

SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER



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The Society for Romanian Studies

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From the President



This year's big news is the launch of the *Journal of Romanian Studies*. The first issue is already available and the second has been sent to the publishers. Members receive an electronic subscription to the journal as part of their membership, and others can take out individual or institutional subscriptions by writing directly to the publisher at

subscription@ibidem.eu. Our new

membership fees reflect the cost of providing the journal to our members, but also include a discount option for graduate students and scholars from Eastern Europe. The new journal is a substantial contribution to the field, and we hope that it will stimulate some useful informed and interdisciplinary conversations in the years ahead.

We are also pleased to announce the latest edition to the SRS/Polirom Book Series. Diana Dumitru's *Vecini în vremuri de restriște. Stat, antisemitism și Holocaust în Basarabia și Transnistria* is now available in a translation by Miruna Andriescu (see page 10 of this newsletter for details). Romanian translations of Maria Bucur's *Heroes and Victims* (2010) and the collected volume *Manele in Romania* (2016), edited by Margaret Beissinger, Speranța Rădulescu, and Anca Giurchescu are both under preparation.

If you have not yet sent in your entries for the Fifth Biennial SRS Book Prize (deadline 1 June) and the Eleventh Annual Graduate Student Essay Prize (deadline 1 July), now is the time to do so. Details of both prizes can be found on page 20 of this newsletter, on the SRS [website](#), or by contacting the chairs of the prize committees: Irina Livezeanu (book prize) and Marina Cap-Bun (essay prize). The standard for both prizes is very high, reflecting the growing diversity, rigor, and depth of our field.

The SRS website now includes a new [Member's Directory](#). This resource allows members to find specialists at a glance and to discover others with similar research interests. Other SRS activities such as the mentoring program and the "45 for 45" interviews are continuing to attract attention, and this issue features a new format for the Newsletter. Leah Valtin-Erwin has taken over from Ana Fumurescu and Cristina Plămădeală as our Newsletter editor. Leah is a PhD student in History and President of the Romanian Studies Organization at Indiana University Bloomington.

In this issue...

From the President.....	1
Member Announcements.....	2
Interview with Rodica Milena.....	3
Interview with Adina Mocanu.....	5
Soundbite from Romania: Economics...7	
Soundbite from Romania: Art.....	9
2019 Romanian Studies Conference...11	
SRS-Polirom Book Series.....	12
Featured Books.....	14
H-Romania.....	15
Advice for Young Scholars with Monica Ciobanu.....	16
Featured Affiliate Organization.....	19
SRS Fifth Biennial Book Prize.....	20
SRS 2019 Grad Essay Prize.....	20
SRS Membership.....	21
About SRS.....	21

From the President

cont'd.

This year has seen some other significant changes in the SRS leadership. We welcome an entirely new group of executive officers – Roland Clark, Rodica Milena Zaharia, Roxana Cazan, and Anca Şincan – as well as two new graduate student representatives – Alexandra Chiriac and Matthew Signer. Lavinia Stan continues to share her wisdom with us as Past President. The geographical spread of the SRS Board is more diverse than ever, reflecting our genuinely global membership. The Board now includes four members from the UK and Ireland, five from North America, five from Romania and Moldova, and one from China. Sociologists frequently comment that volunteering and associational life is weak in Eastern Europe because of the legacy of state socialism, but the vibrancy of the SRS and the tireless work done by our volunteers suggests otherwise. A huge thank you both to the out-going group of officers and Board members and to those who have committed themselves to the future.

Dr. Roland Clark

University of Liverpool

SRS President

Member Announcements

Calls for Papers

Iaşi, 18–20 September, 2019
"România în spaţiul euroatlantic:
interferenţe culturale şi lingvistice"
See announcement [here](#).

Sibiu, 27-28 September, 2019
"Politics and Society Conference
2019 - East Central Europe Thirty
Years Following the End of
Communism"
See announcement [here](#).

Theodor Damian published the second edition of *Implicatiile spirituale ale teologiei icoanei* (Editura Arhiepiscopiei Tomisului, Constanta) in 2017 and *Perihoreze* (Eikon, Bucureşti) in 2018. His workshop "Subjectivism and Globalization: The Metaphysical Self in the Post-Truth Era between Now and Tomorrow" will be held as a part of "Aftershocks: Globalism and the Future of Democracy," the conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI) at the University of Zaragoza, Spain, July 1-5, 2019.

Dennis Deletant published *Romania under Communism. Paradox and Degeneration* (Abingdon, UK; New York: Routledge) in November 2018, and *Actiuni britanice clandestine in timpul celui de-al doilea razboi mondial*

(Bucharest: Humanitas) in April 2019. The latter is a translation of *British Clandestine Activities in Romania during the Second World War* (London: Palgrave, 2016).

Henry P. Rammelt published *Activistes protestataires en Hongrie et en Roumanie* (l'Harmattan, 2018).

Mihai Stelian Rusu published "Nurturing Romanian Socialists: Reading Primers Before, During, and After the Second World War" in the *Journal of Educational Media, Memory, and Society* and "Mapping the political toponymy of educational namespaces: A quantitative analysis of Romanian school names" in *Political Geography*.

Katherine Verdery has retired from the Graduate Center at CUNY, with a nice send-off party from her department. Her most recent book, *My Life as a Spy* (Duke University Press, 2018) --a kind of memoir based on her Secret Police file from Romania--has been getting good reviews from various sources (including *New York Times*, *London Review of Books*, *Times Literary Supplement*, etc.), so she's going out in style.

Interview with a Scholar

An interview with SRS Vice-President Rodica Milena Zaharia

Tell us a bit about yourself, your background, and your academic career.

I graduated in 1988 from what at the time was the only Faculty of Commerce in Romania. I am very proud of graduating from that Faculty. The admission exam was very competitive, with more than ten candidates per place. My colleagues from that program are top-tier specialists in marketing, banking, human resources, tourism, accounting, and academia; they are successful entrepreneurs or academics. They built careers in Romania and abroad. Five of my cohort are now university professors. Quite an outstanding group!

I worked as an economist for 14 months under the communist regime, and found a job in a research institute in 1990. I have worked at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (BUES) since 1993, first as an Assistant Professor, then as a Lecturer, Associate Professor, and Professor. I have also served as a PhD coordinator since 2008.



Dr. Rodica Milena Zaharia
Professor, Bucharest
University of Economic
Studies

What led you to your interest in corporate social responsibility (CSR), higher education development, economic development, and migration in the European Union and in Romania in particular?

These topics are not as separate as they look. They are related, and I might say that higher education has the responsibility to cultivate more responsible leaders in business and to design economic and social policies (dealing with immigration, for example). This is how I would explain my interest in these topics. I have been involved in several projects related to these issues. For example, I coordinated a national grant competition within Romanian higher education, trying to demonstrate that interdisciplinary research has to be among the top priorities of universities. In addition, in 2008, I worked on another project dealing with CSR, and in 2016 I coordinated a team working on immigration.

What are you working on at present?

I am part of an international team working on a project titled “CSR teaching and research in Central and Eastern Europe.” The project is coordinated by Dr. Lutz Preuss (currently Professor at Kedge Business School in Bordeaux, France). We hope to finish the research this year. It will be one of the most extensive research projects on this topic in the region.

I am also part of a team working on a project about regional resilience, entitled “ReGrowEU - Advancing ground-breaking research in regional growth and development theories through a resilience approach: towards a convergent, balanced and sustainable European Union.” My focus in this project is on identifying how CSR contributes to the resilience of a region.

Interview with a Scholar

cont'd.

What advice can you offer for young scholars interested in Romanian Studies, European Union Studies, or economic development? What do you identify as the greatest challenges facing young scholars in these fields?

As one of our country's branding slogans claims, Romania is "eternal and fascinating." There are a lot of perspectives through which Romania can be studied. In the last few decades, research interests worldwide have focused on the Middle East, the Arab world, and China or East Asia. But Eastern Europe and the EU – including Romania – are nevertheless among the interests of area studies specialists. To young Romanian scholars specializing in the social science or the humanities and who intend to build an academic career abroad, I would recommend that they exploit the knowledge they have about Romania, even their understanding of the Romanian mentality (at least, in the beginning of their career). This may give them a competitive advantage and may help them to differentiate themselves from their peers. When studying Romania, being Romanian outside Romania helps you build an academic career and enrich Romanian Studies. Regarding young foreign scholars, I expect a growth in interest in Romania, both in universities from "traditional" countries (in Europe and North America) and in universities from "emergent" countries such as those in Asia or South America. Even though we are not a large economy, we have a lot of cultural, behavioral, or psychological characteristics worthy of study. Our "original" democracy, to cite a well know expression, may surprise you!

I also think that numerous studies can be developed from a historical perspective: the origins of the Romanian people and the Romanian language, the transition process, the evolution of the Romanian economy compared to other former state socialist countries, etc. Topics in European Union Studies, meanwhile, are more anchored in the present. Since Brexit and the related increase of Euroscepticism, nationalism, and populism, the very existence of the EU is under scrutiny. I deeply believe that it is our duty as Europeans (citizens, politicians, academics) to look for ways to develop and contribute to the prosperity of the EU. Young scholars from Romania have the opportunity, and the unique chance, to have a voice in strengthening and keeping the EU great!

As for economic development studies, development was and is vital for the world. Economic development is not only a concern for developing countries in Africa, Asia, or Latin America; it is, equally, a concern for developed countries. Discussions about sustainable development, for example, started many decades ago, but it still remains a key ambition for countries worldwide. Even if it sounds like something only economists care about, economic development as a field is more and more open to scholars from many domains, such as Sociology, Anthropology, and many others.

You have been a member of the Society for Romanian Studies since the early 2000s and are now serving as Vice President on the SRS board. What, in your opinion, is the value of an organization such as SRS for the Romanian Studies field?

I am very fortunate to be friends with Lavinia Stan. She told us about the SRS and about the importance of having this society as a network that facilitates interaction between academics with research interests in Romania. Romania faced incredible transformations after 1989 and for academia any support in enhancing research and the teaching capabilities was of crucial importance. In my opinion, the SRS brings together intellectuals that are interested in Romanian issues, offering them a platform, a network that sustains discussions, common projects, and common interests. Research know-how can flow easily from one researcher to another, teaching experiences and skills can be enriched, new ideas emerge, scholars and students interact, and the SRS is there to promote, to help, and to sustain all of these dynamics.

Interview with a Scholar

An interview with researcher Adina Mocanu

You are a postdoctoral researcher at the ADHUC—Research Center for Theory, Gender, Sexuality at the University of Barcelona, and also teach Romanian classes for foreign students at the Romanian Cultural Institute, prepare translations, and work as a social worker. Tell us a bit about yourself, your background, and your academic career.



Dr. Adina Mocanu

Postdoctoral researcher,
ADHUC—Research Center for Theory,
Gender, Sexuality, University of
Barcelona

After finishing my PHD in Cultural Studies, my theoretical background in childhood studies and migration piqued my interest in the social life and dynamics of immigration. I used to help Roma families from Romania to become more familiar with Spanish institutions and the process of getting legal papers that would allow them to find work in Spain.

On the one hand, I am an immigrant myself, and Spain has a small number of Romanian activists in this field, and on the other hand, immigrants should be an active part in the social life of the country they live in. Also, in my case, after my PhD research I realized it was very hard to have a career in the Humanities in Spain. In fact, it was practically impossible. You have to struggle a lot at the beginning find a job in academia for a short period, then you have to prove that you know how to deal with this hard life: you have to publish a lot, you have to go to the conferences, meet people who are very important in your field because they may recommend you at a certain point, teach courses that have nothing to do with your areas of interest, and deal with depression and frustration after many years of doing the best you can to find a more stable job. At least, that has been my case over the last seven years.

What led you to your interests in comparative literature and the study of gender and sexuality? How did you come to Romanian Studies in particular?

I've studied literature all my life, and I became more interested in Cultural Studies when I arrived in Spain. That means the intersection between literature, philosophy, social studies, and gender studies. This is very important for me because I am not a specialist in Philology, but I have the tools for critical thinking which help me be more involved in social life. Actually, literature helps you consider alternative words, possible meanings, and ways of thinking. That's why I was interested in the study of gender and sexuality, especially in childhood, because in Romanian literature these subjects are present, but not discussed, problematized, or analysed. They are still taboo. Also, it was very interesting to be outside of the Romanian context but involved in Romanian literature with Western glasses. So, the challenge was to try to find a way of thinking about literature from different discourses and perspectives beyond my nationality.

What are you working on at present?

I'm writing an article about poverty and migration and how social services deal with those in a world more and more dominated by fascism. Also, I have plans to translate some articles in Romanian about feminism and, finally, I would like to finish my book based on my actual PhD work. I will do all of these while I am looking for a more stable job.

Interview with a Scholar

cont'd.

Last June, the 2018 SRS Conference featured a panel entitled 'Academic Precarity in Romanian Studies.' What do you identify as the greatest challenges facing scholars in this field? What advice can you offer for young scholars interested in comparative literature, gender and sexuality studies, and/or Romanian Studies?

Unfortunately, I could not participate at the debate, since I'd found a job which didn't allow me to be present at the conference. This situation happens also due to the job precarity. I mean, if you don't have an academic position and you decide to find an extra job, you do not have free time for writing and going to the conferences. At the same time, if you are not present in academic life, you are forgotten because you cannot be at the same standards as the others. It is a privilege to find an academic position that lets you read and do research.

For example, after finishing my PhD scholarship (in Spain, the scholarship is like a job contract: you have to work for the university), I had to ask for unemployment benefits in order to finish writing my PhD thesis. It's impossible to have both: a job and a thesis. In Spain, depending on the faculty, your research topic, or your tutor's power and networks, it can be very hard to teach classes, but at the same time it's required of you to find a unique topic, because the more revolutionary the PhD topic is in the field, the better the chances of receiving a scholarship.

So, it's difficult to deal with that. For me that was interesting because I am a "specialist" in Romanian Studies, at least, in Barcelona, but there is not a job market in this field. I think it is our duty to give more importance to Romanian Studies. I don't regret that I did my research in this field, it has tremendously helped me with understanding the different aspects of society through literature, but it was also really good for giving more visibility to Romanian literature through a critical reading.

As a member of the Society for Romanian Studies, what, in your opinion, is the value of an organization such as SRS for our field?

I think it is very important to have an organization such as SRS because it gives more visibility to Romanian Studies. There should be a SRS in other European countries, as well. In the US there are more people interested in topics related to Romanian context, but the situation in Europe is different. In Spain, at least, there's this idea that studies should pay well later. I mean, you should pick up a career with a future.

This is also related to the question of job perspectives and the idea that you have to choose a career for life. It's very hard to switch fields or start from the beginning in a new field when you are older because you lack of experience in that field. You know that if you pick up a career with more options, you will have a more stable job, but if you want to study something you love with fewer options out there, basically, it can be impossible to find a job in that field.

This is how things are in Spain: there are specialized faculties which prepare you exactly for a specific type of job, so if you don't receive a diploma in that field you cannot cross the boundaries.

This world is no longer a world of pleasure, critical thinking, and freedom, it's rather a world of struggling and precarity. In conclusion, we must struggle for freedom to think and that's why we have to look for strategies to show the world that we are diverse, complex, and alive. We have to be curious about the world and its societies. Without curiosity we are not free!

Soundbite from Romania

Narcis Tulbure provides an overview of the current state of economics in Romania

The 'Merry-Go-Round' Economy

The economic strategy of the ruling coalition formed by PSD and ALDE is premised on the generalized increase in wages as the main driver of growth. Supported by part of the academic establishment and some of the main economic advisers of PSD, the growth of wages in the public sector, the increase of the minimum legal wage, as well as the rise of pensions was implemented in successive steps by each of the three governments formed by the ruling coalition since the last parliamentary elections. While the increase in wages of certain categories (e.g., medical personnel, teachers, or skilled functionaries) was long overdue and although the wage rises have created an affluence effect that was felt throughout the entire economy, many have been critical towards the government's strategy. Not only was the distribution of raises among professional categories criticized - some of the most spectacular increases of wages and pensions are those of magistrates, army personnel, policemen, and employees of the secret services - but many fear that this strategy is unsustainable.



Dr. Narcis Tulbure
Assistant Professor / Lecturer,
Bucharest University of Economic
Studies

The macroeconomic effects of the wage growth include the widening budget deficit, a considerable increase in the budget of wage expenses and those with goods and services (while the share of capital expenses declines), as well as the spectacular increase of Romania's trade deficit and of its current account balance deficit. These are the symptoms of consumption-driven growth which will eventually lead to inflation, job cuts in the public sector, and the loss of momentum by the economy that is deprived of investments. The decline of public investments in favor of current expenses, the worsening record of attracting EU funds, as well as the apprehensive attitude of private investors in face of increasing fiscal uncertainty are likely to reverse the trend of economic growth registered by Romania over the last years.

The wage-growth strategy seems to distort the labor market as well. Adding to the declining demographic trends, manifest throughout the postsocialist period, and to the Western migration of a considerable portion of the active labor force, a process that accentuated after Romania's EU integration (roughly, 4 million Romanian workers contribute to other economies), the current government policies induce tensions on the labor market. It is true that employment registers historically low levels and that has significant social benefits. But getting very close to the natural rate of unemployment seems to hurt Romanian businesses that find it hard to fill in newly opened positions. This is especially true in cases where skilled laborers are necessary – many of the well qualified professionals and workers either migrate to Western Europe or look for employment in the public sector where average wages quickly outpace those in the private sector. Either finding it hard to recruit qualified workers or having to increase wages beyond gains in productivity, the competitive position of Romanian companies on international markets is weakening progressively.

Soundbite from Romania

cont'd.

While the increase in household revenues led to a spectacular increase in consumption, government investments were cut back to levels that jeopardize the sustainable growth of the economy. The absorption rate for EU funds declined sharply and the only significant investments are done through a government-controlled programme for local development (*Programul Național de Dezvoltare Locală* [PNDL]) – arguably, a source of easy money coming with lesser conditionality and oversight than EU funds that is used to reward docile mayors and to provide kickback money for the political clientele of the ruling coalition. The same seems to be the case with the newly-created 10 billion euro fund for development and investments (*Fondul de Dezvoltare și Investiții*) to be allocated by the National Commission for Strategy and Prognosis (in a spectacular broadening of its area of competence) over the next 20 years.

With dwindling EU funds, apprehensive private investors, and decaying direct investments, the government relies more and more on portfolio investments to cover the current account deficit. Volatile private investments, the increasing cost of financing the budget deficit, as well as the new taxes levied on bank assets, all become considerable risk factors likely to affect the stability of the domestic financial markets in the near future. Concerned about the cost of credit, the government decided to make it mandatory for banks to tie the cost of household credit to an average of the interest rates of interbank loans over the last trimester (rather than the Romanian Interbank Offer Rate – ROBOR). While this led to a decrease in the interest rates charged for consumer, credit card, and mortgage loans, analysts fear interest charges will swing to levels above those of ROBOR-linked loans when inflation increases.

Overall, the governments formed by the ruling coalition after the elections of 2016 seem to run a merry-go-round economy. Unemployment is low, wage increases have driven up household income, and consumption has fueled growth. Yet all was accomplished at the price of increasing budget, trade, and current account deficits and of decreasing competitiveness for local businesses. As growth is losing momentum, many fear the economy will swing back during the next years with expectedly high social and political costs in the absence of countercyclical economic measures. Those that lived and witnessed the pro-cyclical policies of the Romanian government during the post-EU accession period have a feeling of *déjà-vu*. And they are right to be worried about the drastic corrections that are likely to follow during the next years.

Soundbite from Romania

Alexandra Chiriac reflects on avant-garde art and museums in Romania

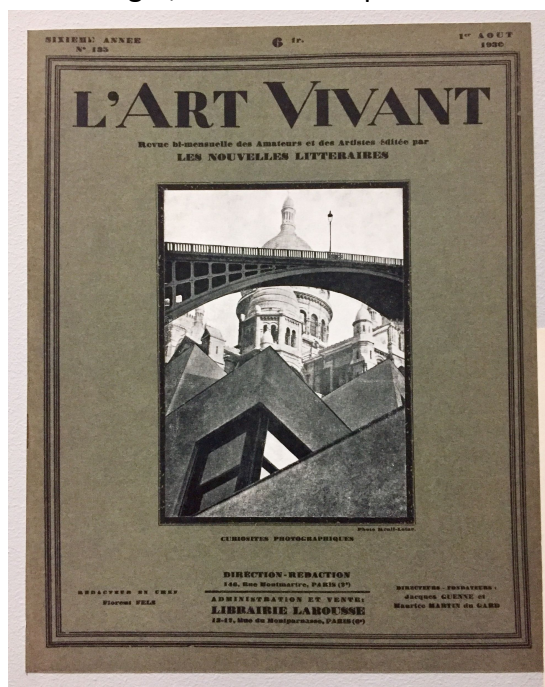
Avant-garde or Retro-garde: Reflections from an Empty Museum

Spending some time in Bucharest this spring, I had the feeling I had arrived with perfect timing to witness its current bout of cultural effervescence. Within one week, I attended four exhibition openings and more hovered on the horizon. In particular, Romania's diasporic avant-garde seems to be having its moment in the spotlight.

Eli Lotar, Tudor Arghezi's son who settled in Paris to become a modernist photographer and filmmaker, has a retrospective at the Museum of Art Collections. Curated by a team from Centre Pompidou and Jeu de Paume, the exhibition highlights Lotar's versatility and his interest in social issues. In the late 1920s, he laid bare the harsh working conditions on the Zuiderzee dam project in the vicinity of the North Sea and in 1933 he travelled with Luis Bunuel to the impoverished Las Hurdes region in Spain to collaborate on the documentary *Land without Bread*. Lotar's work has been previously shown at the Centre Pompidou, but the Bucharest exhibition is enriched by a new addition: a series of expressive and poetic photographs showing the African-American performers of the popular Blackbirds revue, taken backstage at the Moulin Rouge. Lotar's fellow Paris émigré, the surrealist poet Gherasim Luca, makes an appearance at the Romanian National Literature



Alexandra Chiriac
Doctoral Researcher, University
of St Andrews



A montage created by Eli Lotar for the cover of L'Art Vivant in 1930

Museum in a small-but perfectly formed exhibition that showcases his experimentation with both words and images. He invented mania, a collage technique for manipulating images cut up into squares, and played with language in similar fashion, creating poems such as the almost onomatopoeic *Passionnément*, one of his best-known works. Completing this triumvirate, which is part of the current France-Romania cultural season, is the retrospective dedicated to actress Genica Athanasiou, whose stage and screen activities placed her at the core of the Parisian avant-garde. Most famous for her relationship with theatrical luminary Antonin Artaud, a fact unfortunately exploited by the exhibition, Athanasiou deserves to be known on her own terms. She was a member of the experimental Théâtre de l'Atelier in the 1920s and 30s, made her stage debut in Jean Cocteau's *Antigone*, and appeared in several modernist silent cinema productions, such as Jean Grémillon's *Maldone* in 1927.

As well as this timely series of exhibitions, all of which were coordinated by the Romanian National Literature Museum, a further display dedicated to Victor Brauner opened at Galeria Dada. This is a new space, privately owned by a collector with an interest in the

Romanian avant-garde. The exhibition focuses on Brauner's graphic oeuvre, covering his entire career, and includes one of his most famous early works: the publication *75HP*, a landmark in avant-garde graphic design created in 1924 in collaboration with the poet Ilarie Voronca. The exhibition's other pièce-de-resistance is a mandolin decorated with an abstract design by the artist as a gift for his brother Harry Brauner, Romania's prominent ethnomusicologist.

continued on page 10

Soundbite from Romania

cont'd.

Most interestingly, Galeria Dada is the latest endeavour to emerge from the private sphere, indicating a welcome diversification of Bucharest's cultural scene. Perhaps unsurprisingly, some of the first developments in this direction came from entrepreneurs looking to exploit the touristic potential of the communist period and its aesthetic. The website of the Romanian Kitsch Museum, which opened in 2017, claims to be 'the best way of understanding Romanian (sub)culture', whereas Ferestroika, akin to Berlin's famous DDR Museum, offers a recreation of a 1980s Romanian apartment. To take a trip back in time is costly however: Ferestroika can only be visited by booking a guided tour with distinctly capitalist prices, starting from €24.99 for the 'Proletariat Member' package to €149.99 for the 'Great Leader' package for 2 persons. By contrast, MARE or the Museum for Recent Art, aims to position itself as a very contemporary endeavour, following the latest tendencies in museology and



Display of Gherasim Luca's publications

pursuing an educational mandate. As well as displaying a private collection of modern and contemporary Romanian art, MARE has an ambitious temporary exhibition programme featuring artists such as Jeff Wall, Martin Creed and Thomas Ruff. The museum's activities for children and teenagers, the guided tours led by invited artists, and its auxiliary services such as a café and library, position it as one of the most user-friendly and well-rounded cultural offerings in Bucharest at present.

These private endeavours, whatever their agenda or target audience, are a much needed complement to a public sphere that often takes one step forward and two back. The temporary exhibitions dedicated to figures such as Lotar, Luca, or Athanasiou are exciting, but the city's museums lack a permanent display highlighting Romania's cosmopolitan avant-garde and its wide-ranging activities. Most worrying however is the lack of a real history museum, a revealing lacuna in a country that is taking an unseemly long time to process the events of its past. Since 2002, the National History Museum closed most of its spaces, and has since displayed only its collection of antiquities and a range of temporary exhibitions. The

award-winning Peasant Museum has also been closed for restoration since 2016, and although this has now been completed, it is unclear when the institution's budgets will be sufficient to allow the collection to be re-installed. Until then, lucky visitors can catch a glimpse of the empty interiors during one-off events, such as the tour I attended given by one of its longstanding curators. She has witnessed the institution's transformation over several decades, from a museum of the communist party to a museum of peasant culture and now to a vast blank canvas.

On 18 May, Bucharest's museums stayed open late after sunset for an annual celebration that has become extremely popular, the 'Night of Museums'. Visitors of all ages queued up to participate in a diverse programme of activities all over the city. At the same time, in front of the Romanian National Museum of Art, artists Cosmin Manolescu și Nona Șerbănescu dressed in black body bags to protest the demise of the independent cultural sector. A recent decision by the Ministry of Finance means that the budget of the AFCN, the Administration of the National Cultural Fund, has been reduced by 30%, affecting artistic initiatives across the country. I began in an optimistic tone, but I now wonder to what extent appearances can be deceiving. Romania's cultural sector may be putting on some eye-catching performances, but nonetheless, like the tightrope walker in one of Gherasim Luca's poems, it is clinging to its own imbalance.

11th Annual Romanian Studies Conference

On March 22-23, 2019, the Romanian Studies Organization (RomSO) at Indiana University hosted its eleventh annual conference in Bloomington. This year, RomSO collaborated with the Hungarian Cultural Association at Indiana University to present **the Romanian Studies and Hungarian Studies Junior Scholar Conference**, bringing together graduate students, faculty, and scholars representing a range of disciplines and geographic concentrations. The conference opened with a panel entitled “Nationalism and Nation Building: Institutions, Education, and Historical Narrative,” chaired by Dr. Maria Bucur, Professor in the Departments of History and Gender Studies at Indiana University Bloomington, which highlighted both historical and contemporary examples of nationalism in Romania and Hungary. The second panel, in which presenters spoke on issues of foreign policy and private humanitarianism in Cold War-era Hungary, was chaired by Dr. Jeffrey Isaac, Professor in the Department of Political Science at Indiana. The second day opened with a panel entitled “Entangled Histories: Hungary & Romania,” in which presenters highlighted the experiences of two minority groups in Romania, the Székelys and the Moldavian Csangos. Dr. Constantin Iordachi, Professor of History at Central European University, offered comments. The fourth panel, chaired by R. Chris Davis, Associate Professor of History at Lone Star College, focused on issues of gender, domestic space, and material consumption in late communist and post-communist Romania. The final panel, chaired by Indiana University Bloomington PhD candidate Jessica Storey-Nagy, explored questions of minority identity in Romania in the interwar period and among Romanian and Roma migrants in contemporary France.

On Saturday afternoon, Professor Iordachi delivered the keynote address, “Reburials and ‘Regenerative’ Cleansing: Iron Guard’s Festival of the Dead in Romania (1940).” The presentation examined the obsession of the Romanian Iron Guard with the cult of the dead as part of a broader phenomenon within fascist ideology and ritual practice. As Dr. Iordachi explained, after its advent to power in



September 1940, the Iron Guard placed pompous and carefully-staged (re)burial ceremonies at the center of its political style in order to bestow legitimacy and sacrality to the would-be fascist elites and the resurrected nation. The Iron Guard used dead bodies to forge its body-politics, and its 130-day rule was a morbid fascist festival of the dead, marked by an extraordinary frenzy of exhumations and reburials. In this presentation, Dr. Iordachi argued that funeral ceremonies served as rites of passage marking not only the deceased’s transition from ‘this world’ to the ‘other world,’ but also the political transition to the fascist totalitarian state. They provided the ideological and ritual basis of the new regime, by articulating discourses of divine election, victimhood and martyrdom but also criminal revenge that was to lead to ‘national salvation.’

The robust collaboration which characterized the conference evinces both the enthusiasm and promise of young scholars in the fields of Romanian and Hungarian studies. The graduate student organizers, George Andre, Andrew Bartels, Michelle Schulte, Alina Williams, and Leah Valtin-Erwin, are extremely pleased with the lively participation of presenters, panel chairs, and audience members. They would also like to extend their thanks to their institutional supporters: The Department of Central Eurasian Studies, The Department of History, The Institute for European Studies, The Russian and East European Institute, The Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, and the Indiana University Funding Board. For further information about future conferences, please contact romso@indiana.edu

SRS-Polirom Book Series

SRS-POLIROM BOOK SERIES

Studii Românești - Romanian Studies - Études Roumaines - Rumänische Studien

Series Editors: Irina Livezeanu (irinal@pitt.edu) and Lavinia Stan (lstan@stfx.ca)
Assistant Editor: Narcis Tulbure (narcis.tulbure@gmail.com)

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

The Editors welcome proposals for new titles in our series! You can nominate the work of a colleague or former student, or present us your own book already published abroad. We also welcome and hope to publish book manuscripts written in Romanian directly in the series. You can find details about what needs to be included in a book proposal [here](#).

The series publishes scholarly books in Romanian authored or edited by SRS members. The Editors will consider three types of manuscripts: 1) Romanian translations of scholarly monographs already published in a foreign language; 2) original scholarly monographs written in Romanian; and 3) edited collections of essays dealing with a Romanian Studies theme.

Books in the SRS Romanian Studies series are about Romania and/or Moldova and the populations living on these territories or with the Romanian and Moldovan diasporas and cultures. Manuscripts should have a primarily academic profile, and a disciplinary, interdisciplinary, or multidisciplinary focus, drawing on history, political science, sociology, anthropology, law, economics, linguistics, literature, art history, or other fields. They should be based on sound and rigorous scholarly analysis, and include references and bibliography. We prefer contributions that are free of jargon and thus more likely to appeal to a wide audience. All proposals, manuscripts, and books offered for translation will be carefully reviewed for publication in the series.

Titles published in the series to date in reverse chronological order are:

- Diana Dumitru, *Vecini în vremuri de restriște. Stat, antisemitism și Holocaust în Basarabia și Transnistria* (2019)
- Cristina Vățulescu, *Cultură și poliție secretă în comunism* (2018)
- 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



www.society4romanianstudies.org

The Society for Romanian Studies

POLIROM

SRS-Polirom Book Series

cont'd.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The most recent book in our series is Diana Dumitru's disconcerting, widely researched, and very revealing *Vecini în vremuri de restriște. Stat, antisemitism și Holocaust în Basarabia și Transnistria*, translated by Miruna Andriescu, 280 pp.

The English language edition received several laudatory reviews:

"Can states school their citizens for genocide? Does valuing cultural diversity, by contrast, create a lasting buffer against state-organized violence? Diana Dumitru's thesis is provocative: that the Soviet ideology of 'friendship of peoples' attenuated popular antisemitism. Using the Romanian-Soviet borderland as a kind of natural experiment, Dumitru finds substantial differences between how neighboring populations in Romania and the USSR viewed their Jewish neighbors. Dumitru's work will open new debates about the power of political choice in determining the course of the Holocaust in different lands."

Charles King, Georgetown University

"Not only does Dumitru's book enrich our empirical understanding of the Holocaust in Romania, it also raises important questions about the impact of state policy on subject populations and the causes of interethnic conflict, making it a valuable study indeed."

Roland Clark, University of Liverpool

"Brilliantly written, with a masterful use of sources and secondary literature, Diana Dumitru's book will prove mandatory reading for every scholar interested in the perpetration of the Holocaust in the East. An impressive and well-informed monograph with a sophisticated theoretical framework and a consistent and sharp argumentation, it would be useful reading for graduate and undergraduate classes in Holocaust studies and Eastern European history. It also suggests new avenues for subsequent researchers."

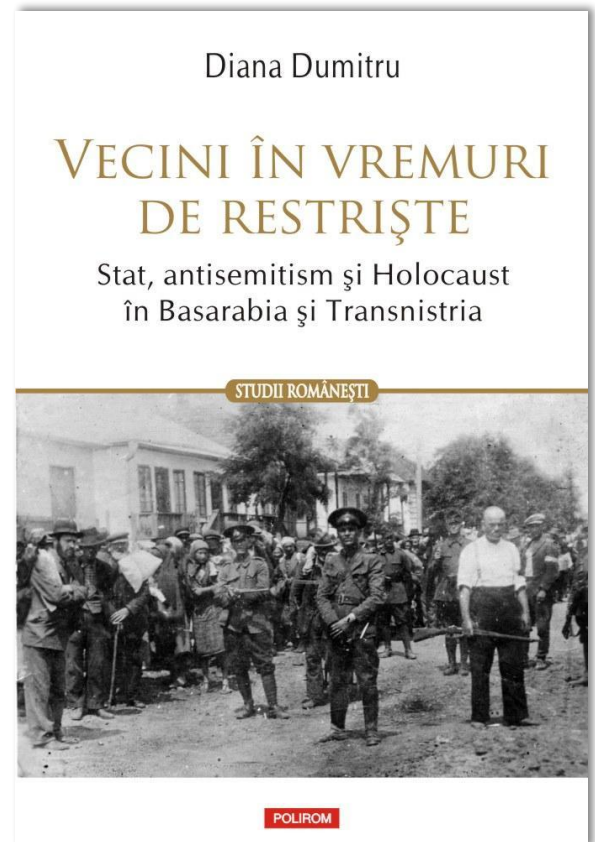
Ionuț Biliuță, Gheorghe Șincai Institute for Social Sciences and the Humanities,
Romanian Academy

FORTHCOMING

Translations of Maria Bucur's *Heroes and Victims: Remembering War in Twentieth Century Romania* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2010), and of *Manele in Romania: Cultural Expression and Social Meaning in Balkan Popular Music* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), edited by Margaret Beissinger, Speranța Rădulescu and Anca Giurchescu, are under preparation by Polirom and will appear next in the series.

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.

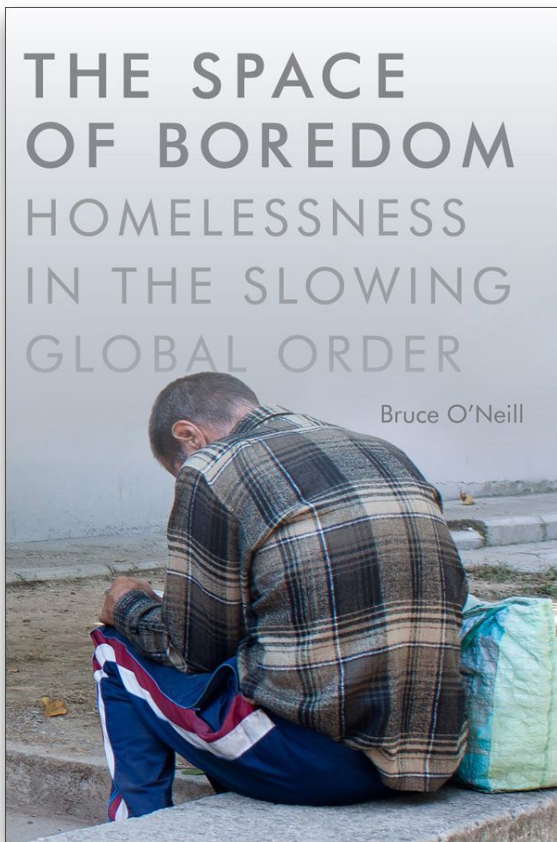


Featured Books

The Spaces of Boredom: Homelessness in the Slowing Global Order

by Bruce O'Neill (Duke University Press, 2017)

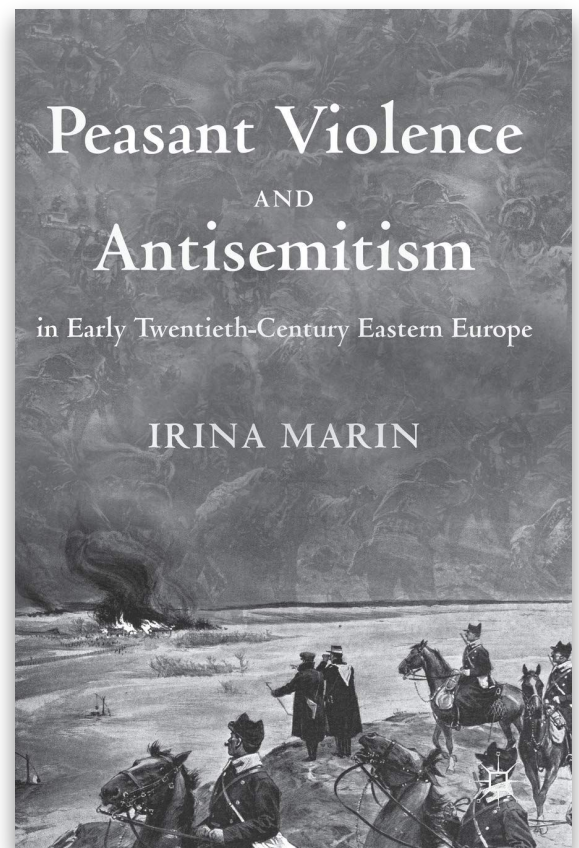
In *The Space of Boredom* Bruce O'Neill explores how people cast aside by globalism deal with an intractable symptom of downward mobility: an unshakeable and immense boredom. Focusing on Bucharest, Romania, where the 2008 financial crisis compounded the failures of the postsocialist state to deliver on the promises of liberalism, O'Neill shows how the city's homeless are unable to fully participate in a society that is increasingly organized around practices of consumption. Without a job to work, a home to make, or money to spend, the homeless—who include pensioners abandoned by their families and the state—struggle daily with the slow deterioration of their lives. O'Neill moves between homeless shelters and squatter camps, black labor markets and transit stations, detailing the lives of men and women who manage boredom by seeking stimulation, from conversation and coffee to sex in public restrooms or going to the mall or IKEA. Showing how boredom correlates with the downward mobility of Bucharest's homeless, O'Neill theorizes boredom as an enduring affect of globalization in order to provide a foundation from which to rethink the politics of alienation and displacement. - Duke University Press



Peasant Violence and Antisemitism in Early Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe

by Irina Marin (Palgrave MacMillan, 2018)

This book is a transnational study of rural and anti-Semitic violence around the triple frontier between Austria-Hungary, Romania and Tsarist Russia at the beginning of the twentieth century. It focuses on the devastating Romanian peasant uprising in 1907 and traces the reverberations of the crisis across the triple frontier, analysing the fears, spectres and knee-jerk reactions it triggered in the borderlands of Austria-Hungary and Tsarist Russia. The uprising came close on the heels of the 1905-1907 social turmoil in Tsarist Russia, and brought into play the major issues that characterized social and political life in the region at the time: rural poverty, the Jewish Question, state modernization, and social upheavals. The book comparatively explores the causes and mechanisms of violence propagation, the function of rumour in the spread of the uprising, land reforms and their legal underpinnings, the policing capabilities of the borderlands around the triple frontier, as well as newspaper coverage and diplomatic reactions. - Palgrave Macmillan



Featured Books

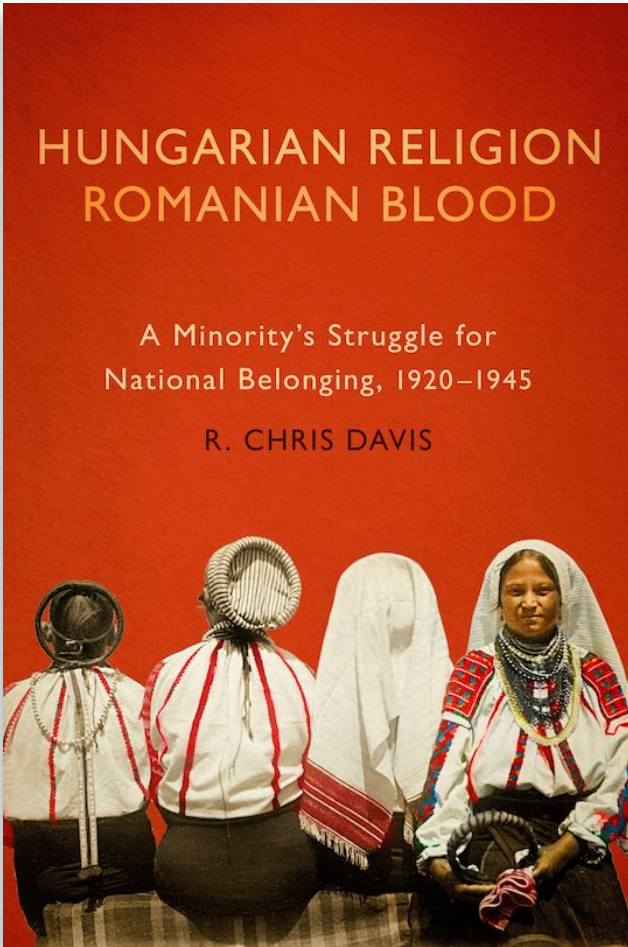
cont'd.

Hungarian Religion, Romanian Blood: A Minority's Struggle for National Belonging, 1920–1945

by R. Chris Davis (University of Wisconsin Press, 2019)

Amid the rising nationalism and racial politics that culminated in World War II, European countries wishing to "purify" their nations often forced unwanted populations to migrate. The targeted minorities had few options, but as R. Chris Davis shows, they sometimes used creative tactics to fight back, redefining their identities to serve their own interests. Davis's highly illuminating example is the case of the little-known Moldavian Csangos, a Hungarian- and Romanian-speaking community of Roman Catholics in eastern Romania. During World War II, some in the Romanian government wanted to expel them. The Hungarian government saw them as Hungarians and wanted to settle them on lands confiscated from other groups. Resisting deportation, the clergy of the Csangos enlisted Romania's leading racial anthropologist, collected blood samples, and rewrote a millennium of history to claim Romanian origins and national belonging—thus escaping the discrimination and violence that devastated so many of Europe's Jews, Roma, Slavs, and other minorities. In telling their story, Davis offers fresh insight to debates about ethnic allegiances, the roles of science and religion in shaping identity, and minority politics past and present.

- University of Wisconsin Press



H-Romania

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H-Romania is now in its fifth year of operation, with over 300 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.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to invite new network and book-review editors. Please contact Chris Davis at R.Chris.Davis@LoneStar.edu if you are interested in joining the H-Romania editorial team.

Advice for Young Scholars

SRS mentor and scholar Monica Ciobanu offers advice to young scholars in the field of Romanian studies

What is your educational, research, and professional background with regard to the field of Romanian studies?

I did my undergraduate education in Romania where I graduated with a BA in Sociology in 1993 at the University of Bucharest. Those were turbulent times in Romania during the early years of transition when students were at the forefront of pro-democracy movements and protests. Nonetheless, it was a favorable moment for the development of social sciences (especially sociology and political science), which had been marginalized and ideologically hijacked by the communist regime. A few years later, I moved to the United States in order to further my education. I was very fortunate to pursue my graduate degrees at the Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science at the New School for Social Research in New York where I found a strong interest in East and Central Europe and met top scholars in the field such as Andrew Arato, Jeffrey Goldfarb, Elzbieta Matynia, David Plotke, Ann Snitow and others who were to influence my academic path. When I arrived there, I became affiliated with the Center for East and Central Europe led by Dr. Matynia and now known as the Transregional Center for Democratic Studies. The center was a genuine site of learning and helped me broaden my understanding about post-communist transitions and about issues of democracy in general. It was an invaluable experience to attend the many talks given by known public intellectuals and former dissidents from the region including Adam Michnik, Martin Butora, Gail Kligman, Jan Gross, Vladimir Tismăneanu, Stelian Tănase (the list could continue).



Dr. Monica Ciobanu
Professor, Plattsburgh State
University of New York

In 1998 I was awarded an MA in Gender Studies and in 2005 a PhD in Sociology with a dissertation titled “Problems of Political Legitimacy and Democratic Consolidation in Post Communism: The Case of Romania in Comparative Perspective.” This had certainly put me in the category of scholars in the field of Romania studies, but most importantly had shaped my interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of various aspects of Romanian politics, culture, and society. After graduation, I secured a tenure-track position at Plattsburgh State University where I am still teaching today. In the beginning, I continued to work in the area of democratization and published several articles in *Comparative Sociology*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Nationalities Papers*, *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society* on the 1989 revolution, issues of political legitimacy in communist societies, Romania’s accession into the European Union, etc. But quite soon I expanded my area of interests and began to do research and publish on various aspects of the politics of memory in Romania. Currently, I am finalizing a manuscript on the historical memory of Stalinist repression (1944-1964) and its ongoing political impact in Romania. However, I continued to retain my interests in the various institutional, political and social developments in contemporary Romania. In 2018, I was invited to contribute a chapter on Romania for the fourth edition of the volume *Central and East European Politics: from Communism to Democracy*, edited by Sharon Wolchik and Jane Curry. I was excited to use this as a textbook in my own undergraduate Honors seminar on East and Central Europe. I also incorporate my research in other courses that I teach at SUNY Plattsburgh such as Human Rights and Justice, Political Sociology and a seminar focused on transitional justice for upper-level undergraduates in criminal justice.

Advice for Young Scholars

cont'd.

What resources (institutional, financial, personal, or otherwise) have been most useful to you in your research?

During my graduate studies I had to complement the partial fellowships offered by the New School with personal funds. I supported myself through teaching at City University of New York and other part-time jobs on campus. Since 2005 (and especially until 2011 when I was granted continuing appointment and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor), I have benefited from several types of financial support (summer stipends, a leave granted to women and minorities before tenure, and a sabbatical) from SUNY Plattsburgh that allowed me to travel and undertake field work in Romania and attend conferences and other professional meetings. I was also a fellow in residency in 2007 at the Center for the Study of Ethics in Public Life. In parallel, I have also pursued external funding and in summer 2011 my research at the National Council for the Securitate Archives (CNSAS) in Bucharest was funded by a Title VII grant from the US Department of State. In fall 2017, I had the privilege to be a fellow in residency at Imre Kertész Kolleg Institute in Jena, Germany where I interacted and exchanged ideas with European-based colleagues working on various aspects of the 20th century history in Southeast Europe.

From 2009 until 2018 I served on the board of the Society for Romanian Studies and in 2015, I had the honor to chair the committee that organized the international congress of SRS in Bucharest at the University of Political Science. I think this was crucial for my professional development and an eye opener for the multifaceted and the multitude of research opportunities in Romanian Studies. I established collaborative relationships with scholars from North America including Lavinia Stan, Lucian Turcescu, Delia Popescu, Cynthia Horne, Dennis Deletant, Roland Clark, Paul Sum, and many others. Last, but not least, throughout the years I have become involved with a few institutions in Romania such as the Civic Academy Foundation, the Institute for the Investigation of the Crimes of Communism and the Romanian Exile, CNSAS, and the Faculty of Political Science in Bucharest. I cherish my professional relationships with many of my Romanian colleagues, some of whom have become good friends. I won't give names because I am afraid I may miss some!

What do you see as the most innovative or promising areas of research, methodological innovations, or other recent trends in scholarship to which young scholars in Romanian studies should pay attention?

Depending upon the context, there are always fashionable and timely topics of academic inquiry that automatically influence the research methodologies. Right now, many academics (both in Romanian studies or in other regional or country studies) are attracted by the topics of populism and/or migration, issues of national and international security, etc. But I am a believer in following one's heart and working on something that sparks one's interest and brings fulfillment. However, I would say that we are seeing in North America a resurgence in the study of the Eastern Europe region. I even noticed among my students a novel curiosity regarding the role of Russia in the world and by extension in the history of the region.

Advice for Young Scholars

cont'd.

What advice can you offer to young scholars hoping to publish their work in the future? What, in your experience, have been the most challenging or unexpected aspects of the publication process?

The first thing I would say is not to get discouraged by criticism or even rejection. Try to take criticism in a constructive way. Don't take things too personally and (most importantly) be persistent and patient. If a journal rejects your manuscript, then try to see what (if any) of the comments can be used to enhance the quality of the manuscript and resubmit it there or somewhere else. Also, attend workshops in your field about publishing given by your respective professional association. Regarding the second part of the question: every publication poses some challenge or an unexpected twist, but I think "learning by doing" is always the best attitude to take!

How would you advise young scholars to best prepare themselves for the job market(s)? What do you see as the most important areas of strength in a candidate pursuing a career in Romanian Studies?

In North America there are limited job opportunities for those who try to market themselves as Romanian Studies specialists. One must present himself/herself as a solid scholar in one's field (whether in social sciences, humanities or history) who has the methodological and theoretical abilities to illustrate a specific theme/issue with the Romanian case. The challenge is to make the Romanian case interesting and appealing to non-Romanian Studies specialists and to show its applicability to other cases or regions. Moreover, many universities seek candidates who can navigate and teach in several subfields of a specific discipline.

Is there any other point of advice you would like to offer to young scholars in Romanian Studies? What do you wish you had known as a graduate student or early career scholar?

Start networking before graduation by attending conferences and getting to know academics outside your graduate school or PhD committee. It always looks good to have references from other universities. Don't hesitate to seek advice from anyone who is willing to listen and is willing to guide you. Having a few semesters of teaching experience could, in many cases, constitute a plus in your application! Talk to your peers who had the most recent experience of applying and interviewing for academic jobs. Lastly, (something I should have known better at the time) is that you should not be shy in asking pointed questions about the program or the institution that makes a job offer.



The Society for Romanian Studies Mentorship Program continues to welcome expressions of interest from mentors and mentees. Some of our current mentors include Florin Abraham, Ana Bazac, Margaret Beissinger, Stefano Bottoni, Roxana Bratu, Maria Bucur, Monica Ciobanu, Roland Clark, Aleksandra Djurić-Milanović, Peter Gross, Bob Ives, James Kapaló, Irina Livezeanu, Paul Michelson, Petru Negură, Sergiu Musteață, Valentin Săndelscu, Lavinia Stan, Cristian Tileagă, Narcis Tulbure, F. Peter Wager, and Rodica Milena Zaharia.

If you are interested in working with a mentor, please visit the SRS [website](#).

Featured Affiliate Organization

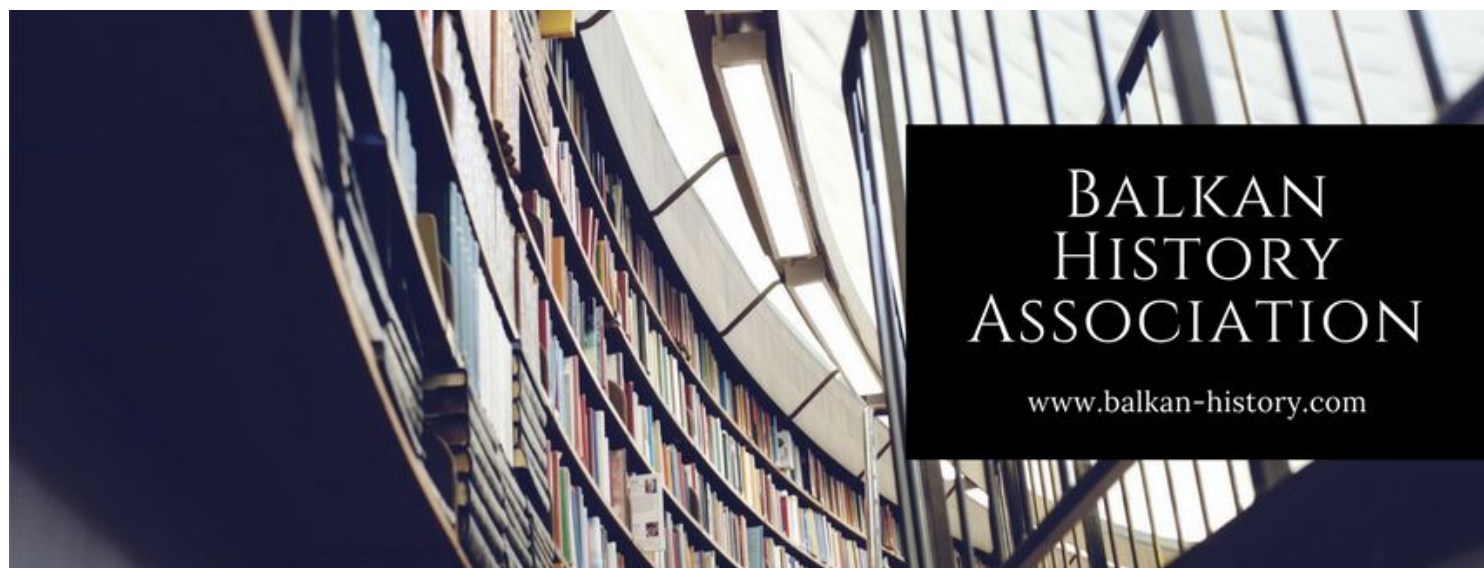
Balkan History Association

The Balkan History Association (BHA) is a non-profit, apolitical, and independent organization that aims to develop and promote at both national and international levels the interdisciplinary and comparative study of the Balkan region, and, more generally, of South-East Europe. Our main fields of interest include, but are not restricted to various sub-disciplines of history—political, cultural, military, economic, urban, literary, oral, or the history of science communication—art history, history of religions and archaeology. The objectives of the association are to facilitate the formation of a community of scholars specialized in the study of the region, as well as to engage in the formation and professional development of their younger peers. BHA's audience is composed of researchers, professionals and academics from a secondary and tertiary education background, students at any level of the university trajectory (BA, MA, PhD), high-school and college students, in addition to anyone interested in the study of the art, history, or archaeology of the Balkans.



Our activities include the organization of both academic events—conferences and lecture series—and social meetings, the latter targeting a non-specialized, general audience. The information related to these, as well as any research output generated on these occasions are advertised and published primarily through our website, and the associated Hiperborea journal. BHA promotes the scientific approach in the study of the history, culture, and archaeology of the Balkans. Our activities aim to contribute to a better understanding of the communities in the area, and their shared cultural heritage. Finally, BHA sees the Balkans as intrinsically linked to the larger European cultural space, and opposes its study in isolation. The association defends the freedom of speech, encourages the collaborative exchange of ideas, and aspires to create a platform for cooperation between researchers and the general audience, designed to facilitate a better collaboration between the states in the area.

The Balkan History Association website can be found [here](http://www.balkan-history.com).



SRS Fifth Biennial Book Prize

The Society for Romanian Studies invites nominations for the **Fifth Biennial SRS Book Prize** awarded for the best scholarly book published in English in the humanities or social sciences, on any subject relating to Romania or Moldova and their diasporas. To be eligible, books must have been published between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2018 as indicated by the copyright date. Books may be in any academic field, with a predominant focus on Romanian or Moldovan subject matter (including subjects relating to the activities of non-Romanian ethnic groups on Romanian or Moldovan territory). Edited books, translations, reprints or new editions of works published before 2017, and non-scholarly books are not eligible.

The prize carries with it an award of \$800. Either authors or publishers of books may make submissions. **Submissions should be sent to the SRS prize committee by 1 June 2019.**

Three copies of each submitted book should be sent by mail, one copy directly to each committee member at the addresses below. Questions or inquiries can be sent to the committee chair, Irina Livezeanu, via email at irinal@pitt.edu The award will be announced in October 2019.

Irina Livezeanu (Chair)
Department of History
University of Pittsburgh
irinal@pitt.edu
+412-648-7451

Radu Cinpoes
Head of Department of Politics
Kingston University
radu.cinpoes@kingston.ac.uk
+44-20-8417-7456

Monica Heintz
Maison de l'Archéologie et
de l'Ethnologie (LESC)
mheintz@parisnanterre.fr
+33-61262-3879

SRS Graduate Student Essay Prize

The Society for Romanian Studies is pleased to announce the **Eleventh Annual Graduate Student Essay Prize** competition for an outstanding unpublished essay or thesis chapter. The submitted single-author work must be written in English by a graduate student in any social science or humanities discipline on a Romanian or Moldovan subject, broadly and inclusively understood.

Deadline: July 1, 2019

The 2019 prize consists of \$300. The winner will be announced on 1 November 2019. The competition is open to current MA and doctoral students or to those who defended dissertations in the academic year 2018–2019. The submitted work should have been completed during the 2017–18 academic year. If the essay is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Expanded versions of conference papers are also acceptable if accompanied by a description of the panel and the candidate's conference paper proposal. Candidates should clearly indicate the format of the essay submitted. Essays/chapters should be up to 10,000 words double spaced, including reference matter.

Candidates should also clearly indicate their institutional affiliation and the type of the essay submitted. Questions can be directed to the chair of the committee, Marina Cap-Bun, at marina_capbun@yahoo.com

Please send a copy of the essay, any accompanying documentation (as both Word and PDF please) and an updated CV to 2019srsPrize@gmail.com

Marina Cap-Bun (Chair)
"Ovidius" University of Constanța
marina_capbun@yahoo.com

Valeska Bopp-Filimonov
Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena
valeska.bopp-filimonov@uni-jena.de

Cristian Tileaga
Loughborough University
c.tileaga@lboro.ac.uk

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.

You may renew your membership or join SRS via Paypal or credit card on our [website](#).

We also accept dues via mail. Please send mailed dues and/or donations directly by check (made out to The Society for Romanian Studies) to:

SRS Treasurer William Crowther
Department of Political Science
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
UNCG P.O. Box 26170
Greensboro, NC, 27402-6170

About SRS

The Society for Romanian Studies (SRS) is an international interdisciplinary academic organization founded in 1973 to promote professional study, criticism, and research on all aspects of Romanian culture and society, particularly concerning the countries of 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 South East European Studies Association (SEESA); the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES); the American Political Science Association (APSA); the American Historical Association (AHA); the Balkan History Association (BHA); and the Romanian Studies Association of America (RSAA). 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 Editor, Leah Valtin-Erwin (lvaltin@iu.edu).