should now be considered classified in the twenty-first century if they were marked secret decades ago. Researchers have not received access to these documents since May 26, 2022, and the archivists are waiting for their credentials to be verified to establish whether or not they have the required level of authorization to consult them.

Petitions and open letters followed from all professional associations of historians, of archivists, of the Romanian Academy, of the faculties of History and of research institutes throughout the country, as well as of associations of historians abroad. It was a reality seen differently by the DGPI on the one hand, and by historians and archivists on the other. The institutions addressed responded by providing a temporary solution. The hoped for responses were not forthcoming, and the case became an open conflict. What the responsible individuals at the Ministry of the Interior and the Romanian National Archives have refused to understand is that by blocking access to public documents they are casting serious doubts about the level of democratization of Romanian society. The censorship of the value of documents is one of the methods used by authoritarian regimes to control society, and cannot be left in the hands of secret service officers who are, in the Romania of 2022, dictating epistemic terms to historians and archivists.

Translated by Roland Clark

National Archives

Open Letter Regarding the Romanian National Archives

For the attention of:

Klaus Iohannis, President
Gabriel-Cristian Pișcociu, State Advisor
Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, Prime-Minister
Marcel Ciolacu, President of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies
Alina Gorghiu, President of the Romanian Senate
Lucian Nicolae Bode, Minister of the Interior
Lucian Romașcanu, Minister of Culture
Valeria Oana Zaharia, Manager, National Heritage Institute
Cristian Anița, Director of the Romanian National Archives



I am writing in the name of the Society of Romanian Studies (SRS), an international association of researchers from Europe, North America, and Asia dedicated to promoting the professional study, criticism, and research of all aspects of Romanian culture and civilization, particularly concerning the countries of Romania and Moldova. The SRS strongly supports the recent petitions and expressions of frustration towards the new rules regarding access to archival documents at the Romanian National Archives.

According to the UNESCO declaration of 2011, “Archives are a unique and irreplaceable heritage passed from one generation to another. Archives are managed from creation to preserve their value and meaning. They are authoritative sources of information underpinning accountable and transparent administrative actions. They play an essential role in the development of societies by safeguarding and contributing to individual and community memory.” As researchers, we value academic freedom, based on various constitutional guarantees (Article 30 regarding freedom of speech, Article 31 on freedom of information and the autonomy of the universities, Article 32, paragraph 6). We are therefore very upset at the current restrictions of access to archival documents and at the poor funding and support provided to the archives. We politely request:

1. Equal and unrestricted access to all documents held by the National Archives. We affirm that none of these documents represent any risk to Romania’s national security as they were created prior to 1989 and some during the period of the Second World War or even earlier. The access to archival documents is a crucial step in the transition from a totalitarian society to a democratic one, and is in conformity with Article 24 of Law 182/2022, which states that information, data, or documents cannot be classified as state secrets “with the goal of hiding illegal practices, administrative errors, the limitation of access to information of public interest, the illegal restriction or limiting of people’s rights,” and nor can documents concerning “fundamental scientific research” which have no “justifiable connection with national security.” Up until now the practice has been that, if one researcher received access to a document, that document could not be refused to someone else. Many of the documents that researchers are currently being refused access to were previously accessible to researchers, many of them even being published. Historians, researchers, and archivists cannot fulfill their professional duties without access to these archival collections and we ask that the current restrictions be eliminated as quickly as possible.
2. A new archival law which guarantees public and equal access to researchers to all collections of the National Archives, in conformity with the Recommendation No. R (2000) 13 of the Council of Europe, which refers to the access and use of the historical archives of the European Union (HAEU).



National Archives

3. The relocation of the National Archives from under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior to the Ministry of Culture. The international standard for archives is that national archives are autonomous, and under the authority of the Ministry of Culture or its equivalent. Because it concerns national heritage, the mission of the National Archives – that of collecting, conserving, administering, and guaranteeing the transmission of collective memory through the medium of historical documents – falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and not of the Ministry of the Interior. The leadership of the National Archives should not involve the censorship or activity of the DGPI.

4. The assurance of sufficient financial support that will allow the archives to fulfill its duties according to the law. According to the “Strategy of the National Archives 2015-2021,” “the principle archival institution of the Romanian state has been required to survive with out-dated and extremely reduced means: a conception and legal basis enshrined in Law No. 16/1996, which was quickly surpassed by current events, a lack of modernisation, particularly of digitalisation, insufficient staff, reduced drastically after 2008 and partly deprofessionalised because of a lower level of work, and with a symbolic budget adequate only for survival. The result was a continual weakening of the institution and a growing discrepancy between its legal obligations and possibilities. This all culminated in a series of measures during the period 2006-2011, such as the legal obligation to take over payroll, the degrading of all levels of the archives to a lower administrative rank, a dramatic reduction in personnel, and reduced budgets, which brought the institution practically to the brink of collapse.” As users of the National Archives, our members have not seen any improvement since this was written seven years ago. On the contrary, the Court of Accounts of Romania reported in 2017 that “the reorganization of the institution at the leadership level has reduced the level of all leadership functions under its jurisdiction, a problem which has negatively influenced the relationships with authority, representation, and control of the creators and custodians of documents, in particular of the 42 county archives. Regarding the number of positions accorded, the successive reorganisations of the institution between 2009 and 2016 have involved both the modification of the institution’s statutes and the abolition of staff positions, resulting in a significant reduction of these positions from 1,728 to 714 (in 2015).” Urgent measures need to be taken in light of this crisis situation.

We thank you for your assistance in this matter and hope for a positive solution,

Dr. Roland Clark, FHEA, FRHistS
President, Society for Romanian Studies
<https://society4romanianstudies.org/>



National Archives

The SRS received responses from the Presidency, the Government of Romania, the Prime Minister's office, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Culture. All six institutions informed us that they had passed our letter on to the Romanian National Archives, whose responsibility it was to deal with these issues.

We received the following response from the National Archives on August 1, 2022:

Following your petition, addressed to the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Culture, and sent to the National Archives for resolution, where it was registered as No. ANB-6973-R-2022/12.07.2022, connected with the petition addressed to our institution and registered as ANB-A-1793-R-2022/08.07.2022, we wish to inform you that the highlighted issues relating to the running of our institution have been analysed and we communicate, promptly, the following:

The problem identified: **equal and unrestricted access to documents held by the National Archives**, keeping in mind the fact that Article 24 of Law 182/2022 states that << *information, data, or documents cannot be classified as state secrets "with the goal of hiding illegal practices, administrative errors, the limitation of access to information of public interest, the illegal restriction or limiting of people's rights," and nor can documents concerning "fundamental scientific research" which have no "justifiable connection with national security."*>>

At the level of the Ministry of the Interior, the organisation entrusted with the interpretation of normative laws,¹ and with the regulation of the conditions of access to documents which contain classified information, is the Directorate-General for Information and Internal Protection (DGPI).

Upholding the above-mentioned laws, we clarify that following an inspection carried out by representatives of the DGPI of territorial departments of the National Archives, dossiers were withdrawn from research which, according to the usage information found in the archivist records, had been previously accessed by researchers.

At this time, the Directorate-General for Information and Internal Protection reiterated the fact that removing information classified under the protective rules determined by law is carried out *stricto sensu*, through their declassification, the method being established by national Standards for protection of classified information in Romania, approved through the Government Decision No. 585/2002, with the subsequent changes and additions.

Considering the fact that the provision to researchers of classified documents created prior to 1989 and found in the deposits of the National Archives, cannot prejudice national security, the defense of the country, public order, or the interests of public or private persons, we make known the fact that **the National Archives initiated**, in June 2022, a **draft Government Decision concerning the declassification of classified information**, contained in documents belonging to the National Archival Fond (FAN). Once the juridical situation of these documents will be clarified through the aforementioned Government Decision, these restrictions can be eliminated.

The problem identified: **the promulgation of a new archival law which guarantees public and equal access to researchers to all collections of the National Archives, in conformity with the Recommendation No. R (2000) 13 of the Council of Europe**.

In the past 15 years our institution has already had two attempts at modifying the National Archives Law following European models and recommendations.

1. Law no. 183/2002 with the subsequent modifications and additions, and the Government Decision no. 585/2002 with the subsequent modifications and additions.



National Archives

Beginning in 2018, the National Archives initiated and promoted a draft Archives Law (PL-x 31/2019), approved by the Government of Romania on 31.10.2018. Consequently, on 06.02.2019, the draft of a normative law was tacitly adopted by the Senate, in its capacity as the first house addressed. It was presented to the Permanent Office of the Chamber of Deputies on 11.02.2019, where an urgent procedure for resolution by the Government of Romania was approved. At the level of the Chamber of Deputies, the draft Archives Law received a notification on behalf of the Committee for Defense, Public Order, and National Security, the Committee for Human Rights, Religions, and National Minorities, the Committee for Labor and Social Protection, the Committee for Public Administration, and of the Committee for Information Technology and Communication. The creation of a common report at the level of the Judiciary Committee and the Cultural Committee of the Chamber of Deputies is expected in the following sitting of parliament.

The changes foreseen in the draft law include a better management of the archivistic domain, a clear definition of the national heritage under state protection, a clarification of the responsibilities between the public and private sector, the consolidation of the statutes of the National Archives as the only authority in the domain and of archives in general, and as an essential element of identity and an instrument of good governance.

The problem identified: **The relocation of the National Archives from under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior to the Ministry of Culture. (The international standard for archives is that national archives are autonomous, and under the authority of the Ministry of Culture or its equivalent).**

Your suggestion has been noted and we assure you that it will be analysed when the opportunity arises for the transfer of authority to another ministry or the functioning of the National Archives as an autonomous institution, keeping in mind its attributes in regards to administration, supervision, and special protection of documents of historical value.

The problem identified: **The assurance of sufficient financial support that will allow the archives to fulfill its duties according to the law.**

According to the Government Decision no. 1376/2009 regarding the establishment, organisation and functioning of the National Archives, with its subsequent modifications, the director of the National Archives has the capacity of tertiary credit officer under the coordination of the principal credit officer (the Ministry of the Interior). The National Archives, on the basis of its identified needs, drafts multi-annual budgets, budgetary estimates, as well as supplementary funds allocated on a yearly basis, but the size of the funds is determined by a number of factors, among which we mention the number of indicators approved for payment.

Therefore, we consider that the leadership of the National Archives, through correct budgetary requests sent to the superior hierarchical structures and through the constant accessing of European funds, have fulfilled and fulfill those responsibilities that belong to its level of competence.

Yours sincerely,

DIRECTOR, Dr. Cristian Anița [SS]

HEAD OF CONTROL, ANALYSIS, SYNTHESIS AND PUBLIC POLICY, Georgeta Anghel [SS]

Translated by Roland Clark

The text of the draft Government Decision was made public on November 7, 2022 and is available [here](#).

A close reading of the text suggests that the issues raised by the petitions and open letters from the SRS and other organisations will not be resolved by this Government Decision and that numerous documents which had previously been accessible to researchers will still remain inaccessible following its implementation.

Soundbite from Romania

Eleanor Knott (she/her) is a political scientist at the London School of Economics. Her first book, [Kin Majorities: Identity and Citizenship in Crimea and Moldova](#), was published by McGill-Queen's University Press in 2022. The author is happy to be contacted (e.k.knott@lse.ac.uk) if anyone would like help getting a copy.



Eleanor Knott
Assistant Professor
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Why do We Rarely Talk about Romania as a Kin-State?

Since 1991, Romania has reinvigorated relations both with the Moldovan state and Moldovan citizens. Like many states emerging from communism, Romania is a kin-state that engages with external communities through claims of co-ethnicity. Such kin-state engagement typically includes providing international lobbying and leverage for discriminated minorities, opening up rights and benefits within the kin-state (quasi-citizenship), and/or facilitating the acquisition of citizenship, as Romania does. Indeed, Romania views citizenship by co-ethnic kin residing in Romania's former interwar territory not as acquisition but as *reacquisition* (*redobândire*).

Typically, kin-state research has focused on cases like Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, and Russia. For example, scholars like [Tamás Kiss](#), [Szabolcs Pogonyi](#), and [Myra Waterbury](#), among others, have extensively studied Hungary's engagement with external Hungarian minorities in Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, and Ukraine. Romania has remained "a low profile" and under-studied kin-state. Few consider Romania's engagement through a kin-state lens, let alone a lens where its kin-state activities might be somewhat negative – whether for the individual kin or the state in which they reside. At most, Romania is viewed as a regionally significant player within the Black Sea region.

This obscuring of Romania as a kin-state is interesting for several reasons. First, Romania has one primary object of kin-state attention: citizens in Moldova. Romania does engage with kin elsewhere, such as in Ukraine and Serbia. But it is in Moldova that Romania focuses its attention and policies. We see this, for example, in the fact that Moldovan citizens have been [decisive voters](#) in Romania's external constituencies. Second, as [Udrea](#) argues, Romania considers itself a kin-state to "another state": Moldova. In Moldova, it is often Russia rather than Romania which receives attention. Of course, there is a valid concern – not least in the wake of Russia's war against and invasion of Ukraine – about Russia's increasingly provocative activities in Transnistria and Moldova. However, such a focus should not come at the exclusion of considering Romania's (kin-state) engagement with Moldova. Third, and relatedly, the numbers of Moldovan citizens that have (re-)acquired Romanian citizenship in the last decades are staggering. Moldovan news has reported that over [one million](#) (re-)acquired Romanian citizenship between 1998 and 2018. Moreover, we have to rely on Moldovan news reporting because the Romanian state is not open about these numbers. Fourth, Romania offers an overly simple answer to identity debates in Moldova. Romania claims the majority residing in Moldova to be ethnically Romanian, where *being Moldovan* is to be *ethnically Romanian*. This interpretation suggests there is no way to be Moldovan without identifying as Romanian, or no way to identify as Moldovan without problematising or feeling ambivalent or unsure about one's identification as Romanian or with Romania. But, as I explore in [Kin Majorities](#), the situation is much more complex.

Some interviewees in Moldova did view the two categories – Moldovan and Romanian – as analogous. But many others, who considered the language they speak as Romanian, viewed the relationship between Moldovan and Romanian forms of identification (whether ethnic, cultural, or historical) to be more uncertain, plural, or simply difficult to reconcile.

Soundbite from Romania

Some considered themselves, for example, ethnically Romanian but politically Moldovan, where Moldovan was a possible civic identification, and separate to Romanian forms of identification. This complexity offers a different picture of what it means to be Moldovan than Romania's view that a Moldovan nation is a hangover from an artificial Soviet project.

We Need to Discuss the Pros and Cons of Reacquiring Romanian Citizenship

For a state of 2.8 million citizens ([following the 2014 census](#)), the proportion who hold Romanian citizenship in Moldova – approximately one third – means Romania's policy is one of the most extensive policies of extra-territorial citizenship. Here, we understand extra-territorial citizenship policies as concerning non-resident communities, including many with little intention to reside in Romania, compared to citizenship naturalization policies that pertain to resident communities. But Romania's citizenship policy, and its implications for and impacts on Moldova, are also rarely explored. In part, this policy goes under the radar because Romania's citizenship policy is viewed as inherently normal, legitimate, and a reparative act for those (and their descendants) who lost Romanian citizenship due to losing territory to the Soviet Union.



Romania's citizenship policy, in the main, is seen as legitimate and normal by the Moldovan state (at least the current government) and Moldovan citizens more generally. Among those I interviewed, the main reason for wanting to (re-)acquire or having (re-)acquired Romanian citizenship was neither its material value (access to the EU) nor Romanian identification. Rather, Romanian citizenship was seen as a natural, normal, and legitimate right. Indeed, several people I identified saw Romanian citizenship as a legitimate right despite not identifying as Romanian. Many view "[attacks](#)" on Romania's policy as unwarranted, but unhelped by Romania's failure to share the real numbers openly. After all, the argument goes, Romania is neither selling citizenship (as Malta is) nor granting as many people citizenship as other EU member-states (e.g. France, Germany, and the UK prior to Brexit).

But two implications warrant further scrutiny. First, are direct and unforeseen consequences, given the size of Romania's citizenship policy in Moldova. Romania's citizenship policy, like its scholarship policy for Moldovan students, offers important opportunities. But such opportunities have directly furthered and continue to further Moldova's population loss and brain drain through outward migration. The point is not to blame Moldovan citizens for migrating or gaining Romanian citizenship in an international system that otherwise has peripheralized Moldovan citizens' access to the world. The point is to wonder why Romania is facilitating outward migration from Moldova, and undercutting intakes to Moldovan universities without much scrutiny. While Romania facilitates exit, Moldova's president – [Maia Sandu](#) – calls on diaspora to help in Moldova's development by returning. Second, is the desire – implicit or explicit – to recreate Greater Romania's citizenry. Romania claims there is nothing ethnicized about its citizenship policy; that Romania's policy is restorative and reparative, rather than about ethnonationalism. Certainly, the criteria for (re-)acquisition are territorial, or more accurately based on demonstrating ties to former Romanian citizens residing in Romania's interwar territory. But, by recreating [Greater Romania's citizenry](#) – a nationalist and fascist state – the effects are still ethnicized, and the policy still resembles a nationalist policy.

In sum, and as I argue further in [Kin Majorities](#), Romania is an active kin-state that keenly engages with both Moldovan citizens and the Moldovan state in ways we do not see elsewhere. We should be scrutinizing and researching Romania as a kin-state further, especially in Moldova, rather than continuing to allow this obvious and active example of a kin-state to be obscured.

Soundbite from Romania

Ștefan Ungurean is a lecturer in the Faculty of Sociology and Communication at Transilvania University of Brașov. He is a regular contributor to romanasociala.ro; more information about the visual sociology exhibit can be found [here](#).

Visual Sociology in Brașov

Soon after a specialization in Sociology was established at Transilvania University of Brașov after 1990, we created a student research project by involving the students in small social experiments. The themes were chosen by the students. One experiment involved three boys, of whom two pretended to be gay and the third observed the reactions of those around them. Another had two girls dressed as Roma entering an expensive shop while a third observed what happened around them. In another experiment, two girls dressed as nuns entered a popular disco.

We were shocked at what was going through students' heads, so we gave up on this type of research and shortly before the year 2000, I can't remember the exact moment, we turned to the "visual", building on Foucault's idea "to see that which is visible", which was actually a continuation of the earlier idea, albeit with fewer risks involved.

With this new approach, the student research went through three stages, if we can call them that. The first focused on the photography of unusual but important things encountered while passing through everyday life. At the end of the

project the students were asked to present their work to the rest of the group so that everyone could observe "the unusual". We produced an exhibition based on these presentations, which was based on different themes, according to what the students had done. The exhibition was displayed in the hallways of Transilvania University of Brașov during term time, as well as in those of the Sociology Faculty in Bucharest.

The second stage was tied to directing the gaze, so to speak. Students were asked to choose a town that they had never been to and then to read reports about that town from an interwar newspaper and from a postsocialist newspaper. After having done this reading, they had to go to that town and take photographs. The goal was for them to capture something of the spirit of the town from their readings, but we had to give up this method of doing visual sociology because of the complexities of library research (i.e., because of the quantity of work and time involved). But the benefits lay elsewhere. The most visible was the visiting of previously unknown places. The second benefit was the fact that they organized in groups, used their own transport, and travelled through the towns. This experience was unforgettable. This project also involved group presentations and resulted in a public exhibition within the classrooms of the university.



Soundbite from Romania

At the same time, our students were involved in an oral history project organised in collaboration with Indiana University over a period of two years, starting in 2002. This collaboration, run with a team led by Professor Maria Bucur-Deckard, was crucial in our institutional and individual development, including my own. I have never been able to thank Professor Bucur enough for the fruitful impact of this collaboration. To begin with, it added a phenomenological and moral dimension to our knowledge, which is missing from quantitative sociology. The discovery of this domain created the obligation to recuperate social memory and thus, together with another colleague from the university, Mircea Ivanoiu, I quickly produced some interviews with people from Bucovina who had been born and lived there between the two world wars. The students' efforts focused on collecting testimonies from very elderly people. This research lasted roughly ten years and won the "Dimitrie Gusti" prize from the Romanian Academy in 2015.

Following the collaboration with Indiana University we renounced the idea of doing visual sociology of the city and moved on to oral history coupled with photography. This change involved learning interviewing techniques and thus obliged us to modify our approach entirely, abandoning student research as it had been done and incorporating everything into the seminar teaching of the first semester of the first-year program.

Technically speaking, a project of visual sociology has two parts. I outline below the instructions given to students before they begin their fieldwork.

I. **Observation:** **People and place**

The student's project should begin with a short narrative, based on field notes about dwellings and people found in the place being researched and explaining who the interlocutors are.

It should also explain how information was obtained (including *a priori* knowledge), providing bibliographic references to the context of the research. It is the student's responsibility to choose their respondents. They can be relatives, but this is not recommended because this reduces the possibility for objectivity.

Students are reminded that they should not forget the guidelines given during our seminars, and need to discover:

- People and their world, including other people who enter their space physically and mentally;
- „Processes”: activities, work, cooking, sleep, hygiene, religious activities;
- The objects and technology that surround and serve them, which make life possible; and
- The space (physical and constructed) in which their lives unfold.

II. **The Interview** focuses on periods of life and on events or experiences. The following is the logical structure of the interview as it appears in the instructions given to students:



Soundbite from Romania

II.i The periods of life, with important people met during those times! Who we owe things to! Who should not be forgotten...

- I. Childhood: grandparents, parents, other relatives, place of birth
- II. Adolescence: teachers
- III. Youth: teachers, lovers, marriage
- IV. Maturity: work, achievements
- V. Old age: other achievements

II.ii Events that should not be forgotten...

- I. Fundamental professional and human experiences;
- II. Joys;
- III. Surprises;
- IV. Misfortunes, sufferings, pain;
- V. Mistakes, errors, injustices;
- VI. Unusual experiences;
- VII. Traumatic moments;
- VIII. Major life-changing decisions;
- IX. Regrets, remonstrances, failures;
- X. Debts; who do you owe: parents, friends, teachers, others ... etc
- XI. Essential beliefs about experiences or on life...

III: Interpretation

Here are some of the instructions...

*“The primary goal of narrative research is the interpretation of human experience. Identify the principle themes of the informant’s testimony and offer/choose a theoretical perspective to interpret the story, either as a whole or based on chosen themes. Offer a “key” (the way in which meaning is constructed). You are seeking to identify the element which is “alive”, unique, perhaps aesthetic, significant, historical, but most importantly, **symbolic** of the informant!”*

D. Photography

The student has to focus on the following aspects:

- a. The person, how they look, in states that define them, by capturing these states (avoid ***prefabricated*** photos);
- b. Dwelling: the arrangement of the interior space which expresses the informant’s way of being in the world; objects, artifacts;
- c. **Courtyard;**
- d. **Nature**, the environment in which the dwelling is situated.

E. The Experience of the Project (reproduced from the instructions given to students)

„This chapter will include a narrative about your vision (opinion) of the project: what did you feel, what did your personal experience show you, what has changed in your life/behavior, what costs did you have, your perception of the organisation/preparation of the research, how it should be improved. It should include all elements that can communicate the „lived” experience of direct contact: the way in which you were treated, what happened during the interview, etc.”





Soundbite from Romania

There are numerous benefits of this last stage.

1. Learning interview techniques.
2. Learning through direct contact with people who have had fundamental experiences;

The presupposition that underlines this stage of reflecting on the experiential meaning of the project comes from Derrida:

Derrida says: „To live, by definition, is not something one learns. Not from oneself, it is not learned from life, taught by life. Only from the other and by death. In any case from the other at the edge of life.” In this way the project becomes an exercise in learning to live.

I quote from the notes describing the experience of the projects which were finalised in Autumn this year.

Emanuela-Daniela Dumitru reports: **“It is not enough to listen to someone to understand them. One must relive those moments together with them and to put yourself in their place.”** The meeting with someone who lived in another world makes the student to reflect on themselves, as Maria-Doreida Romanet acknowledges: **“The conversation we had pushed me to look inside myself, to open my eyes wide and to start to be truly thankful for what I have, for what I receive, what I see and feel, and especially for the people around me.”** Alexandra-Elena Dorobant: **“The world was real back then, everything was real, people were beings with feelings. Now? Now just try to tell someone that something hurts and straight away they will start complaining about how many problems they have.”**

1. The observation of other ways of life;
2. The construction of certain intergenerational solidarities.

At the end of the project the student has to give the informant a copy so that the project can remain in the family archive as part of their memories, contributing the first steps towards creating memories, or adding a new step to the process.

In conclusion, we can say that the projects of visual sociology have evolved from being extracurricular activities (stage one) to an activity within the seminars of the discipline “Introduction to Sociology”. If we spoke about student research in stage one, in the final stages we are talking about didactic products. To respect the idea which we started off from, however, that of student research, another moment was put into motion, that of group presentations (which took place in stage one), so that everyone could see what had been produced during the seminar and to help with choosing the project that sits at the base of the visual sociology exhibition.

Beyond gaining knowledge, the activity seeks to reposition the value of each student through a collective representation, separate from the grades earned in exams. Thus, at the end we collect the best projects and the best photographs and they enter what we call student research.

The best projects and photographs form the basis of a public exhibition. These are always organised at the beginning of the university year, as a sort of counterbalance to the official speeches and giving the moment a symbolic value. They are displayed in public space so that passersby and tourists can visit them. Beginning with this year, the students who made the exhibition possible have been awarded prizes and copies of their posters. Unfortunately Covid prevented this activity from taking place for two consecutive years and it is only this year that we have been able to restart the project in its initial form. As a conclusion, I want to emphasize that the important goal of the whole exercise is that of bringing the importance of the individual person forward, both the subject of research and the implicated researcher.

Translated by Roland Clark

Soundbite from Romania

Irina Georgescu is a food writer and author from Romania, whose writing and recipes are a love letter to Romania, a country that is unexplored from a culinary point of view. Irina was born and lived in Bucharest, Romania, for 30 years, before she moved to Wales, UK. Through her books and social media presence, she is constantly raising the profile of Romania's culinary identity and its traditions. Her first book, *Carpathia: Food from the Heart of Romania* was shortlisted by the UK Guild of Food Writers to the Best International Cookbook Award, while its German translation was awarded a Silver Feather by the German Culinary Academy. The book was also translated into Hungarian and Dutch. Her second book, *Tava, Eastern European Baking and Desserts from Romania and Beyond* is a meticulously researched baking book celebrating centuries of diversity and overlapping cultures that form today's cuisine in Romania. The author's aim is to also share the story of those dishes that have come to represent the identity of different cultural communities across the country. The books are available worldwide, in independent bookshops and international online retailers.



Irina Georgescu

Borș, the Ingredient

Borș is a big thing in Romania. This juice, made by fermenting wheat bran on its own or with cornmeal, is used in meat or vegetable broths to add a sweet and sour flavour. Any broth like this is called a borș, but it's not the beetroot dish you would expect in other Eastern European countries. A true borș (the ingredient) is not very sour, has just the right hint of sweetness and is pale green in colour with golden reflections. Its health benefits are right up there with kombucha, kimchi, and miso, especially if you drink one glass every morning on an empty stomach. It's the secret to a good complexion.



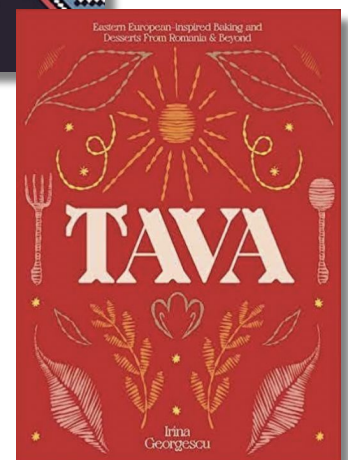
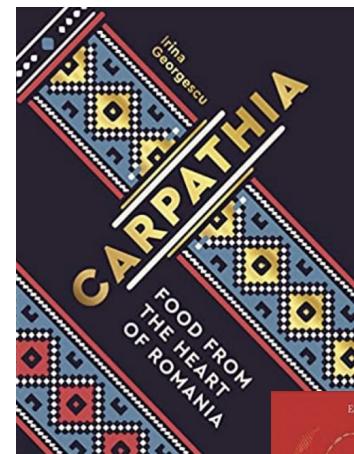
(photo by Jamie Orlando Smith)

Recipe makes 2 litres ($3\frac{1}{2}$ pints)

200g (7oz) wheat bran
100g ($3\frac{1}{2}$ oz) polenta
2.7 litres ($2\frac{3}{4}$ pints) tepid water
1 slice of toast, almost burnt optional
2–3 bay leaves
Few lovage stalks (optional)

Equipment

3 litres ($5\frac{1}{4}$ pint) sterilised jar with tightly-fitting lid



Method

Mix all the ingredients, seal the jar and leave in a warm place (over 18°C/64.4°F) for a few days or a week. Open the jar every day and stir well with a wooden spoon. Taste the borș before stirring – it will probably smell of fermentation, but the taste should be sweet-sour, and slightly fizzy when it's ready. Pour through a fine sieve into lidded bottles or jars, and place in the fridge. It is now ready to use. The fermented bran that settles on the bottom of the jar can be used to start another batch in combination with fresh bran or make a face mask – wonderful for glorious supple skin.

Soundbite from Romania

Borș vs ciorbă

In Romania, we eat a borș or ciorbă between the starter and the main course. These clear broths have a tangy, sour element added to them, whether from fermented wheat – in which case they are called borș, or from vinegar, unripe summer fruits, brine from pickles, and even sour cream mixed with eggs, in which case they are called ciorbă. There are infinite variations: pork with tarragon, meatballs with lovage, lettuce with a sliced omelette, sauerkraut with paprika, vegetable medley, sorrel and even nettles. Pretty much any broth can be made into a refreshing borș or ciorbă. A soup is always clear and sweet, like the famous chicken soup with noodles.



(photo by Jamie Orlando Smith)

A culinary confusion

In Romanian cuisine, there are situations where we ‘import’ the name of a dish from a different language, and we cook something completely different. In the case of this borș, we cook a whole category of dishes. A borș has different recipes and ingredients throughout the country, of course in those regions where it is part of the cooking repertoire. It resembles a Polish kvass but we use it as a sour ingredient in dishes, to lift the flavours. A similar example, in reverse, is zacuscă. This word ended up representing one dish as opposed to various ‘pre-starters’ served in Russia to accompany a shot of vodka. Previous names could have been ‘salată’ or ‘mâncare’ before it was popularised as zacuscă.

Autumn activities

Autumn is a very busy time of the year in Romanian kitchens. Vegetables are bottled and pickled, fruits are turned into delicious jams and compotes, or cold smoked over hay. Chargrilled vegetables are made into a dip called zacuscă, plums and greengages are fermented to make țuică brandy, and tomatoes are cooked down to make passata. There is a tradition in Romania to welcome guests with a little tray of homemade fruit confiture or jam, a glass of cold water and a coffee. When the fruit is ready for harvest, from mid-summer onwards, we turn into a nation of jam and marmalade makers. Later, in the autumn we start fermenting green tomatoes and cabbages in brine and pickle peppers in vinegar. Usually, fermentation implies salt or brine, and pickling calls for vinegar. When we make sauerkraut and shredded cabbage, we use salt only, since the moisture in the cabbage will mix with the liquid to create the brine. We use the brine method when we ferment whole cabbages, which is traditional in Romania, and the leaves are used to make sarmale. Whole cabbages can’t produce enough liquid to make a brine with their own juices, so we need to add water and salt from the beginning.

Gogonele

Gogonele, unripe green tomatoes, are traditionally fermented in 10-litre (2-gallon) jars. Usually, for 1kg tomatoes, we use 1 sliced carrot and 1 sliced parsnip, 3–4 garlic cloves. The hot brine is made of 1 l water and at least 20g of preserving salt. Depending on taste, some people use 40g of salt per litre if they want the fermentation process to slow down and/or prevent the brine from developing a layer of mould. The brine is poured hot over the tomatoes, the jars are sealed and only opened in December. In the UK, I’ve noticed that they are ‘burped’, to avoid any ‘explosions’ in the kitchen, which can be damaging, but I never saw this method in Romania. The yeast eventually eats itself and stops fermenting. We serve these gogonele with the mezze style starters, next to charcuterie and cheese platters, and also as a side dish to main courses.

“Rural Voices” International Workshop (November 11, 2022, New Europe College)

On 11 November, 2022, New Europe College hosted the “Rural Voices” international workshop, organized in connection with the Lapedatu Fellowships, sponsored by the [Lapedatu Foundation](#).

The workshop was convened by the two Lapedatu Fellows, Roland Clark and Iuliana Cindrea-Nagy, and Constantin Ardeleanu on behalf of New Europe College. The event, which could also be joined via Zoom, brought together scholars from Romania and abroad, as well as from different disciplines, such as history, ethnology, architecture, and the study of religions.

The main focus of the “Rural Voices” workshop was to open up a discussion about the Romanian countryside and the “rural voices” of modern and contemporary Romania, as well as to engender new research questions



(photo courtesy of NEC)

in relation to the aforementioned topics. The event opened with a short welcome and introduction by Constantin Ardeleanu, followed by Roland Clark and Andreas Wild, the biographer of the Lapedatu brothers, and vice president of the Lapedatu Foundation.

The workshop consisted of three sessions, all of which were chaired by NEC fellows. The four papers presented in the first session, chaired by Cosmin Koszor-Codrea, were dedicated to highlighting the histories and struggles of various contemporary rural communities. Constantin Bărbulescu’s paper was a beautiful introduction to the issue of the “ignored voices of the peasantry,” pointing out the fact that throughout history peasants’ voices have often been heard, but never truly listened to. Răzvan Roșu spoke about the Moți colonists in the Carei Area, and drew attention to the fact that these often overlooked rural voices can become valuable alternative sources. Adriana Cupcea’s paper focused on how the memories of Communist life affect the nowadays Turkish Muslim Roma community in Dobruja, even setting off a reshuffling of their identities. The session ended with Cătălin Berescu’s presentation, suggestively entitled “A Rural Monument,” in which he pointed out the fact that material culture can also become a means through which the peasants express themselves, and the objects that they build embody their voices.

The second session, chaired by Sergiu Delcea, consisted of three presentations that brought into attention the written sources that contain and reflect the early twentieth century and interwar “rural voices.” The panel opened with the presentation of Constantin Ardeleanu who spoke about the inception of credit cooperatives in the Romanian villages, and how that impacted the everyday lives of the peasants.

Rural Voices



(photo courtesy of NEC)

Roland Clark's paper brought attention to the topic of pasturelands, how they were administered in the 1930s, and how a spiritual phenomenon, such as the Maglavit one, caused a shift in the manners and purposes for which they were used. This conversation was continued by George Andrei's presentation, which focused on the southern and eastern Transylvanian highlands, emphasizing the diversity of rural voices and identities involved in disputes over Romanian forests in the interwar period.

The third session, chaired by David Diaconu, brought to light rural voices reflected in written, archival sources. The presentations of Andreea Kaltenbrunner and Iuliana Cindrea-Nagy aimed attention at the voices of a religious community, the Old Calendarists. While Kaltenbrunner's paper highlighted the fact that even though the state often framed the narrative in relation to this religious minority, their voices are still present in the archives, Cindrea-Nagy attempted to show how the voices of some members of the current community led to the construction of sanctity of Glicherie Tănase, one of the most important spiritual leaders of the group. The panel closed with Philippe Henri Blasen's presentation which brought to light valuable written sources that contain the feelings and impressions of "Northern Moldavian small town dwellers" in relation to Carol II's regime.

The papers presented during the workshop raised new questions, offered some new perspectives and sought solutions for some of the most important issues that challenge the scholars who deal with the topic of peasantry and the Romanian countryside. The "Rural Voices" workshop concluded with a poignant remark, drawn by Andreas Wild, namely that the rural communities and their voices have been and remain important elements that need, more than ever, to be brought to the fore and heard.



(photo courtesy of NEC)

In the end, we would like to take this opportunity to thank and express our appreciation to the Lapedatu Foundation, as well as to the New Europe College for sponsoring, hosting and organizing the "Rural Voices" workshop!

Graduate Student Research

George Andrei is a PhD candidate in Eastern European History at Indiana University Bloomington. He recently returned from eight months of research in Romania, where he was a 2021-22 Fulbright grantee. He also participated in the recent international workshop "[Rural Voices](#)," hosted by New Europe College in Bucharest (report on page 24).

Please tell us about your academic background. How did you become interested in Romanian and/or Eastern European history?

I have been interested in Eastern European history in a broad sense for a very long time. I really became more interested in Romanian history during my undergraduate years at Ohio State University, where I studied history and Russian language. Because of the course options and overlap with my Russian language major, I mostly focused on Russian history in my coursework. I had the opportunity to study something closer to my interests when I began writing my undergraduate thesis. A survey course on Russian history and a course on the Mongol Empire really got me interested in medieval Eastern Europe, so I chose a thesis topic covering that interest while also being closer to home personally. I am originally from Sibiu, so I wrote my thesis on the politics surrounding the settlement of the early waves of Saxon migration to Transylvania. As I thought about grad school my interests began shifting to more modern history, and, by the time I began my work at Indiana University, I was interested in doing a project set in the early twentieth century. I guess this is all to say that I just followed my interests as they came to me. I can't say I had any perspective shattering moments before coming to graduate school, so I would just say my interest was the result of an organic curiosity and small shifts over time.



George Andrei
PhD Candidate
Department of History
Indiana University Bloomington

You spent 2021-22 in Romania conducting research in both rural and urban archives. What kinds of materials do you use as primary sources? How does the experience of research vary in different types of archives? What advice can you offer to scholars planning to do archival research in Romania?

My experience is probably very unlike that of most non-Romanian graduate students studying in the Romanian archives. It is probably more akin to those of a local who starts at the archives that are close and accessible to them and then moves up. My first experience in the archives was in Sibiu, when I was researching for my undergraduate thesis. While I spent most of my time in provincial archives, these were set in urban settings. I can't say the archives are "rural," but the materials can be.

I like to go to provincial archives because I am not so interested in the machinations of policy creation and debate in the centers of power. I am more interested in how policy was applied on the ground and hearing the voices of those actively involved in its negotiation. So, when I enter the archives, I am looking specifically for local voices, hence my preference for the county archives, since even if such voices make it to Bucharest, we must understand that they were filtered. I believe that, in a space that was so rural for most of its history, one can't rely just on what they find in Bucharest if they want a rounded picture. My work relies on a number of materials, most of which I would say are "standard": memos, petitions, internal and external institutional correspondence, and so on. In my opinion, it is not so much the types of sources that I use but paying attention to those produced by figures that are otherwise silenced in history: peasants, local powerbrokers, low-level bureaucrats and functionaries, etc.

Graduate Student Research

As for how the experience varies between the county archives and the central historical archives, it is really something that changes from place to place. In some places, the facilities and assistance available are similar (I should note that when I was in Bucharest, the archives were relocated to a facility in Militari, so my experience is based on my time there). In others, you can really feel the lack of funding (sometimes literally physically, from the discomfort of the workstations). My experience at some county archives was much more akin to that in Bucharest than at other provincial archives, so I cannot say that the difference lies with the urban-provincial divide.

The best advice I can offer scholars interested in studying in Romanian archives is just to get in touch with the archivists ahead of time. Prepare for frustration looking through inventories printed or handwritten decades ago (or scans of these). Always check the Romanian National Archives' website to see if they have the inventories online (including for provincial archives), and use the online filing system to find collections and inventories you want to consult before you go in. Communication and a bit of preparation ahead of time can save you a lot of time and trouble later. Oh, and check ahead of time with the archivists to see if online payments are accepted for photographing and photocopying fees. In some places, these systems haven't been implemented yet.

Thematically, your work engages the methods and perspectives of environmental history. What contributions does your work make to our existing understanding of the role of the environment in the larger history of interwar Romania? Of interwar Europe?

Romania, and the entire East European region, for that matter, has been an overwhelmingly rural place for much of its history. A central part of rural life is the everyday interaction and dependence one has on their environment and the socioecological systems

that influence the possibilities of life. With this in mind, it's truly stunning that environmental history has such a small presence in the region's historiography. I suspect that part of this is the wedge that has emerged between more mainstream historical themes and analytics and environmental studies. I hope that my work shows that this is a false dichotomy and that they are one and the same.

There is real potential for disruption of the standard periodization by shifting our perspective. For instance, by looking to environmental and land use policy we can reevaluate collectivization by looking to what happened in the interwar period and beyond, when massive land reform projects likewise were aimed at giving the state control over people and resources in the countryside. I hope that my intervention shows that you don't have to be interested in environments and how they change to recognize they had a vital role in establishing the Romanian nation-state outside of the Old Regat.



Andrei at the "Rural Voices" workshop at New Europe College in November 2022 (photo courtesy of NEC)

Graduate Student Research

You employ a global approach, connecting the debates surrounding forestry in interwar Romania to questions of modernity elsewhere in the world. Why is the global an important frame for this research?

Because ideas are fluid and global perspectives allow us to dislocate ourselves from the false idea that modern Romania is entirely a creation of exchange with the West. Global here represents more a perspective than a scope of study. It means that we follow networks, study the transfer itself rather than the translocation of something from A to B, and attempt to understand the localization of global phenomena. This not only opens up the possibilities of scholarship but also helps us to tear down myths.

As for why it's important in the context of my own research, I will say that, without it, one can simply not understand how forestry as a practice took over forest management practices worldwide, let alone in Romania. Had I not followed forestry networks globally, my research would have revealed that Romanian foresters studied at Nancy in France and that therefore Romanian forestry was the result of an appropriation of French forestry. If, however, you look at who the colleagues of these Romanian foresters were, and with whom they were in communication, you begin uncovering strands that connected the Romania to the British Raj, former Ottoman territories, the U.S., Southeast Asia, and so on, and in doing so you begin to question the true relationship between Romania and the world.

You are currently the president of the Romanian Studies Organization (RomSO) at Indiana University (IU). What kinds of extracurricular programming have you been involved with at IU? What challenges face organizations of this type?



Andrei at the Romanian Studies and Hungarian Studies Junior Scholar Conference in March 2019

My colleague Leah Valtin-Erwin and I have worked to continue the tradition of organizing an early career and graduate student conference at IU for Romanian studies. In 2019, we partnered with our friends at IU's Hungarian Cultural Association to host an iteration of the conference catering to both Romanian and Hungarian studies topics with remarkable success. Unfortunately, the pandemic forced us to take the conference online the following year. More recently, we have put on panel discussions, guest lectures, and film screenings. In Spring 2023, we will be holding a [dissertation incubator](#) for doctoral students working on dissertations in Eastern European studies, for which we are accepting abstracts until December 15 at romso@iu.edu. We also have been hosting Indiana University's Romanian language table, carrying on a tradition from when Romanian was offered as a language here, now through Zoom. These have drawn Romanian speakers from universities all over the midwestern United States and welcome participants from all over and at all levels of language comprehension. Anyone interested may contact romso@iu.edu.

The challenges are both local and the result of larger phenomena in academia. A reorganization of student organizations at Indiana University has made it difficult for us to be as fluid as we once were with its administration. There is also the issue of falling enrollments in Eastern European related disciplines and the fact that Romanian is no longer offered at IU, leaving us with progressively fewer participants.

Graduate Student Research

What funding sources have been important to your research? What other resources (databases, scholarly networks, etc) would you recommend to other early-career scholars?

I have been very fortunate to receive funding both for research and language instruction. The FLAS and Title VIII programs have been particularly important for the latter, enabling me to build my skills in Hungarian to access Hungarian-language documents, which have proved instrumental to my work. A IIE Fulbright Student Program Grant has likewise been indispensable, allowing me to spend eight months in Romania to conduct archival research in Alba Iulia, Bucharest, Braşov, Sf. Gheorghe, and Sibiu in 2021-2022.

There are also a number of databases that have been helpful. Firstly, the ANR's online system has been very valuable in finding relevant collections, but the extent to which you can depend on it varies dramatically from archive to archive and even collection to collection. The digital collections of the Bucharest Metropolitan library have likewise been wonderful, but there have been issues with it historically and, as of November 2022, the website, digibuc.ro, has not worked for me for several months and seems to be offline. If it ever comes back online, it is a great resource for scholars of all stages. In its absence, I would like to give credit to the initiative taken by several university and other institutional libraries that have been expanding their digital collections: central libraries of the universities in Cluj, Iaşi, and Sibiu, as well as [Biblioteca Digitală Națională](#) and [Biblioteca Digitală a Publicațiilor Culturale](#).



Andrei speaking at the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission in-country orientation in October 2021 (photo from Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission)

CfA: H-Romania Editor



[H-Romania](#) is currently looking for a new group of editors to take over the running of the list management and book reviews.

H-Romania is now in its eighth year of operation, with nearly 400 subscribers to the network. We publish book reviews in all social science and

humanities fields related to Romanian Studies, operate a discussion forum, host links to research and teaching resources, and disseminate a variety of announcements and calls for papers/applications. While we are happy with our progress thus far, we still have room to grow and improve. We want to encourage SRS members to join H-Romania and publicize the network across the broad field of Romanian Studies. Please feel free to contribute postings and announcements, notify us of any recently published books and calls for papers/applications in your field, and volunteer to review books and report on conferences. And please follow us @HNet_Romania on Twitter. **Please contact Chris Davis at R.Chris.Davis@LoneStar.edu if you are interested in joining the H-Romania editorial team.**

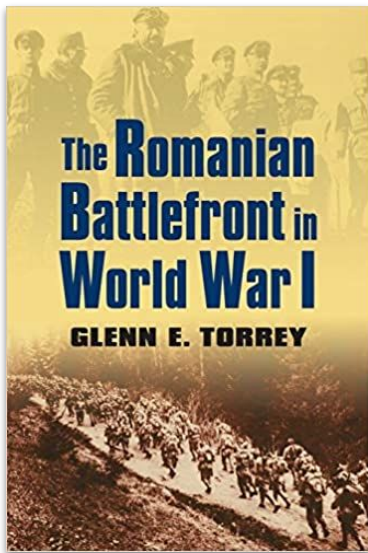
Obituary: Glenn E. Torrey

Glenn E. Torrey (1930-2022)

Participants involved in international Romanian Studies will be saddened to hear that perhaps the last of the giants of the first generation of American scholars specializing in Romania passed away over the 2022 Fourth of July weekend. Dr. Glenn E. Torrey, Professor Emeritus of Emporia State in Kansas, was the third Fulbright fellow to Romania in 1961, joining Keith Hitchins and Frederick Kellogg who had come in 1960. Prof. Torrey was born December 4, 1930 and passed away in Seattle July 3, 2022. He completed all three of his degrees at the University of Oregon, including the Ph.D in 1960 with Gordon Wright, before going to Iron Curtain Romania in 1961. He spent his entire teaching career at Emporia State University in Kansas.



Prof. Torrey's primary interest was in Romania during the First World War, a virtual black hole of research, but his tireless work in Romanian, French, British, Austrian, Italian, Russian, and American archives, produced string of impressive articles (many of them collected in 1998 in *Romania and World War I*), and books, capped in 2012 by his *The Romanian Battlefield in World War I* (published in Romania in 2014 as *România în Primul Război Mondial*). This book made Prof. Torrey the leading international expert on Romania in World War One. He also was responsible for uncovering the memoirs and papers of General Henri Berthelot, which he published in 1987 as *General Henri Berthelot and Romania: Mémoires et Correspondance 1916-1919* (Romanian edition 2012: *Generalul Henri Berthelot: Memorii și Corespondența 1916-1919*). His work with the Berthelot papers resulted in another important monograph, *Henri Mathias Berthelot: Soldier of France, Defender of Romania* (2001).



Prof. Torrey was also a pioneer contributor to the development of Romanian Studies in the US. He was a close friend and collaborator with Prof. Keith Hitchins who edited and published the journal *Rumanian Studies* (1970-1986). The journal was born out of conversations between Hitchins, Torrey, and Petru Comarnescu. It was motivated by the desire (in the words of Prof. Hitchins) “to extend the scope of collaboration to include new work being done on both sides of the Atlantic,” effectively breaching the Iron Curtain for Romanian scholars. Prof. Torrey was a member of the editorial board of the journal throughout its existence and contributed several valuable articles. In addition, Prof. Torrey was a founding member in 1973 of the Society for Romanian Studies (then called the Romanian Studies Group) and for many years served on the SRS board. He was particularly effective in fostering scholarly relationships between Western academics and their Romanian colleagues in Bucharest, Iași, and Cluj, where he was a welcome visitor to the historical institutes in those cities.

Glenn Torrey will be remembered as a genial and irenic scholar, an indefatigable and exhaustive explorer of archives and libraries, always an encourager of students and colleagues alike, a devoted friend of Romanian culture, history, and civilization, and a man of impeccable integrity and a vibrant Christian faith.

Paul E. Michelson
Huntington University

Obituary: Trond Gilberg



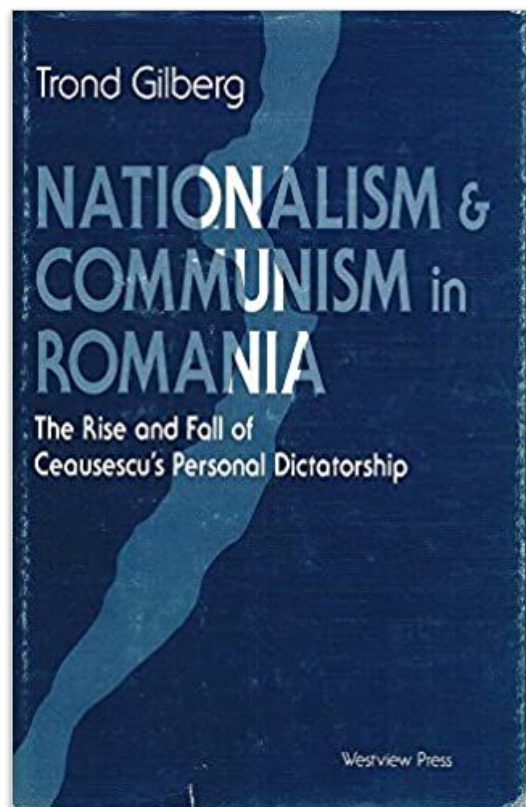
Trond Gilberg (1940-2022)

Professor Trond Gilberg passed away on July 7, 2022 in Olangapo City in the Philippines of complications of a stroke suffered a month earlier. He was 82 years old. During the 1980s and 1990s in particular, Professor Gilberg was regarded as a major scholar of East European studies and was specially known for his contribution to the study of Romanian politics and economy during the Communist era.

Trond Gilberg was born on January 9, 1940 in Lillehammer, Norway but pursued his university education in the United States and eventually secured US citizenship. He received all his degrees at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, including his Ph.D. in Political Science in 1969, with minors in History and Economics. From 1969 to 1991 he taught at the Pennsylvania State University, attaining a rank of Full Professor in 1983. Along with the late Vernon Aspaturian, he

was a vital force in the rise of the Penn State University's Slavic Center which came to be regarded as one of the foremost institutions of its kind in the country. Gilberg chaired of the Department of Political Science from 1985-1991 and, after Aspaturian's retirement, served as the Director of the Slavic Center from 1990 to 1991. Between 1976 and 1984, he has held several Visiting Professor appointments at prestigious institutions, including at the US Army War College at Carlisle, US Military Academy at West Point, the University of Washington and the Christian Albrecht University in Kiel, Germany.

In 1991 his academic career was abruptly interrupted when he had to resign from the Penn State University due to controversial accusations and a legal case against him based on alleged misuse of official funds. For several years afterwards, he held a variety of jobs, including as an Advisor to the Cultural Mission of Saudi Arabia in the United States. From 1993 to 2001, he worked as an Associate Professor in the European Studies Program at the National University of Singapore. After a brief interlude in a management position in furniture business in Tallahassee, Florida, he began the final period of his professional and personal life by moving to Cambodia in 2002 and spending the next twenty years as the Dean and Professor at the Pannasastra University of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, as well as the Director of the University's Peace and Conflict Institute. Toward the end of his life he achieved ever greater recognition for his services to the Cambodian state and society. He became an Advisor to the Asian Vision Institute (AVI), an independent think tank based in Phnom Penh, and, in July 2020, he was appointed by Cambodian king Norodom Sihamoni as an Advisor to the the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC) with a rank equivalent to State Secretary. While he never retired from his official positions in Cambodia, he left the country in unclear circumstances in April 2022, presumably to accompany his wife's move back to the Philippines.

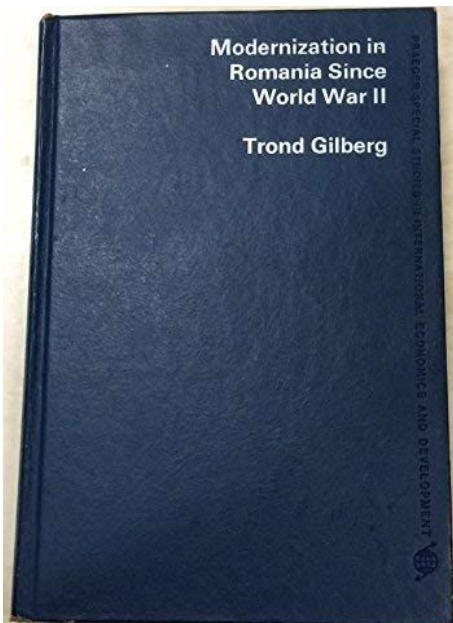


Obituary: Trond Gilberg

In particular during his more than two decades at Pennsylvania State University, Trond Gilberg had been extraordinarily productive in his scholarly output. During his lifetime, he wrote or edited four books and published vast number of book chapters (thirty to be precise), articles in refereed journal, and book reviews. He had been a constant presence on the conference circuit, participating on yearly basis



in the national meetings of the American Political Science Association and of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS). His research focus was oriented on communist and post-communist studies, comparative politics, systems in transition, and, later in his career, peace and conflict studies and an aspect of international relations dealing with conceptualization of regionalism and the role of small states in a regional context. He primarily established his reputation as a Romanian specialist with the publication of two single authored volumes: *Modernization in Romania since World War II* (New York, NY: Praeger Publishers, 1975) and *Nationalism and Communism in Romania* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1990). Sadly, some of his Romanian research has never been published, in particular his



immersion experience with a Romanian Romani community. His other books were *Security Implications of Nationalism in Eastern Europe* (Carlisle, PA: US Army War College, co-authored with Jeffrey Simon) and his celebrated seminal edited volume *Coalition Strategies of Marxist Parties* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1989).

Trond Gilberg's published work was distinguished by his multidisciplinary approach, drawing on his erudition in History and Economics which supplemented his primary discipline of Political Science. He was endowed with a remarkable foreign language capacity, being fluent or near fluent in German, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, French, Russian and Romanian, while possessing some reading skill in half a dozen other languages. He was passionate in his private study of civilization, literature and art history. He was truly one of the last remaining Renaissance men.

Professor Gilberg was a great scholar and educational administrator but, above all, he was a truly outstanding human being who exerted much positive influence on the lives of others, including the writer of this obituary. He was a charismatic teacher who could hold his students spellbound and he mentored generations of students on three different continents during his half a century in academia. He is and will be mourned and missed by many. He is survived by his two wonderful adult sons, Anders Gilberg and Gregors Gilberg, and by his wife, Teresita P. Gilberg.

Frank Cibulka
Zayed University

Obituary: Michael Shafir

Michael Shafir (1944-2022)



Michael Shafir was born in Bucharest. He died on November 9, 2022 in Cluj-Napoca; the bookends of this good life suggest a modest amount of movement, but so much was held between them of an international and varied sort.

To begin with, Shafir, a secular Jew, emigrated to Israel in 1961 as a teenager to get away from the communist regime that demanded constant duplicity. He spent parts of his life in the mid-1960s, and again in the 1980s – 2000s, in Central Europe—Prague and Munich—as a journalist and researcher at Radio Free Europe. From 1968 to 1982 he served as Director of Foreign News at Kol Israel, Israel's public radio service. At Radio Free Europe he held several senior positions, heading the Romanian Unit Research section from 1988 to 1991 as RFE transitioned to radically new circumstances.

Michael Shafir's impressive career straddled media and academia. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the Hebrew University in 1981 with a dissertation titled "The Intellectual and the Party: The Romanian Communist Party and the Creative Intelligentsia in the Ceaușescu Period" and he lectured in Politics at Tel Aviv University 1982-89. In 2002-03, he was a member of International Commission for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania chaired by Elie Wiesel. His university career blossomed in Romania, which he returned to in 2005. He taught International Relations at the Faculty of European Studies at Babeș-Bolyai University; served on many editorial boards including that of the Yearbook published by the Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, and participated in Romania's intellectual and academic life.

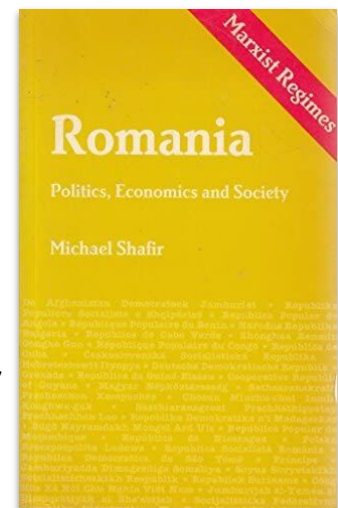
Michael Shafir was a prolific author. His first book, published in 1985, *Romania: Politics, Economics and Society: Political Stagnation and Simulated Change*, is an excellent overview of Romanian society under communism, drawing on his doctoral research but going far beyond it. Several others followed. But most of his writing was in essay form. He wrote over 300 articles and chapters, not counting reviews. If you were on his email list, you'd get at least two messages a year with an attached publication. He was eager for discussion, even criticism.

His writing in the last decades focused mainly on Holocaust denial and antisemitism in the post-communist period in Romania, but also in the whole former communist bloc. Drawing on his ample experience of close reading and listening to evolving public discourse at RFE, he knew how to pay close attention to emerging trends and noted the "comparative trivialization" of the Holocaust in contrast to the more recently experienced traumas of communism, or "Gulag," a parallel drawn increasingly and with verve by many intellectuals in post-communist societies. His theories about this phenomenon were incisive if touched by sadness and a deep questioning. He concluded a 2014 article in *Nationalities Papers* titled "Unacademic academics: Holocaust deniers and trivializers in post Communist Romania," with the following thought:

"There is no ultimate footnote waiting to demonstrate the correct facts. For collective memory is not based on facts, but on collective sentiment. The clash is ultimately constructed on "memory and counter-memory." This leaves little room for hope."

Michael Shafir—may his memory be a blessing!

Irina Livezeanu
University of Pittsburgh



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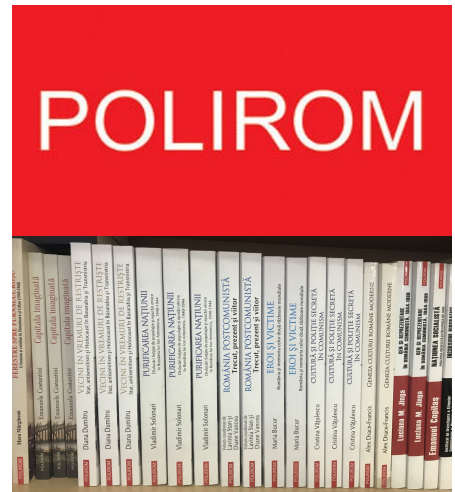
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- Lavinia Stan și Diane Vancea, coord., *România postcomunistă: trecut, prezent, viitor* (2017)
- Alex Drace-Francis, *Geneza culturii române moderne. Instituțiile scrisului și dezvoltarea identității naționale, 1700-1900* (2016)
- Vladimir Solonari, *Purificarea națiunii: dislocări forțate de populație și epurări etnice în România lui Ion Antonescu, 1940-1944* (2015)
- Roland Clark, *Sfântă tinerețe legionară. Activismul fascist în România interbelică* (2015)
*****WINNER OF THE 2017 SRS BOOK AWARD*****

SRS-Polirom Book Series



RECENT PUBLICATION

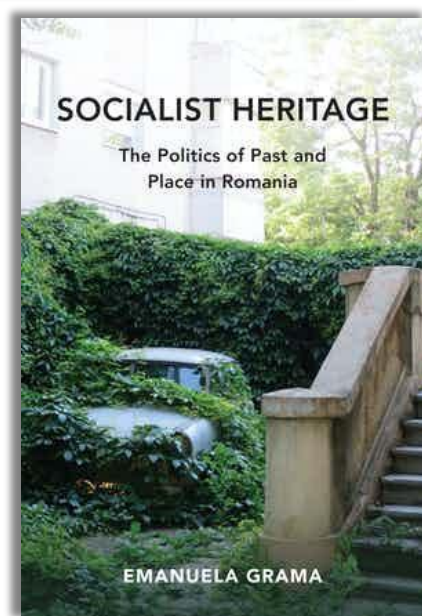
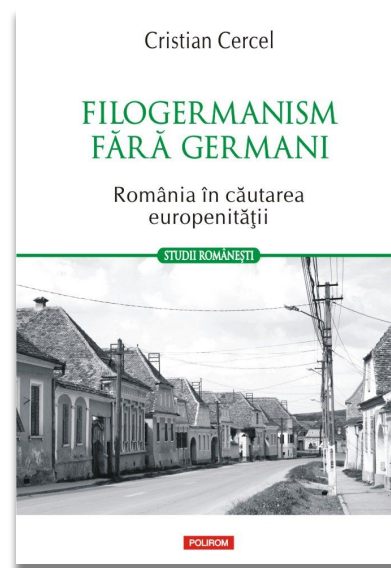
The most recent book published in the series, Cristian Cercel's *Filogermanism fără germani. România în căutarea europenității*, (Editura Polirom, 2021), has recently been awarded the 2022 Essay/Journalism Book Award by *Observator cultural*.

FORTHCOMING TITLE

Emanuela Grama's *Socialist Heritage: The Politics of Past and Place in Romania* (Indiana University Press, 2019) is in print and will appear in our series by the end of 2022. The English edition is the winner of the 2020 Ed Hewett Book Prize offered by the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

What people are saying about it: “This is an impressive piece of scholarship. The strengths of this book are the breadth of the data sources, which have enabled the author to uncover in detail how change in a particular historic urban landscape is shaped by broader issues of power and identity (in both socialist and post-socialist contexts). *Socialist Heritage* will be of interest to postgraduate students and academic researchers in disciplines such as history, anthropology, human geography, urban studies, and sociology.” (Duncan Light, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*)

“Emanuela Grama uses the politics that surrounded the Old Town of Bucharest over the past century to force us to reconsider the constitution of the state, the relationship between identity and ideology, and the balance in historical development between grand narratives and incremental change. Moreover, she does all this by demonstrating that the study of history and the stuff of history are rarely, if ever, the same. [...] Grama does a brilliant job bringing [this] story to our attention and explaining why we should care about it. Her book deserves to be widely read.” (Erik Jones, *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy*)



SRS-Polirom Book Series

FORTHCOMING TITLE

Giuseppe Tateo's *Under the Sign of the Cross: The People's Salvation Cathedral and the Church Building Industry in Postsocialist Romania* (New York: Berghahn, 2020) is currently being translated into Romanian and will appear in our series in Spring 2023.

What people are saying about it: "This book significantly advances our understanding of Orthodox Christianity and its post-socialist revival, contemporary East European society, the social life of architecture, and urban spatial symbolism and contestation."

(Christoph Brumann, *Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology*)

"Drawing upon detailed ethnographical research, leavened with an impressive command of theoretical literature on the social life of architecture and urban special symbolism, the author examines the development of religious infrastructure in Romania [...]"

At the same time, Tateo's book offers an analysis of secularization and urban change, and their impact upon the course of nationalism in the country. [...] In reading postsocialism through the lens of religious practice, the author argues that political and cultural discourse has been conducted 'under the sign of the cross.' (Dennis Deletant, *UCL SSEES*)

FORTHCOMING TITLE

Mariana Hausleitner's *Eine Atmosphäre von Hoffnung und Zuversicht. Hilfe für verfolgte Juden in Rumänien, Transnistrien und Nordsiebenbürgen 1940-1944* (Berlin: Lukas Verlag, 2020) is being translated and will be published in 2023.

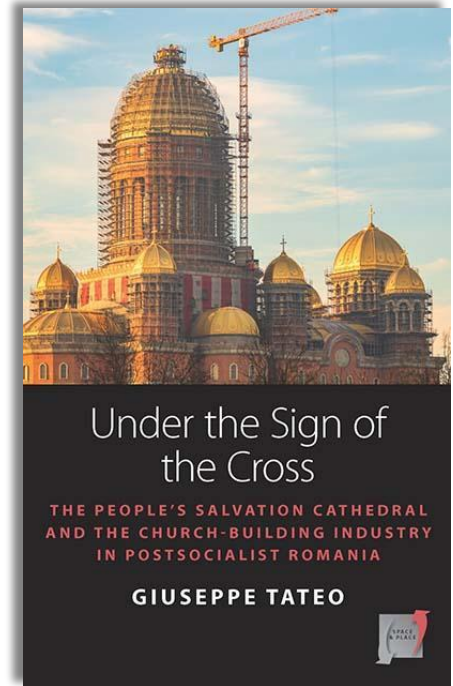
What people are saying about it: "Whether there were more acts of solidarity than we know today, remains to be researched in the future, concludes Mariana Hausleitner. Until then, this fundamental work offers a first insight into who, where, when, how, and occasionally, why people offered humanistic resistance in Romanian-controlled territories. The volume by Mariana Hausleitner is mindful of many "silent helpers". At the same time, it gives an idea of the complexity of what happened in Romania during the Holocaust." (Armin Heinen, *H-Soz-Kult*)

"Mariana Hausleitner's text, which is enriched by splendid photographic material, is convincing though its meticulousness and precision. The presentation of the destinies of those who helped and those who were saved is very impressive. These portraits also show the situation after 1945, when many of those later honored as Righteous Among the Nations were viewed by the communists as not belonging to the working-class and as such subject to reprisals." (György Dalos, *Halbjahresschrift für Geschichte und Zeitgeschehen in Zentral- und Südosteuropa*)

Find more extensive presentations of the forthcoming books on the SRS [website](#).

PROSPECTIVE AUTHORS

If you plan to submit a manuscript for the SRS-Polirom book series, or if you have a general interest in the series, we encourage you to contact the editors.



Journal of Romanian Studies

The Journal of Romanian Studies is pleased to announce the release of its Fall 2022 edition. Volume 4, Number 2, 2022 is a Special Issue with the theme of Rhetorical Strategies and Political Engagement in Post-1989 Public Discourse in Romania. Guest editors are: Bogdan Stefanescu and Noemi Marin. In this issue, Andreea Deciu Ritivoi examines the rhetoric of affect among dissidents, exiles, and prisoners through the lens of soy salami. Andrei Nae analyzes Romanian national identity in Dan Puric's 'Romanian Soul.' Andrei Gheorghe explores discursive strategies of populist leaders in Romania's 2020 elections. Further in the issue, Jonathan Lahey Dronsfield pursues the rhetoric of 'inner freedom' by examining the possibilities of dissent in post-1989 Romania. This issue also includes a translation of Ion Luca Caragiale on Intellectuals and Identity by Alex Drace-Francis, and book reviews by Emanuela Grama, Svetlana Suveica, Iemima Ploscariu, Cristina A. Bejan, and Laura Balomiri. Members receive a complimentary subscription to the journal. If you are interested in taking out an individual or institutional subscription, please write to the publisher at subscriptions@liverpool.ac.uk.



Editors: Jill Massino (jmassino@uncc.edu) and Svetlana Suveica (ssuveica@gmail.com)
Reviews Editor: Iuliu Rațiu (ratiu.pfa@gmail.com)
Editorial Assistant: Iemima Ploscariu (iemima.ploscariu2@mail.dcu.ie)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Journal of Romanian Studies seeks submissions for the Spring 2023 issue. The editors will consider:

- original research articles (of up to 10,000 words, including bibliography)
- review articles (of up to 3,000 words, commenting on 2-3 books on a common theme)
- book reviews (of up to 1,000 words)

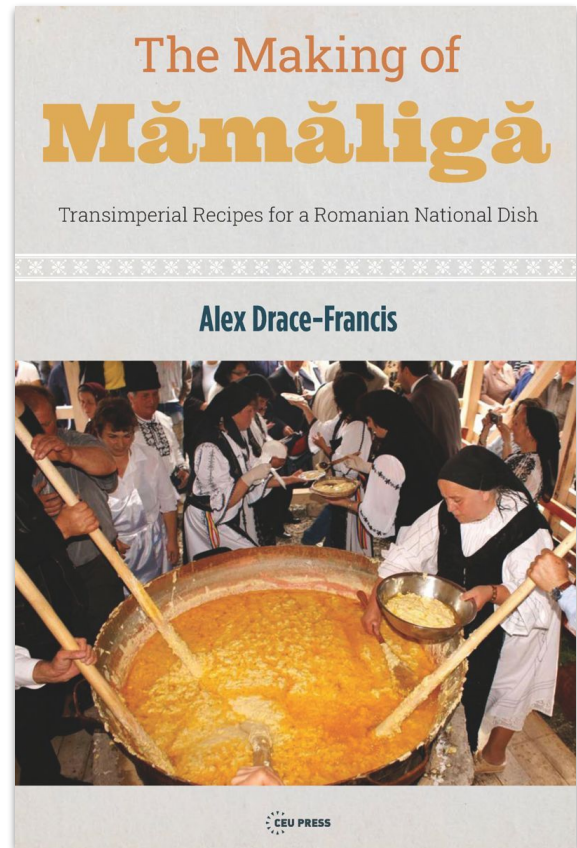
Please include a title, a 200-word abstract, the text of the article, and a bibliography. Double space your article and abstract, and do not include your name and affiliation anywhere. Note that we will NOT consider manuscripts that are under review elsewhere or manuscripts that have been previously published (in English or Romanian). To this effect, your email should clearly state that your manuscript is not under review with other journals and has not been previously published. Please send all submissions to romanian.studies.journal@gmail.com. Articles will be considered on a rolling basis for future publication.

The biannual, peer-reviewed *Journal of Romanian Studies*, jointly developed by The Society for Romanian Studies and Liverpool University Press, examines critical issues in Romanian studies, linking work in that field to wider theoretical debates and issues of current relevance, and serving as a forum for junior and senior scholars. The journal also presents articles that connect Romania and Moldova comparatively with other states and their ethnic majorities and minorities, and with other groups by investigating the challenges of migration and globalization and the impact of the European Union.

Featured Books

Alex Drace-Francis, *The Making of Mămăligă: Transimperial Recipes for a Romanian National Dish* (Central European University Press, 2022)

Mămăligă, maize porridge or polenta, is a universally consumed dish in Romania and a prominent national symbol. But its unusual history has rarely been told. Alex Drace-Francis surveys the arrival and spread of maize cultivation in Romanian lands from Ottoman times to the eve of World War One, and also the image of mămăligă in art and popular culture. Drawing on a rich array of sources and with many new findings, Drace-Francis shows how the making of mămăligă has been shaped by global economic forces and overlapping imperial systems of war and trade. The story of maize and mămăligă provides an accessible way to revisit many key questions of Romanian and broader regional history. More generally, the book links the history of production, consumption, and representation. Analyses of recipes, literary and popular depictions, and key vocabulary complete the work.



Eleanor K. Knott, *Kin Majorities: Identity and Citizenship in Crimea and Moldova* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2022)

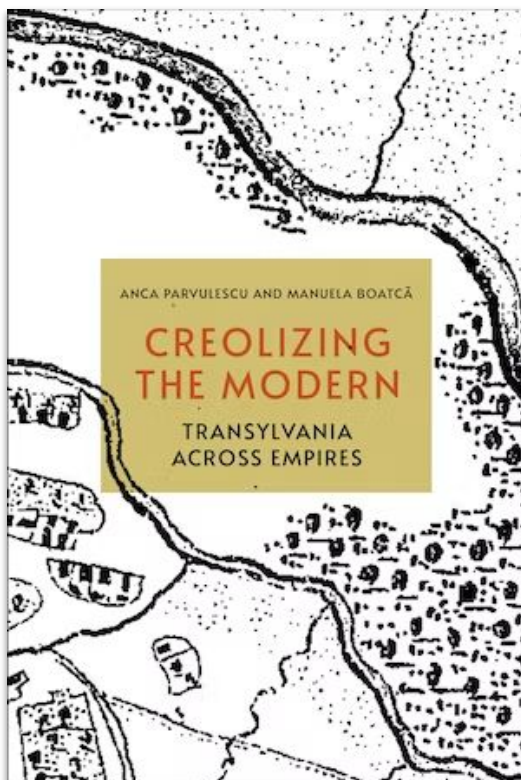
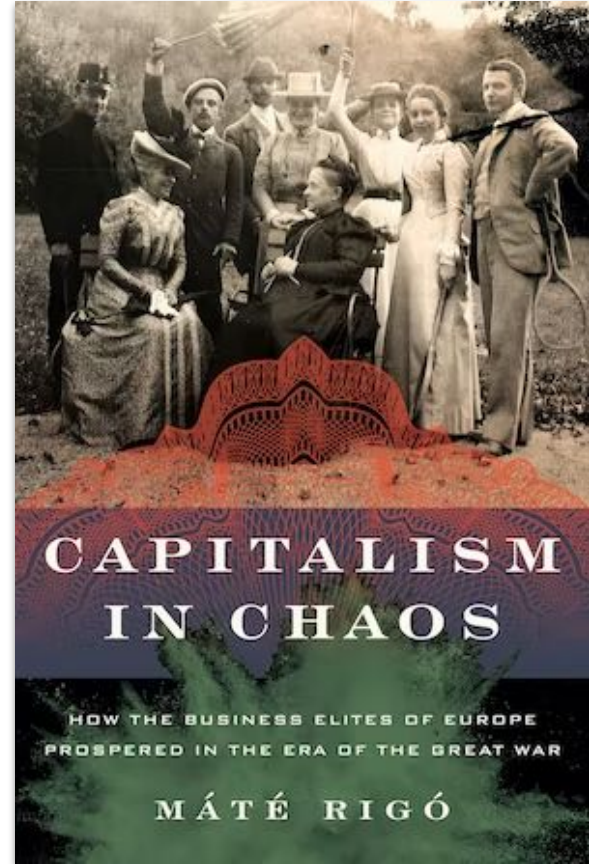
In Moldova, the number of dual citizens has risen exponentially in the last decades. Before annexation, many saw Russia as granting citizenship to-or passportizing-large numbers in Crimea. Both are regions with kin majorities: local majorities claimed as co-ethnic by external states offering citizenship, among other benefits. As functioning citizens of the states in which they reside, kin majorities do not need to acquire citizenship from an external state. Yet many do so in high numbers. *Kin Majorities* explores why these communities engage with dual citizenship and how this intersects, or not, with identity. Analyzing data collected from ordinary people in Crimea and Moldova in 2012 and 2013, just before Russia's annexation of Crimea, Eleanor Knott provides a crucial window into Russian identification in a time of calm. Perhaps surprisingly, the discourse and practice of Russian citizenship was largely absent in Crimea before annexation. Comparing the situation in Crimea with the strong presence of Romanian citizenship in Moldova, Knott explores two rarely researched cases from the ground up, shedding light on why Romanian citizenship was more prevalent

and popular in Moldova than Russian citizenship in Crimea, and to what extent identity helps explain the difference. *Kin Majorities* offers a fresh and nuanced perspective on how citizenship interacts with cross-border and local identities, with crucial implications for the politics of geography, nation, and kin-states, as well as broader understandings of post-Soviet politics.

Featured Books

Máté Rigó, *Capitalism in Chaos: How the Business Elites of Europe Prospered in the Era of the Great War* (Cornell University Press, 2022)

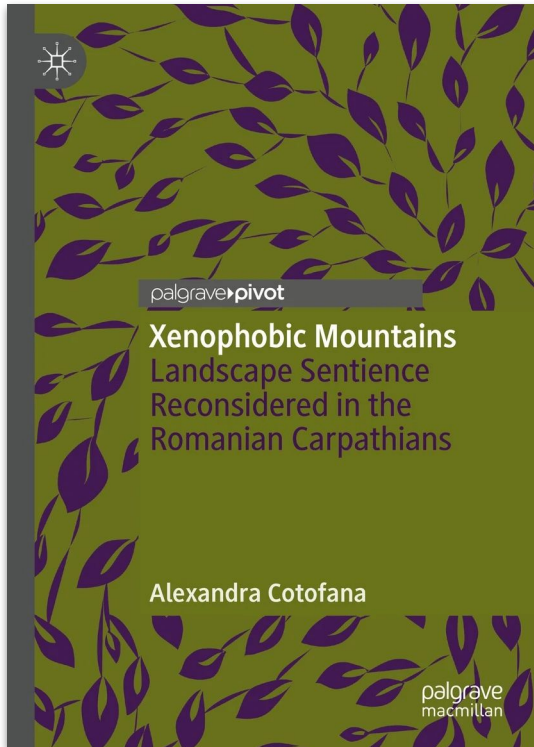
Capitalism in Chaos explores an often-overlooked consequence and paradox of the First World War—the prosperity of business elites and bankers in service of the war effort during the destruction of capital and wealth by belligerent armies. This study of business life amid war and massive geopolitical changes follows industrialists and policymakers in Central Europe as the region became crucially important for German and subsequently French plans of economic and geopolitical expansion in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Based on extensive research in sixteen archives, five languages, and four states, Máté Rigó demonstrates that wartime destruction and the birth of "war millionaires" were two sides of the same coin. Despite the recent centenaries of the Great War and the Versailles peace treaties, knowledge of the overall impact of war and border changes on business life remains sporadic, based on scant statistics and misleading national foci. Consequently, most histories remain wedded to the viewpoint of national governments and commercial connections across national borders. *Capitalism in Chaos* changes the static historical perspective by presenting Europe's East as the economic engine of the continent. Rigó accomplishes this paradigm shift by focusing on both supranational regions—including East-Central and Western Europe—as well as the eastern and western peripheries of Central Europe, Alsace-Lorraine and Transylvania, from the 1870s until the 1920s. As a result, *Capitalism in Chaos* offers a concrete, lively history of economics during major world crises, with a contemporary consciousness toward inequality and disparity during a time of collapse.



Anca Parvulescu and Manuela Boatcă, *Creolizing the Modern: Transylvania across Empires* (Cornell University Press, 2022)

How are modernity, coloniality, and interimperiality entangled? Bridging the humanities and social sciences, Anca Parvulescu and Manuela Boatcă provide innovative decolonial perspectives that aim to creolize modernity and the modern world-system. Historical Transylvania, at the intersection of the Habsburg Empire, the Ottoman Empire, Austria-Hungary, and Russia, offers the platform for their multi-level reading of the main themes in Liviu Rebreanu's 1920 novel *Ion*. Topics range from the question of the region's capitalist integration to antisemitism and the enslavement of Roma to multilingualism, gender relations, and religion. *Creolizing the Modern* develops a comparative method for engaging with areas of the world that have inherited multiple, conflicting imperial and anti-imperial histories.

Featured Books



Alexandra Cotofana, *Xenophobic Mountains: Landscape Sentience Reconsidered in the Romanian Carpathians* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022)

This book, based on ethnographic research in Romania, traces the ontological red lines that form a world in which xenophobic landscapes are possible. The last couple hundred years in Romania's history have been marked by change of political regimes, but this manuscript pays equal attention to an important continuity in Romania's ontological world: its understanding of the landscape, and the relationship between Romanian people and their land. From political discourses to children's books, to literature, and explanations found for everyday events, the book follows the ways in which the landscape of Romania has been understood as a sentient being imbued with willpower and ability to act on the world. The sentience specific to Romania's landscape is characterized by xenophobia—a fear and distrust of ethno-religious others—that has been historically interpreted by Romanians as manifesting through acts of violence enacted by the landscape towards various groups of humans understood as

dangerous to the country's unity. The novelty of this book lies in the fact that it is an in-depth analysis of an ontological world in which sentient landscapes are de-romanticized and presented in their uncomfortable complexity. The concept of sentient xenophobic mountains can add a great deal to the current literature on the ontological turn and ontological multiplicities, by questioning binaries like colonized/colonizer, indigenous/colonial, sentient landscape/industrial superpower. Romania's history makes it a good case study for this exercise, as the country has been at the margins of empires, both desired because of its natural resources and rejected because of the perceived inferiority of its people, both racialized and racist, both neoliberal and imagining absolute sovereignty.

Alexandra Chiriac, *Performing Modernism: A Jewish Avant-Garde in Bucharest* (De Gruyter, 2022)

This volume constitutes the first in-depth study of modernism in design and performance in interwar Romania, covering the period 1924 to 1934. It focuses on Jewish avant-garde artists and cultural producers, as well as design educators, arts patrons, and women entrepreneurs. Based on extensive research in Romania, Latvia, Germany, and the United States, it highlights the transnational impact of Jewish cultural production and its contribution to avant-garde movements across Europe and further afield. It shows how Bucharest was connected to places such as Berlin, Paris, Riga and Chicago through modern design and experimental Yiddish theatre, and argues that the Schule Reimann was more influential in Romania than the Bauhaus. Drawing on scholarship from the fields of performance studies, design history, and art history, this volume makes a valuable new contribution to histories of modernism and avant-garde.



Alexandra Chiriac

PERFORMING MODERNISM

A Jewish Avant-Garde in Bucharest

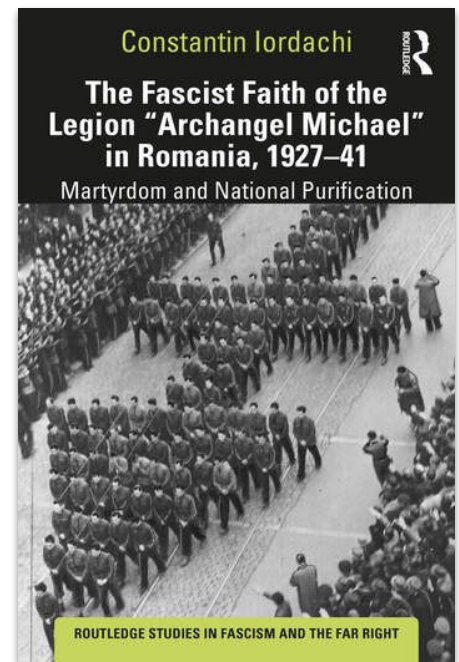


DE GRUYTER

Featured Books

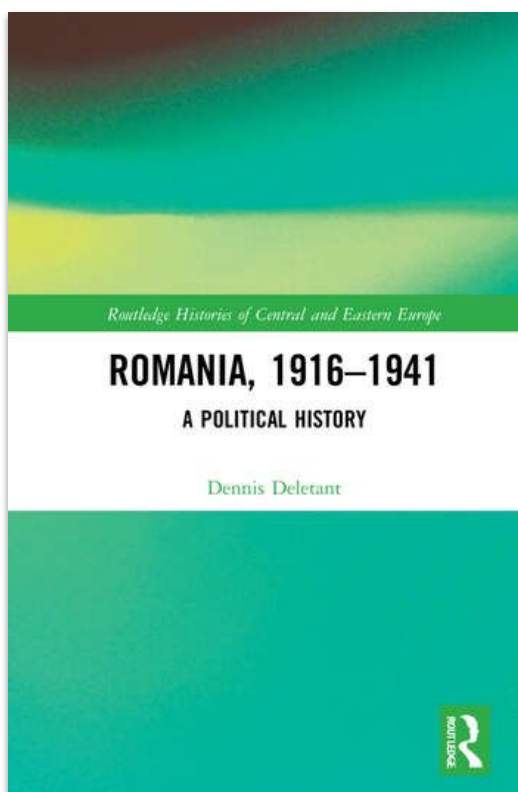
Constantin Iordachi, *The Fascist Faith of the Legion "Archangel Michael" in Romania, 1927–1941: Martyrdom and National Purification* (Routledge, 2023)

The Fascist Faith of the Legion "Archangel Michael" in Romania, 1927–1941 engages critically with recent works on fascism, totalitarianism, and religion, and advances an original theoretical and methodological approach to fascism as a political faith. On this basis, the book constructs an innovative comparative research framework for reconceptualizing the history of the Legion "Archangel Michael" in Romania, 1927–1941. It contends that the Legion put forward a palingenetic political faith of a theological type, called Legionarism. To provide a comprehensive analysis of the origins, main features, mechanisms of institutionalization, and demise of this self-proclaimed salvific political faith, the book documents the palingenetic foundations of the Legionary faith, the syncretism between fascist and Christian rites and rituals, and the intricate relationship between the Legion and the Orthodox Church and its dogma. The book documents three main sacrificial strategies employed by the Legion to "re-evangelize" the people in the new faith: (1) the appropriation of the cult of the fallen soldiers; (2) terrorist missions meant to create fascist heroes through violent sacrifice; and (3) sanctification through heroic fight for Christianity in the Spanish Civil War, in an attempt to link Legionarism with the transnational crusade against "Judeo-Bolshevism." As well as providing a detailed historical and interpretive account of the Legion, the book makes a significant contribution to debates about defining fascism and its relation to religion. It also provides novel comparative perspectives for studying other attempts at constructing fascist faiths in interwar Europe, most notably in Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany but also in Central and Eastern Europe. This book will be of interest to students and scholars of fascism, Romanian studies, politics and religion, political theory, totalitarianism, youth radicalization, violence, and the emergence of terrorism.



Dennis Deletant, *Romania, 1916–1941: A Political History* (Routledge, 2022)

This study challenges the rose-tinted view of the interwar period in Romanian history, which is often judged against the darkness of almost five decades of Communist rule. Romania, like several of the states of Eastern Europe, emerged from the First World War as it had entered it, as a predominantly agricultural country, and one of its major problems was the condition of the peasantry. This volume's focus is the drive to improve that condition, on the collapse of democracy, and the search by Romania's leaders for strategies to secure the state, to assert the country's independence, and to maintain its territorial integrity in the face of the threat to the European order posed by two totalitarian systems, represented by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. By examining recent scholarship, this volume provides the most up-to-date account of Romania's predicament in the interwar years. *Romania, 1916–1941* is a useful resource for upper-level undergraduates, postgraduates and scholars interested in foreign policy, politics, society, internationalization and late development in interwar Central and Eastern Europe.





Open Calls

Calls for Conference Papers:

[27th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities \(ASN\)](#) The ASN World Convention, the largest international and interdisciplinary scholarly gathering of its kind, welcomes proposals on a wide range of topics related to nationalism, ethnicity, ethnic conflict and national identity in regional sections on the Balkans, Central Europe, Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia Eurasia (including Central Asia and China), the Caucasus, and Turkey/Greece, as well as thematic sections on Nationalism Studies and Migration/Diasporas. Deadline: December 8, 2022.

[Eastern European Studies Dissertation Incubator](#) This collaborative workshop is open to doctoral students in any social science or humanities discipline studying Eastern Europe, broadly defined, at any stage of their research. Deadline: December 15, 2022.

[Towards a history of disability in Eastern Europe](#) The working group “history of disabilities in Eastern Europe” at Indiana University invites applicants to submit proposals for papers at a conference hosted by the Indiana University Berlin Gateway on June 30-July 1, 2023. Deadline: December 15th, 2022.

[One Hundred Years of Turkish-Romanian Relations. Looking Back and Moving Forward](#) The Balkan History Association invites historians, political scientists, and other interested researchers to explore the past and potential future dynamics of Turkish-Romanian bilateral relations. Deadline: December 31, 2022.

[Interdependencies. From Local Microstories to Global Perspectives on the History of Technology](#) Our 50th Symposium will take place in Tallinn and Tartu, Estonia, from 14 to 18 August 2023. We will be hosted by Tallinn University of Technology and the University of Tartu. Deadline: January 15, 2023.

[2023 Midwest Slavic Conference](#) The Midwest Slavic Association and The Ohio State University (OSU) Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (CSEES) are pleased to announce the 2023 Midwest Slavic Conference to be held at OSU in Columbus, Ohio on March 24-26, 2023. The conference committee invites proposals for papers on all topics related to the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian world, particularly those related to the theme of displacement and diaspora. Deadline: January 27, 2023.

[Sixth Biennial Conference of the European Rural History Organization \(EURHO\)](#) We welcome all topics related to rural history, encouraging in this way papers which support multidisciplinary and comparative approaches. Deadline: January 31, 2023.

Calls for Book Chapters:

[From the Middle Ages to Modern times. Historical, cultural, and linguistic relations between Albanians and Romanians](#) The Balkan History Association is preparing a volume which investigates how Albanians and Romanians shaped and influenced the general historical development of the Balkans. Deadline; December 12, 2022.

[Creative Negotiations. Romania – America 1920-1940](#) The aim is to highlight the importance of cultural negotiations between creative and innovative individuals, fields, activities and forms, blending material and symbolic cultures for a comprehensive outline of the relationship between Romania and the USA between 1920 and 1940. Deadline: February 6, 2022.

[Transcendent Transnationalism? Jewish History and Heritage Across Time and Space](#) The objective of this volume is to discuss these issues, through case studies and original research of Jewish issues from around the world, from various cultural and geographic settings. We welcome articles from academics, professionals, and advanced graduate students based upon a broad range of Jewish studies approaches. Deadline: March 15, 2023.



Open Calls

Calls for Articles:

[Afterlives of the Architectural Ruin](#) For the 11th issue of studies in History and Theory of Architecture (sITA) we invite contributions aiming to reflect on topics investigating the significant role of ruins in architectural theory and design. Deadline: December 5, 2022.

[Ethics and Expressions of Third-Generation Holocaust Storytelling](#) This special issue of Ethical Space seeks scholarly articles and essays that explore the ethics and intentions of third-generation Holocaust storytelling, as crucial contributions to the global debate around preservation of traumatic histories. Deadline: February 1, 2023.

[Romanian Political Science Review](#) publishes high-quality, peer-reviewed articles in all major areas of political science including Romanian politics, European politics, political theory, comparative politics, political sociology, public policy, international relations, and global studies.

Prize Competitions:

[Tallinn Dissertation Prize](#) The Dissertation Prize was established by the ESEH to reward innovative doctoral dissertations based on original research in European environmental history. Deadline: December 31, 2022.

Funding Opportunities:

[Early-Career Scholars Research Fund](#) The History of Economics Society welcomes applications by early career scholars for research funding of up to 1,500 dollars. Deadlines: December 1, 2022 and May 1, 2023.

[Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies](#) The Claims Conference Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies is an international program that supports Ph.D. and Post-doctoral students focusing on Holocaust research. The Kagan Fellowship program funds research and writing, allowing scholars to travel to Holocaust-related archives, many of which have not been closely examined by other researchers. Deadline: December 20, 2022.

[New Europe College Fellowships](#) New Europe College – Institute for Advanced Study in Bucharest (Romania) launches the annual competition for the 2023/2024 NEC Fellowships. Romanian and international scholars (at postdoctoral level) in all fields of the humanities and social sciences (including law and economics) are invited to apply. Deadline: January 9, 2023.

[Gerda Henkel Fellowship for the History of Knowledge and the History of Science](#) IZEA intends to specifically promote research in the history of knowledge and the history of science with a focus on the period of Enlightenment, hence, a field which receives particular relevance in current debates in science politics and society more generally. Deadline: January 15, 2023.

[JDC Archives Fellowship Program](#) Up to seven fellowships will be awarded each year to deserving scholars engaged in graduate level, post-doctoral, or independent study to conduct research in the JDC Archives, either in New York or Jerusalem. Research topics in the fields of twentieth century Jewish history, general history, and humanitarian assistance will be considered, as well as other areas of academic research covered in the JDC archival collections. Deadline: January 23, 2023.

[Cyber Social Fellow/Researcher](#) The University of Kansas' Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies has just launched a search for a new post-doctoral position! The CREES Cyber-Social Fellow will pursue research on regional and global cybersecurity and disinformation challenges arising from Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia and their social, cultural, and historical contexts. Deadline: February 1, 2023 (rolling).



Open Calls

[ERC Consolidator Grants](#) (Horizon Europe Framework Programme) are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme. Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal. Deadline: February 2, 2023.

[Support for Summer Language Study](#) Indiana University's Language Workshop is accepting applications for fellowships and scholarships for its summer 2023 in-person, online, and overseas language programs. Deadline: varies.

[Library Research Travel Grant](#) The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Library and the Department of History are pleased to announce a Research Travel Grant to support scholars conducting research in any of the Library's collections. Deadline: rolling.

Other Calls:

[Women History Network \(WHN\)](#) welcomes blog posts from scholars at all career stages, especially those working outside the modern period, and beyond Britain!

[Historifans](#) is looking for contributors who want to geek out and write articles about the connections between pop culture and their scholarly interests. We also welcome digital humanities articles/projects.

[European Association of History Educators](#) Within the Online Teaching in the Visegrad Region project, we have designed 8 eLearning Activities that can be used to delve into several aspects of everyday life in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary during the Cold War. These activities last 20-25 minutes, and help students understand the setting of the Cold War and put themselves in the shoes of youth in the 1950s – 1970s. We are trying them out in the Region, but we are very interested to know if they can be used also further across Europe. For this reason, we are looking for teachers who wish to test one of our activities in their classroom, and to let us know what we should change to improve our work and make it more meaningful, engaging, and easy to use.

[World History Encyclopedia](#) is a non-profit organization publishing the world's most-read history encyclopedia. Our mission is to engage people with cultural heritage and to improve history education worldwide. Join us and help over 30 million people learn about history every year, all across the globe.

SRS Membership

SRS uses member dues to help with monetary prizes for outstanding publications and to budget and pay for the cost of future conferences. In addition, members play a vital role in the Society by supporting our membership program, submitting manuscripts for the new scholarly Journal of Romanian Studies, proposing nominations for the prizes, and voting for officers and Board members.



Contributions from lifetime members are most welcome. In addition, organizational sponsors and patrons may be approved by the Board on a case by case basis. Member organizations do not have a vote but their support will be acknowledged by SRS, including linking to organizational web sites.

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Vladimir Solonari
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About SRS

The Society for Romanian Studies is an international interdisciplinary academic organization based in the US and dedicated to promoting research and critical studies on all aspects of the culture and society of the diverse peoples connected to Romania and Moldova. The SRS is generally recognized as the major professional organization for North American scholars concerned with Romania and Moldova. It is affiliated with the American Historical Association (AHA), the American Political Science Association (APSA), the Romanian Studies Association of America (RSAA), the Southeast European Studies Association (SEESA), the Balkan History Association (BHA), the PLURAL Forum for Interdisciplinary Studies, the American Romanian Coalition for Human and Equal Rights (ARCHER), the Immigration Research Forum (IRF), and the New Books Network (NBN). More information about the SRS, including current officers, the national board, and membership information, can be found on the SRS website. If you have any recent activities to report (publications, conferences organized, etc.) please email such information to the [Newsletter Editors](#).

The opinions expressed within the Newsletter are solely those of the authors and do not reflect the opinions and beliefs of the SRS.