Elections held late last year confirmed new officers and board members. After serving as vice-president for four years, I became President, Irina Livezeanu is now Past President, while James Koranyi is President Elect. All these are two-year-long mandates, in line with the SRS bylaws. The board further includes Paul Michelson, Bill Crowther and Roland Clark, as Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, respectively, and several elected members, two of whom are student representatives. As some officers and board members are new and others are returning, collectively they provide both continuity and change for SRS activities and programs. Their collaboration as a team and the work of the many volunteers who help us run our committees, develop our programs, and maintain a strong presence on the internet make the Society strong.

The SRS remains the premier international organization representing those who teach, study and research Romanian Studies, broadly defined, from a variety of disciplinary and inter-disciplinary perspectives. With an ever expanding and ever more diverse membership, the Society provides unique possibilities for professional networking for both graduate students, as well as young and established scholars. We now have a stronger presence on the internet, and invite you to check our updates regularly. Our Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter pages regularly disseminate a wealth of information relevant to Romanian Studies. The recently launched H-Romania, coordinated by Chris Davis, will soon include book reviews and longer analytical pieces, and is intended to replace the SRS newslist once it reaches a critical mass of subscribers.

Since January a committee chaired by Monica Ciobanu has been busy laying the ground for our upcoming international congress, which will take place on June 17-19, 2015 in Bucharest. Our host is the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Bucharest, which has recently joined the SRS as an organizational
member at the patron level. The call for papers is out, including a wide range of themes and domains of inquiry. Please encourage your colleagues and students to propose panels, individual papers, and/or roundtables by the August deadline. The committee would also be happy to hear from those who want to help with the organization.

Another committee chaired by James Koranyi will adjudicate the graduate essay prize this year. This committee has been busy drafting the call for submissions and deciding the timeline for accepting proposals. All graduate students who are members of our Society are eligible to apply for this much-coveted prize, which recognizes the best graduate student paper in the field of Romanian Studies. This year, the SRS offers no book prize. Yet another committee is looking into ways for the SRS to boost its individual and organizational membership. We have recently welcomed a small number of individual sustaining members, sponsors and patrons, whose support has been gratefully acknowledged on our website. Several universities, institutes and centers inside and outside Romania approached us with inquiries about our organizational membership category. Our membership fees continue to be low, and we allow graduate students to join us for free for their first year as SRS members. We hope all these graduate students will return as full-paying members.

Finally, at the beginning of this year the Board has agreed for the SRS to endorse the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure. This statement, which had the American Association of University Professors among its authors, has been endorsed by over 200 major disciplinary societies in the United States.

Lavinia Stan  
St. Xavier University  
lstan@stfx.ca  
President, Society for Romanian Studies

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**SRS GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE**

The Society for Romanian Studies is pleased to announce the Sixth 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 2014 prize, consisting of $500, will be presented at the ASEEES National Convention in San Antonio in November this year. The competition is open to current MA and doctoral students or to those who defended dissertations in the academic year 2013-2014. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written in 2013-2014. If the submitted piece of work is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation’s abstract and table of contents. Essays/chapters should be between 25 and 50 pages in length and double-spaced, including reference matter. Expanded versions of conference papers are also acceptable, if they are accompanied by a description of the panel and the candidate's conference paper proposal. Candidates should clearly indicate the format of the piece submitted. Should you have any other questions, please contact James Koranyi by email at james.koranyi@durham.ac.uk.

Please send a copy of the essay and an updated CV to each of the four members of the Prize Committee below. Submissions must be sent no later than July 1, 2014.

James Koranyi (Chair) james.koranyi@durham.ac.uk  
Ashby Crowder abcrowder@gmail.com  
Margaret Beissinger mhbeissi@princeton.edu  
Delia Popescu popescd@lemoyne.edu
Call for Papers:
SRS Conference in Bucharest, June 17-19, 2015

The 2015 SRS conference will be hosted by the Faculty of Political Science, the University of Bucharest.

Linking Past, Present and Future:
The 25th Anniversary of Regime Change in Romania and Moldova (1989/1991)

Anniversaries represent opportunities to reflect on past events, re-assess their impact on the present, and draw lessons for the future. Together with other 20th century historical events – including World War I, World War II, and the communist take-over – the overthrow of the communist regime represented a watershed event for Romania and Moldova, the most recent great transformation it is seen as having led to the end of the communist dictatorship, democratization of the political system, the introduction of market economy, cultural liberalization, the opening of borders, and a re-alignment with the West. At the same time, given Romania’s and Moldova’s persistent problems with political instability, pervasive corruption, slow economic growth, populism, and nationalism, the significance of the 1989/1991 regime change and its outcomes remains a source of contestation.

The aim of this conference is to take a fresh look at the transformative events of a quarter century ago. We wish to examine their significance for the two countries’ post-communist trajectories, past, present, and future both domestically and in the wider European and Eurasian contexts with the help of broad historical, political, literary, and cultural disciplinary and interdisciplinary inquiries.

Keynote Speakers:

Dennis Deletant
Georgetown University

Mihaela Miroiu
SNSPA

We welcome proposals for papers, panels and roundtables from junior and senior scholars working in a variety of disciplines: history, sociology, anthropology and ethnography, political science, philosophy, law and justice studies, literature and linguistics, economics, business, international affairs, religious, gender, film and media studies, art history, music, and education, among others.
Possible topics might include, but are not limited to:

- Precursors of 1989 (anti-Stalinist revolts and resistance, resistance through culture, the role of dissidents, everyday forms of resistance, Brașov 1987, etc.)
- The external context (Gorbachev’s Soviet Union, the events in East and Central Europe)
- Western propaganda and the Romanian diasporas
- 1989 in popular and official memory, historiography, film, literature and the arts
- Legacies of World War I and World War II
- Sources and archives
- Communism, post-communism, and the arts
- Writers and artists in post-communism
- The Romanian new wave and the legacy of communism
- European Union accession
- Moldova between West and East
- Legal and constitutional reforms
- Party and electoral politics, and voting behavior
- Free markets, neoliberalism and state paternalism
- Romania’s place in Europe and in the region
- Romania’s relationship with the Republic of Moldova
- Moldova’s place in Europe and the region
- The status of ethnic, religious and sexual minorities in Romania and Moldova
- The reconfiguration of social stratification
- Post-communist media and journalism
- The role of the Orthodox Church, and of other religious groups
- Dynamics of migration from and into Romania and Moldova
- Policy analysis and public administration
- Urban policies and architecture in communism and post-communism

Individual paper proposals should include the title of the presentation, a brief abstract of up to 500 words, a short curriculum vitae, and contact information of the presenter. They should be sent in a single attached Word document by August 1, 2014 at srs2015conference@gmail.com. Proposals for 2-hour panels including 3-4 papers, one chair, and 1-2 discussants should provide a title and description of the panel topic, abstracts of all papers, short vitae, and contact information for all participants. Panel participants should be drawn from at least two different universities. Roundtables proposals of 3-5 participants should include title and description of the topic, short vitae and contact information for all participants. In addition, the conference organizers will accept proposals for book panels. Submissions and presentations in French will be accepted, as long as they are for full panels and roundtables including members from more than one university. Participants will be notified of the acceptance of their proposal by October 15, 2014.

In order to assure that the conference is accessible to scholars from across the Atlantic region and to those from Romania and the Republic of Moldova, the conference fees will be quite modest. For scholars from North America, the fee will be 40 USD; for those from the Eurozone and Western Europe, 40 euros, and from Romania, Moldova and parts east, 40 Romanian lei. Graduate students will be exempt from this fee. SRS membership will also be required and additional for those paying in USD and euros, but included for those paying in lei.
The principal items from the last few months were 1) election of officers for 2014-2016; and 2) a modest celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Society for Romanian Studies (as the Romanian Studies Group) in 1973. The elections are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter; it was our first using an all-electronic ballot and seemed to go pretty well though participation was not overwhelming. We all owe a deep vote of appreciation to Margaret Beissinger (Princeton University) for chairing the committee. This is a vital function for the organization, but a thankless task whose only apparent benefit is being able to keep ones name off the ballot. Of course the flaw is that this leaves one vulnerable to being asked to chair a myriad of other committees. The elections provided for both change and continuity and our board is now truly international in scope in keeping with the opening up of the SRS to international membership in 2011. We also have increased graduate student representation on the board, with a view toward getting younger scholars involved early on. A few revisions to election-related matters in the bylaws will be forthcoming, but we are now fully vested in our new constitutional order.

Our 40th anniversary certainly was a landmark and it seems safe to say that the SRS is as vigorous as it ever was, despite the changing face of area and country studies, the evolution of academia, and budget crunches on every hand. Recent initiatives are bearing fruit, including the newly launched H-Romania, our several prizes, our book publishing agreement with Polirom, and development of sponsor and patron members. Plans are well under way for our next international congress, to be held June 17-19, 2015 in Bucharest and the planning committee chair, Monica Ciobanu (SUNY-Plattsburgh), has already issued a call for papers. Trăiască Societatea de Studii Românești și mulți înainte!

As mentioned above, the Board has endorsed the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure. We rarely make such endorsements, but it was felt that in an age of increasing disregard for academic freedom, the SRS needed to join several hundred other major American disciplinary societies in supporting essential academic values. As a non-political scholarly academic organization, the SRS will not take up partisan causes, though its members are encouraged to support whatever causes they wish; and we will from time to time circulate information that we think pertinent to Romanian issues and concerns even though the SRS might refrain from any official action. However, we will actively support efforts that promote academic freedom, the freedom of inquiry and research, and other matters vital to scholarship.

Lastly, we are actively seeking to expand the membership of the SRS. If you have any suggestions along these lines, please send them to me or to Lavinia Stan. And if you have names of people that you think might be interested in membership, please pass these along as well.

Have a pleasant summer.

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

The South East European Studies Association (SEESA) is a scholarly, non-profit, non-political organization devoted to the exchange of knowledge amongst scholars interested in the area of Southeastern Europe. It is affiliated with the Society for Romanian Studies and offers the option of joint membership in both organizations at a discounted membership rate. Information about SEESA can be found at its website and blog.

At the beginning of April 2014 SEESA elected a new leadership with a mandate until 2018:

- President Catherine Rudin (Wayne State College)
- Vice-President Bavjola Shatro (Aleksandër Moisiu University)
- Secretary-Treasurer Ashby Crowder (US National Archives and Records Administration)
- Board Member/Editor of Balkanistica Donald Dyer (University of Mississippi)
- Board Member/Website Editor Alexander Murzaku (College of Saint Elizabeth)
- Board Member/President of the US Committee for AIESEE Victor Friedman (University of Chicago)
- Board Member/Former President Olga Mladenova (University of Calgary)
- Board Member Virginia Hill (University of New Brunswick, Saint John)
- Board Member Christina Stojanova (University of Regina)
- Board Member Bojan Belić (University of Washington)
- Student Board Member Antje Postema (University of Chicago)

Aspects of the Romanian language, culture and history fall within the research areas of six out of the eleven SEESA executives on the newly elected SEESA Board.

SEESA is happy to announce the publication of volume 27 of Balkanistica. The updated index of its volumes issued from 1974 to 2014 is available here. SEESA members automatically receive Balkanistica, non-members can order online the volumes that are still in print.

Institutional Sponsor

The Society for Romanian Studies is proud to have Balkanalysis.com as an organizational sponsor. Balkanalysis.com is a leading independent website that provides analytical coverage of South Eastern Europe, with input from journalists, academics, researchers and others who are professionally involved with the region. Recent publications included a review of the present Romanian-Hungarian political situation by Elena Dragomir, an analysis of Macedonia’s 2014 parliamentary elections, and a discussion of security threats in southeastern Europe.
Obituary:
Stephen A. Fischer-Galati (1924-2014)

Stephen Fischer-Galati, who was President of the Society for Romanian Studies from 1978-1980, a founding board member of the Society for Romanian Studies (then the Romanian Studies Group) in 1973-1976, and hosted the first SRS conference in Boulder in 1974, passed away on March 10, 2014, in Boulder, CO. He was born in Bucharest, Romania, on April 15, 1924, and migrated to the United States during World War II. He completed an A.B. (1945), M.A. (1946) and Ph.D. (1949) in History at Harvard. He was a long-time professor at the University of Colorado (which named him Distinguished Professor Emeritus), an honorary member of the Romanian Academy, and former president of the International Commission of East European and Slavic Studies of the International Congress of Historical Studies.

His most gratifying recognition was the 2010 Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Centennial Medal, given for his “lifelong commitment to chronicling the history of East and Central Europe, tireless support of junior scholars in the field, and remarkable legacy as a scholarly publisher, whose works populate the world’s great libraries.” This is a reference to his work as founder and editor of The East European Quarterly (1967-2009), which published nearly 1,000 articles on East European history, sociology, economics, literature and other social sciences by authors from both West and East; as the editor from 1970 of the East European Monographs series, which published over 800 volumes; and as the author or co-author of more than 250 articles and 15 books, most notably Twentieth Century Rumania (1970, 1991). He is survived by his wife, Anne, who he married in 1951, and two daughters.

Paul E. Michelson
Huntington University

Institutional Sponsor

The SRS is proud to have the Center of Post-Communist Political Studies (CEPOS) at the University of Craiova as an organizational 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 Fourth Annual International Conference “After Communism: East and West under Scrutiny” on 4-5 April 2014. The Center also publishes Revista de Ştiinţe Politice / Revue des Sciences Politiques. For more information please email: cepos2013@yahoo.com, cepos2013@gmail.com.
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.

H-Romania

We are very pleased to announce the launch of H-Romania, a discussion network which will replace our email list as the main forum for disseminating news and information of interest to scholars of Romania and Moldova.

Please subscribe to H-Romania as soon as you are able so as not to miss out on important SRS news, information and book reviews.

https://networks.h-net.org/h-romania

H-Romania is an H-Net discussion network for scholars, students, and professionals interested in Romanian Studies (broadly conceived). H-Romania is an international interdisciplinary academic network 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. H-Romania is affiliated with the Society for Romanian Studies (SRS).

To join H-Romania, first set up an H-Net account. Go to https://networks.h-net.org/, click on “Sign up to subscribe & contribute,” and follow the instructions from there. Once you’ve created an H-Net account and profile, you can then go to the H-Romania page https://networks.h-net.org/h-romania and click “Subscribe to this network to join the discussion.” Before allowing any contributions we do ask that you complete your H-Net profile, indicating institutional affiliation, degrees, short bio and areas of interest. You can do this by clicking on the accounts icon in the upper right, then selecting the “Profile” option from the drop-down menu.

We are also interested in building our Reviews and Reports pages, including book and film reviews, and conference and exhibition reports. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the editors at editorial-romania@mail.h-net.msu.edu. Please also let us know if you are interested in joining the editorial team or becoming a reviewer or blogger at H-Romania.

Thanks, and please spread the word to colleagues and students.

R. Chris Davis and Valentin Sândulescu, Editors
The EP and Presidential Elections of 2014 Force Parties to Rethink Alliances

Claudiu D. Tufiș, University of Bucharest

During the last six months, the Romanian political scene continued to be characterized by the uneasy cohabitation between President Băsescu and Prime-Minister Ponta, both actors and their support teams spending a significant part of their time attacking the opponent. Fortunately 2014, an electoral year, forced political actors to abandon the post-electoral inactivity of 2013 and to position themselves for the upcoming May and November elections.

The most important move was the split of USL; the Liberals deciding to leave the governing coalition. This failed to surprise anyone, given that analysts and politicians have been continuously predicting the split since the 2012 elections. The Liberals’ exit had a number of significant consequences. First, it became clear for everyone that two of the most important projects of USL, regionalization and the Constitution, will be shelved at least until after the presidential elections. Second, needing a new majority in the Parliament, PSD continued to cannibalize the parliamentary group of the Popular Party of Dan Diaconescu (PPDD), either directly, or through the two satellite parties included in the coalition: PC and UNPR. The needed majority was obtained by inviting UDMR to join the governing coalition.

On the right side of the political spectrum (assuming that left and right have at least some symbolic relevance for Romanian politics) the upcoming elections for the European Parliament have failed to offer an incentive for the small parties to form an alliance, so that at least five political parties will compete for the same votes: PNL, PDL, PMP, FC, and PNȚCD. Their performance in these elections will probably serve as the basis for negotiating possible alliances for the presidential elections.

Moldova – European Integration and Russian Annexation

Matthew Ciscel, Central Connecticut State University

Events over the last several months in Ukraine have had a substantive impact on the Republic of Moldova. Concerns about the stability of the new authorities in Kiev and the heavy-handed annexation of Crimea by Russia have sparked fears and hopes on both sides of the Nistru River. The government in Chișinău, which continues to struggle with its own problems of corruption and inefficacy, has moved to hasten closer ties with the EU while refraining from stronger condemnations of Russia’s actions, such as those coming out of Bucharest. Meanwhile, in breakaway Transnistria’s capital, Tiraspol, the separatist leader Evgheni Șevciuk has officially requested that Moscow also annex his territory, continuing to make statements supporting a Crimean-style annexation using the in-situ Russian peace-keeping troops. So far, Putin has not responded openly to these Transnistrian appeals. However, as Ukraine and Moldova work more concertedly to shore up the often leaky borders of this separatist region, the Russian authorities could use its isolation as an excuse to “defend” Russian citizens and speakers again as they did in Crimea. As has become familiar since independence, the legitimate authorities in Chișinău are in a very difficult position, one which they now share with the authorities in Kiev. They are stuck between a rather modest carrot from the West and a sizeable stick from the East. As they grow hungrier for the carrot, both countries are literally losing ground.
Romania’s Economic Outlook
Narcis Tulbure, University of Bucharest

Statistics show that the Romanian economy performed extremely well last year. While the rate of economic growth was 3.5 percent (the second in the European Union), the rate of inflation dropped to 1.55 percent, making last year the first time since the adoption of the new monetary policy regime that the Romanian central bank has reached its target. While many people complain about the difficulty of making ends meet, macroeconomic data provides only reasons for optimism.

Unfortunately, the economic growth did not materialize into better tax collection as the total budget revenues to GDP continued the decline of the previous year. Subsequently, new taxes and fees were imposed by the government. The most notorious is the recently adopted tax on special constructions (“taxa pe stâlp”) and the increased fuel tax applicable from April 1, 2014. Supporters of these measures argue that additional revenues will fund the building of highways and road infrastructures, but the opposition is afraid money will be allocated to local representatives of parties in power before the presidential elections of November.

The newly appointed, Harvard trained, Romanian Minister of Finance, Ioana Maria Petrescu, is trying to implement a new approach when it comes to improving tax collection. The main ingredients of her fiscal policy mix regard the limiting of cash payments and the voluntary compliance to tax payment. Although she hopes people will be willing to pay their dues to the state in order to fund the pensions of their elders, critics accuse her of glossing over governmental corruption and the misuse of funds by Romanian administration when making the connection between tax compliance and increased social benefits.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The conference Romania and Europe: Prospects for Development will be held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, on May 22-24, 2014. For details contact miruna.balosin@ubbcluj.ro

The conference Bodies in Between: Corporeality and Visuality from Historical Avant-garde to Social Media will be held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, on May 29-31, 2014. For details see http://teatrut.ubbcluj.ro/bodiesinbetween/

Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism will host a four-day annual meeting of the AESOP thematic group of Public Spaces and Urban Cultures in Bucharest, Romania (June 11-14, 2014). For details see http://www.aesop-planning.eu/blogs/en_GB/urban-cultures-and-public-spaces

The conference Nationalist Responses to Economic and Political Crises will be held at Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, on June 12-14, 2014. For details see http://nationalism.ceu.hu/Conference2014

The 4th International Neighbourhood Symposium will be held at Heybeliada, Turkey between from June 24 – June 29, 2014. This year’s Symposium will focus on “Exploring the Challenges of Political and Social Change in the Eastern Neighbourhood and the Mediterranean South.” For details see http://www.khas.edu.tr/en/cies/129

The 3rd Europe+ Narrative Therapy and Community Work Conference will be held at the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iaşi, Romania, on July 2-4, 2014. For details see http://3rd-narrative-conference.psiterra.ro/

The conference Looted Art and Restitution in the Twentieth Century: Europe in Transnational and Global Perspective will be held at Newnham College, Cambridge, on Sept 18-20, 2014. For details see http://arthist.net/archive/7065

The interdisciplinary conference Imagining Alternative Modernities: Interventions from the Balkans and South Asia will take place at The Ohio State University, Columbus, October 9-11, 2014. For details see http://sawyer.osu.edu/conference
**Summer Schools**

The **Archaeological Techniques and Research Center (ArchaeoTek)** is running a series of archaeological programs in Transylvania during 2014. The programs invite students and volunteers to explore and excavate an Iron Age Dacian Fortified Acropolis, a Roman villa, or a medieval necropolis. Details about these programs are available at [http://archaeotek.org/field_projects](http://archaeotek.org/field_projects)

The University of Illinois in Urbana-Champagne is organizing its annual **Summer Research Laboratory** from June 16 – August 8, 2014. The application deadline is April 15, 2014. For details see [http://www.reeec.illinois.edu/srl/](http://www.reeec.illinois.edu/srl/)


The research network **In Search of Transcultural Memory in Europe** invites applications for a training school for Ph.D. candidates to be held in Budapest, Hungary, from Sept 29 – Oct 3, 2014. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2014. For details contact Andrea Peto, [memory@ceu.hu](mailto:memory@ceu.hu)

A summer school on **Roma and Travellers: Mobility, Persecution and Memory** will be held in Helsinki, Finland on Aug 6-11, 2014. The application deadline is May 31 or July 31, 2014. For details contact [summer-school@helsinki.fi](mailto:summer-school@helsinki.fi)

The Jean Monnet Summer School on **Resistance, Protest and Social Change in the EU** will be held at the University of Surrey, UK, from June 23-28, 2014 The application deadline is May 1, 2014. For details contact Mirela Dumic, [m.dumic@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:m.dumic@surrey.ac.uk)

The Romanian Cultural Institute is running its annual **Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization course** in Brașov July 1-26, 2014. For details see [http://www.icr.ro/cursuri_brasov2014](http://www.icr.ro/cursuri_brasov2014)

The University of Bucharest is running its 54rd **Summer Course in Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization** from July 21 – August 3, 2014. For details see [http://www.unibuc.ro/n/studii/coli-de-vara/curs-de-vara-de-limb-roma-de-cult-i-civi-roma-php/](http://www.unibuc.ro/n/studii/coli-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 28 to August 8, 2014. For details see [http://rolang.ro/Romanian-summer-school.php](http://rolang.ro/Romanian-summer-school.php)
Conference Report

The 7th Annual Romanian Studies Conference at Indiana University Bloomington

On April 4th and 5th, students and faculty as well as local and international scholars and guests came together for the 7th Annual Romanian Studies Conference at Indiana University Bloomington. This year, the Romanian Studies Organization brought to the Bloomington campus a group of presenters whose research once again demonstrated the vibrant energy and compelling scholarship in the field of Romanian Studies. A variety of themes intersected and complicated one another, from European migration to religious practices, folk music, and anti-Semitism during the past two centuries in Romania.

The panelists’ presentations proposed a series of compelling questions and lines of inquiry that continue to intrigue our scholarly community. Alexandra Coțofană asked to what extent inhabitants of Bucovina differentiate between magic and religious beliefs. Leonard Leid investigated the ways in which Hungarian and Romanian peasants resist state control over production methods and the subsidization of agro-farms. Focusing on circular and permanent migration as social practice after 1989, Elena Popa argued that Romanian immigrants in the Bordeaux area of France challenge current conceptions of migration in the European Union. Shaun Williams explored the performance of “lăutar” (Romani musician) identity in border regions of Ukraine and Moldova. Ana Fumurescu examined the extent of socialization to the European Union’s democratic principles that has affected the strength of Romanian civil society. Dr. Bogdan Popa took issue with the rhetoric of plagiarism that has emerged in contemporary Romania and whose effects have a strong political character. Ruxandra Canache analyzed the ways in which dissidence and political propaganda were enacted in Vama Veche during the last decades of Communism. Last but definitely not least, Grant Harward, Dr. Ion Popa, and Jason Vincz presented the ways in which oppression, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia were disseminated via a series of state institutions and media such as the Orthodox church, news comics, and literature during the first half of the twentieth century in Romania.

Photograph courtesy of Shaun Williams
This year, the conference organizers invited three special guests. Professor Keith Hitchins from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, delivered the keynote address entitled “The Touchstone of the Romanian Essence: Europe.” In his writings, Professor Hitchins addresses the emergence of modern nationalism and analyzes cultural and political national movements in Romania, the wider Central and Southeastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. Along with Professor Hitchins, virtuoso țambal (hammered dulcimer) player and bandleader Nicolae Feraru delighted audiences with a musical workshop and concert. Born in Bucharest, Romania, Mr. Feraru is a 2013 recipient of the prestigious NEA National Heritage Fellowship and the heir to a long line of Roma musicians. The evening concert by Nicolae Feraru and his band (featuring Laurențiu Feraru and Pavel Cebzan, who played for years with Gheorghe Zamfir) was hosted by the Player’s Pub, a popular live music venue in the heart of Bloomington, and was very well attended (~150 audience members). Individuals of diverse religious and ethno-cultural backgrounds were present both at the concert and at the conference (from Romanians to Americans, Ukrainians, Russians, British, Bulgarians, Iraqis, Mexicans, and Koreans). Moved by Feraru’s lively music, these diverse people came together to form the traditional circle of the hora. Locking hands and sometimes arms, the multicultural dancers improvised steps that expressed both their respective interpretation of Romanian music and their individual personalities. Finally, Director of the Romanian Cultural Institute (ICR) in New York City, Doina Uricariu, also joined the conference. Her visit in Bloomington constituted a great occasion to explore further collaborations between Indiana University and ICR.

Photograph courtesy of Shaun Williams

This wonderful conference would not have been possible without the help and support of several sponsors such as the School of Global and International Studies, the Indiana University Student Association, the Russian and East European Institute, the Department of History, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Equally important was the mentorship received from Professors Maria Bucur-Deckard, Christina Zarifopol-Illias, and Aurelian Crăiuțu who chaired the panels. Finally, a number of excellent graduate students including Elena Popa, president of the Romanian Studies Organization, Shaun Williams, and Jason Vincz, dedicated many weeks of preparation to organizing this event. As the organizers begin planning the 8th annual Romanian Studies Conference, they hope to see all of you in Bloomington next year.

- Shaun Williams, Elena Popa, and Roxana Cazan
ASN CONVENTION PROGRAM

The Association for the Study of Nationalities will hold its 19th world convention in New York on April 24-26, 2014.

Panels and papers relating to Romania and Moldova include:

THURSDAY, APRIL 24
SESSION I: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

PANEL M5: Refugees: Law and Politics. Irina Culic (Babeș-Bolyai U, Romania) will chair the panel.

SESSION II: 1:20 - 3:20 PM

PANEL N13: Memory Activism: Contested Memories in and After Conflict. Felicia Waldman (U of Bucharest, Romania) will chair the panel.


SESSION III 3:40 - 5:40 PM
PANEL CE19: Academic Anti-Semitism in Romania, Past and Present with papers by Lucian Nastasa-Kovacs (Babes-Bolyai U, Romania) “Ghettos in Amphitheatres”: Premises of a Radical Subculture in Interwar Romania, Adrian Cioflanca (Xenopol History Institute, Romania) Confronting Ex-Cathedra Antisemitism: Jewish Voices against Interwar Scholars Cuza and Paulescu, Felicia Waldman (U of Bucharest, Romania) The Life of Jewish Professors in Romanian Universities from Late 19th Century to the End of World War II, and Michael Shafir (Babes-Bolyai U, Romania) Unacademic Academics: Holocaust Deniers and Trivializers in Postcommunist Romania. Esther Romeyn (U of Florida) will chair the panel and Mihai Chioveanu (U of Bucharest, Romania) will be the discussant.
SESSION IV: 6:20 – 8:20 PM
PANEL BK22: Rethinking Post-Communist Memory Politics: Reinvention, Prolongation, Equation.
Michael Shafir (Babeş-Bolyai U, Romania) will be the discussant.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25
SESSION V: 9:00 - 11:00 AM
PANEL CE7: War, Society and the Nation in Central and Eastern Europe with a paper by Erin Hutchinson (Harvard U) Soviet Identity and Monuments to the Great Patriotic War in the Armenian and Moldovan SSRs.

PANEL M1: Eastern European Diasporas with a paper by Irina Culic (Babeş-Bolyai U, Romania) Ethnicity through Migration: A Social-Historical Relational Account of Ethnicity at Romanian Immigrants in Canada.

SESSION VI: 11:20 AM - 1:20 PM
PANEL CE14: German National Identity and Nationalism with a paper by Stephanie Skier (LSE, UK/Columbia U) Romania as a Space of German Cultural Work, circa 1900.

SESSION VII: 2:50 - 4:50 PM
PANEL BK8: The Memory of Socialism with a paper by Raluca Mateoc (U of Fribourg, Switzerland) Remembering Life in the Romanian Collectivized Village: Constructing and Contesting the Past in Narrative Interviews. Cristina Dragomir (SUNY, Oswego) will be the discussant.

SESSION VII: 2:50 - 4:50 PM
PANEL CE6: Transborder Transactions in Central Europe with a paper by Ana Ribeiro (U of Paris Ouest, France) Identities in Movement: Romanian Women and the Foreigner in Contemporary Cinema.

SESSION VII: 5:10 - 7:10 PM
PANEL U12: Ukrainians and Belarusians: Nations Between East and West with a paper by Anna Shirakanova (Belarusian State U, Belarus) Social Solidarity in Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine: Resources for Reconstruction.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26
SESSION IX 9:00 - 11:00 AM
PANEL CE5: Re-Writing Histories in the Interwar (National) Canon: Reappraisals of Memory and Radical Nationalism in Romania and Serbia with papers by Cristina Bejan (Duke U) From Vichy to Swaraj: The Untold Story of Romanians and Fascism in North Africa and India, and Ionuț Biliuța (US Holocaust Memorial Museum) From Frontline Heroes to Fascist Martyrs: The Interwar Memory of World War I in the Romanian Iron Guard’s Imaginary. Irina Livezeanu (U of Pittsburgh) will chair the panel and Anca Şîncan (Central European U, Budapest, Hungary) will be the discussant.
SESSION X: 11:20 AM - 1:20 PM
PANEL CE16: Central European Nationalism Before the First World War with papers by Anca Mandru (U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) “Nationalism as a National Danger”? Early Romanian Socialists and the Paradoxes of the National Question, 1880-1914, Timothy Olin (Purdue U) The “Toleration” of Jews and Romani in the Habsburg Balkans, and Ionas Rus (U of Cincinnati Blue Ash College) Romanian Nationalism in the Elections of 1907 and 1911 in Bukovina. Daniel Unowsky (U of Memphis) will be the discussant.

PANEL U14: Ukraine Between Russia and Romania/Moldova with papers by Angela Kachuyevski (Arcadia U) Thawing the Moldova-Transdniestria Conflict: Ukrainian European Integration and New Possibilities for Resolution and Eleanor Knott (LSE, UK) What Does it Mean to be a Kin Majority? Analysing Romanian Identity in Moldova and Russian Identity in Crimea from Below.

SESSION XI: 2:50 - 4:50 PM
PANEL CE8: Memory in Central Europe with papers by Alin Rus (U of Massachusetts) Intangible Heritage and Social Change: A Romanian Example, and Monica Ciobanu (Plattsburgh State U) The Challenge of Competing Pasts in Romania.

PANEL CE17: Representing Nationality and Identity in Central Europe with a paper by Roxana Adina Huma (U of Plymouth, UK) Representing Liminality: Romanian Portrayals of the 2009 Moldovan ‘Twitter Revolution’.

Session XII: 5:10 - 7:10 PM
PANEL CE9: Religion and Nationalism in Central and Western Europe with papers by Anca Şincan (Central European U, Hungary) Transylvanian Orthodox and Greek Catholics: Rewriting Regional Histories into the National Canon in Interwar Romania, Ana Raluca Bigu (U of Bucharest, Romania) Nationalistic Discourse in Religious Education Textbooks: The Case of Post-communist Romania, and Anastasia Mitrofanova (Russian Orthodox U, Moscow) “There Can Be No Symphony with Godless Authorities”: Orthodox Intellectuals and Radical Religiopolitical Movements in Moldova. Alexander Mirescu (St. Peter’s U) will be the discussant.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Conference: Consumption and Economic Crises: Post-Socialist Experiences
Date: Oct 9-10, 2014
Place: Moscow, Russia
Deadline for Proposals: April 15, 2014
Details: www.everydayeconomies.net/workshop

Conference: Living after the Fall(?): Past-Present in Southeastern Europe
Date: June 12-13, 2014
Place: Sofia, Bulgaria
Deadline for Proposals: April 18, 2014
Contact: Cristofer Scarboro, cristoferscarboro@kings.edu
Conference: Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe: A new generation on the move  
Date: Dec 4-5, 2014  
Place: Södertörn University, Huddinge, Sweden  
Deadline for Proposals: April 20, 2014  
Details: [http://webappo.web.sh.se/CBEESannual2014](http://webappo.web.sh.se/CBEESannual2014)

Conference: Contemporary Challenges of Multiculturalism and Language Policies  
Date: May 16-17, 2014  
Place: Tetovo, Macedonia  
Deadline for Proposals: April 25, 2014  
Contact: mvdsi@seeu.edu.mk

Journal: Studies in History and Theory of Architecture  
Special Issue: Indigenous Aliens: Mediators of Architectural Modernity  
Deadline for Abstracts: April 30, 2014  
Contact: Toader Popescu, sita@uauim.ro

Symposium: African Students in the USSR and Other Former Eastern Bloc Countries, 1960-1990: From National Histories to an International Context  
Date: Nov 20-21, 2014  
Place: Paris, France  
Deadline for abstracts: April 30, 2014  
Details: [http://riae.hypotheses.org/270](http://riae.hypotheses.org/270)

Conference: Classics and Communism in Theater  
Date: Jan 15-18, 2015  
Place: Warsaw, Poland  
Deadline for proposals: May 2, 2014  
Details: [http://www.classics.si](http://www.classics.si)

Conference: Forgetting as a trauma management: Case of Central and Eastern Europe  
Date: Oct 9-10, 2014  
Place: Wroclaw, Poland  
Deadline for proposals: May 4, 2014  
Details: [http://www.acadeuro.wroclaw.pl/](http://www.acadeuro.wroclaw.pl/)

Conference: Warsaw East European Conference  
Date: July 10-13, 2014  
Place: Warsaw, Poland  
Deadline for proposals: May 10, 2014  
Details: [http://www.studium.uw.edu.pl/weec/call-for-papers](http://www.studium.uw.edu.pl/weec/call-for-papers)
Conference: School vs. Memory? Conflict, Identity, Coexistence (Central Europe)
Date: Oct 10-11, 2014
Place: Prague, Czech Republic
Deadline for Proposals: May 11, 2014
For more details: http://www.schoolxmemory.eu/call-for-abstracts.html

Collected volume: Religious and Sexual Nationalism in Eastern Europe: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives
Editors: Srdjan Sremac and R. Ruard Ganzevoort (VU University Amsterdam)
Deadline for Proposals: May 15, 2014
Contact: sexualnationalism@livedreligion.org

Journal: Slovo, journal of the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies
Deadline for Proposals: May 15, 2014
Contact: slovo@ssees.ucl.ac.uk

Journal: History of Communism in Europe
Special Issue: Narratives of Legitimation in Totalitarian Regimes in the 20th Century Europe – Heroes, Villains, Intrigues and Outcomes
Deadline for Proposals: June 1, 2014
Contact: dalia.bathory@gmail.com

Conference: Crises and Resistance in Central and Eastern Europe
Date: Nov 22-23, 2014
Place: Warsaw, Poland
Deadline for Proposals: June 1, 2014
Details: http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdeb20/current#.UzDOFah_sgl

Journal: Hungarian Historical Review
Special Issue: The Holocaust in Central and Eastern Europe
Deadline for Abstracts: June 30, 2014
Details: http://www.hunghist.org

Conference: Western Balkans and the European Union: Lessons from past enlargements, challenges to further integrations
Date: Oct 8, 2014
Place: Sofia, Bulgaria
Deadline for Proposals: Sept 1, 2014
Contact: Tsvetalina Marinova, tsvetelina.marinova@gmail.com
Fellowships & Prizes

The Summer Research Laboratory (SRL) on Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia is open to all scholars with research interests in the Russian, East European and Eurasian region for eight weeks during the summer months from June 16 until August 8. The application deadline is April 15. For details see http://www.reeec.illinois.edu/srl/?utm_source=ASEEES&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2014%20SRL

The Kathryn W. Davis Travel Grant helps subsidize travel costs for graduate students presenting papers at the 2014 ASEEES Convention. The organization is especially committed to subsidizing those graduate students who are attending the convention for the first time or who have no local institutional resources for travel support. Students may only receive one Davis Graduate Travel Grant over the course of their graduate studies. Deadline: April 15, 2014. For details see http://aseees.org/convention/davisgrant.html

The Open Society’s Civil Society Scholar Awards support international academic mobility to enable doctoral students and university faculty from Moldova to access resources essential to their professional development as a scholar, teacher, or public intellectual. The application deadline is April 27, 2014. For details see http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-scholar-awards

The Midwest Slavic Association Student Essay Competition is seeking undergraduate and graduate papers on any topic related to Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies. In order to be considered for the Student Essay Prizes, students should send to Dr. Brian Baer (bbaer@kent.edu) their essay by Wednesday, April 30, 2014.

The Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History is awarded for an outstanding work of twentieth-century history in one of the Wiener Library’s fields of interest, i.e. the history of Central and Eastern Europe; Jewish history; the two world wars; anti-semitism; and the ideologies and movements of political extremism and totalitarianism. The closing date for entries is April 30, 2014. For details see http://www.wienerlibrary.co.uk/Fraenkel-Prize

The Carnegie Fellowship Research Program brings Russian and former Soviet scholars to the United States for short-term, non-degree research at American universities and research institutions. The CRFP competition is open to university, faculty, researchers, advanced graduate students, and scholars in the social sciences and humanities from Moldova. The deadline to apply for this year’s competition is April 30, 2014. For details see http://nceeer.org/programs/carnegie-fellowship.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, 2014. For more information see http://www.aseees.org/prizes/studentprize.html

The Rule of Law Program of The Hague Institute for Global Justice, in partnership with The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) based in South Africa, will be hosting and leading a one-week intensive and unique training program on transitional justice and the functioning of international courts and tribunals. The Hague Institute offers a fellowship to attend the program in The Hague. Deadline: May 17, 2014. For details see http://thehagueinstituteforglobaljustice.org/index.php?page=News-News_Articles-Recent_News-
Call for Applications: Transitional Justice Fellowship Program

The Woodrow Wilson Center 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, 2014. For details see http://www.wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/east-european-studies-short-term-research-scholarships.

The European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS) Fellowship Programme is an international researcher mobility programme offering 10-month residencies in one of the 16 participating Institutes. The Programme welcomes applications worldwide from promising young scholars as well as from leading senior researchers. The deadline for applications is June 5, 2014. For details see http://www.2015-2016.eurias-fp.eu/

The core competition for the 2015-2016 Fulbright Scholar Program is currently open. With the exception of the seminar offerings, the deadline for all awards is August 1, 2014. For 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, 2014. For more details see http://www.aseees.org/prizes/studentprize.html

The journal Dapim – Studies on the Holocaust is awarding a $600 prize for the best article in Holocaust studies. For details, see http://israbib.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/hu-call4articles-2014-rev44.pdf

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


**Membership Reminder**

We use dues to help with monetary prizes for outstanding publications and to budget and pay for the cost of our upcoming 7th International Conference, which will be held in Bucharest in June 2015. You may renew your membership or join SRS, at the SRS website: (http://www.society4romanianstudies.org/#!how-to-join/cih8) 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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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.