

SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER



www.society4romanianstudies.org
The Society for Romanian Studies

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President's Message



Roland Clark
University of Liverpool
SRS President


Under the shadow of the war in Ukraine and the rising cost of living, a lot of work continues within the Society of Romanian Studies. First and foremost, we are looking forward to welcoming almost 200 scholars to Timișoara for the [fortieth conference](#) organised by the Society, this time on the theme of 'Borders and Transfers'. Anca Șincan and her team have been working tirelessly to put the finishing touches on the conference program and to make sure that everything is ready for this historic meeting in a city that will serve as Europe's [Capital of Culture](#)

next year. We owe our thanks to Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara and Muzeul de Artă din Timișoara for hosting the conference, to Muzeul Ororilor Comunismului în România for their support, and to the PLURAL Forum for providing fee waivers for students to allow them to attend the conference.

Last month also saw the first issue of the [Journal of Romanian Studies](#) published by Liverpool University Press, who have now also taken over processing our membership fees. Their new system takes a little getting used to but provides us with many more payment options than we have ever had before and a more reliable system for keeping track of memberships. The next issue of the JRS will also be the last to be edited by Peter Gross (Co-Editor) and Claudia Lonkin (Editorial Assistant). Both Peter and Claudia have been working on the journal for three years now and have done a superb job of helping turn this into a world-class publication. We are therefore looking for a new Co-Editor and a new Editorial Assistant to work together with Svetlana Suveica (Co-Editor) and Iuliu Rațiu (Book Reviews Editor). Please see more information later in this newsletter. As always, the editors are also looking for new articles and book reviews so keep them in mind next time you write something that is looking for a good home. The new issue of the JRS includes a section with translated historical sources that can be used for teaching and research. If you have translated any material that you think would be appropriate for a future issue, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the editors.

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SRS seeks newsletter editor(s)! Graduate students interested in a four-year term as newsletter editor should send a CV and a short statement to clarkr@liverpool.ac.uk. Details on page 3.



With nine bumper Newsletters under her belt, the unflagging Leah Valtin-Erwin is also coming to the end of her term as Newsletter Editor and we are looking for someone who can help her edit the Fall issue and then take over entirely in 2023 (details on page 3). Please drop me a line if you think that you or someone you know has what it takes to step into Leah's impressive shoes. PhD students and early career scholars should also be thinking about [submitting](#) something to this year's SRS Graduate Student Essay Prize (see page 6) and/or to our first Keith Hitchins Dissertation Prize (see page 5). Rodica Zaharia and Maria Bucur, respectively, are chairing those committees.

Finally, our new Membership Officer, Philippe Blasen, has spent the first months of 2022 helping to establish SRS Working Groups which bring together scholars around distinctive themes to promote discussion and collaboration. Each Working Group is different, but most will run at least one event per year. Many thanks to the twenty convenors who have begun the process of recruiting members and organising online events. Let us know if you would like to join one of these groups or form your own. Philippe's job description also entails keeping our membership lists up to date and reminding people whose membership has lapsed, so don't be surprised if you hear from him or from someone at Liverpool University Press from time to time with a membership reminder. Many thanks to Philippe for the hard work he has put in already this year and to all those who sacrifice so much time and energy to make the SRS the vibrant organisation that it is through the journal, the book series, the newsletter, the website, working groups, conference, prizes, mentoring program, and H-Romania (also looking for a new editor!).



Announcements

CfP: "[Technology-based and Technology-generated decisions](#);" 49th Symposium of the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC), virtual, September 24-25, 2022 & October 15-16, 2022, University of Ostrava (Czech Republic).

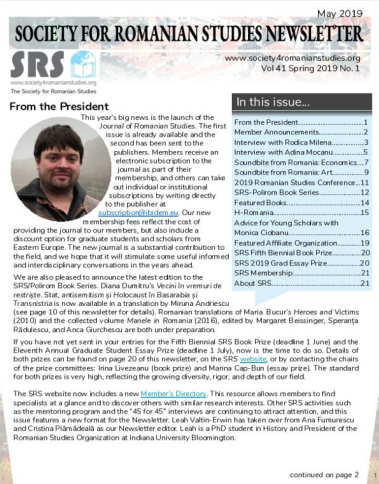
Diana Dumitru is currently in Washington, D.C. on a Woodrow Wilson Center fellowship (December 2021-August 2022). In August 2022, Diana will start a new position as the Ion Ratiu Visiting Professor of Romanian Studies at Georgetown University (2022-2025).

Maksim Goldenshteyn [published](#) *So They Remember: A Jewish Family's Story of Surviving the Holocaust in Soviet Ukraine* with University of Oklahoma Press in January 2022. You can find more information at his [website](#).

Oana Popescu-Sandu published "Seeing Through Discursive Screens in Matei Vişniec's *The Body of a Woman as a Battlefield in the Bosnian War*" in [Theatres of War: Contemporary Perspectives](#), edited by Lauri Ramey and published by Bloomsbury Methuen Drama in 2021.

CfA: Newsletter Editor

The Society for Romanian Studies is looking for one or two new [Newsletter Editors](#) to work with Leah Valtin-Erwin on the next issue of the newsletter and then to take full responsibility for the publication. The Editor serves a 4-year term and has responsibility for soliciting news from members and compiling the SRS biannual newsletter published each Spring and Fall. The Editor is a member of the SRS Executive Board. We are looking for a dynamic, well-organized, young scholar or graduate student with interests in Romanian Studies, broadly defined. Editing the Newsletter provides valuable editorial experience, gives one an intimate knowledge of Romanian Studies as a field and the SRS as an organization, and helps generate a positive public profile for the Editor. The Newsletter has been produced by one Editor in the past, but a team of two is also a possibility. **Please email Roland Clark (clarkr@liverpool.ac.uk) a copy of your cv and a short statement about your priorities for the upcoming issues of the Newsletter and the way in which it can keep our members informed and strength Romanian Studies as a field.**



CfA: H-Romania Editor

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

[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.**

Journal of Romanian Studies

The Journal of Romanian Studies is pleased to announce the release of its spring 2022 edition. In this issue, Lucian Boia explains his historical philosophy, Viktor Taki locates the intellectual Michel Anagnosti within the 1848 revolution in Wallachia, and Cosmin Koszor-Codrea explores the history of scientific racism in Romania. Further in the issue, Valeria Chelaru examines the 1918 union of Bessarabia and the Kingdom of Romania and Dorina Roșca analyzes post-Soviet Moldovan capitalism, with particular attention to emigree remittances and oligarchy. This issue also includes an introduction to the Historical Data Grinder 2.0 database, translations of Gala Galaction's journals by Roland Clark, and book reviews by Paul E. Michelson, Ágoston Berecz, Gheorghe G. Pacurar, and Petru Negură. 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: Peter Gross (pgross@utk.edu)
and Svetlana Suveica (ssuveica@gmail.com)
Reviews Editor: Iuliu Rațiu (ratiu.pfa@gmail.com)
Editorial Assistant: Claudia Lonkin (claudia.lonkin@gmail.com)



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.

Journal of Romanian Studies

CALL FOR NEW JOURNAL EDITORS

The Journal of Romanian Studies is currently seeking a new Co-Editor and a new Editorial Assistant to replace Peter Gross and Claudia Lonkin, respectively, beginning in September 2022. Both will end their current terms once they finish work on the Fall 2022 issue and will be available in a consultative role to assist the new editors. The editors will be working with Svetlana Suveica as Co-Editor and Iuliu Rațiu as Book Reviews Editor.

This biannual peer-reviewed journal published by the Society for Romanian Studies in collaboration with Liverpool University Press examines critical issues in Romanian Studies broadly conceived, linking work in that field to wider theoretical debates and issues of current relevance, and serving as a forum for both junior and senior scholars.

The journal considers original manuscripts that draw on various theoretical, conceptual and methodological perspectives as understood in disciplines ranging from history, political science, philosophy, law and justice studies, anthropology, sociology, ethnography, and education to literature, linguistics, economics, business, religion, gender, film and media studies, art history, and music. It considers theoretically informed manuscripts that examine political, socioeconomic and cultural developments in Romania and Moldova, the situation of their ethnic minorities and their relations with the ethnic majority, as well as the position, culture, and history of Romanians and Moldovans living outside the shifting boundaries of those countries.

The journal also welcomes articles that connect Romania and Moldova comparatively with other states and their ethnic majorities and minorities, as well as with other groups by investigating the challenges of migration and globalization, changes and opportunities in international relations, and the impact of the European Union. Both articles with a historical focus and studies dealing with recent events will be considered.

Co-editors serve three-year, renewable terms and are responsible for:

- directing the editorial content and policy of the journal;
- liaising with LUP on production and all other publishing matters;
- soliciting articles, book reviews, translations, and special issues;
- reviewing article-length manuscripts and determine if a piece should be sent out to complete the double-blind peer-review process
- quality assurance in the final proofs for publication.

The Editorial Assistant is primarily responsible for copy-editing articles, book reviews, translations, and other materials before it is sent to the publisher. Other duties, such as communicating with authors, checking image permissions, and standardizing style conventions may be performed as needed.

The editors are not compensated for their effort. Guest editors have been used for special issues and this practice will continue as opportunities and needs present themselves. If you would like to be considered for either of these positions, please send a current curriculum vitae and a letter of intention to Roland Clark at clarkr@liverpool.ac.uk.

CfP: Keith Hitchins Dissertation Prize

SRS is delighted to announce the [inaugural competition](#) for the **Keith Hitchins Dissertation Prize** in any discipline related to Romanian Studies. The named prize will be awarded in honor of the late [Keith Hitchins](#), who served as an advisor, offering encouragement and inspiration for numerous graduate students throughout his long career.



The award carries a financial component of \$250 plus a year's membership of the SRS, which includes a subscription to the *Journal of Romanian Studies*.

Eligibility: The submitted dissertation must be written in English or Romanian by a scholar in any social science or humanities discipline on a Romanian or Moldovan subject, broadly and inclusively understood. This may encompass focus on themes related to Romania (as it currently exists and in its various past iterations), to the people who have lived in or currently inhabit Romania, or those who self-identify as Romanian but reside beyond Romania's borders. Studies connected to ethnic minorities in Romania are also eligible. If you are not sure whether your dissertation is eligible, please send a query to the chair of the jury. We will take into consideration dissertations that were completed (technically speaking, "deposited" with the relevant institution) during the last two academic years, 2020-2021 and 2021-22. Dissertations completed prior to August 2020 are ineligible.

Materials and Deadline: To be considered for this competition, please send a brief letter of interest that includes the title of your dissertation, an abstract, and some proof of eligibility in regards to when your dissertation was completed. This proof may be as simple as an email or signed letter from your dissertation adviser, confirming the academic year when the dissertation was deposited. We need to receive the initial inquiry before **June 9, 2022**, in order to ensure speedy reply. The letter of interest needs to be sent to the chair of the jury.

Please send the dissertation in a digital format that can be easily shared, as pdf or word document. The dissertation needs to be sent individually to each member of the jury. Documents that are very large may not come through. If you have illustrations that render the document very large, please contact us directly and we will work out a digital document transfer to the jury. The deadline for submitting the dissertation is **July 1, 2022**. The winner of the competition will be announced on or around November 1, 2022.

Keith Hitchins Dissertation Prize Jury:

Maria Bucur, chair; bucur@indiana.edu
history and gender studies, Indiana University, Bloomington

Calin Cotoi, calincotoi@gmail.com
sociology, University of Bucharest

Radu Vancu, rvancu@gmail.com
literature and literary criticism, Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu

CfP: Graduate Student Essay Prize

The Society for Romanian Studies (SRS) is pleased to announce the **Fourteenth Annual Graduate Student Essay Prize [competition](#)** for an outstanding unpublished essay or thesis chapter.

The submitted single-authored 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.

The 2022 prize consists of \$250 plus an individual, one-year membership to SRS that includes a subscription to the journal, valued at \$75. The second-place award of honorable mention includes a one-year subscription to the journal.

The competition is open to current MA and doctoral students or to those who defended dissertations in the academic year 2021–2022. The submitted work should have been completed within the last two academic years and should not have been published yet. 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 citations.

Candidates should clearly indicate their institutional affiliation. Include as well your current e-mail and postal addresses so that you may be contacted. Questions can be directed to the chair of the committee, Prof. Rodica Milena Zaharia, at milena.zaharia@rei.ase.ro. Please send a copy of the essay, any accompanying documentation (as both Word and PDF please) and an updated CV to milena.zaharia@rei.ase.ro.

Applicants are not required to be members of SRS in order to apply.

Deadline for submissions is **15 July 2022**. The winners will be announced on 1 November 2022.

SRS Essay Prize Committee:

Rodica Milena Zaharia, chair; milena.zaharia@rei.ase.ro

Faculty of International Business and Economics, Bucharest University of Economic Studies

Marius Wamsiedel, Marius.Wamsiedel@xjtu.edu.cn

Department of Health and Environmental Sciences at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Iemima Ploscariu, iemima.ploscariu2@mail.dcu.ie

Independent Scholar

BORDERS AND TRANSFERS

June 15-17, 2022
Universitatea de Vest,
Timișoara

Keynote Speakers:

Professor Maria Bucur
(Indiana University,
Bloomington)

Professor Adriana Babeți
(Universitatea de Vest,
Timișoara)

2022 SRS Conference

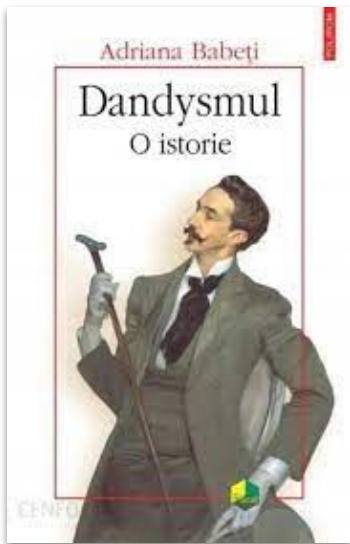
An interview with Adriana Babeți and Maria Bucur, who will serve as keynote speakers for the [2022 Society for Romanian Studies Conference](#), held in Timișoara from June 15–17.

Please tell us a bit about your work. What disciplines, themes, ideas, and contexts are you principally concerned with in your work? What projects are you working on now?

Adriana Babeți: As a professor of comparative literature, my professional interest was and still is at the confluence of several disciplines and methods. Throughout my career I had two main areas of research that translated into several volumes, focusing on gender studies, the cultural history of dandyism, and the Amazons. A second interest was cultural geography. My doctoral work was dedicated to an emblematic character of Romanian culture, Dimitrie Cantemir, a historical figure situated at a fertile intersection of historical epochs and spaces (Eastern and Western). For over two decades, I researched the southeast European connections of Romanian literature. Later, again for over twenty years, I focused on exploring central European literature. Currently, a collective project I coordinated, *The Dictionary of the Central European Novel in the 20th Century*, is in its final stages and will be published with Polirom.



Adriana Babeți
Universitatea de Vest Timișoara



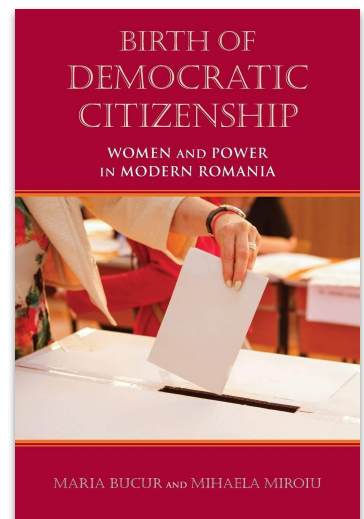
Maria Bucur: I began my academic career as a somewhat conventional historian, though what I worked on—gender history and eugenics—were both quite unconventional in 1992 in Romanian studies. The red thread running through my intellectual interests and professional commitments as a writer, teacher, and employee of an institution of higher education has been to render those who are vulnerable and silenced visible and significant in our understanding of the past. In writing about eugenics, I wanted to see how women and rural populations became objects of biopolitical engineering. In writing about war and commemoration, I was interested in rendering palpable the grass roots responses to the huge wartime losses in the two world wars, especially in the countryside. In writing



Maria Bucur
Indiana University Bloomington

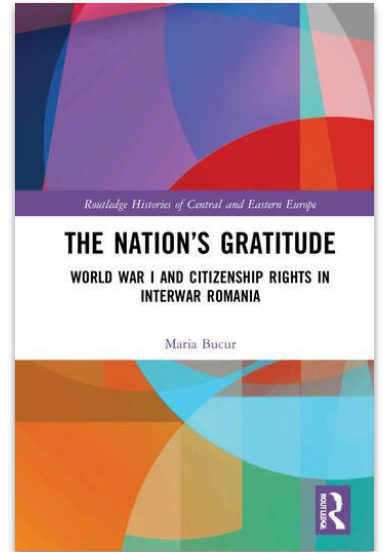
about gender and citizenship, I was interested in bringing into view how women understand their relationship to the state and act as citizens. In writing about war veterans, widows, and orphans, I was interested in rendering visible the ways in which these categories of citizens became engaged in advocating for their rights. From a disciplinary perspective, I've embraced the capacious transdisciplinarity of gender studies. Research on topics that are not at the center of historical writing and archives necessitates creative deployment of different skills. In my latest book, though based on a great deal of archival research, I used linguistic analysis of grammar to render gender assumptions visible. I ventured into a bit of graphology to engage in class analysis of the materials I was reading. I engaged in an ethnography of the archive itself to better understand systems of power inside the Romanian state institutions.

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2022 SRS Conference

I am currently working on developing a community of interest in the area of disability studies in Eastern Europe. My first book, *Eugenics and Modernization in Interwar Romania* (2002), touched on the ways in which biopolitical engineering framed in and out of the “normal” community those who did not fit eugenicist ideas of genetic health; but a full consideration of discourses about and policies focusing on disability was absent from my thinking at that time. While writing *The Nation’s Gratitude: War and Citizenship in Romania after World War I* (2022), I came to realize the complex framework that was being set up through the veterans’ administration (IOVR) in regards to defining, evaluating, and responding to disabilities. IOVR had a leading role in generating specific measurements and policies to support disabled veterans, engaging in that process of evaluation and rehabilitation the very growing class of doctors who were also drinking at the fountain of eugenicist medical training. I came to realize that there is a buried history of disability inside this story about the veterans. My current project seeks to uncover what discourses (visual, written) about disability developed in interwar Romania. And to connect that to the longer trends in policies focused on and discourses about people with disabilities since then. You will hear more about this in my keynote address.



The theme of this year's conference is "Borders and Transfers." How have those ideas influenced your work? How do you understand these themes within the larger scope of Romanian studies? The conference will be take place in Timișoara (in cooperation with Universitatea de Vest and Muzeul de Artă); how does the conference's setting in the Banat reflect these themes?

AB: The theme of the conference is not a novel one for me. At the end of the 1990s, together with Cornel Ungureanu and Mircea Mihăieș, I initiated a research group on Central European culture. Initially, that group was focused solely on literary studies, but shortly thereafter we focused on fostering an authentic interdisciplinarity, incorporating history, political studies, and anthropology. Researching Central Europe, we could not leave out the problem of the frontiers and of cultural transfers that were questions related to the geography of our space and the history of this part of Europe. The resulting volumes, the books published under my signature or by colleagues like Smaranda Vultur, Alin Gavreliuc, Valeriu Leu, or Gabriela Colțescu evince the benefits that these research projects bring to Romanian studies. Most of these works study the Banat; thus, the themes of frontiers, hybridity, and transfers have been explored here for over 25 years.

MB: As a migrant who has spent the last 36 years moving between borders and transferring values, knowledge, attitudes, alliances, and language between two societies—the Romanian and U.S. ones—this theme defines my entire adult experience. I have not ceased to feel “in-between” my two loves and to feel the visceral need to both return to Romania and then return to the U.S. during my travels between the two. When you have two extremely different systems of cultural reference so deeply imbedded in your everyday existence, from what you laugh at to the food you prepare, the intellectual work you do is always comparative, always unsettled. Romania overall is a border, more so since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Timișoara is deeply connected, given its long history of being in the Habsburg Empire and then becoming part of Romania, to the spaces of cultural transfer and contestation between differing political and cultural models. The city’s rich diversity of communities—ethnic, religious, linguistic—gives it a unique position in Romania. And as the place where the 1989 Revolution started, it also has a unique place in the recent history of the country. Finally, that Timișoara recently elected a foreign-born mayor who adopted it as his home, suggests to me an even more exciting prospect. Timișoara is at the forefront of generating new forms of community and belonging that move beyond the ethnonational and into the embrace of a European identity based on human rights and compassion.

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2022 SRS Conference

How would you characterize the role of the Society for Romanian Studies (SRS) in our field? What do you hope that this year's conference will accomplish, especially after the immense changes within the landscape of scholarly interaction and collaboration over the past two years?

AB: The role of the Society for Romanian Studies is major and its efforts to organize this conference here, in Timișoara, at UVT will certainly impact the research projects we have ongoing here and probably will stimulate new academic initiatives.

MB: I hope this conference will engage a larger community of interdisciplinary junior scholars interested in Romania. We have tended to be too narrow in disciplinary interests and scholarly connections and we have not been very successful in energizing junior scholars to join and shape the field in new and creative ways. I'm looking forward especially to seeing what these junior scholars are doing to advance knowledge-making with a focus on Romania. I hope to see scholar activists speak to pressing issues of the day. I hope to see them take over the field.

As writers and researchers, you have both engaged with the representation of women in Romanian history and culture while navigating being a woman in academia yourselves, in differing contexts. How would you characterize the status of women in our field (a big question)? What challenges and opportunities do female scholars of Romania as well as those studying women and gender in Romania face and how have these changed over time? To what extent are these specific to this field - and which are universal?

AB: In my book on the Amazons, I dedicated an entire chapter to the phenomenon of women's emancipation in Romania and to the representation of this feminine type – the Amazon. Up until the interwar period, representations of the Amazon were few and rather pale. The explanation for this comes from the dominant societal model, a patriarchal, androcratic system heavily influenced by tradition. After the First World War, things started to change, but slowly and arduously, starting with voting rights, the legislation regarding the women's representation in legal proceedings and so on. The avant-garde and, generally, modernism generated emancipated feminine figures in literature and visual arts, relatively atypical in the Romanian tradition. In that period, the academic environment opened to women (students, professors, researchers). And nowadays, in the last few decades, I haven't seen in our academic environment signs of discrimination to block careers or limit research avenues. I am happy to see efforts to bring Romanian studies to the current stages of international research even if we still feel discrepancies. But even so, as we say, some methods and subjects are imported quickly without being metabolized properly.



MB: We are at a crossroads in academia. And in the world. And especially in Eastern Europe. I will not speculate what the world will look like when the conflict in Ukraine ends. But it will be a different place than the one we inhabit now. Women as leaders, thinkers, care takers, and teachers have played a crucial role in responding creatively and with enormous good will towards the refugee crisis. I hope that such knowledge and work will continue to be rendered significant in developing long term solutions to the humanitarian crisis unfolding. That means more women at the decision-making table in politics and more focus on gender analyses of the activities taking place to assist the millions of displaced persons in Europe (not just the Ukrainian refugees, all the refugees—from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, etc.).

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2022 SRS Conference

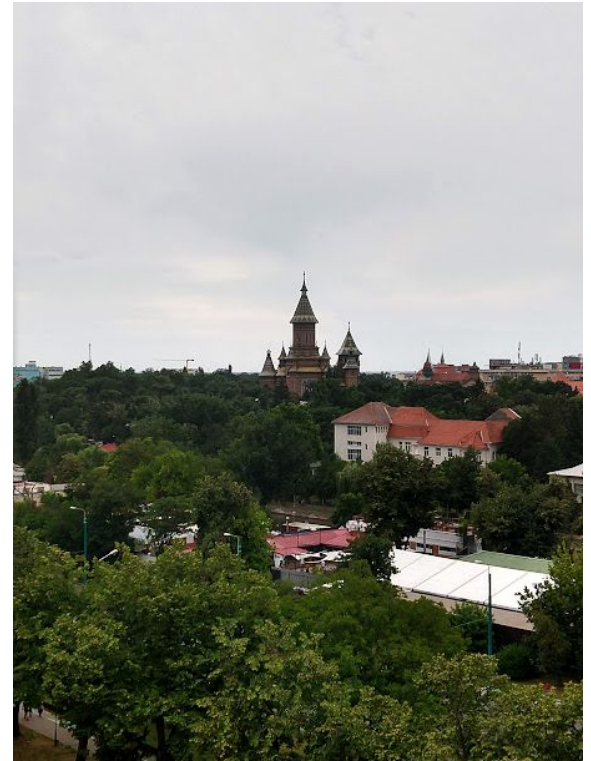
At the same time, we can't ignore the radicalization of the anti-gender perspective evinced by the Polish and Hungarian governments, and by the rising radical right-wing party in Romania, AUR. And I am not heartened by the continuing crisis of political integrity in Romanian politics. I am not heartened by the despicable way in which Emilia Șercan has been treated by the Romanian government and by the leader of the National Liberal Party, Nicolae Ciucă. I foolishly praised Klaus Iohannis a few years ago as someone who appeared as a politician of integrity. I apologize for my inability to see through the fog of good rhetoric. In supporting a bully and a plagiarist as the leader of his party, the Romanian President has shown his true colors.

I insist on talking about the political environment in response to your question about women in academia because I think this is crucial context for understanding the limits of academic knowledge beyond academia. The kind of toxicity developing in political discourse in Romania, Hungary, and Poland are a result of not just indifference to intellectual debates and research on gender justice and equity. They are the result of a consorted counteroffensive against gender justice and the knowledge-making that many women have brought to fields active in Romanian studies.

What recent developments in Romanian studies are you most excited about? What are your hopes and ambitions for the future of this field? What new challenges do emerging scholars in this field face today?

AB: Being interested in comparative literature, I am interested in the way that the thematic foci of Romanian studies are inserted in a larger cultural perspective starting with the regional one. My hope, looking at the Center for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies at UVT, is that it will find its rhythm, and that young researchers, alumni, doctoral students and MA students supervised by their professors will initiate new projects to open up to the region the study of Romanian literature and also Romanian history. I see Romanian studies as part of Eastern and Central European studies but also Southeast European studies. I see this even more because of our geography, our historical context, our ethnic configuration, our linguistic and religious specificities, our cultural patterns but also because of our mentality. Banat is itself a "small Europe", an intersection, an El Dorado for those who came here for three centuries searching for a better life and for the academics who want to discover new and exciting avenues of research.

MB: In looking towards the future I see both opportunities and threats. The current humanitarian crisis is an opportunity for engaging in rethinking citizenship, gender roles, and care taking. But only if women are actually sitting at the table as autonomous participants and not puppets of PSD or other political formations that have already shown their deeply corrupt intentions. And scholars (be they self-identified as women or not) interested in gender justice need to be more fully integrated in the discussions, both academic and policy oriented, about these problems. The threat is the one I already indicated—the intentional misrepresentation of scholars of gender in the aggressive anti-gender campaigns by various political organizations, together with the leadership of many Christian denominations. The Romanian Orthodox Church is an important force in this developing threat.

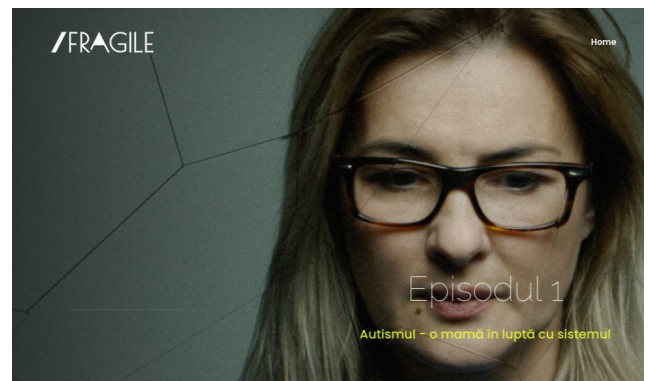


Many thanks to Anca Șincan for her assistance in developing and translating this interview.

SRS Thematic Working Groups

Gender Studies (Maria Bucur)

The network comprises around 45 people and has met a couple of times during the spring semester to get to know each other and for a workshop. We have a regular bi-monthly (during the academic year, September-May) newsletter that collects announcements from members about events, publications of interests, and requests for collaborations. At our first meeting, over 25 members participated in small group discussions and arrived at a few ideas about themes to pursue for future workshops. One such workshop, hosted at the beginning of April, focused on the fragility and resilience of women in contemporary Romania from two very different perspectives. Alina Dragolea and Adela Alexandru co-presented a chilling [gender analysis](#) of the Romanian government's policies during COVID, titled "Overlapping vulnerabilities: Social policies and gender equality during the COVID pandemic in Romania." Their work is situated in the area of policy analysis and draws comparisons with other countries' policies during the pandemic. Rucsandra Pop presented the visual project [Fragile](#), a COVID ethnographic and artistic collaboration with Ioana Florea, an actress and the embodiment of eight vignettes about women in contemporary Romania. Both are feminist projects of deep commitment to rendering gender inequities visible and speaking for gender justice. Though attendance at this event was low, the discussion was rich and begat a proposal for the upcoming conference in Timișoara. Be on the lookout for the session on *Fragile* at the Museum of Art. Pop and Florea will present this magnificent project that should be viewed and discussed by every student and every researcher with an interest in what embodied gender vulnerabilities look like.



In addition to this workshop organized directly by the network, members of the network participated in several other events related to our thematic interests: on teaching history with gender (Alexandra Ghit); on disabilities and gender (Maria Bucur); and on women and religiousness (Anca Șincan). Three members of the group, Roxana Cazan, Mihaela Campion, and Maria Bucur, also participated in a related zoom launch and discussion of the novel [Povestiri despre Cadmav](#), by network member Mihaela Miroiu, together with two other guests, Ion Bogdan Lefter and Radu Vancu. In the fall, we have one book launch planned around the publication of [Femeile și economicul. Tărâmul ei. Tapetul galben](#), by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, with a discussion by the translators of the book. We are also working on a workshop focusing on deconstructing academia, with details to be announced at a later date.

The Holocaust and the Second World War (Grant Harward)

The Holocaust and the Second World War Working Group has its first meeting on May 14, 2022. The working group introduced themselves. Members spoke briefly about their current research projects including: post-war Jewish responses (including revenge) to the Holocaust in Moldova, a comparative history of Axis and Soviet armies at Staligrad, environmental approaches to war, political history of interwar Romania, fascist Iron Guard exiles and their impact on the Romanian diaspora community in Canada, memory politics and war crimes trials post-war, humanitarian aid for Jews in Transnistria, neo-Protestants in interwar Romania, Soviet Jewish survivors of the Holocaust in Transnistria, and wartime cultural history. Clearly, this shows a dynamic future for Romania-focused research into the Holocaust and the Second World War. Grant Harward reviewed the historiography of the Holocaust and the Second World War from wartime reportage to communist censorship and finally to post-communist controversies. Diana Dumitru then spoke on nine emerging paths in Holocaust Studies that offer new approaches and methodologies to studying the Holocaust in Romania. Finally, the working group discussed options for future working group meetings.

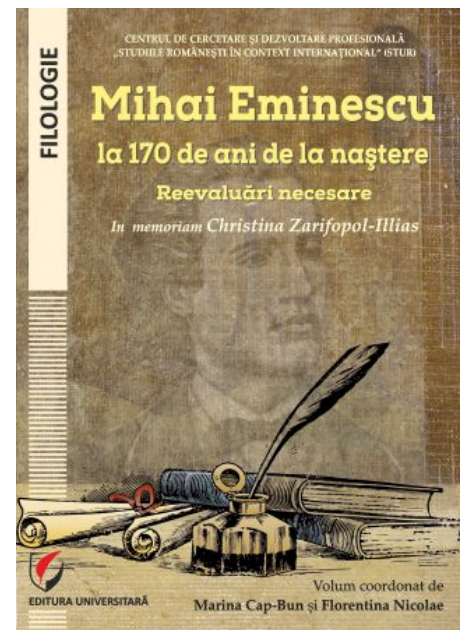
SRS Thematic Working Groups

Literature (Marina Cap-Bun)

After all the disruptions and setbacks brought by the pandemic, the Literature Working Group of the Society for Romanian Studies and the Romanian Studies Circle of the Center for Research and Professional Development „Romanian Studies in International Context” ([Centrul de cercetare și dezvoltare profesională Studiile românești în context internațional, STUR](#)) at Ovidius University, Constanța, Romania, held its first in-person meeting this year on April 19, 2022.

The meeting, eagerly awaited by academics, and by graduate and undergraduate students as well, focused on the future topics for research and dissemination of Romanian Studies within various educational and cultural milieus. The participants proposed topics that will cover less explored areas in Romanian Studies and will showcase the research of graduate students in Romanian Studies and Romanian Literature.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to new publication: first, the 11th volume of studies of the STUR Research Center, *Mihai Eminescu la 170 de ani de la naștere. Reevaluări necesare* [Mihai Eminescu at 170 years. A Much-Needed Review] (Editura Universitară, 2021), edited by Marina Cap-Bun and Florentina Nicolae and is dedicated to the memory of Christina Zarifopol-Illias, who passed away in 2021. It gathers studies and articles by a plethora of specialists in Romanian Studies, from senior academics of various international and Romanian universities (Christian Moraru, Elena Mazilu-Ionescu, Marina Cap-Bun, Angelo Mitchievici, Lacramioara Berechet, Florentina Nicolae, Mona Momescu) to younger researchers and graduate students; the articles reexamined the work and symbolic status of the poet from a heterogeneous perspective - from global studies, to comparative readings, or to original close readings of some of his widely circulated poems.



The volume also includes three papers, grouped under the title *Atelier Matei Vișniec* [The Matei Vișniec Workshop] that examine the poetics of his theater from various angles. A book on Matei Vișniec’s poetics, [Poetică descompunerii în teatrul lui Matei Vișniec](#) [The Poetics of Decomposition in Matei Vișniec’s Plays], by Mirela Doga, published by Ovidius University Press in 2021, was also launched in the presence of its author.

Professor Marina Cap-Bun presented a tribute to [Professor Christina Zarifopol-Illias](#), whose professionalism, dedication and relentless work left an indelible mark on the Romanian Studies program at the Indiana University-Bloomington.

Graduate Students and Early Career Researchers (Alexandra Ciocanel)

Alexandra Ciocanel, one of the new graduate representatives on the SRS board, is gathering interest in an informal working group for graduate students and early career researchers. This group will likely organise some working group online meetings. If you would like to participate, please fill out the survey [here](#). For updates, check [this](#) webpage. She also launched a [Facebook page](#) for graduate students and ECRs in Romanian Studies to share resources and information.

SRS is very pleased to welcome the following people to the SRS Board for a four year term:

“I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve a second term on the board of SRS. For those that don’t know me, my research focuses on the history and contemporary experience of religious and ethnic minorities in Romania and Moldova and is informed by my multidisciplinary training in study of religions, anthropology, history and folklore. From September 2016 to 2021 I was Principal Investigator of the European Research Council Project *Creative Agency and Religious Minorities: Hidden Galleries in the Secret Police Archives in Central and Eastern Europe* (ERC project no. 677355), a four-year project that explored the visual and material presence of religious minorities in the secret police archives in Hungary, Romania and the Republic of Moldova. My most recent publications explore the importance of visual sources and material cultural methodologies for the study of religions under communism.



James A Kapalo
University College Cork, Ireland

One of my main ambitions for SRS is for a future conference to be held in Moldova, and as a board member I will work hard to support colleagues in making this happen. The establishment of SRS Working Groups is also a really important initiative and as lead of the Religious Studies Working Group I hope to be able to expand SRS membership amongst scholars of religions as well as contribute to the development of the discipline in Romania and Moldova. Project writing and grant applications are becoming increasingly important for scholars and in the European context I feel that the SRS could also play a role in encouraging and supporting Romanian and Moldovan applicants for major European grants. Finally, I will continue to use my place on the committee to support an inclusive, vibrant and welcoming academic environment.”



Marina Cap-Bun
Ovidius University, Constanța,
Romania

“I am very pleased that SRS has become a worldwide academic organization, as I do believe in the international status of Romanian Studies. Since 2001 I have been actively engaged in the field of Romanian Studies abroad, through teaching and research projects, and I participated in a great number of international conferences dedicated to Romanian Studies, including the SRS congresses in 2001, 2007, 2015, and 2018 (I missed the 2012 one as I was teaching Romanian in Bloomington), and many others in various locations (Bloomington 2007, Rome 2007, Vienna 2011, Pisa 2013 etc.). These activities and the books I have edited on Romanian Studies around the World (enthusiastically saluted by Professor Paul Michelson among others) made me aware of the challenges and perspectives of the field, so in 2011, I established The Center for Research and Professional Development “Romanian Studies in International Context” (STUR), which has resulted in an institutional partnership between Ovidius University and SRS, in 2015. STUR’s aim is to promote all aspects of Romanian, but also to expand interdisciplinary approaches in the field as well as annual conferences that bring together international scholars. As a Board Member, I use my expertise and my connections to promote the Society’s generous goals. I also encourage my Ph.D. students to become engaged in Romanian Studies. For the SRS 2022 conference in Timișoara, we have proposed the roundtable “The Fluid Borders of Romanian Studies: Literature, Theatre, Film.”

“I am an art historian specialising in twentieth century design and performance in Romania and East-Central Europe more broadly, with a focus on identity, gender, and ethnic minorities. I hold a PhD in Art History from the University of St Andrews in the UK. Currently, I am a Research Fellow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, working on a project on urban visual culture in interwar Bucharest. My first monograph, *Performing Modernism: A Jewish Avant-Garde in Bucharest*, will be published in 2022 with De Gruyter. Before forging a career in art history, I worked for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development where I encountered more contemporary perspectives on the economic and political development of Romania and Eastern Europe.



Alexandra Chiriac
Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York, USA

I have been involved with the Society for Romanian Studies since 2018, when I attended the conference in Bucharest and won that year's Graduate Student Essay Prize. I then joined the SRS board as Student Representative, a position I held from 2019 to 2021. Being involved in the SRS from the early stages of my career has provided invaluable scholarly support and a sense of community. As a newly elected board member, I look forward to continuing to be part of this increasingly dynamic organisation and furthering its development. I am committed to raising awareness of Romanian studies and expanding the field through interdisciplinary perspectives and transnational collaborations. In particular, I would like to support the SRS in growing its presence among early-career scholars, providing networking opportunities and a community of like-minded peers in this uncertain academic climate.”



Narcis Tulbure
Bucharest University of
Economic Studies,
Bucharest, Romania

“I am an interdisciplinary researcher interested in finance, anthropology and history. I have a PhD in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh and previous degrees in history and finance from Central European University in Budapest and the Bucharest University of Economic Studies where I currently teach as a lecturer in the Department of Finance. I am currently pursuing a research project on statistical data production and the knowledge infrastructures of (post)socialist societies, as well as trying to take account of role of cross-cultural values in shaping financial policies and practices.

Throughout my mandate, I will work with the other members of the Board towards consolidating the membership base of SRS; stimulating discussions on the role of interdisciplinarity in Romanian studies (and area studies more broadly); increasing the openness of the organization towards contributions from economic disciplines, as well as the interest of economists in the comparative research agendas and policy debates promoted by the SRS; and, facilitating the transfer of good practices among the members of SRS regarding statistical data about the economies and societies of Eastern Europe.”

“I am a PhD candidate in Social Anthropology (University of Manchester) and a postdoctoral researcher in two other projects at the University of York and University of Bucharest. My research projects have been focused on time, examining how different temporal conceptions, investments, and orientations shape practices, social life, and life chances. My academic trajectory includes a PhD in Sociology (University of Bucharest, 2019), an MA in Anthropology and Development (University of Bucharest, 2015), a BA in Sociology and Anthropology (University of Bucharest, 2013).



Alexandra Ciocanel
University of Manchester, UK
University of York, UK
University of Bucharest, Romania

As a SRS's Graduate Student representative, I plan to take part in some of the thematic groups and organise one dedicated to doctoral students and early career researchers (see pg WHAT). I would be particularly interested, if there is an interest, in crafting a blog documenting the academic experience of young scholars and graduate students in Romanian Studies having as main categories thematic threads (short writing on a specific theme), book reviews, advice (sharing experience with fellowship/grants/jobs application or publishing), and web resources (promoting events or call of application of interest to junior scholars and graduate students). I will also commit to promoting SRS and its activities among M.A. and Ph.D. candidates through various channels, from social media to personal communications.”



Emanuel-Marius Grec
University of Heidelberg
Germany

“I am a PhD Candidate in history at Heidelberg University, Germany and Saul Fellow in Advanced Shoah Studies at Claims Conference. I am currently working on my thesis titled “The Perpetrators of the Odessa Massacre: War-Crimes Trials in Postwar Romania (1944-1948)”, under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Tanja Penter. I examine the ways in which perpetrators and war criminals were portrayed in Romanian war crimes trials between 1944-1948. In particular, my work focuses on the clusters of defendants that were responsible for the Odessa Massacre of 1941. Publications include articles in peer-reviewed journals on the memory of the Holocaust in Romania, the history of violence in literature before World War II, the rise of antisemitism in interwar Romania, as well as book reviews on Holocaust works in both English and German. SRS has been of interest to me for some time, especially after following online debates on the nature of how Romanian academics interact with researchers from abroad on historical issues about Romania, as well as after reading the books translated at

Polirom under the Romanian Studies section, which highlighted how important it is for valuable research and academic volumes to be available in the Romanian language. I am a historian of the Holocaust in Romania and I research antisemitism and genocide as well, especially in regards to Eastern Europe. The fact that SRS brings together so many known Romanian and foreign scholars in an arena of discussing Romanian history and society is the main reason why I decided to apply for this position. I believe that one of the main methods by which young scholars can enhance both the field they are on and the whole academic spectrum of discussing about Romanian is fruitful interaction and the exchange of ideas, doubled by a diversity of opinions. I think my presence will benefit SRS because of my constant involvement in international cooperation between young and established scholars in the field. I am invested in providing academic networking support and any expertise that involves the history of Romanian in the 20th century, the Holocaust, antisemitism and the history of the Jewish people in Eastern Europe. I believe the field of history to be an entangled endeavor, which brings together many cultures and an intense analysis on case studies which can bring scholars together discussing these issues.”

Obituary

SPERANȚA RĂDULESCU (1949-2022)

by Margaret Hiebert Beissinger, Princeton University



Speranța Rădulescu, the leading contemporary ethnomusicologist in Romania, died on January 21st, 2022 in Bucharest after a courageous struggle with cancer. She was born on February 13th, 1949 in Buzău and later moved to Bucharest, where she studied at the Conservatory (renamed the National University of Music). Rădulescu was employed at the Institute of Ethnography and Folklore as a researcher in ethnomusicology from 1973 until 1990, during which time she earned a doctorate from the Academy of Music in Cluj (in 1984). Soon after the Romanian Revolution, she relocated professionally to the Museum of the Romanian Peasant in Bucharest, assuming a position as ethnomusicologist there starting in 1990. In addition to her work at the Peasant Museum, Rădulescu accepted a position in 2005 as associate professor at the Bucharest National University of Music.

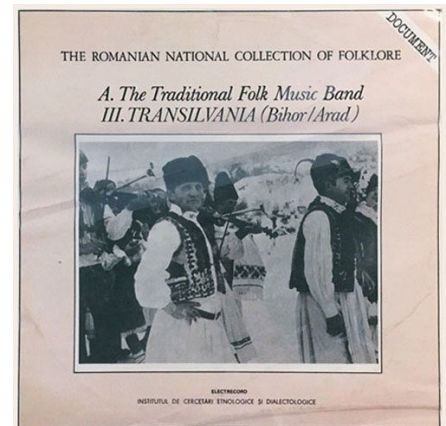
Rădulescu was an active and prolific young scholar during her years employed at the Institute of Ethnography. But it was only after the Revolution of 1989 brought long-wished-for freedoms of expression, academic pursuit, and travel to the citizens of Romania that she was able to pursue fully her own intellectual and professional agenda. Rădulescu's field research expanded substantially starting in the 1990s as she avidly explored oral traditional musics and musicians in virtually every corner of Romania. Furthermore, after the post-1989 borders of Romania opened up, she regularly traveled abroad, taking musicians on dozens of concert tours throughout Europe.

Rădulescu was extremely productive and wide-ranging in her scholarship and “gave” to the profession generously and in creative and original ways. Over her nearly fifty years as an active researcher, she published no less than 135 articles and book chapters as well as authored or edited ten books. Moreover, she oversaw a myriad of recordings of traditional music, complete with extensive, informative notes for which she received several distinguished awards. Already between 1982 and 1984 Rădulescu issued six LPs in the “Document” series “Romanian National Collection of Folklore,” each of which focused on a specific ethnographic region in Romania. What is more, from the late 1980s until 2020, seventeen of the CDs that she released were published abroad, thirty of them in the prestigious “Ethnophonie” series.

They included recordings of the celebrated “Taraf de haïdouks” (an ensemble that Rădulescu discovered in the southern Romanian village of Clejani in the 1980s), brass bands (“Fanfare”) from Zece Prăjini in Moldova, and the “Taraf (Gypsy *Lăutari*) of Bucharest,” not to mention other Romanian and Romani as well as Aromanian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, and Jewish traditional musics performed in various communities throughout the country. Her commitment to traditional music in its countless configurations within the borders of Romania was phenomenal.

Rădulescu was an active member of the International Council for Traditional Music, particularly in the Study Group on Music and Dance in Southeastern Europe and belonged as well to the Romanian Union of Composers and Musicologists and the Société Française d’Ethnomusicologie. She lectured and spoke frequently at conferences both nationally and internationally.

continued →





Obituary

Rădulescu sought to bring to the attention of both local and global audiences the nature of oral traditional music and musicians in Romania. Her “mission” was to publicize traditional musicians from the many ethnic groups and regions of the country and pay homage to the oral traditional genres that they represented and performed. She loathed the music that had been imposed and paraded as “folklore” on radio, television, and stage--despicable, painfully kitsch, homogenized performances--during the communist period (the legacy of which continues to this day). Her “quest” was to locate and make known, instead, the oral traditional forms that are still (or were until recently) performed by traditional musicians. Rădulescu was admittedly “intense,” passionately driven, and indomitable. Anyone who worked with her knew how determined, forceful, and opinionated she could be. But her mission was genuine, heartfelt, and deeply worthy. Indeed Rădulescu’s “credo” of oral traditional music informed practically everything she pursued, and she touched scores of Romanians, Europeans, and North Americans by bringing her “philosophy” to light through recordings, concerts, and publications.

Rădulescu admired and was admired by the many musicians with whom she worked from all over Romania: musicians from a variety of ethnic and social backgrounds. Her most cherished bond, however, was with *lăutari*: traditional Romani (or “Gypsy,” as she insisted on calling them since, as she repeatedly pointed out, that was “what they called each other”) musicians. She understood and loved the oral traditional genres that *lăutari* excelled in--*muzică lăutărească*--and collaborated closely with them for decades, building mutually strong ties of friendship and trust. Needless to say, these relationships deepened significantly after the Revolution when her work with *lăutari* (as Roma) no longer had to be shrouded in secrecy and euphemisms. Rădulescu cared deeply for “her” *lăutari*; her empathy for them, as they so often struggled to support their families through music-making, was authentic. They, in turn, affectionately called her “Doamna Speranța” and treasured her and her appreciation of and commitment to their life’s work. This deep connection was genuine and, indeed, moving. Rădulescu totally “got” *lăutari*—their music-making, artistry, and unique culture as traditional musicians.

Rădulescu was also a profoundly generous teacher, mentor, and colleague. She was ever open to conversations with colleagues and students who sought her expertise and advice—including numerous Romanians but also Europeans, Americans, and others who came to her door. Her warm home--where visitors inevitably also met her quietly charming, beloved, devoted professional-violinist husband Lali--was always welcoming and indeed inspiring. There guests experienced Rădulescu’s exceptional generosity and readiness to listen, recommend, enlighten, and agree or disagree (she was far too honest to not convey her true feelings). Moreover, she was never possessive, as so many scholars are, of “her” musicians and materials. Despite Rădulescu’s renown, pretentious she was not. Co-devotees of traditional music found her gracious, ready to impart her expertise with them, welcoming them to join her in fieldwork, rehearsals, interviews, and concerts.

Rădulescu brilliantly managed--in a professional lifetime that bridged the communist past and post-communist present--to uphold her own academic integrity both before and after the Revolution. She truly made the very best of not only the maddening restrictions that intellectuals faced through the end of 1989 but also the wonderful liberties that they enjoyed from 1990 on. She was a beloved and faithful colleague and friend to so many throughout Romania, elsewhere in Europe, and beyond. Those of us who knew her personally feel privileged to have had the opportunity of learning and growing from the experience and knowledge that she shared with us. Speranța Rădulescu was a person of extraordinary warmth, strength, honesty, intellectual drive, and scholarly distinction. Her spirit, endearing sense of humor, elegance, loyalty, sincerity, and generosity are already--and will long continue to be--sorely missed.

For more on Rădulescu’s career and legacy, visit [her website](#).

Student Colloquium

Approaches and Methods in Interdisciplinary Romanian Studies:
International Student Colloquium 2022

Abordări și metode ale unei românistici interdisciplinare:
Colocviu internațional studențesc 2022

Zugänge und Methoden einer interdisziplinären Rumänistik:
Internationales Studierendenkolloquium 2022

Friedrich-Schiller University
Jena, Germany
March 3-6, 2022

by Jorina Fenner, Friedrich Schiller Universität Jena

For the second year in a row, Friedrich-Schiller University Jena hosted an international student colloquium in Romanian Studies.

This year's focus was on methods and approaches in our interdisciplinary field, since Romanian Studies connects a variety of disciplines and thus also different methods. The aim was to create a productive exchange and learn from one another in this regard, using the example of Romania as a common research subject. Therefore, we invited both presentations of work in progress and methodological workshop proposals. As a result our more than 50 registered participants had the opportunity to choose from 10 presentations and two workshops from various disciplines such as Political Sciences, Linguistics, Literary Studies and Cultural Studies.

As the trilingual title indicates, the colloquium's working-languages were German, Romanian and English. Speakers and participants were from academic institutions in Germany, Austria and Romania as well as the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Spain, the United States, Japan and France. Due to the online format students and more seasoned scholars, who might not have met otherwise, connected over their common research interests during the four-day program: next to student presentations with fruitful, lively discussions, participants took part in introductory peer-to-peer workshops, by Bianca Hepp (Tübingen) on qualitative interviews and by Vinicio Ntouvlis (Vienna) on digital ethnography. Keynote lectures by Annemarie Sorescu-Marinković (Belgrade), Judith Schmidt (Bonn) and Alexandru Nicolae (Bucharest) who shared approaches and obstacles in their own research and a social program completed the international student colloquium.

The conference was organized by a team of students and doctoral candidates from different German universities with various academic backgrounds, including students and alumni of Romanian Studies in Jena, others were participants of the first international student colloquium.

We are grateful to Jena University's Romanian Studies section, led by junior professor Valeska Bopp-Filimonov, for providing us with the platform and infrastructure to organize the colloquium from students for students and participants of all academic stages.

The book of abstracts may be accessed [here](#).

SRS Statement on the War in Ukraine

The Society for Romanian Studies and the PLURAL Forum for Interdisciplinary Studies:

Considering the military aggression of the Russian Federation against the territorial integrity, the sovereignty, and the independence of Ukraine,

Considering the atrocities committed by the Russian Armed Forces against the civilian population in Ukraine, including children,

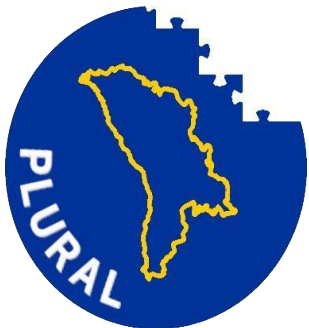
Considering the repression by the Russian State of the people who use their freedom of speech, Aware of their mission to defend human rights and democratic values and to spread this awareness,

jointly PROTEST against the Russian invasion of Ukraine,
STAND IN SOLIDARITY with the people of Ukraine and with our Ukrainian academic colleagues, and pledge to HELP them in whatever way they can,
BACK the petitions of their fellow associations ASEES, BASEES, and IARCEES,
SUPPORT the protests of the Russian intellectuals and the entire Russian people,
and HOPE for peace and for justice.

**The President of SRS
Roland Clark**



**The President of Plural
Petru Negură**



Soundbite from Romania

“The War Next to Us”

Shortly following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Rodica Milena Zaharia and Răzvan Zaharia hosted a family in transit from Ukraine to a destination farther west. Here, they offer their thoughts on the war and its implications for both the field and the future.

February 24th, 2022 will likely become one of the most infamous days of this century. It marks the day when Russia began an unprovoked, violent, and criminal war against Ukraine, a state whose independence and sovereignty Russia had not only recognized, but also guaranteed.

Such aggression seemed unimaginable. Despite the occupation and annexation of Crimea, the raging war in Donetsk and Luhansk that has been ongoing since 2014, and the deployment of Russian military forces on the Ukrainian border in the run-up to the attack, no normal person could have imagined that Vladimir Putin would exhibit the Dark Age mentality necessary to decide to conquer a country regardless of the human suffering and loss it would cause not only to civilians and military in Ukraine, but also to the Russian military itself. And yet, it happened. Moreover, the majority of Russians approve of this aggression, and the Russian military sent to the Ukrainian front indulges in destruction, murder, rape and theft that should not remain unpunished. The international community is unable to stop this war, as the aggressor is a major nuclear power and openly threatens the use of nuclear weapons in the event of any other country’s military intervention.

This bleak picture raises a number of questions and issues of rare complexity and importance, with repercussions in many areas. The very survival of humanity may depend on the answers that can be found to some of these questions, at least in the way we have become accustomed to doing things so far. We dare to list a few problems that need an answer from all those who study these fields.

Geostrategy and international politics

An immediate consequence of Russia's war in Ukraine is the unification of democratic countries on an unprecedented level. They form a common front against this aggression. Finland and Sweden expressed their desire to join NATO quickly, which will provide them with security guarantees and help strengthen the North Atlantic Alliance. It is interesting and worthwhile to investigate how the result of this aggression had the opposite effect of what Vladimir Putin wanted.

Ukraine, as well as Moldova and Georgia, have expressed their interest in joining the European Union and have called for a simplified and expeditious procedure for obtaining the status of a candidate for accession, as well as for the accession itself. From a moral point of view, the EU probably feels indebted to the heroism of the Ukrainians, who not only defend their own country but also the values and even the borders of Europe. However, Ukraine appears to have quite a lot in common with Turkey (size, level of economic development, some mentalities, the rule of law), which could lead to a delay in accession, if not a halt to the process at some point. Ensuring a balance between moral and political-economic-institutional issues will be a challenge for the future, both in terms of research and political actions.



Rodica Milena Zaharia
Bucharest University of
Economic Studies



Răzvan Zaharia
Bucharest University of
Economic Studies

continued →

Soundbite from Romania

Nuclear threat management is becoming a serious and topical issue. If, until now, nuclear weapons were seen only as a deterrent, Russia's discourse suggests that they can be used (for the time being, only rhetorically) as tools to achieve certain politico-military objectives. If such a discourse becomes acceptable, other nuclear powers (China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, etc.) may have similar ideas. How this issue will evolve as a start of changing the nuclear threat paradigm is a challenge for theorists and policy makers alike.

Economic issues

The massive destruction caused by the Russian army in Ukraine, the reconstruction that will follow after the end of the war, the increase of the military expenses of the two countries directly involved, but also of all the countries that support Ukraine and those which until now considered the war a less plausible hypothesis, will have profound economic consequences, which must be anticipated and weighed.

Beyond the costs directly related to the devastation caused by the war, we can expect energy crises, food crises, inflation, declining living standards, on a global scale. It is very likely that a new international economic order will be established, or at least that significant changes in international trade flows will occur. The correct prediction of these developments will make the difference between winning and marginalised countries and regions.

The sanctions imposed on Russia and, subsequently, the war reparations it should pay can have perverse effects. Therefore, they must be well studied and properly applied in order to be effective.

Military aspects

The first three months of the war highlighted multiple problems: the attack strategy used by the Russian army (too wide fronts, failure to dominate by air, inadequate balance of military forces, etc.), the equipment and endowments of the two armies, the defence strategy chosen by Ukraine (arming civilians, urban guerrilla warfare), hybrid war, with a focus on cyber-attacks, but also on the manipulation of domestic and international public opinion through media and social networks, the efficiency of intelligence services, etc. All these aspects, and many others, are research avenues for specialists in the field, with probable effects on future military strategies, future military policies and the science of war.

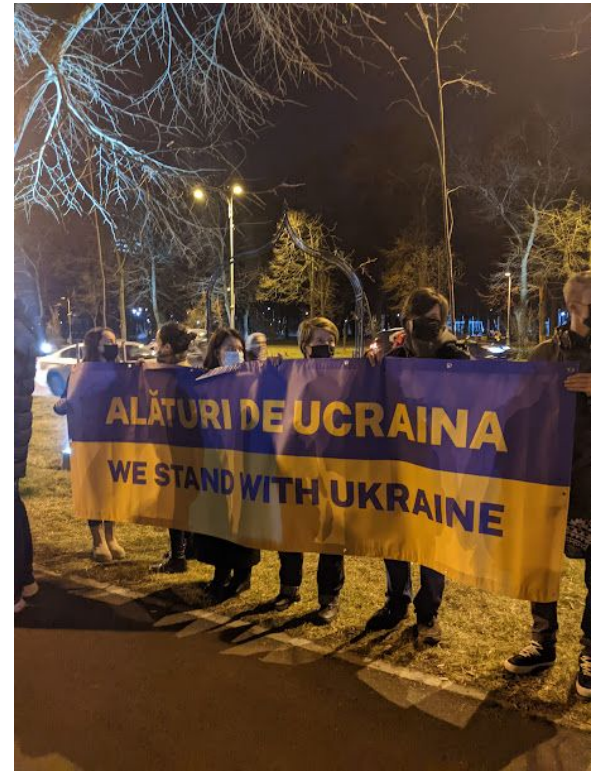
Justice issues

The legal framework of illegalities committed on the front, as well as the documentation and punishment of war crimes, will be the main issues to be resolved not only at the end of the conflict, but even during it, if possible. We can imagine that there will be problems related to war reparations, but also the need to clarify the concept of collective guilt. Elements of cross-border crime are also expected to occur in the context of the massive influx of refugees from Ukraine.

Theology and religion studies

The pro-war attitude of the Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as the aggression against a people of the same religion, should be explained by the religious leaders in Moscow. Or by anyone else, if any explanation is possible.

continued →



Soundbite from Romania

Communication and the use of symbolic images

The high morale of the Ukrainian fighters versus the low morale of the Russian occupiers may be a key to victory in this war. And this difference is made not only by the legitimate or illegitimate character of the fight, or the results of the military actions, but also by the communication capacity of the two sides.

If, three years ago, the election of Volodymyr Zelenskyy, a relatively young and completely inexperienced actor, as president of Ukraine, seemed a rather unsuccessful joke, during the war, his determination, courage, empathy, charisma and communication skills made the President of Ukraine a symbol of the heroism of the Ukrainian people, without which resistance to the invader would not have been possible. So far, at least, Zelenskyy is not an actor who plays the role of his life, he is the best president that Ukraine could have in this context. In contrast to Zelenskyy, who stands in the midst of his people, energetically, with rolled up sleeves, Vladimir Putin wants to convey a message of imperial strength and greatness, but fails to convey anything but the image of a false, isolated and even powerless old man. The power of mind and soul over the brute force proved to transcend centuries. Volodymyr Zelenskyy may be a Sir William Wallace, the *Brave Heart* of our century!

Another symbol of Ukrainian resistance are the fighters in Mariupol, who continued to fight even after the city was turned into ruins. Regardless of the next evolution of the war, Mariupol will remain for Ukraine what was Thermopylae for ancient Greece, Masada for the Jewish people, Alamo for the Americans, or Cetatea Neamțului or Mărășești for the Romanians.

Psycho-sociology fields

We must mention the mobilization of the population, NGOs, and authorities from the frontline countries (Poland, Romania, Moldova, Baltic countries), but also from the rest of the civilized world that supports the more than six million Ukrainians (mostly women and children) who were forced to leave their country.

However, there are many (old) questions with even more difficult answers: what compels a dictator to start a war that can lead to the death of tens of thousands of people or even to the extinction of the humankind? What was in the minds of Putin's camarilla who supported this war? What is in the minds of the Russians who support the invasion? What is in the minds of Russian soldiers who commit war crimes?

But also: what makes Ukrainian civilians and foreign volunteers risk their lives fighting the Russians? How do Europeans threatened by Russia's nuclear bombs feel? What would help Ukrainian refugees get through this ordeal more easily?

In the end, there is nobody that can sufficiently respond to the look in a mother's eyes who puts her child's and her life in a suitcase and leaves their homeland for the first time in their lives, to an unknown destination, for an unknown period... We have seen this look and we can testified that it is unbearable and unanswerable.



Soundbite from Romania

An interview with Kate Mower (she/they), PhD candidate in history at the University of California, Riverside and queer activist currently conducting research in Constanța.

Please tell us about your academic and professional background. You began your PhD with a background in ancient history but have since moved into modern history. How did you come to focus on socialist state academic and archaeological practices in Romania?

I received an MA in ancient Mediterranean history from the University of Utah in 2016. My master's thesis focused on ancient Macedonia, Phillip II and what I saw as his ability to be simultaneously Greek and not Greek. The intrigue that this inconsistency hit me with has shaped many of the questions I still ask about ancient and modern ethnicity and territory claims.

I immediately followed up my MA with a dual-country Fulbright research grant in Sofia, Bulgaria and Constanța, Romania where I explored questions about ancient Greek, Thracian, Getae, and Dacian heritage and ethnicity. I worked with Bulgarian and Romanian epigraphists, historians, and archaeologists who offered me explanations about the ancient material culture and texts, but what I found more fascinating was the 20th-century classicists who had uncovered such a massive scale of material culture over the century. I received conflicting reports about these classicists. On the one hand, I was told, they were incredibly nationalist, working to preserve a nationalist narrative about distinctions between Thracians and Dacians and the territory which belonged to each group. On the other hand, I also saw and read the seemingly endless amount of work these classicists were doing as they excavated, traveled the country finding inscriptions, translating, all while publishing multiple times a year. They seemed to me much like Phillip: both nationalist and not nationalist.

While many western classicists are quick to dismiss state socialist classicists, I found that these classicists were operating under the same stringent scientific parameters as their Western scholar counterparts. My argument now is that Romanian and Bulgarian classicists were doing some of the most important work in the fields of ancient history and archaeology because they were able to bridge Western European theories about the ancient world with the Soviet theories about the ancient world while engaging with and being critical of both. Not only were they publishing in Romanian, but they were publishing in one publication in Russian and then the next in French or German all during the same year.

What is your dissertation about? Which archives and libraries are you consulting for your dissertation research? What kinds of materials, questions, or themes are you uncovering?

My dissertation seeks to complicate our assumption that Romanian archaeology during the state socialist period was nationalist. In doing so, I have uncovered many ways that state institutions had a branch that worked to actively promote nationalist propaganda, while the same institution had a branch that conducted scientific research of high quality. The archaeologists publishing in the most well-known archaeological journals were also writing monographs in both French and Russian relaying their ideas which engaged and critiqued Marxist-Leninism (and later just Marxism) while showcasing expansive ideas about migration and ethnicity. These ideas seem to go well beyond a nationalist interpretation by these archaeologists. Additionally, this required transnational cooperation with archaeologists in Yugoslavia, Ukraine, and Bulgaria.



Kate Mower
University of California Riverside

continued →

Soundbite from Romania

I have been fortunate and privileged to receive three grants this academic year (2021-2022) to cover my research in Romania. I received them from American Councils, ASEEES, and UCR's Graduate Division. My time in Romania is spent in several locations, but I spend the majority of my time in library of the Museum of National History and Archaeology in Constanta. I read periodicals which published the Romanian archaeological excavation reports for the years 1948-1979. Archaeologists still cite many of these articles, especially from periodicals like *Dacia*, *SCIVA*, and *Histria*.

I have also spent considerable time at the National Archives in Bucharest, which house a fond for Romanian archaeology. The archives maintain minutes, negotiations with the state, budgets, feuds, and letters that give the behind the scenes of the disputes glimpsed at in the periodicals. At the National Archives in Constanța, I have examined the budgets for Dobrogean archaeology projects and the Museum's requests for funds. This has shown how Constanța is a living museum where many choices are constantly made about what and what not to preserve.

In the next few months, I anticipate working at Histria to collect oral histories of the laborers and archaeologists there. These laborers have worked at this site for generations (a century of intergenerational labor). Labor at the site is currently plummeting with many youth and their parents leaving the village for cities or other EU countries. We risk losing the intergenerational knowledge produced by these workers. Likewise, archaeologists are considering replacing that labor with international student labor, further erasing the Romanian knowledge of the site. This oral history project seeks to mitigate that erasure slightly while bringing attention to the need to support community archaeological laborers.

In addition to historical research, you are engaged in a wide range of activism and public-facing education on topics of gender, sexuality, religion, and language. Tell us about your work in these spheres! What projects are you working on now?

I serve on the executive board of an international organization called [Affirmation](#), which works to support LGBTQ+ people who are or have ever been members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I am the member of the board responsible for Europe. I speak with local chapter leaders and presidents and arrange for financial and other support. I also seek to work with local and national LGBTQ+ organizations. I co-host a weekly podcast, [Called to Queer](#), which seeks to highlight voices of women, genderqueer, and intersex Mormons and former Mormons.

What I have found particularly jarring is the direct link between Mormon leadership and community members and the World Congress of Families (WCF). I speak out often now about how the WCF, Mormons, and Russians have funded and influenced major anti-LGBTQ+ legislation across the globe. Affirmation is currently looking at how to counter these moves by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the WCF. For now, I write public-facing [articles](#) about it to get the attention of Latter-day Saints about the issue. I also speak to Romanians about the link between Romanian legislation, the WCF, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and their long history opposing LGBTQ+ legislation in the US and now abroad. Most recently, I presented at Ovidius University in Constanta on the topic.



Mower helped set up an exhibit at the Museum of National History and Archaeology in Constanta on Queen Marie's palace in Balchik, Bulgaria, part of a long-standing collaboration between the Romanian museum and Bulgarian museums in Dobrogea

continued →

Soundbite from Romania

How do you blend scholarship with activism? How has living and working in Romania shaped your work as an activist? How has activism shaped your relationship to Romania?

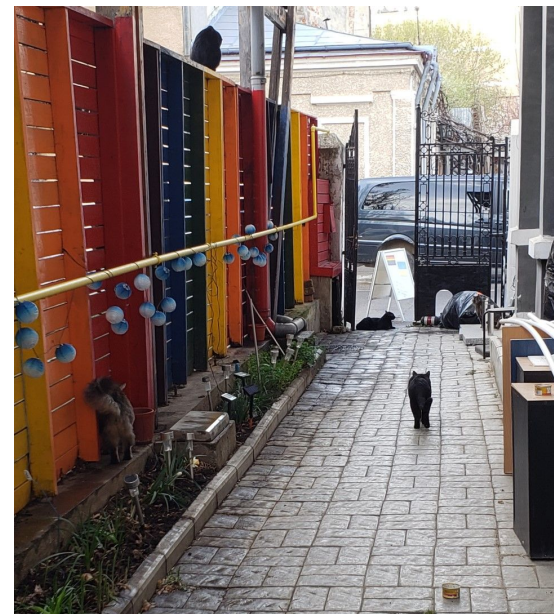
Archaeology has obvious roots in colonization. While I think many branches of archaeology (and anthropology more broadly) have faced these colonial legacies, I think classical archaeology has more work to do. Part of that colonization has been Western European and American criticism of Eastern European archaeological practices, while simultaneously being blind to the ways Western European colonialism has distinctly shaped that which Westerners are critiquing. Likewise, I see "traditionalist" conservative politics relying on colonial understandings of archaeology and "Western Civilization" to do very real harm, particularly concerning the "traditional" family structure – or the nuclear family – and gender.

Colonial concepts of gender and colonial concepts of archaeology work together to produce knowledge that harms gender and sexual minorities. Archaeology has worked to create gender. The idea that we can distinguish between male and female skeletons is based on 19th-century pseudoscience, including 19th-century archaeological science. This, first of all, erases all intersex people from history. I also write publicly and academically about the links between racial biological pseudoscience of the 19th century and how racial categorization of that period looks quite similar to gender and sex categorization. I see my scholarly work as a mechanism to produce evidence against LGBTQ+ and racial discrimination in the world, but more specifically in the US and Eastern Europe. I see so many similarities between Romania and Utah (USA). I understand how the church functions as an arm of the state. I also see how church funding and power in both places have combined to create dangerous anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in Romania. Utah helped considerably in the funding of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in Romania.

You are a participant in SRS' new working group in gender studies and decolonization. How do these groups and the projects they are undertaking inform your work?

My pronouns are "she/they", but they are not used the typical way mixed pronouns are used. I am a nonbinary lesbian. That does not change no matter where I am in the world, but I must act and operate with others differently in different places. I am not my pronouns. I am always nonbinary, and my pronouns sometimes reflect that, and sometimes they do not. English is a colonizing language. Therefore, I do not support English pronouns being used in Romanian to invoke nonbinary identity. Nonbinary Romanians are nonbinary no matter the language they use. Those Romanians will be the ones to create new linguistic ways to express their gender in Romanian, not an adoption of English onto Romanian. My pronouns, then, mean: "she" for English second-language learners and "they" for fluent English speakers.

I see my role, therefore, as a supporter of Romanian queer organizations and ideas. I hope to network and bridge the SRS gender group with Romanian queer activists doing work on the ground. Much like the archaeological laborers, I see queer activists doing scholarly work that produces valuable knowledge. I have connected the Romanian queer organization [Accept](#) with the gender group. We will all be meeting together at the SRS conference this June to discuss a panel. I hope to act as a queer advocate to support Romanian queer advocates and their objectives in Romania. I look forward to see how we can better support Romanian queers through public education and therefore diminish the influence of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and WCF in Romanian politics.



At ACCEPT, a non-governmental organization advocating for the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, in Bucharest

Soundbite from Romania

“On the dissolution of the Art History MA at the University of Bucharest”

by Vlad Bedros, lecturer; Irina Cărăbaș, lecturer; Ioana Măgureanu, assistant professor; and Mihnea Mihail, assistant professor; Department of History and Theory of Art, National University of Arts, Bucharest

In March 2022, the Senate of the National University of Arts in Bucharest decided to dissolve the MA program “Visual and curatorial studies” of the Department of History and Theory of Art, the oldest such MA program in the country. Four members of the department started a [petition](#) that has gained huge support and the decision has generated strong disapproval from members of the artistic and cultural community in Romania, including art historians, curators, art critics, museum workers, art restorers, artists, film scholars and so on. Many of them are leading cultural figures and have been educated in this department or are alumni of the now extinct MA program, attesting to its centrality in the artistic field in Romania. The international petition, as well as letters of support from international professional associations testify to the international relevance of the members of staff as well as the alumni.



As the aforementioned petition explains, the decision was made without consulting any members of the department and was raised in a meeting of the Senate of the University by the Rector himself without prior announcement. Two main justifications have been invoked for the decision, on the one hand, the lack of financial rentability, on the other hand, the inability to pass quality evaluations by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. Both are, at least in part, the result of decisions the current management of the University has imposed upon the department.



The decision to dissolve the MA program is one in a long series of decisions that have weakened the department. Most of the professors have been moved to the doctoral school, thus leaving the MA program unable to pass quality evaluations. No promotions had been made in the department in over a decade, leaving younger scholars unfit to teach courses at either BA or MA level. Only one hiring has taken place in the past nine years, despite the fact that many tenured or associated staff have retired or passed away. This has led to a progressive de-professionalization of the current staff, left to fill the gaps and teach subjects far from their areas of specialization. Moreover, no proposal for rethinking the course offerings for the MA programme coming from the department, in the hope of making it more attractive for potential candidates, has been accepted by the direction of the University, and no request for filling this gap by hiring a part-time scholar to teach uncovered areas was taken into consideration. Besides, the University has declined to host the research projects of departmental staff, who consequently migrated to other institutions instead of contributing to the financial stability and the prestige of the department and the University.

continued →

Soundbite from Romania

Reducing the role of the department of History and Theory of Art inside an Art University to its financial rentability mirrors the position the department has been allowed to have in the past years. While a decade ago members of the department were offering a large choice of focused courses, related to their specific specialization to BA students in fine arts and decorative arts and design, these have been replaced by general survey courses that are no longer making use of the department's strengths. Talks with the direction of the University to re-introduce these courses, which are rightfully part of the department's specificity, have had no results. This move would reduce the financial distress of the department, and, more importantly, it would hugely benefit studio-based students.

This systematic marginalisation of the Department of History and Theory of Art, also visible in the almost total removal of art history cross-listed (optional) classes, has unacknowledged effects on students from other departments and on the way they perceive the place of theory in the artistic endeavour.

Most importantly, the formation of future professionals in the art world is disrupted by the lack of an MA that naturally bridges the BA studies and the PhD. This further jeopardises the future of the department, which will be less attractive for BA students not being offered a possibility to pursue their studies further, and the future of the theoretical PhD, which will possibly have less candidates as a result.

Featured Books

Constanța Vintilă, *Changing Subjects, Moving Objects. Status, Mobility and Social Transformation in Southeastern Europe, 1700-1850* (Brill, 2022)

This is a book about people caught between home and abroad, crossing imperial boundaries in southeastern Europe at the beginning of the modern age. Through a series of life stories, which the author reconstructs with the aid of many new sources, readers discover how certain men and women defined and adapted their loyalties and affiliations, how they fashioned their identities, how they enrolled their linguistic, political, economic, and social resources to build a family and a career. Travelling between Istanbul, Vienna, Trieste, Moscow, Bucharest, or Iași, individuals of different backgrounds built their networks across borders, linking people and objects and facilitating cultural transfer and material and social change.

Changing Subjects, Moving Objects

*Status, Mobility,
and Social Transformation in
Southeastern Europe, 1700–1850*

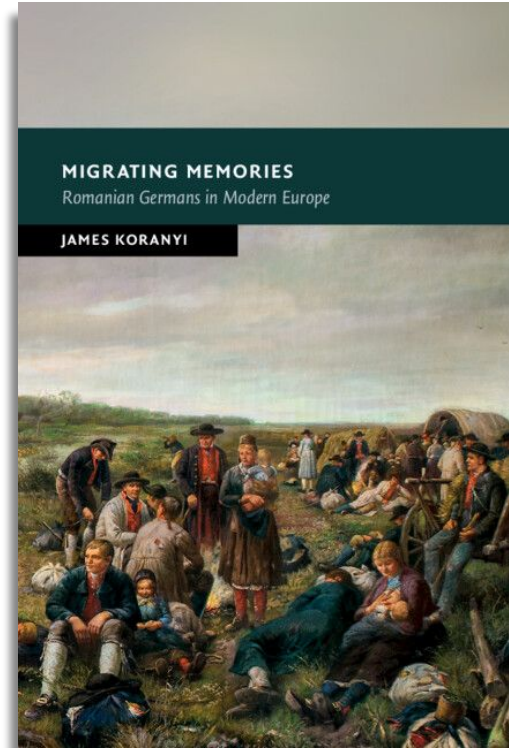
Constanța Vintilă



Featured Books

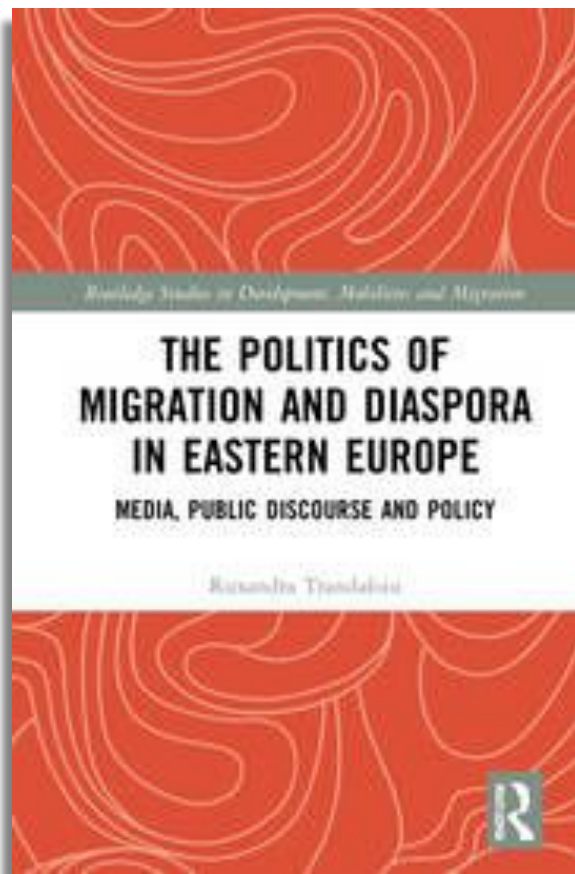
James Koranyi, *Migrating Memories: Romanian Germans in Modern Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2021)

Romanian Germans, mainly from the Banat and Transylvania, have occupied a place at the very heart of major events in Europe in the twentieth century yet their history is largely unknown. This east-central European minority negotiated their standing in a difficult new European order after 1918, changing from uneasy supporters of Romania, to zealous Nazis, tepid Communists, and conciliatory Europeans. *Migrating Memories* is the first comprehensive study in English of Romanian Germans and follows their stories as they move across borders and between regimes, revealing a very European experience of migration, minorities, and memories in modern Europe. After 1945, Romanian Germans struggled to make sense of their lives during the Cold War at a time when the community began to fracture and fragment. The Revolutions of 1989 seemed to mark the end of the German community in Romania, but instead Romanian Germans repositioned themselves as transnational European bridge-builders, staking out new claims in a fast-changing world.



Ruxandra Trandafoiu, *The Politics of Migration and Diaspora in Eastern Europe: Media, Public Discourse and Policy* (Routledge, 2022)

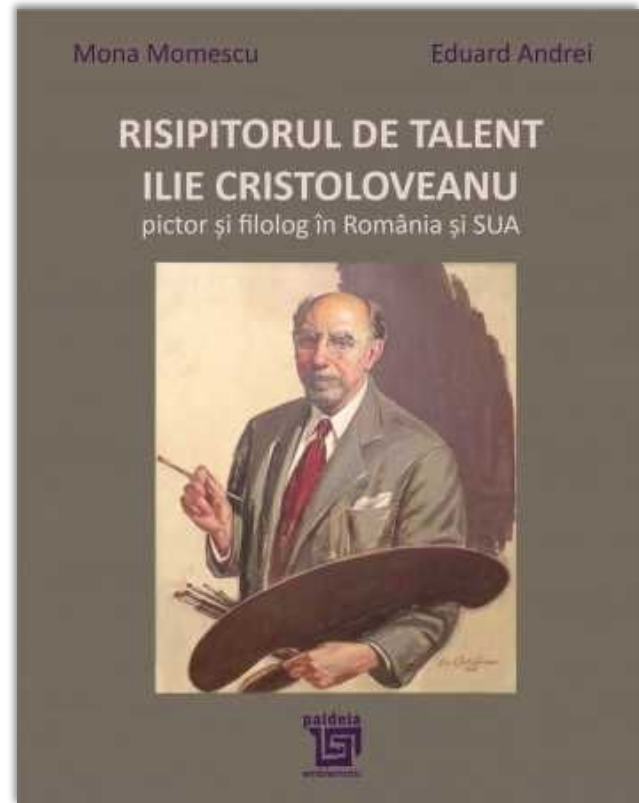
This book provides a critical analysis of the politics of migration in Eastern Europe and an in-depth understanding of the role played by media and public discourse in shaping migration and migration policy. Ruxandra Trandafoiu looks at emigration, diaspora, return, kin-minority cross-border mobility, and immigration in Eastern Europe from cultural, social and political angles, tracing the evolution of migration policies across Eastern Europe through communication, public debate and political strategy. Trandafoiu investigates the extent to which these potential 'models' or policy practices can be comparable to those in Western European countries, or whether Eastern Europe can give rise to a migration 'system' that rivals the North American one. Each chapter bridges the link between policy and politics and makes a case for considering migration politics as fundamentally intertwined with media representation and public debate. Drawing on comparative case studies of countries including Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine, the book considers how migration is both managed and experienced from political, social and cultural viewpoints and from the perspectives of a range of actors including migrants, politicians, policymakers and journalists. This book will be key reading for advanced students and researchers of migration, media, international relations, and political communication.



Featured Books

Mona Momescu and Eduard Andrei, *Risipitorul de talent. Ilie Cristoloveanu, pictor și filolog în România și SUA* (Paideia, 2022)

After four years of continuous research, setbacks, revelations, frustration, as very little and rather incongruous information was available, the authors completed the first reconstitution of a unique personality of the Romanian diaspora in New York – Ilie Cristoloveanu (1893-1964), a painter and professor of Romanian Language and Romance Linguistics at Columbia University (1942-1964). The book is intended for specialists (art historians, philologists), and to a larger readership, interested in the intricate history of the Romanian Americans, alike; it consists of two chapters of thorough analysis of Cristoloveanu's work as a painter, and philologist, respectively, and of the story, unknown until now, of a world in which royals, Romanian and American diplomats and politicians appear, against the ever changing background of New York. Documents concerning the legacy of his work, and the long and winding saga of the donation of the artist's painting to the National Museum of Art of Romania, by his widow, are presented for the first time. The book is generously illustrated with images of the artist's works, by courtesy of the National Museum of Art of Romania (over 100 pages of illustrations, color and black and white), documents, photos. The authors also conducted interviews with the linguist Kenneth H. Rogers, a former student and disciple of Ilie Cristoloveanu, and with the mathematician Ingrid Popa-Fotino, a distinguished member of the Romanian diaspora in the U.S., casting a new light on the relations between the Romanian diaspora in the U.S., and the Romanian officials of the 1960s.



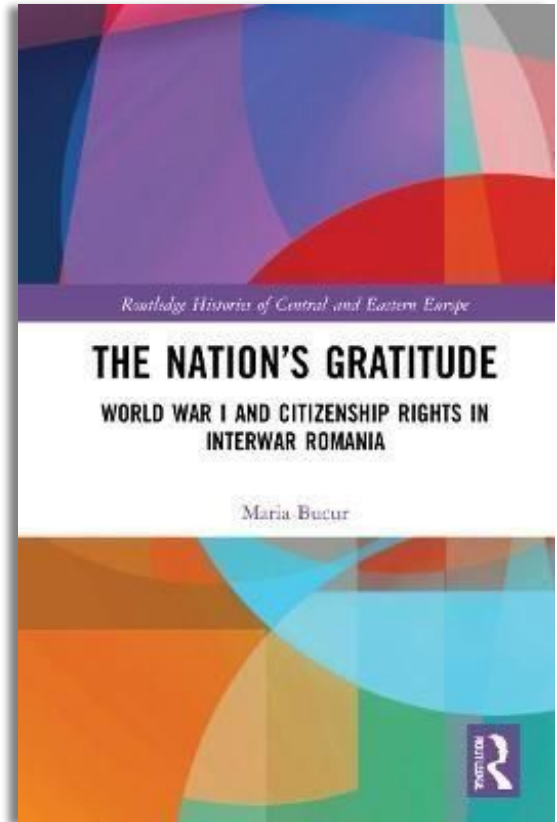
Valeska Bopp-Filimonov and Martin Jung (eds), *Kaleidoskop Rumänien: Einblicke in die aktuelle Vielfalt des interdisziplinären Faches Rumänistik* (Frank & Timme, 2022)

Exploring the diverse culture and history of Romania is like looking through a kaleidoscope: just a small change of perspective reveals an entirely new image. This volume unfolds such different perspectives and illustrates Romania's diversity in the past and present. The contributions reveal the potential and the challenges of Romania as a research topic for various disciplines and in particular for Romanian Studies. With a fresh perspective and a wide range of methodical-theoretical approaches, the authors, primarily young researchers, highlight the diversity of the country, culture and Romanian studies as an interdisciplinary subject.

Featured Books

Maria Bucur, *The Nation's Gratitude: World War I and Citizenship Rights in Interwar Romania* (Routledge, 2021)

A pioneering work for the history of veterans' rights in Romania, this study brings into focus the laws and policies the state developed in response to the unprecedented human losses in World War I. It features in lively and accessible language the varied responses of veterans, widows and orphans to those policies. The analysis emphasizes how ordinary citizens became educated about and used state institutions in ways that highlight the class, ethnic, religious and gender norms of the day. The book offers a vivid case study of how disability as a personal reality for many veterans became a point of policy making, a story that has seen little scholarly interest despite the enormous populations affected by these developments. Overall, the monograph shows how, in the postwar European states, citizenship as engaged practice was shaped by both government policies and the interpretation a large and varied group of beneficiaries gave to these policies. The analysis provides insights of great interest to scholars of these themes, while it offers examples of engaged citizenship useful for an undergraduate and non-specialist audience.



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



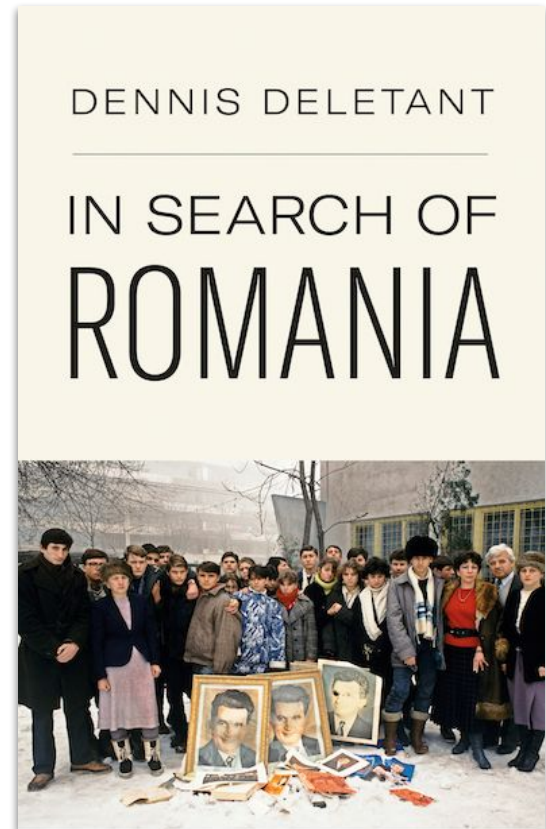
Philippe Henri Blasen, *La « primauté de la nation roumaine » et les « étrangers ». Les minorités et leur liberté du travail sous le cabinet Goga et la dictature royale (décembre 1937 – septembre 1940)* (Casa Cărții, 2021)

This book examines the minority policy of the Goga government and the regime of King Carol II of Romania, known as the "royal dictatorship," through access to work, freedom of work, which the Romanian state granted or refused to ethnic minorities. The book focuses mainly on the treatment of the Hungarian, German, Jewish and Ukrainian minorities. It shows how the Goga government sought to extract electoral capital from its policy towards the Jews and other minorities and how the regime of Carol II also used it for foreign policy purposes to preserve the territorial integrity of Greater Romania. The book identifies two innovations of the regime of Carol II: on the one hand, the "minority statute" of August 1938 and, on the other, the explicitly anti-Semitic legislation of August 1940. It highlights that the policy of work practiced by the royal regime with regard to the minorities had considerable economic and social costs for the minorities, the ethnic Romanians and the Romanian State. It points out that it did not save Greater Romania, nor defeat or rally the Legion of the Archangel Michael, the far-right rival movement of Carol II.

Featured Books

Dennis Deletant, *In Search of Romania* (Hurst and Co., 2022)

The imposition of Communist ideology was a misfortune for millions in Eastern Europe, but never for Dennis Deletant. Instead, it drew him to Romania. The renowned historian's association with the country and its people dates back to 1965, when he first visited. Since then, Romania has made Dennis appreciate the value of shrewd dissimulation, in the face of the state's gross intrusion in the life of the individual. This vivid memoir charts his first-hand experience of the Communist era, coloured by the early 1970s surveillance of his future wife Andrea; his contacts with dissidents; and his articles and BBC World Service broadcasts, which led to his being declared *persona non grata* in 1988. *In Search of Romania* also considers how life went on under dictatorship, even if it was largely mapped out by the regime. How did individual citizens negotiate the challenges placed in their path? How important was the political police, the Securitate, in maintaining compliance? How did dissent towards the regime manifest? How did all this affect the moral compass of the individual? Why did utopia descend into dystopia under Ceaușescu? And how has his legacy influenced the difficult transition to democracy since the collapse of Communism?



Veronica Rozenberg *Jewish Foreign Trade Officials on Trial: In Gheorghiu-Dej's Romania 1960-1964* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2022)

This book deals with six trials, conducted by the Romanian state against Jewish key officials employed in state-owned import-export companies between 1950 and 1960. It begins with a presentation of the political realities of Romania following the Communist Party's rise to power, in particular those regarding its relationship with Romania's Jews and Gheorghiu-Dej's policy of National Communism. Rozenberg describes the criminal procedure used in the staged economic trials follows and then examines this procedure based on the legal system of the period, as exemplified by the six analyzed trials. The Românoexport Jewish officials' trial is analyzed in depth, as the case study of the whole book. This book concludes by bringing to light two phenomena that dissipate some mystique surrounding the events: first, the state's practice of using its legal system as a means of oppressing the population; and second, the stereotypical image of "The Jew" which the regime in Romania developed. Despite its supposed anti-religiosity, it held on to centuries-old prejudices against Jews as pariahs, with supposed allegiance to foreign elements preferred over their surrounding society, even to the point of betraying and exploiting their own country.



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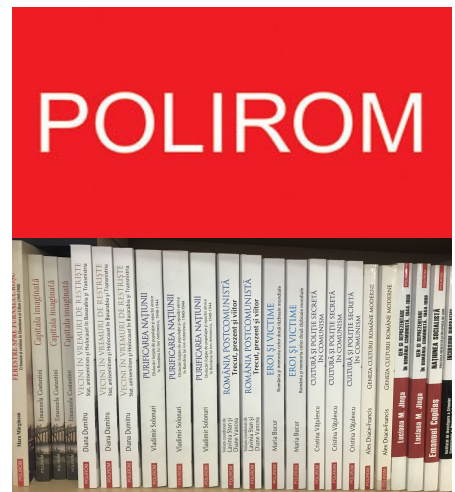
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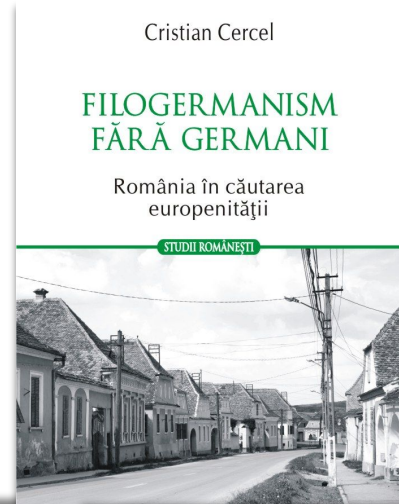
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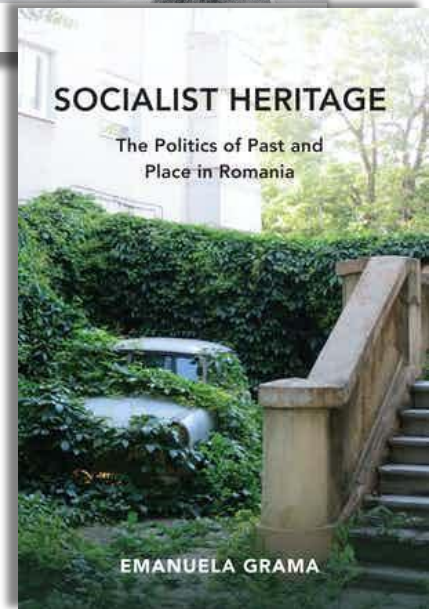
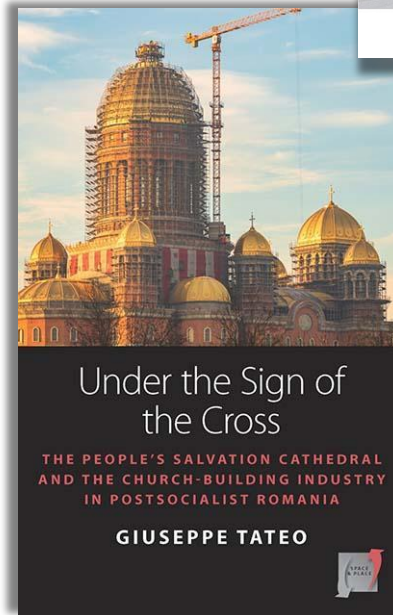
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The most recent book published in the series, Cristian Cercel's *Filogermanism fără germani. România în căutarea europenității*, (Editura Polirom, 2021), has recently been awarded the 2022 Essay/Journalism Book Award by *Observator cultural*.



FORTHCOMING TITLES

Emanuela Grama's *Socialist Heritage: The Politics of Past and Place in Romania* (Indiana University Press, 2019) and 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) will appear in our collection in the Fall of 2022.



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

From the publisher: "During World War II, Romania was an ally of the German

Reich. The spectrum of Jewish persecution in Romanian-controlled territories was broad, ranging from legislative measures to disenfranchisement and expropriation, from pogroms to deportations and mass murder. However, a few courageous people from a variety of social classes came to the aid of these oppressed people. This book introduces these often anonymous helpers who risked their lives to German readers for the first time."

SRS-Polirom Book Series

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***

"When it comes to the Holocaust in Romania, Mariana Hausleitner has been, for the last three decades, the most productive researcher in the German-language space. [...] With *Eine Atmosphäre von Hoffnung und Zuversicht*, Mariana Hausleitner has written, again, a standard work that is also of interest to a broader readership. Lukas Verlag has spared no effort in publishing a book with a clear layout, rich illustrations, and many useful maps. Hausleitner's important text was thus recast into a special reader-friendly form." **Simon Geissbühler, *Jahrbücher für osteuropäische Geschichte***

"Actions to help Jews [...] prove that regardless of historical conditions, the primacy of extremist ideologies can be defeated. [...] The saviors that Mariana Hausleitner presents to the reader are, after all, proof, proof that good exists beyond the banality of evil and that authentic models must be sought not only among the great figures of history, but also in the micro-histories of local people with modest destinies. In other words, Mariana Hausleitner's book, beyond the essential aspects of what we might call a pedagogy of non-oblivion, invites the reader to engage in a reflection on the discursive structure of national history that is not at all comfortable." **Mihai A. Panu, *Orizont***

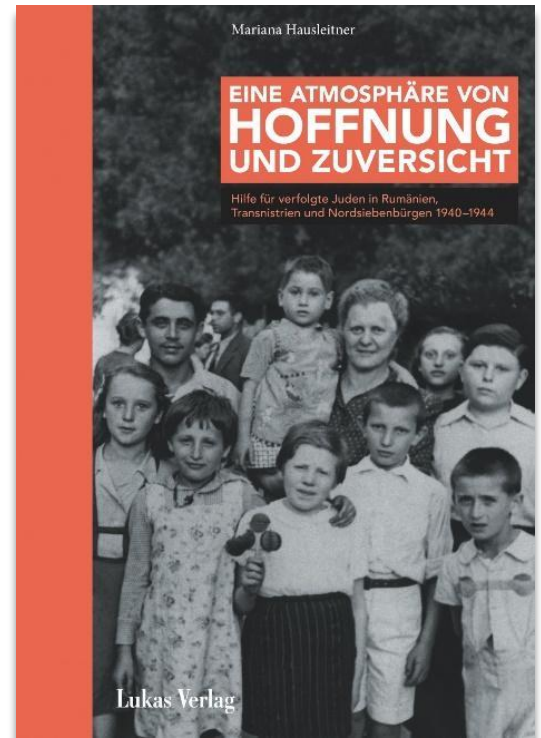
"Mariana Hausleitner's text, which is enriched by splendid photographic material, is convincing though its meticulousness and precision. The presentation of the destinies of those who helped and those who were saved is very impressive. These portraits also show the situation after 1945, when many of 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***

"I think that the greatest merit of the book is that Mariana Hausleitner succeeded in sketching a complex picture of those who helped the Jews without generalizations or simplistic explanations." **Nadia Badrus, *Hermannstädter Zeitung***

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