While winter dragged on this year, the past months have brought to fruition SRS plans to collaborate more closely with the Romanian Studies Association of America (RSAA), a group in existence since 1973 under the aegis of the Modern Languages Association. You can find out more about RSAA at http://www.thersaa.org. Our collaboration began rather informally in spring 2012, when we invited the RSAA to organize some literary panels for the SRS conference in Sibiu in July 2012. We met physically at plenary sessions and conference panels, and over mugs of beer in the piazzas of Sibiu. We found that we didn’t want our conversations to end. Our two organizations have now established a joint membership category that will be made available at a discount for people interested in belonging to and participating in both groups. Regular yearly memberships in both organizations would normally cost $45, but a joint membership will be $37. SRS and RSAA will collaborate in organizing future international conferences and panels at North American meetings. Our liaison to the RSAA is Margaret Beissinger, while the RSAA liaison is Rodica Ieta. Please direct your ideas and queries about this joint venture to them.

For a while now I have been wanting SRS to have an electronic discussion board of some kind to encourage easy communication within our community of scholars and students on matters of mutual interest ranging from historiography, new publications, and archives to housing, post-docs, and jobs. My models are HABSBURG and AWSS, both of which run really useful lists. Last year I appointed a committee to discuss and propose various options. At our business meeting in New Orleans last November, Jill Massino reported for the committee and James Niessen, a founder and veteran of HABSBURG, offered to help us launch H-Romania. The team of editors Chris Davis, Valentin Sândulescu, and
Veronica Szabo have been working through the steps required to launch it. Christ Davis has joined the SRS board ex oficio as liason for H-Romania. In the meantime, please do visit and post your events, conferences, and interesting links about things Romanian and Moldovan to the SRS Facebook page.

Ashby Crowder has finished his term as web master and his duties have now passed into the capable hands of Lara McLaughlin. I thank Ashby for doing the job of web master so well and for such a long time, and I welcome Lara to the position and to the SRS Board! You can now contact Lara to post your information to the SRS list.

It is time, again, for nominations to the biennial SRS book prize for Romanian Studies books published over the past two years, in 2011-2012. The book prize committee is made up of William Crowther, chair, Holly Case, and Valentina Glajar. It is also time to submit your (if you’re a graduate student) essays, conference papers or dissertation chapters for the SRS graduate student essay prize. If you are faculty, do encourage your students to submit their best work for the essay prize. The essay prize committee this year is Roland Clark, chair, Margaret Beissinger, and Oana Armeanu. Both prizes and their deadlines and conditions are described more fully elsewhere in this newsletter.

I recently appointed the nominating committee tasked with finding willing and able nominees for President, President-elect, Secretary, and four regular board positions, and two graduate student board positions. We would like to have two graduate students on the Board since this is the SRS’s fastest growing population. The nominating committee consists of James Niessen, Roland Clark, and Margaret Beissinger as chair for the election that will take place this fall. As SRS becomes bigger and involved with more frequent international conferences, a larger membership, social media, awards, and still other initiatives we need officers and Board members willing to devote a little more of their precious time to SRS. When we wrote up the by-laws three years ago, we limited terms for most offices to two years keeping this in mind. But the work on SRS is also very satisfying since the organization is flourishing.
SRS GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE

The Society for Romanian Studies is pleased to announce the Fifth Annual Graduate Student Essay Prize competition for an outstanding unpublished essay or thesis chapter written in English by a graduate student in any social science or humanities discipline on a Romanian subject. The 2013 prize, consisting of $300, will be presented at the ASEEES National Convention in Boston. The competition is open to current M.A. and doctoral students or to those who defended dissertations in the academic year 2012-2013. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written in 2012-2013. If the essay is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Essays/chapters should be between 25 and 50 pages double spaced, including reference matter. 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. If you have questions, contact Roland Clark at clarkrol@easternct.edu.

Please send a copy of the essay and an updated CV to each of the three members of the Prize Committee below. Submissions must be sent no later than July 1, 2013.

Dr. Roland Clark (Chair)  clarkrol@easternct.edu
Prof. Margaret Beissinger  mhbeissi@Princeton.edu
Dr. Oana Armeanu  oiarmeanu@usi.edu

Society for Romanian Studies Second Biennial SRS Book Prize

The Society for Romanian Studies invites nominations for the Second Biennial SRS Book Prize awarded for the best book published in English in any field of Romanian studies (including Moldova) in the humanities or social sciences. To be eligible, books must be in English and published between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2012 as indicated by the copyright date. Edited books, translations and non-scholarly books are not eligible. The prize will be presented at the ASEEES National Convention in 2013 and carries with it an award of $500. Nominations will be due to the SRS prize committee by 1 June 2013.

Books should be sent directly to each committee member. Please address all questions or inquiries to the chair of the committee.

Prof. Bill Crowther (Chair)  Prof. Holly Case  Prof. Valentina Glajar
Department of Political Science  Department of History  12200 Cascade Caverns Trail
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro  Cornell University  Austin, TX 78739
324 Curry Building  450 McGraw Hall  glajar@txstate.edu
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170  Ithaca, NY 14850  hac27@cornell.edu
wecrowth@uncg.edu
FROM THE SECRETARY

The bad news is that area studies, including Eastern and Southeastern European studies, face decreasing funding and diminishing interest from traditional sources of support. The dismal story is succinctly told in Laura L. Adams’ lead article in the ASEEES NewsNet, Vol. 53 (March 2013), Nr. 2, entitled “The Crisis of US Funding for Area Studies.” This means that in the future, we are going to have to rely a lot more on our own initiative and resourcefulness.

The good news is that a lot of exciting things are continuing to happen in and with the SRS that show how this can be done. We are now on the verge of establishing a presence on H-Net. H-Romania will become, I think, our primary means of scholarly communication for the near future. The cooperation and participation of all of us will be critical in making this work.

We also are finalizing a cooperative relationship with the Romanian Studies Association of America (RSAA), primarily a Romanian language and literature group that keeps Romanian studies going in the Modern Language Association (MLA). They will work with us on programs and other initiatives. We have worked out a joint-membership arrangement with them similar to that which we have with the South East European Studies Association (SEESA). This collaboration will save those who want to participate in a larger community a few bucks, but more importantly, it will help all of us to work together for the promotion of Romanian studies both in the MLA and in South East European studies.

The SRS needs to continue expanding its membership. A membership committee, led by a board member, should be established to develop a plan and pursue this systematically. Some suggested options: working with the ASEEES membership list, the lists of Fulbright lectures and researchers that go to Romania and Moldova each year, the list of IREX grantees each year, and feedback from leading centers of Romanian studies research and graduate preparation outside of Romania and Moldova (such as Pittsburgh, Indiana, and University College London). For example, there are quite a few people in the ASEEES that list a Romanian or Moldovan field of interest that are not part of the SRS. Once these lists are compiled and cross-checked by the Treasurer, an email detailing the benefits of SRS membership could be sent probably from the President. Perhaps those of you who are members could send us the names of colleagues and acquaintances who you think might be interested and we will send them the same information.

A major item ahead of us is the need to make a number of decisions in regard to the next SRS congress: location, date, and committees. 2014 is not yet out of the question, but we would need to come to closure on the committee and the location by the beginning of this summer. Sibiu has been suggested as a venue which would simplify local arrangements.

The SRS needs to continue expanding its membership …
Send us the names of colleagues and acquaintances who you think might be interested.
The last item of importance to be decided over the next few months involves the 2013 Fall elections for the following officers: President, President-elect, and Secretary. These would be for January 2014-December 2015. We will also need to elect four board members, the Class of 2014-2017 (for positions now held by Monica Ciobanu, Matthew Ciscel, Daniel Pennell, and Peter Wagner). These board members would also take office in January 2014. A nominating committee has been appointed by Prof. Livezeanu with board approval and a ballot should be ready by mid-fall 2013 for email circulation. The nominating committee consists of Margaret Beissinger (chair), Roland Clark, and Jim Niessen. Some minor tinkering with the bylaws will be needed to clean up election procedures.

Have a pleasant summer!

Paul E. Michelson  
Huntington University  
pmichelson@huntington.edu  
Secretary, Society for Romanian Studies

The SRS welcomes the Center of Post-Communist Political Studies (CEPOS) at the University of Craiova as its newest institutional sponsor. CEPOS was established in November 2012. Its mission is to foster and enable research and public events series: conferences, workshops, public lectures, round tables, internships, expo photos, discourse contents and debates in interdisciplinary issues such as: political studies and transitional justice, economies in transition, multiculturalism and political history.

CEPOS research is achieved through working groups on (i) State, society and political reform, (ii) Public policies, institutions and administrative reform, and (iii) Rights, liberties and justice reform. CEPOS held its Third Annual International Conference “After Communism: East and West under Scrutiny” on 5-6 April 2013. The next edition of the conference will be organized in Romania, Craiova, University House, 4-5 April 2014. The Center also publishes Revista de Stiinte Politice / Revue des Sciences Politiques.

For more information please email: cepos2013@yahoo.com, cepos2013@gmail.com.
Obituary: Yuri Josanu (1967-2013)

On March 14, 2013, the life of Dr. Yuri Josanu, Associate Professor of Political Science, came to a premature end. I first met him as my professor while I was studying for my Masters degree at the Academy of Public Administration in the Republic of Moldova. Several months later we came to share an office at the Institute of European Integration and Political Science at the Moldovan Academy of Science.

I first heard about the 2012 Society for Romanian Studies congress thanks to him, and while in Sibiu Yuri gladly introduced me to his many friends in the SRS. Paradoxically, I was in Sibiu on the day of his death. Walking the streets I had fond memories of the meetings, meals, and the evenings admiring the architecture of Piaţa Mare. I heard about his tragic death only after I returned to Moldova.

Yuri was born in a town near Chişinău on February 23, 1967. He completed his undergraduate degree in Moldova’s capital before studying for his doctorate at the prestigious Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, receiving his PhD in Political Science in 1997. He conducted research in the United States as a Visiting Scholar at the University of North Carolina and Georgetown University in Washington D.C. He attended numerous conferences nationally and internationally, giving presentations and publishing articles in Moldova, Romania, Lithuania, the United States, Norway, and France.

Over the years Yuri made detailed studies of the political and electoral systems from western and south-eastern Europe, teaching undergraduate and graduate-level courses at the most important universities in Moldova. Perhaps his most influential work appeared in 2008, entitled Systems of Political Transition in South-Eastern Europe: Comparative Studies, which was co-authored with Victor Jus and Ion Rusandu from the Moldovan Academy of Science. He has also been an honorary citizen of Wichita in Kansas (USA) since 1997.

Yuri’s vast scientific achievements show how much he enjoyed what he did and reflect his many academic plans. His death is an unimaginable loss for his family, colleagues, and friends, as well as for his students, who respected him immensely.

One of his favorite tunes was Georgia on My Mind, by Ray Charles. I have always liked this piece but from now on it will remind me of a good friend. Yuri Josanu, may you rest in peace!

Vladislav Șaran
Institute for European Integration and Political Science
Academy of Sciences of Moldova
Republic of Moldova

Trans. Roland Clark
HONORS

Daniel M. Pennell, bibliographer for Russian, East European, Germanic and Global Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, has been selected to receive the 2013 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Western European Studies Section (WESS) De Gruyter European Librarianship Study Grant. Pennell plans to examine and annotate 400 Romanian reference titles that are held at three libraries in Bucharest, Romania. This research will result in an annotated reference guide, Romanian Studies: An Annotated Guide to Reference Sources. “Daniel Pennell’s guide to Romanian studies will be the most comprehensive bibliography of Romanian studies,” said award committee Chair Gail Hueting of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “Unlike currently available titles, it will be devoted entirely to Romania and will include Romanian-language titles, not just English-language ones. Like other Eastern European countries, Romania and its publishing industry have changed completely since the fall of Communism. Pennell has done a great deal of groundwork and is well qualified to complete his research in Romanian libraries.”

Launching H-Romania

We are pleased to announce that the newly proposed H-net discussion network, H-Romania, has been pre-approved. SRS decided to establish the H-Romania listserv as the best way for its members (and non-members) to communicate with one another, create new discussion networks, and further contribute to the field of Romanian Studies. Using the H-Net platform, SRS can, through H-Romania, deliver a wide array of content, including book reviews, research materials, teaching resources, as well as links to relevant RSS feeds, blogs, and other media. It will also foster an exchange of ideas between scholars, professionals, and students from around the world. We are still in the pre-approval stage, but we do expect a successful application and are hopeful that the H-Romania site will be operational in the next few weeks. In the meantime, please familiarize yourselves with the H-Net Discussion Networks platform (if you are not already) by visiting https://www.h-net.org/lists/. Once H-Romania is available, we encourage you to subscribe to the network, to participate in its discussions, and to help us build H-Romania by contributing materials and sharing your ideas. Lastly, please notify your friends and colleagues about the site and encourage them to subscribe.

H-Romania is an international interdisciplinary academic forum promoting the professional study, criticism, and research of all aspects of Romanian history, politics, culture and society. It focuses primarily on the countries of Romania and Moldova but also attends to numerous other past and present political, ethnic and social groups, including minorities and diasporas, in terms of their significant connections to present-day Romanian territory. Its intended audience is scholars, professionals, and students who study, teach, and write about Romania, Moldova, and these countries’ cultures and diasporas. It is affiliated with the Society for Romanian Studies (SRS), generally recognized as the major international professional organization for scholars concerned with Romania and Moldova. H-Romania’s editorial rationale is to facilitate the exchange of news, resources, and ideas about Romanian Studies. Specifically, it endeavors to create and strengthen scholarly and professional networks; to commission reviews and other scholarly discussions and debates on historical and contemporary issues important to Romania; to share ideas about teaching and researching; and more broadly to promote activities designed to foster advancement in these fields.

On behalf of the H-Romania listserv editors: R. Chris Davis, Valentin Sandulescu, and Veronica Szabo.
A specter is haunting Europe—the specter of Capitalism. But what is Capitalism to Poetry or Poetry to Capitalism, one might ask? Well, because it represents culture, a poetry anthology such as *The Vanishing Point That Whistles: An Anthology of Contemporary Romanian Poetry* like it or lump it, plays its role on the stage of Globalization. The stage on which our contemporary human condition is being played out—both splintered and splinted by language—broaches several questions of aesthetic and political import. What is lost and what is gained in translation? What is the foreign reader’s best-case scenario in reading such poems? If it does, how can reading contemporary Romanian poetry in English translation matter?

Many recent poets have announced the death of postmodernism and the quick and subsequent births of Conceptual Writing, Fracturism, Flarf, Post-Avant Poetry, Slow Poetry, and so on. But is the age of deconstructing the metaphysics of history, god, and self indeed over in contemporary Romanian poetry? Otherwise put: what does it mean to write if nothing matters? What topics do self-conscious (and history-conscious) poets write about after the theory that the center no longer holds? If poetry performs what philosophy posits, a critical reader might ask: are we there yet? Has Romania’s transition out of communism become Romania’s transformation into a post-communist nation? Across the board of post-communist Romanian experience, the local “I” may be seen as a rebuttal to the totalitarian “we.” It may be seen as a shift toward intimacy, privacy, subjectivity, sociality, self-regard, body-consciousness simply because Ceausescu’s mythology of Socialist science demanded—and attempted to enforce—comradeship, objectivity, and a general devaluation of individual self-determination. In no way do I endorse the myth of Romanian exceptionalism nor that of any other nation. However, understanding that human experience never stops mattering in politics nor in art would account for these poems’ crush on the void’s reciprocal gaze: this obstinate relativism, in all its wry humor and cloying self-pity, is part of the Romanian existential condition.

Perhaps the ampest and most agile poems in the collection, Ruxandra Cesereanu’s poems as brought into the English by Sorkin and Murgu, lose the least and gain the most in the haggling between Romanian and English:

I loved to the hilt I loved by heft  
the brandy in my body became a horse tipsy with grace  
deformity straightened its stilts of fire  
vultures and ravens may devour me  
lest I ax to bits the burden of my lust  
kiss me until my teeth fall out  
scratch me down to the bare bone  
pull my hair light my fire take me to make a sinner of  
because my poor inside-out heart has dried up like an glove. (88-9)
The uses of the first-person pronoun “I”—or even the poets’ actual names as in the poems of Cristian Popescu, O. Nimigean, and Radu Andriescu—succeed more as artifacts of our shared humanity (whatever that may mean in these postcolonial days) when irony flashes in the gaps between authorial intention and persona. Take Andirescu’s poem *Satin* as example of the sophisticated play between emotional declension and investment:

Satin, there was a time when I imagined life as permanent floating.  
Such premature happiness.  
I used to say time is a sort of sled run  
that packs your pants with snow and your soul with fire.  
Satin, it seems many others imagined  
much the same thing. When I’d wake up  
my mouth was blue with ink,  
how about that?—  
like a kid absorbed in thought, making believe,  
lost between the lines, messing with his Chinese pen  
until its nib splits away. (61-2)

The use of the everyday as a rhetorical device thrown against the backdrop of the slow-motion traffic jam of social relations shifting to another ideological spectrum enlarges the communicative power of these translations while also opening the door to solipsistic navel-gazing. These poems offer provocative responses to the ongoing questions presented by the respective acts of doing and reading English translation of Romanian poetry as well as by the potential social relevance of their confluence. Constantin Acosmei, Mihai Ignat, Adina Dabija, Razvan Țupa, Elena Vlădăreanu, Radu Vancu, Ioana Nicolae, Svetlana Cârstean, and several others, are excellent poets in this anthology whose work merits serious attention.

This is an abridged version of a review by Gene Tanta, author of *Unusual Woods* (2010) and *Pastoral Emergency* (Forthcoming). Gene is currently teaching at the University of Bucharest as a Fulbright Scholar. The full review will appear shortly in H-Romania.

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**Books Received**

SRS book reviews will now be published on H-Romania, with excerpts reprinted in the SRS Newsletter. If you are interested in reviewing books for the SRS Newsletter and H-Romania, please contact R. Chris Davis at rchrisdavis@gmail.com.


General Elections Make Way for Social-Liberal Super-Majority  
*Lavinia Stan, St. Francis Xavier University*

The December 2012 general elections confirmed the alternation in power effected by the April censure motion and the June local elections. Following a “black summer” during which the suspended President Traian Băsescu was reinstated as a result of a referendum and the government of Prime Minister Victor Ponta took some controversial steps bordering on unconstitutionality, Ponta’s Social Democratic Union won as much as 68 percent of seats in parliament. With fewer than 13 percent of seats each, Băsescu’s Democratic Liberal Party and the Popular Party of Dan Diaconescu represent a weak opposition. President Băsescu, whose second mandate will end next year, was severely delegitimized when 7.4 million Romanians voted against his return in July. The new Ponta government, whose reputation remains seriously crippled by charges of clientelism and plagiarism, has effected a comprehensive bureaucratic purge and partly restored the public servants’ wages cut in 2010 as part of an austerity package meant to help Romania avoid Greece’s fate. Once the post-electoral “honeymoon” is over, Ponta’s popularity will ultimately rest on his ability to continue much needed reforms of the judiciary, to curb corruption, stimulate economic growth, and attract increased foreign investment.

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Romania’s Economic Outlook  
*Narcis Tulbure, University of Bucharest*

Romania managed to safeguard its macroeconomic stability in spite of the political turmoil last year. The IMF Board has agreed to extend the loan to Romania by three months. This aided stability and postponed the difficult negotiations for a new stand-by agreement until the summer. The European Council in February adopted a draft of the seven-year budget for the EU, allocating almost 40 billion euros to Romania. Supporters of the budget emphasize that Romania’s allocation increased from the previous budget while those for most of the other countries in the EU have dropped; critics of the solution argue that the final allocation is less than the initial proposition of the European Commission. In spite of the actual size of the allocation, both parties could focus on improving Romania’s meager rate of accession of EU funds during the new budget period.

Domestic and foreign companies continue to scale down their activity. At the same time, Romanian taxpayers complain about the impractical rules concerning cash accounting VAT which means that an additional bureaucratic burden is carried by most companies while the beneficial effects of cash accounting are insignificant. Major state companies (such as Oltchim or Hidroelectrica) are undergoing judicial reorganization or insolvency procedures and many on the workforce are facing unemployment. In the meantime, Russian Mechel has recently closed several steel production facilities in Romania. This led to significant street protests by former employees of the plant at Câmpia Turzii. Mark Gitenstein, former US Ambassador to Romania, was nominated for a position on the Representatives Committee of Fondul Proprietatea (FP). Created to compensate former owners dispossessed by communist nationalization policies and controlling significant stakes in key state companies, FP could induce enhanced corporate governance practices in the Romanian companies that have not been privatized yet.
Moldova – Corruption and Political Impasse, Again
Matthew Ciscel, Central Connecticut State University

In the Fall 2012 issue of this newsletter, I noted that the political ineptitude and squabbling that followed the 2009 “Twitter” revolution had finally abated with a degree of stability brought in large part by the long-awaited election of a president (Nicolae Timofti) in early 2012. Alas, it could not last. Less than a year later, in January 2013, a series of scandals and political accusations spiraled quickly into yet another potential constitutional dilemma and possible call for early parliamentary elections. The complex set of events includes the resignation of Attorney General Zubco based on allegations of covering up corruption and possible association with a fatal “hunting accident;” continued accusations of corruption leveled at former vice-speaker Plahotniuc and various associated political leaders; tentative destruction of the ruling coalition by its largest partner, the Liberal Democrats (led by Vlad Filat); and decidedly odd collaborative activities between junior coalition partner Ghimpu from the political right and opposition Communist Party leader Voronin. Add former Communist and linch-pin coalition member Marian Lupu into the mix of accusations of mafia connections and corruption and you have a cocktail that perhaps only Moldovan politics could produce. Next Fall, this column will report either on the emergence of a new, third version of the post-2009 Alliance for European Integration or on the inconclusive results of yet another round of early parliamentary elections, or both. Meanwhile, do not expect any progress on Moldovan, much less European, integration.

Moldovan Migrants and the Dragoș Project

In the past, The Republic of Moldova has been highly ranked amongst nations with citizen remittance. A significant portion of the Moldovan population work and live abroad to send money and goods home to their family and friends. One possible result of this remittance-influenced society is the nation’s relatively high Internet penetration. The Dragoș Project is seeking to better understand the relationship between remittance and acceptance of communication technology, particularly as it applies to the transmissions of health messages. This research is investigating the role of Internet adoption by Moldovan immigrants living in The United States or Canada in the decision to relay health information home to family. The ultimate goal of The Dragoș Project is to identify possible effective pathways that can help aid organizations disseminate information efficiently across the country. Eventually, such pathways may also be relevant to other developing nations as they follow Moldova’s model of high remittance and relatively high technology penetration.

A brief survey, available in either Romanian or English, regarding attitudes towards the Internet and the transmission of health information can be found at: http://thedragosproject.org. Currently, this research is seeking only Moldovan participants living in The United States or Canada. For more details please contact Maggie Fesenmaier at m.fes@vt.edu.
Summer Schools

The Archaeological Techniques and Research Center (ArchaeoTek) is running a series of archaeological programs in Transylvania during 2013. The programs invite students and volunteers to explore and excavate an Iron Age Dacian Fortified Acropolis, a Roman villa, a medieval necropolis, or to participate in workshops on osteology, bioarchaeology, or experimental archaeology. Details about these programs are available at http://archaeotek.org/field_projects

The University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign is organizing a Workshop in Scholarly and Literary Translation from Slavic Languages as part of its annual Summer Research Laboratory from June 10-15, 2013. For details see http://www.reeec.illinois.edu/srl/?utm_source=transwksp&utm_medium=listserv&utm_campaign=SRL2013

The Romanian Cultural Institute is running a number of Romanian Language Classes for Foreigners in Bucharest from June to December 2013. These include courses for beginners, intermediate, and advanced learners. For details see http://www.ier.ro/roclasses

The Romanian Cultural Institute is running its annual Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization course in Brașov July 2-27, 2013. For details see http://www.ier.ro/cursuri brasov

The University of Bucharest is running its 53rd Summer Course in Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization from July 22 – August 4, 2013. For details see http://www.unibuc.ro/n/studii/scoli-de-vara/curs-de-vara-de-limb-roma-de-cult-i-civi-roma-php/

RoLang is running a Romanian Summer School for foreigners in Sibiu from July 29 to August 9, 2013. For details see http://rolang.ro/Romanian-summer-school.php

Bridge Language Study House is running a Romanian Summer School for foreigners in Cluj-Napoca during July 2013. For details see http://www.blsh.ro/learn-romanian/

UPCOMING EVENTS

Work from Romanian artist Bogdan Raţă will be displayed as part of the exhibit Kaleidoscope: Contemporary Art from EU Member States at Farmleigh Gallery in Dublin, Ireland, from May 1 to June 1, 2013. For details see http://www.icr-london.co.uk/article/the-shapes-of-solitude.html

The conference Urban Metamorphoses: Landscapes of Power and Memory will be held at the University of Bucharest on May 15-17, 2013. For details see http://fspubconference2013.wordpress.com/

The 12th International Postgraduate Conference on Central and Eastern Europe Landscape and Environment in Central and Eastern Europe: Interdisciplinary Approaches will be held at Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca on May 27-29, 2013. For details see http://www.ssees.ucl.ac.uk/postgradconf12.htm

The conference Catastrophe and Utopia. Central and Eastern European Intellectual Horizons 1933 to 1958 will be held at the Imre Kertész Kolleg in Budapest, Hungary on June 13-15, 2013. For details see http://www.imre-kertesz-kolleg.uni-jena.de/

The Romanian Cultural Institute in New York is hosting the exhibition La Blouse Roumaine, held in the Institute’s art gallery from May 17 to June 17, 2013. For details see http://www.icrny.org/432-La_Blouse_Roumaine.html

The annual Transylvania International Film Festival will take place this year in Cluj (31 May - 9 June) and in Sibiu (19-23 June). For details see www.tiff.ro

The conference Catastrophe and Utopia. Central and Eastern European Intellectual Horizons 1933 to 1958 will be held at the Imre Kertész Kolleg in Budapest, Hungary on June 13-15, 2013. For details see http://www.imre-kertesz-kolleg.uni-jena.de/
The Warsaw Frontier Research in Economic and Social History (FRESH) Meeting will take place on July 6-7, 2013 in Warsaw, Poland, with the theme “Understanding the Economic Development of Eastern Europe.” For details see http://www.cgeh.nl/eastern-european-economic-history-hub

The Industrial Relations in Europe conference will be held in Bucharest on September 12-14, 2013 with the theme “Labour relations still in crisis: bargaining, politics, institutions, and labour relations in Europe.” For details see http://irec2013.politice.ro/

The conference Memory of Everyday Collaboration with the Communist Regimes in Eastern Europe will take place in Budapest, Hungary on October 21-24, 2013. For details see http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=21480

Conference Report

On March 29-30 Indiana University’s Romanian Studies Organization hosted the 6th Annual Interdisciplinary Romanian Studies Conference, a venue for graduate students and recent PhDs to present their work. This year it featured Professor Vladimir Tismăneanu—political scientist, political analyst, and sociologist based at the University of Maryland, College Park. In particular, he presented his latest book, The Devil in History: Communism, Fascism, and Some Lessons of the Twentieth Century (2012) to an enthusiastic group of 60 participants.

Romanian Studies faculty mentor, Professor Maria Bucur-Deckard, gave a general and heartfelt welcome before passing on the floor to Indiana University’s Political Science Professor Jeffrey Isaac, who in turn introduced Tismăneanu’s book. He not only emphasized the book’s importance but also that of the conference, stating: “the book is a brilliant extensive essay on what Hannah Arendt called the ‘ideological storms’ of the twentieth century… It is at once a work of intellectual history, political science, and public intellectual commentary serving as a fitting way to commence the exciting Romanian Studies Conference, to highlight the vitality of our Romanian Studies Program and Russian and East European Institute more generally, and to reflect on the ways programs like these can serve as an important means of scholarship and means of public enlightenment.”

The conference featured three enriching panels that addressed a variety of themes from different disciplinary approaches brought forth by young scholars from the U.S. and Europe. The first panel focused on the landscapes of heritage in Romania and addressed issues related to architecture from 1453 to the present time. The second panel concentrated on Moldavia and addressed issues such as migration, language, intergenerational tensions, and politics in rural Bessarabia. The third and final panel centered on interesting Jewish themes that were addressed from literary, historical, and anthropological perspectives. Following the panels the audience engaged in a lively discussion during the Q&A sessions, making this year’s conference a great success.

Elena Popa
Department of Anthropology
Indiana University
The Association for the Study of Nationalities held its 18th world convention in New York on April 18-20, 2013.

Panels and papers relating to Romania and Moldova included:

THURSDAY, APRIL 18
SESSION III: 4-6 PM
PANEL CE19: Romanian Germans and Jews: Remembrance and Tensions, with papers by Timothy Olin (Purdue University) Remembrance as Propaganda: The Germans of the Banat of Temesvar, Michael Shafir (Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania) Polls and Jews in Postcommunist Romania, Felicia Waldman (University of Bucharest, Romania) Memorialization of the Holocaust in Visual Arts, Literature and Architecture in Postcommunist Romania and Peter Dan (Long Island University) Our Daily Anti-Semitism: The Persistence of Anti-Semitism in Contemporary Romania – A Psychosocial Perspective. Berel Rodal (Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, Canada) will chair the panel and Mihai Chioveanu (University of Bucharest, Romania) will be the discussant.

SESSION IV: 6:20 – 8:20 PM
PANEL CE13: Inter-Ethnic Relations in Historical Borderlands, with a paper by Mate Rigo (Cornell University) Ineffective Nationalism: Political Transition, Everyday Life and Elite Change in Alsace-Lorraine and Transylvania after World War I, 1918-1928.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19
SESSION V: 9-11 AM
PANEL CE23: Language Politics in Eastern Europe, with a paper by Anna-Christine Weirich (Geotho University, Germany) Strategies of Dealing with Multilingualism in the Military in Moldova. Matthew Ciscel (Central Connecticut State University) will be the discussant.

PANEL CE15: Extremism and Nationalism in East-Central Europe, with a paper by Roland Clark (Eastern Connecticut State University) Aromanians in Romania’s Legion of the Archangel Michael.

SESSION VI: 11:20 AM - 1:20 PM
PANEL CE 16: Minority Politics During Communism and After, with papers by Ion Voicu Sucală (University of Glasgow, UK) A Case Study of Ethnic Dynamics in Organizational Management in Communist Romania and James Koranyi (Durham University, UK) Romanian Germans and the Search for their Cultural Homeland. Roland Clark (Eastern Connecticut State University) will be the discussant.

SESSION VII: 2:50 – 4:50 PM
PANEL CE1: Scholars as Public Intellectuals Weighing in on History and Politics in East Central Europe (Roundtable). Holly Case (Cornell University) will be the chair.

PANEL EU10: Experiments in Democracy Assistance. Charles King (Georgetown University) will be the discussant.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20
SESSION IX: 9-11 AM
PANEL CE4: Migration, Dislocation and Identity Formation, with papers by M. Benjamin Thorne (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College) A Sort of Liberation: The Experience of Roma Returnees from Transnistria, 1944-1948 and Alin Rus (University of Massachusetts) Intangible Cultural Heritage, Migration and Nationalism Symbols in Post-Socialist Rural Romania.
SESSION IX: 9-11 AM
PANEL CE8: Roma Rights and the Politics of Recognition, with papers by Marian D. Ilie and Adriana Isaac (West University of Timişoara, Romania) Interpersonal Relation Models of Roma Ethnics in a Romanian School and Marius Matichescu and Anamaria Bica (West University of Timişoara, Romania) Models of Social Integration and Political Participation in a Roma Community

SESSION IX: 9-11 AM
PANEL CE22: Constructing National Identities, with papers by Roxana Adina Huma (University of Plymouth, UK) No Room for the Middle Ground? The Problems facing Moldovan Civic Identity and Anastasia Mitrofanova (Diplomatic Academy, Moscow, Russia) Moldova and Transnistria: Incompatible Identities.

SESSION XI: 2:50 – 4:50 PM
PANEL CE5: Voices from the Exiled and Deported, with a paper by Cristian Cercel (New Europe College, Romania) The Deportation of Romanian Germans to the Soviet Union and its Meaning for the Transylvanian Saxon Elites in Germany in the 1950s and 1960s.

SESSION XII: 5:10 – 7:10 PM

SESSION XII: 5:10 – 7:10 PM
PANEL CE12: Culture, Media, and Identity Construction in Central Europe, with a paper by Julien Danero Iglesias (University Libre of Bruxelles, Belgium) Constructing the Nation through the Eurovision Moldova, 2005-2011.

SESSION XII: 5:10 – 7:10 PM

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Journal: Anuarul Institutului de Investigare a Crimelor Comunismului şi Memoria Exilului Românesc
Deadline for expressions of interest: May 20, 2013
Theme: Viața cotidiană în comunism (1945-1989)
Contact Details: anuar@iiccmer.ro

Journal: Dapim: Studies on the Shoah
Contact Details: http://holocaust-center.haifa.ac.il/index.php/dapim-journal-studies-on-the-holocaust/32-academic-journal-qdapimq-studies-on-the-holocaust

Conference: Minorities and the First World War
Date: April 14-15, 2014
Place: University of Chester, UK
Deadline for Proposals: May 31, 2013
Contact: ww1minorities@chester.ac.uk
Conference: Dying and Death in 18th-21st Century Europe  
Date: September 26-28, 2013  
Place: Alba Iulia, Romania  
Deadline for Abstracts: July 1, 2013  
Contact: mrotar2000@yahoo.com and adriana.teodorescu@gmail.com

Conference: Travelling Narratives: Modernity and the Spatial Imagination  
Date: Nov 29 – Dec 1, 2013  
Deadline for Abstracts: July 10, 2013  
Place: University of Zurich, Switzerland  
Contact: Johannes Riquet (johannes.riquet@es.uzh.ch) and Elizabeth Kollmann (elizabeth.kollmann@access.uzh.ch)

Date: November 15-16, 2013  
Deadline for Abstracts: September 10, 2013  
Place: University Bucharest, Romania  
Contact: Bogdan Murgescu (bmurgescu@gmail.com)

Conference: Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature and Folklore  
Date: April 25-27, 2014  
Place: Chicago, IL  
Deadline for Abstracts: November 15, 2013  
Contact: Meredith Clason (mclason@uchicago.edu)

Fellowships & Prizes
The Romanian Cultural Institute is offering ten one-month fellowships for translators. The deadline for applications is May 20, 2013. For details see http://www.icr.ro/bucuresti/burse-si-rezidente/bursele-univers.html

The Romanian Cultural Institute is offering three fellowships for Romanian scholars to conduct research or study abroad. The deadline for applications is June 30, 2013. For details see http://www.icr.ro/bucuresti/burse-si-rezidente/bursele-lucian-blaga.html

The Romanian Cultural Institute is offering fellowships for Romanians studying abroad to conduct research in Romania. The deadline for applications is September 15, 2013. For details see http://www.icr.ro/bucuresti/burse-si-rezidente/bursele-nicolae-iorga.html

The Woodrow Wilson Center is offering Title VIII grants covering one month of research in Washington DC for American scholars of Eastern Europe. The next deadlines for applications are June 1 and September 1, 2013. For details see http://www.wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/east-european-studies-short-term-research-scholarships

The Woodrow Wilson Center is offering Title VIII grants covering 2-4 months of research in Washington DC for American scholars of Eastern Europe. The deadline for applications are December 1, 2013. For details see http://www.wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/east-european-studies-research-grants

The core competition for 2013-2014 Fulbright Scholar Program is currently open. With the exception of the seminar offerings, the deadline for
all awards is August 1, 2013. For more details, see http://catalog.cies.org/

The ASEEES Graduate Student Essay Prize is awarded for an outstanding essay by a graduate student in Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies. The winner of the competition receives free roundtrip domestic airfare to and room at the ASEEES Annual Convention and an honorary ASEEES membership for the following year. The prize is presented during the awards presentation at the Annual Convention. Deadline: June 1, 2013. For more information go to http://www.aseees.org/prizes/studentprize.html

The ASEEES Committee on Libraries and Information Resources Distinguished Service Award honors ASEEES member librarians, archivists or curators whose contributions to the field of Slavic, East European and Eurasian studies librarianship have been especially noteworthy or influential. The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2013. For details see http://www.aseees.org/prizes/clirsvc.html

The Cantemir Institute at the University of Oxford is again offering DPhil Studentships and Fellowships for Junior and Senior Scholars wishing to make use of the institute’s resources. For details see http://www.cantemir.ox.ac.uk/research.html

The Center for Advanced Studies in Sofia, Bulgaria is offering residential fellowships of 2-4 months for junior and senior scholars. The deadline for applications is October 1, 2013. For details see http://www.cas.bg/en/cas-current-programmes/advanced-academia-programme-48.html

The Parkes Institute at the University of Southampton is offering one scholarship for citizens of selected East and East-Central European countries (inc. Romania) to study for an MA in Jewish History and Culture at the School of Humanities, University of Southampton, UK. The deadline for applications is June 14, 2013. For details see http://www.southampton.ac.uk/parkes/postgrad/chevening.html

The journal Dapim - Studies on the Shoah invites submission for its 2013 international essay competition on the topic of the Holocaust, World War II and its aftermath, as well as contemporary issues related to the survivors, collective memory of the Holocaust, and anti-Semitism. The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2013. Submissions should be sent to marmelin@univ.haifa.ac.il

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


This volume contains the letters about Mircea Eliade between Maitreyi Devi and the American scholar Mac Linscott Ricketts, Eliade’s former student and biographer, between 1976 and 1988. The letters contain details about Maitreyi Devi’s life as well as information about Eliade’s time in India. The letters reveal the mixed feelings of the woman who inspired Eliade as well as surprising details about their reunion in Chicago in 1973.


Literary and cultural images, once considered marginal to the main currents of political and institutional development in southeastern Europe, have been accorded much greater importance by scholars in recent years. In this volume Alex Drace-Francis brings together over fifteen years of work on the topic of representations of Romania and Romanians. Crossing the East-West divide, the book studies both external images of the country and people, and domestically-generated representations of Europe and 'the West'. It draws on material in a wide range of languages and offers a long-term view, providing a nuanced and historically-grounded contribution to the lively debates over Balkanism, Orientalism and identities in Romania and in Europe as a whole.


“This volume’s major theme dwells on the competition between memory and the symbolic dimension of memory politics in postwar Europe. The permanent tension between a strict history of events and one based on selective memory certainly exists, especially around events that impact the self-representation and self-perception of large groups of people.” – From the Preface.


The fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries are of a fundamental importance in human history: this was the period when the map of the modern world was drawn, when modern economic, social and cultural mechanisms emerged that established Europe as a global power. In the Romanian principalities, this period was marked by the figures of great lords and anti-Ottoman resistance, but also by economic and social problems. This volume offers a complex image of the Romanian lands from the political situation and commercial evolution to the relationships between economics, finance, and military activity, drawing on documents from the period and advancing an exciting theory regarding the history of this region at the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the modern period.


**Neumann, Victor, and Armin Heinen eds. *Key Concepts of Romanian History: Alternative Approaches to Socio-Political Languages*. Budapest: Central European University Press, 2013.**

The theoretical analyses and interpretations contained in the studies of this volume focus on key-concepts such as: politics, politician, democracy, Europe, liberalism, constitution, property, progress, kinship, nation, national character and specificity, homeland, patriotism, education, totalitarianism, democracy, democratic, democratization, transition. The essays unveil specific aspects belonging to Romania’s past and present. They also offer alternative perspectives on the Romanian culture through the relationship between the elite and society, and novel reflections on the delayed and unfinished modernization processes within the society and the state. The editors articulate the results coming from various sciences, such as history, linguistics, sociology, political sciences, and philosophy with the aim that the past and present profiles of Romania are better understood.


Sana, Silviu. “... pentru sufletele credincioşilor sâ...” *Structuri bisericeşti şi şcolare în Eparhia Greco-Catholică de Oradea (1850-1900)*. Oradea: Editura Universităţii din Oradea, 2011.


**Membership Reminder**

We use dues to help with monetary prizes for outstanding publications and to budget and pay for the cost of our upcoming 6th International Conference, which will be held in Sibiu in July 2012. You may renew your membership or join SRS, at the SRS website: (http://www.society4romanianstudies.org/membership/how-to-join) by using paypal, or by mail. Contributions from lifetime members are most welcome. In addition, organizational sponsors and patrons may be approved by the Board on a case by case basis. Member organizations do not have a vote but their support will be acknowledged by SRS, including linking to organizational web sites. Please send your dues and/or donations directly by check (made out to SRS) to:

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UNCG P.O. Box 26170  
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$45 for joint SRS/SEESA membership (a savings of $10)  
$37 for joint SRS/RSAA membership  
$50 for sustainers  
$100 for sponsors  
$300 for patrons
About the Society for Romanian Studies

The Society for Romanian Studies (SRS) is an international inter-disciplinary academic organization founded in 1973 to promote professional study, criticism, and research on all aspects of Romanian culture and civilization, particularly concerning the countries of Romania and Moldova. The SRS is generally recognized as the major professional organization for North American scholars concerned with Romania and Moldova. It is affiliated with the South East European Studies Association (SEESA); the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES--formerly known as the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies or AAASS); the American Political Science Association (APSA); and the American Historical Association (AHA).

More information about the SRS, including current officers, the national board, and membership information, can be found on the website at http://www.society4romanianstudies.org

If you have any recent activities to report (publications, conferences organized, etc.) please send such information to the Newsletter Editor, Roland Clark, roloclark80@gmail.com.