



# SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



The heavy winter of 2015 did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the many SRS members who volunteered to help our many activities. This will be an extremely busy year for the Society. We will present members with amended by-laws designed to restructure our leadership, clarify responsibilities of key officers, align officers' mandates with the international conference schedule, mention our new activities

(not least among them the SRS-Polirom book collection), and reflect our expanded presence on social media. Paul Michelson (chair), Irina Livezeanu, Jim Augerot, and Roland Clark have been busy discussing the amendments. Once the amended by-laws are adopted, the Society will organize elections for a number of leadership positions with mandates starting in January 2016. You'll all hear more news on this front soon.

This year we will award two prizes for the best book and graduate student essay that contribute significantly to the field of Romanian Studies, broadly conceived. The ceremony will take place at the November meeting of the Association (ASEEES), during the SRS annual general meeting. As in previous years, the prizes carry monetary rewards (of 500USD for the book and 300USD for the essay), and the calls for titles will be posted on our website. The book prize will be decided by a committee formed of Holly Case (chair), Vladimir Solonari, and Jim Augerot. The essay prize committee includes Delia Popescu (chair), Inessa Medzhibovskaya, and Ben Thorne. Please encourage your colleagues and students to submit their work!

Registration for our June 2015 international conference in Bucharest is now closed, and the program will be soon available on our website. The conference will include as many as 81 panels and roundtables, as well as four book and

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movie sessions. We are honored that two well-known Romanian Studies scholars, Professors Mihaela Miroiu and Dennis Deletant, have agreed to deliver keynote speeches. More than 310 participants from Romania, Moldova, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States will join us in Bucharest on June 17-19 for a conference that promises to be larger than those held in Sibiu and Constanta, and no less interesting. We are grateful for the dedication of our conference organizing committee formed of Monica Ciobanu (chair), Oana Suciu, Margaret Beissinger, Roxana Cazan, Valentina Glajar, Cristian Romocea, Igor Cașu. Special thanks to our Treasurer, Bill Crowther, who diligently tracked down all registrations and kept out records updated during what turned to be a hectic period. The conference has a dedicated webpage, <http://www.society4romanianstudies.org/#!2015-conference/c1p14>, which will be updated regularly. Please let us know if information related to the

you want to see any specific conference venue!

Two additional activities should be happy that Roland Clark's *Holy Activism in Interwar Romania* Romanian translation in the SRS-book draws heavily on files from CNSAS collections to show that, "by joining the Legion and

*The conference will include as many as 81 panels and roundtables, as well as four book and movie sessions.*

be mentioned here. We are *Legionary Youth: Fascist* was accepted for publication in Polirom book collection. The the National Archives and in the words of one reviewer, embracing its causes, a

generation of Romanian youth came to know themselves as political actors, able through their words and deeds to shape the direction of Romanian society in ways that had profound consequences for interwar Romania and that continue to reverberate even today." This is the second volume in our collection, following in the footsteps of Vladimir Solonari's *Purifying the Nation: Population Exchange and Ethnic Cleansing in Nazi-Allied Romania*, a rigorous, archive-based analysis arguing that the persecution of Jews and Roma by the Romanian government was not a response to pressure from the country's ally, Nazi Germany, but rather stemmed from the vision of an ethnically pure Romania. Last, I want to thank our dedicated team of volunteers, especially Roland Clark and Emilian Ghelase, for helping us maintain a constant presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Academia.edu and for regularly updating our website. Our Facebook page has gathered as many as 1,492 likes (more than three times the number registered in early 2014), whereas our LinkedIn group has 101 members. Our Facebook posts sometimes reach over 3,800 individuals. This strong presence is befitting of our membership, which has expanded this year twofold. We encourage all of you to send us news items you think are of interest to Romanian scholars and students!

Stay connected and check our website frequently! Looking forward to meeting all of you in Bucharest.

Lavinia Stan  
St. Xavier University  
[lstan@stfx.ca](mailto:lstan@stfx.ca)  
President, Society for Romanian Studies

## 2015 SRS BOOK PRIZE

The Society for Romanian Studies invites nominations for the **Third 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 2013 and 31 December 2014 as indicated by the copyright date. *Edited books, translations and non-scholarly books are not eligible.*

The prize will be presented at the ASEES National Convention in Philadelphia in 2015 and carries with it an award of \$500. Nominations will be due to the SRS prize committee by **1 June 2015**.

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

### Book Prize Committee Members:

Holly Case (Chair) Department of History Cornell University 450 McGraw Hall Ithaca, NY 14853 <a href="mailto:hac27@cornell.edu">hac27@cornell.edu</a>	James Augerot Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures University of Washington Box 353580 Seattle, Washington 98195-3580	Vladimir Solonari Department of History University of Central Florida Orlando, FL 32816-1350
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## SRS GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE

The Society for Romanian Studies is pleased to announce the Seventh 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 any topic in Romanian Studies, broadly conceived. The 2015 prize, consisting of \$300, will be presented at the ASEES National Convention in Philadelphia, PA. The competition is open to current M.A. and doctoral students, or to those who defended dissertations in the academic year 2014-2015. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written in 2014-2015. 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, please contact Delia Popescu at [popescd@lemoyne.edu](mailto:popescd@lemoyne.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 **1 July 2015**.

Dr. Delia Popescu, Committee Chair  
[popescd@lemoyne.edu](mailto:popescd@lemoyne.edu)

Dr. Inessa Medzhibovskaya  
[medzhibi@newschool.edu](mailto:medzhibi@newschool.edu)

Dr. Benjamin Thorne  
[b.thorne@wingate.edu](mailto:b.thorne@wingate.edu)

## FROM THE SECRETARY



In spring, poets tell us, the Romanianist's fancy turns to thoughts of international Romanian studies congresses. The upcoming event in Bucharest will be our seventh such meeting since the first one in Paris in 1986, and will conclude three decades of such

experiences, working out to one every four years or so. The others were Iași, 1993; Cluj, 1997; Suceava, 2001; Constanța, 2007; and Sibiu, 2012.

A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then, the most notable "events" of this period being the unlamented demise of the Socialist Republic of Romania in 1989, and the equally unmourned collapse of the USSR in 1991, which allowed Moldova to gain its independence. The focus of the seventh meeting – "Linking Past, Present, and Future: The 25th Anniversary of Regime Change in Romania and Moldova (1989/1991)" – is, therefore, hugely appropriate and relevant; and not just another clichéd manifestation of anniversaromania. (Possibly Amusing *Epoca de Aur* anecdote: "What great event happened in 1922? Ceaușescu was four years old.")

This is no mere academic exercise for most of us. In light of current events in Romanian politics and culture, I am sure that we all profoundly hope that this congress will not only help scholars understand the Romanian past, but will contribute to the Romanian present and unfolding of a brighter future for a people and culture that many of us have committed our academic and personal lives to.

On another front, we will soon be nominating candidates for the leadership of the Society for Romanian Studies for 2016-2017. If you have people you would like to recommend or if you have questions about the process, please feel free to contact the chair of the nominating committee, Irina Livezeanu, University of Pittsburgh ([irlznu@gmail.com](mailto:irlznu@gmail.com)). She is assisted by Bruce O'Neill (St. Louis University) and Paul Sum (University of North Dakota).

A formal call for nominations will be coming this summer, pending action on a list of proposals for modifying the current bylaws. I have been asked to chair an ad-hoc committee to fine tune our 2011 bylaws in the light of the experiences of the last five years. We are considering changing the length of officers' terms, the number of elected officers, and starting dates for terms of office, among other items. If you have suggested modifications for the bylaws (I'm sure there are a lot of you out there who have been pouring over the bylaws and wishing for changes), please raise them with me. Some of these items will need to be clarified before the nominating committee can to its work, so we hope to get recommendations to the Board before summer begins.

I hope that you are all winding down a successful spring semester, that you are planning to be with us at the 7th International Congress in Bucharest, and that I will be able to see you there.

*Paul E. Michelson*  
Huntington University  
[pmichelson@huntington.edu](mailto:pmichelson@huntington.edu)  
Secretary, Society for Romanian Studies

*This congress will not only help scholars understand the Romanian past, but will contribute to the Romanian present and future.*

## 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



Volume 28 of *Balkanistica* is forthcoming in April 2015. 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.

## ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS: CEPOS

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. The Center also publishes [Revista de Științe Politice / Revue des Sciences Politiques](#). For more information please email: [cepos2013@yahoo.com](mailto:cepos2013@yahoo.com), [cepos2013@gmail.com](mailto:cepos2013@gmail.com). publishes [Revista de Științe Politice / Revue des Sciences Politiques](#). For more information please email: [cepos2013@yahoo.com](mailto:cepos2013@yahoo.com), [cepos2013@gmail.com](mailto:cepos2013@gmail.com).

## 2015 CONFERENCE IN BUCHAREST

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 twentieth 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. 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 and the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at the University College, London



**Mihaela Miroiu**

National School of Political Science and Administration, Bucharest

The conference will include as many as 81 panels and roundtables, as well as four book and movie sessions, with a total of 310 participants. Papers reflect a broad range of disciplines including religion, transitional justice, history, political science literature, gender and feminism, film studies, health care, education.

On the evening of June 16 (the day before the conference) there will be a screening of *Poarta Alba*, a 2014 movie directed by Nicolae Margineanu, followed by Q & A with the director. On June 20 a group of participants will visit the Râmnicu-Sarat prison. This trip is sponsored by the Institute for the Investigation of Crimes of Communism and the Memory of the Romanian Exile.

## ORGANIZATIONAL PATRONS: FSPUB

UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCUREȘTI  
UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST  
UNIVERSITÉ DE BUCAREST

FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



**FACULTATEA DE ȘTIINȚE POLITICE**

FACULTÉ DE SCIENCES POLITIQUES

[www.fspub.eu](http://www.fspub.eu), [www.fspub.unibuc.ro](http://www.fspub.unibuc.ro)

Multilingual and highly interdisciplinary in focus, the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Bucharest (FSPUB) was the first Romanian higher education institution created in direct opposition with the communist regime. Although relatively small in size, the FSPUB has been since its establishment in 1991 the leading Romanian social science hub for quality teaching and research at top international standards. It currently has a community of over 1300 students, cca. 10 000 alumni, 46 tenured professors and 50 guest professors, four research centers, two scientific journals indexed in international databases, a doctoral school and the largest Romanian network of national and international partners in both academia and the professional milieu.

Programs: BA in Political Science (in English), BA in Political Science (in French), BA in Political Science (in Romanian), BA in Security Studies (in Romanian), MA in Comparative Politics (in English, joint program with the University of Wroclaw, Poland), MA Politics in Europe: States, societies, borders (in French, joint program with the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris), MA Policies of Equal Opportunity (partly in French, program completely integrated to the European Master EGALES), MA in International Relations (in Romanian), MA in European Studies (in Romanian), MA European and Romanian Politics (in Romanian), PhD in Political Science (in Romanian, with the possibility to write the thesis in a foreign language and external co-supervision)

## ORGANIZATIONAL PATRONS: ASE



**The Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE)** is the most prestigious Romanian higher education institution in the fields of Economics, Business Administration and Public Administration. Established by Royal Decree on April 6, 1913, the University has educated numerous generations of graduates who have become leading figures in their fields. With over 23 000 students enrolled in the 11 faculties, ASE Bucharest is one of the largest universities in Romania, and one of the largest specialized universities in Central and Eastern Europe.

Faculties – BA, MA, MSc and PhD programs: Accounting and Management Information Systems (in English or Romanian), Agrifood and Environmental Economics (in Romanian), Business Administration in foreign languages (in English, French or German), Business and Tourism (in English or Romanian), Cybernetics, Statistics and Economic Informatics (in English or Romanian), Finance, Insurance, Banking and Stock Exchange (in English or Romanian), International Economics and Business (in English or Romanian), Public Administration and Management (in Romanian), Management (in English or Romanian), Marketing (in English or Romanian), Theoretical and Applied Economics (in Romanian).

## H-ROMANIA

H-Romania <<https://networks.h-net.org/h-romania>> was successfully launched last year. At present, we have 193 subscribers to the network. We have also published three reviews, including Marius Turda's review of Keith Hitchins's *A Concise History of Romania* (Cambridge, 2014); Lavinia Stan's review of Igor Cașu's *Dușmanul de clasă: Represiuni politice, violență și rezistență în R(A)SS Moldovenească, 1924-1956* (Chișinău, 2014); and Răzvan Pârâianu's review of Toader Popescu's *Proiectul feroviar românesc (1842-1916)* (Bucharest, 2014), with several more expected by this summer. While we are happy with our progress thus far, we still have room to grow and improve. We want to encourage SRS members to join H-Romania and publicize the network across the broad field of Romanian Studies. Please feel free to contribute postings and announcements, notify us of any recently published books and calls for papers/applications in your field, and volunteer to review books and report on conferences.



For anyone still unfamiliar with the network, 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 also affiliated with the Society for Romanian Studies (SRS).

To join H-Romania (and set up an H-Net account), following these steps:

1. Go to <<https://networks.h-net.org/>>, click on "Sign up to subscribe & contribute" atop the right-hand column of the webpage.
2. On the Sign up page, enter your First Name, Last Name, and E-mail address. Then click the box labeled "Accept Terms & Conditions of Use." You will also be asked to enter a series of numbers or letters into a Spam Protection tool, in order to verify that you're an actual person attempting to register. Finally, click "Create new account".
3. 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>>.
4. In the righthand column, next to an icon of an envelope, click "Subscribe to this network to join the discussion." You can then complete your H-Net profile, indicating institutional affiliation, degrees, short bio and areas of interest, by clicking on the accounts icon in the upper right, then selecting the "Profile" option from the drop-down menu.

*R. Chris Davis and Valentin Săndulescu, Editors*

## SOUNDBITES ON ROMANIA

### **Romanian Economic Outlook – April 2015**

*Narcis Tulbare, Bucharest University of Economic Studies*

During the last few weeks, the Romanian media has presented numerous cases of small businesses (restaurants, grocery stores, and other retailers) that were verified by the National Agency for Fiscal Administration (ANAF) and closed due to the petty acts of tax evasion (mostly, cash balances in excess of the recorded revenues). Supporters of these rough control measures argue that laws should be equally applied to all taxpayers - from the biggest companies to the smallest family businesses - as a “culture of tax evasion” is widespread in Romania. They also point at the efficiency of such controls as the official sales in some sectors (for example, meat processing) have dramatically increased with the elimination of informal operators. Critics, however, argue that the state is very efficient when it comes to shutting down small businesses but does not prove equally eager to control big companies or to liquidate the assets confiscated from those convicted in cases of corruption. Furthermore, closing down businesses for petty acts of tax evasion fuels unemployment and ultimately threatens to reduce the tax base.

The spectacular campaigns targeting corruption and tax evasion have shifted attention away from some equally significant developments in the Romanian economy: the good economic results of 2014 (2.8 % GDP growth, 1.1% CPI-measured inflation, 5.29% unemployment rate at the end of the year), the likely completion of the current stand-by agreement with the IMF in September 2015, the improved collection of the value added tax during the first months of 2015, or the new fiscal code currently adopted by the Government. While the Prime Minister argues that the cuts in taxes operated over a multi-year period starting with 2016 (reduction of value added tax [TVA], social security contributions [CAS], property taxes, excise tax for specific products and even of the flat tax rate starting in 2019) will further stimulate economic growth, critics of the new fiscal policies, such as the Romanian Fiscal Council, argue that the planned tax reductions - not match by measures to stimulate budget revenues - will prove unsustainable and can generate disequilibria.

### **Civil Society and the National Anticorruption Directorate Put Pressure on the Political System**

*Claudiu D. Tufiş, University of Bucharest*

The rather unexpected win of Klaus Iohannis in the November presidential elections led to a set of interesting developments in Romanian politics. Key among these are the counter-balancing of PSD and Victor Ponta’s political power, the continued independence of the justice system from unwanted political influences, and a temporary opening in opportunities for people putting forward political demands. The presidential elections provided the main political parties with a good opportunity to break old alliances and to forge new ones. PSD kept Victor Ponta as its leader, managed to expel the leaders of the internal opposition (Mircea Geoană and Marean Vanghelie) and prepared itself for some unwanted attention on the anti-corruption topic. PNL selected Alina Gorghiu as its leader, a rather unexpected choice given that one would not necessarily have considered her as part of the senior group in the party. PNL and PDL are moving forward with their attempt to join forces into a

new political party, a process that is going to be long and plagued by multiple battles at the level of the local charters. New political parties have been announced (one on the center-left, led by Geoană, one on the center-right, led by Călin Popescu Tăriceanu and another one further to the right, led by Monica Macovei) but it is still unclear if any of them are going to succeed. For the moment PSD (with help from PC and UNOR) still has a majority in the Parliament and it is unlikely this will change before the 2016 parliamentary elections.

The uncertainty generated in the political system by the results of the presidential elections is amplified by the increasing number of key politicians, from all parties and from all levels (national, county, and local), that have been investigated, arrested, or indicted by the National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA). In addition to cases that have already become public, there are credible rumors of cases that are still in the preliminary stages of the investigation and that will hurt even more the current cohort of politicians. At this moment the only thing that is clear enough is that DNA is still working at full capacity and that it seems to be able to do so for a while, despite the more or less desperate attempts of accused politicians to argue their innocence (ranging from fleeing the country to using religious paraphernalia for added protection).

One of the positive outcomes of the increased uncertainty in the political sphere is that it brought back into focus the idea of “people power.” Interpreted from a social movements perspective, the months since the presidential elections have been characterized by an opening in political opportunity structures. To a certain extent this is something that happens after every round of elections. What is new this time is that the civil society has decided to use it to advance its own agenda. The best example is offered by a coalition of NGOs grouped under the name of *Politică fără Bariere (Politics without Barriers)* that is proposing changes in the Political Party Law that are going to eliminate most of the barriers to political participation. The existence of this militant core, combined with its relative success in at least being acknowledged as a valid negotiation partner by political actors (including the Presidency) has led to more NGOs focusing on related issues and adding pressure on the political system for modifying the legislation governing the formation of political parties in Romania.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

A conference on **The Pleasures of Backwardness: Consumer Desire and Modernity in Eastern Europe** will be held at the University of California, Berkeley, on April 23-25, 2015. For details see <https://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=216359>

The **20th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN)** will be held at Columbia University, New York, on April 23-25, 2015. For details see <http://nationalities.org/conventions/world/2015/>

A conference on **The Holocaust in South-Eastern Europe** will be held in Bucharest, Romania, on May 25-26, 2015 at the Athénée Palace Hilton. For details see [http://www.usmmm.org/research/scholarly-](http://www.usmmm.org/research/scholarly-presentations/conferences/the-holocaust-in-southeastern-europe)

[presentations/conferences/the-holocaust-in-southeastern-europe](http://www.usmmm.org/research/scholarly-presentations/conferences/the-holocaust-in-southeastern-europe)

The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile (IICCMRE) will hold its **4th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Totalitarianism for PhD Students** in Bucharest on June 11-12, 2015. The theme of this year’s conference will be “Narratives on Totalitarianisms: Histories and Memories of Central and Eastern European Totalitarian Regimes.” For details see <http://www.pecob.eu/4th-Annual-Interdisciplinary-Conference-on-Totalitarianism>

The **47th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies** will be held in Philadelphia, PA, on November 19-22, 2015. For details see <http://www.aseees.org/convention>

## FELLOWSHIPS AND 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 15 until August 8. The application deadline is April 15. For details see

[http://www.reec.illinois.edu/srl/?utm\\_source=ASEEES&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=2014%20SRL](http://www.reec.illinois.edu/srl/?utm_source=ASEEES&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2014%20SRL)

**The Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Program (DDRA)** is currently accepting applications. The DDRA Program provides grants to colleges and universities to fund individual doctoral students who conduct research in other countries, in modern foreign languages and area studies for periods of six to 12 months. The deadline for applications is April 15, 2015. For more information see <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsddrap/index.html>

**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](mailto:bbaer@kent.edu)) their essay by Wednesday, April 30, 2015.

The French Ambassador and the French Language Institute in Romania are offering several post-doctoral fellowships for Romanian scholars. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2015. For details see <http://www.institutfrancais.ro/cluj-napoca/campus-france-cluj-napoca/bourses-post-doc/>

**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, 2015. For details see <http://nceeer.org/programs/carnegie-fellowship.html>

**The Canadian Association of Slavists' Taylor and Francis Book Prize** was established in 2014 and is sponsored by Taylor and Francis Publishers. It is awarded annually for the best academic book in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies published in the previous calendar year by a Canadian author (citizen or permanent resident). Nominations are to be postmarked by or on 22 May, 2015. For details see <http://www.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/awards&contests.html>

**The Kathryn W. Davis Travel Grant** helps subsidize travel costs for graduate students presenting papers at the 2015 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: May 22, 2015. For details see <http://aseees.org/convention/grants/davis>

**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, 2015. For more information see <http://www.aseees.org/programs/aseees-prizes/clir-distinguished-service-award>

The European University Institute (EUI) has launched the 2015 edition of the **Sørensen Research Grants**. These grants, open to all current non-EUI postgraduate students, aim to promote research on the history of European integration

through the primary resources held at the Historical Archives of the European Union. Deadlines for applications are: 30 June and 31 October. The research time provided at the HAEU in Florence is to last one month. For details see <http://www.eui.eu/Research/HistoricalArchivesOfEU/PostgraduateSorensenGrants-2015Edition.aspx>

## SUMMER SCHOOLS

The tenth **EUI Summer School in Transnational and Comparative History** will take place in September 2015 in the historic Villa Schifanoia set in beautiful gardens overlooking Florence. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2015. For details see <http://www.eui.eu/DepartmentsAndCentres/HistoryAndCivilization/SummerSchool/Index.aspx>

From September 13 to 19, 2015, the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) at Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany, will host the **25th annual PhD Summer School on Political Parties and Democracy of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Standing Group of Political Parties**. The deadline for applications in May 2, 2015. For details see <http://www.leuphana.de/en/research-centers/zdemo-english/junior-researchers/ecpr-summer-schools/summer-school-2015.html>

The Federația Comunităților Evreiești din România is organizing a summer school on **Landmarks in the History of Romanian Jewry** at Crișan (Jud. Brașov) from August 2-9, 2015. The deadline for applications is May 17, 2015. For details contact [scoaladevara.csier@gmail.com](mailto:scoaladevara.csier@gmail.com).

The Romanian Cultural Institute organizes and conducts **Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization Courses** in the 12th century citadel of Brașov. The course will run from July 1-26, 2015, and the deadline for applications is May 24, 2015. For details see [http://www.icr.ro/cursuri\\_brasov2015](http://www.icr.ro/cursuri_brasov2015)

RoLang is running a **Romanian Summer School** for foreigners in Sibiu from July 27 - August 7, 2015. The deadline for application to this program is **June 30, 2015**. For details see <http://rolang.ro/Romanian-summer-school.php>

The **Archaeological Techniques and Research Center (ArchaeoTek)** is running a series of archaeological programs in Transylvania during 2015. 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://www.archaeotek-archaeology.org/>

The University of Bucharest is running its 55th **Summer Course in Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization** from July 27 – August 9, 2015. For details see <http://www.unibuc.ro/n/studii/scolide-vara/curs-de-vara-de-limb-roma-de-cult-i-civi-roma-php/>

## EIGHTH ANNUAL ROMANIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON

The Romanian Studies Organization (RomSO) at Indiana University, Bloomington hosted its 8th Annual Romanian Studies Conference on March 27-28, 2015. The event attracted a considerable number of graduate students, professors, and scholars from a variety of US and non-US universities who share a common interest in Romania's past, present, and future lineage with respect to cultural, social, and political evolutions.

The first day of the conference was dedicated to the keynote address, delivered by Dr. Cristina Vatulescu, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, Russian and Slavic Studies at New York University. Her talk, titled "Multimedia in the Secret Police Archives: A Film, 2 Photo Albums, and 27 Files," offered a first-hand insight into the interplay between narrative and media multimodality of Secret Police information as preserved in



the Romanian state archives from the communist era. Professor Vatulescu's lecture focused on exposing the stereotypical usage of language as predetermined by the files' account alongside the visual spectrum of narration, which underlined the vile implication of Secret Police agents in the drafting process of reenacting a much debated event that took place in 1959, namely the heist at the National Bank of Romania. Professor Vatulescu was introduced to the audience by Professor Russell Scott Valentino, chair of the Slavic & East European Languages and Cultures Department.

On the second day of the conference, presenters were given the opportunity to share their research and work in quite an intense set of panels. The first, entitled "Re-thinking Women's Authority in Socialism and Post-Socialism," brought together a series of analyses structured around women's roles during Nicolae Ceaușescu's rule, their distinctive matters of affect and identity (re/de)construction, and their participation within the power play of magic and religion and the transcendence to political authority and discourse. The second panel, "Nationalism and Nation-Building in Romania: Religious Minorities and Illustrated Postcards," delved into issues of visual representation of Romanian national identity through constructed images, and the role of Orthodoxy with its centralizing practices that excluded the manifestation of alternative religious beliefs. Before breaking for lunch, the audience was introduced to a roundtable discussion centered on the theme titled "Against the Canon – New Approaches to Nineteenth-Century Romanian Historiography." The participants of this debate dealt with aspects of Eastern European agency with respect to dethroning the canon, supported by a Westernized imagery, through a peaceful conquest exemplified by successful educational models, and the materiality of objects as bearers of agency and influence on people's perception of appurtenance. The first panel of the afternoon session initiated a discussion revolving around "Urban Development and Cultural Landscapes in Romania" so as to bring about awareness of geographic exposure to foreign influences and remnants of colonization, as well as a schemata of cultural representations through their depiction within constructed models

of urban spaces. The final panel of the conference introduced “Patterns of Migration in the European Union: Citizenship, Multiculturalism, Media, and Politics,” which called upon the insecurity and uncertainty of multiculturalism in the United Kingdom and the devaluation of Romanian migrants’ integration, followed by a perspective of citizenship concerns for Romanian migrants in France and their cultural, social, and political limitations.

The reception and lively participation of all those involved in the event confirm that, once again, the Romanian Studies Conference has excelled in gathering insightful topics of academic interest in terms of impactful instances connected to and denominational of Romania, and it awaits for the upcoming year to continue the evaluation.

On this note, it is also important to mention that the conference was made possible with the support of Indiana University Student Association, the Russian and East European Institute, and the Department of Slavic & East European Languages and Cultures at Indiana University.

The RomSO is grateful to IU Professors Maria Bucur-Deckard and Jeffrey Isaac, as well as to Dr. Bogdan Popa (Oberlin College) and IU PhD candidate Catalin Cristoloveanu for chairing the panels of the conference. Lastly, the organization would like to extend its appreciation to a number of graduate students, including Elena Popa, president of the Romanian Studies Organization, Bogdan Popa, Shaun Williams and Anca Pirnoiu, for putting together the event.



Photos courtesy of Shaun Williams

Anca Pirnoiu  
 Fulbright Visiting Researcher  
 Indiana University, Bloomington

## ASN CONVENTION PROGRAM

The Association for the Study of Nationalities will hold its 20th world convention in New York on April 23-25, 2015.

Panels and papers relating to Romania and Moldova include:

### THURSDAY APRIL 23

#### SESSION I: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**PANEL CE22: Language, Schools, Politics** with a paper by **Ioana Marian** (Babeş-Bolyai U, Romania) and **Ion Voicu Sucala** (Glasgow U, UK) *Surviving*

*Among the Enemies: The Case of Romanian Language Schools in Transnistria.*

**PANEL R6: Russia’s Compatriots Abroad** with a paper by **Eleanor Knott** (London School of Economics, UK) *Multiple Citizenship vs. Quasi-Citizenship: A Lived Experience Comparison of Kin-State Practices in Moldova and Crimea.*

#### SESSION II: 1:20 - 3:20 PM

**PANEL CE19: The Holocaust: History and Memory** with a paper by **Liviu Carare** (George Barițiu Institute of History, Romania) *Postwar*

*Trials in Romania and in the Ukrainian SSR: The Case of the Czernowitz Ghetto, 1941-1942.*

**SESSION IV 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

**PANEL CE21: Religion and Politics in 20th Century Romania** with papers by **Peter Dan** (Long Island U) *Evil in Familiar Forms: Antisemitism, Racism, Totalitarianism*, **Mihai Chioveanu** (U of Bucharest, Romania) *The Cherubim of a Modern Political Apocalypse: The Ultra-Nationalist Mysticism of the "Legion of the Archangel Michael"*, **Felicia Waldman** (U of Bucharest, Romania) *Jewish Religious Leadership in Times of Crisis: Chief Rabbi Alexander Safran and Rabbi Moshe Weinberger Carmilly*. The panel will be chaired by **Adrian Cioflânca** (Xenopol Institute of History, Romania) and the discussant will be **Bulent Senay** (U of Bucharest, Romania).

**FRIDAY APRIL 24**

**SESSION V: 9:00 - 11:00 AM**

**PANEL CE9: Minority Inclusion and Exclusion: The Case of the Roma** with a paper by **Raluca Mateoc** (U of Fribourg, Switzerland) *Religion, Work and Family Relations: Self-Identifications within some Romanian Rural Roma groups*.

**PANEL CE16: Nationalist Projects, Representations, and Propaganda** with a paper by **Adriana Stefanel** (U of Bucharest, Romania) *New Media, Old Nationalism? Nationalist Mythology in the Romanian 2.0 Public Sphere*.

**PANEL U13: Non-Discrimination and Ethnic Minorities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine: A New Public Agenda** with a paper by **Aliona Grossu** (Center for Ethnic Integration of the Republic of Moldova) *Non-Discrimination and Ethnic Minorities in Moldova*.

**SESSION VII: 2:50 - 4:50 PM**

**PANEL CE12: The Politics of Memory in Central and Eastern Europe.** The chair will be

**Adrian Cioflânca** (Xenopol Institute of History, Romania) and the discussant will be **Felicia Wadlman** (U of Bucharest, Romania).

**PANEL BK17: State and Nation-Building in the Balkans.** The discussant will be **Holly Case** (Cornell U).

**SESSION VIII: 5:10 - 7:10 PM**

**PANEL CE11: Cities, Memory and Identity** with papers by **Simona Bealcovschi** (U de Montréal, Canada) *How Nationalism Became Neo Liberalism: The Case of Sibiu-Hermanstadt in Romania* and **Iulia Statica** (La Sapienza U of Rome, Italy) *Metamorphoses of Urban Topographies in the Post-Communist City of Bucharest*. The discussant will be **Alexander Vari** (Marywood U, US).

**PANEL BO2: Book Panel on Alexander Osipov et al., Policies of Ethno-cultural Diversity Management in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine: Between Soviet Legacies and European Standards (European Humanities, 2014)** with participants including **Aliona Grossu** (Center for Ethnic Integration of the Republic of Moldova)

**SATURDAY APRIL 25**

**SESSION IX: 9:00 - 11:00 AM**

**PANEL CE7: National Minorities and Diaspora Politics** with papers by **Irina Culic** (Babeş-Bolyai U, Romania) *Hungarians in Romania: On the Road from National Minority to Diaspora* and **Anca Glonț** (Hampden-Sydney College, Australia) *Hungarian, Working-Class or Socialist? Negotiating Identities in a Local Transylvanian Newspaper*.

**PANEL CE10: Nationalism and Education in Central and Eastern Europe** with papers by **Raluca Bigu** (U of Bucharest, Romania) *Orthodox Religious Education Textbooks' Strategies of Resistance in a Diverse Post-Communist Religious Landscape* and **Razvan Sibii** (U of Massachusetts Amherst) *"They Do Things Differently There": A*

*Critique of Contemporary Romanian History Textbooks.* The discussant will be **Alexander Mirescu** (Saint-Peter's U).

**PANEL M6: Migrations: Policies and Impact** with a paper by Shushanik Makarya (Penn State U) *Mobility Partnerships and EU Targeted Initiatives on Migration in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova.*

**SESSION X 11:20 AM - 1:20 PM**

**PANEL BK12: Gender Perspectives** with a paper by **Slobodan Vasic** (U of Novi Sad, Serbia) *Gender Identities in the Intersection with Ethnicity and Religion: The Case of Banat Bulgarians in Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria.*

**PANEL CE3: Measuring and Negotiating Moldovan Identity** with papers by **Roxana Huma**

(U of Plymouth, UK) *Negotiating a Common Identity in Moldova*, **Kyle L. Marquardt** (U of Wisconsin Madison) *Linguistic Appeals and Support for Separatism: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Moldova*, and **Ecaterina Locoman** (Rutgers U) *Pro-EU or Pro-Russia? Public Opinion and Foreign Policy Preferences in Moldova Before and After the Ukrainian Crisis.* The discussant will be **Matthew Ciscel** (Central Connecticut State U).

**SESSION XII 5:10 - 7:10 PM**

**PANEL CE17: Citizenship, Justice and Gender** with papers by **Costica Dumbrava** (Maastricht U, Netherlands) *The Politics of National Reproduction: Pro-Natalism, Citizenship and Ethno-Demographic Survival in Post-Communist Romania* and **Irina Nicorici** (Rutgers U) *Learning to Labor Post-Soviet-Style: Constructing Gendered Citizenship in Moldova.*

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

**Conference:** National Identities in Central Europe in the Light of Changing European Geopolitics 1918-1948

**Date:** June 29-July 1, 2016

**Location:** Atlanta, GA

**Deadline for Submissions:** April 15, 2015

**Details:** <https://networks.h-net.org/node/3911/discussions/65834/cfp-national-identities-central-europe-light-changing-european>

**Conference:** Polish American Historical Association

**Date:** January 7-10, 2016

**Location:** Atlanta, GA

**Deadline for Submissions:** April 15, 2015

**Details:** <http://www.polishamericanstudies.org/CallForPapers.html>

**Conference:** Assembling the Post-Liberal Order in Central and Eastern Europe

**Date:** 26-27 June 2015

**Location:** Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

**Deadline for Submissions:** April 20, 2015

**Details:** <https://assemblingpostliberalism1929.wordpress.com/>

**Workshop:** After the War, A New Beginning? A Comparative Examination of Reading Primers Published and Used in 1945 in Europe

**Date:** November 13-14, 2015

**Location:** Braunschweig, Germany

**Deadline for Submissions:** April 27, 2015

**Details:** <http://www.gei.de/veranstaltungen/termindetails/news/detail/News/workshop-after-the-war-a-new-beginning-a-comparative-examination-of-reading-primers-published-an.html>

**Conference:** Facing Post-War Urban Heritage in Central-Eastern Europe

**Date:** October 9, 2015

**Location:** Budapest, Hungary

**Deadline for Submissions:** April 30, 2015

**Details:** <http://urb.bme.hu/en/doconf2015/>

**Conference:** The Forensic Turn in Holocaust Studies?  
(Re-)Thinking the Past Through Materiality  
**Date:** June 25-26, 2015  
**Location:** Vienna, Austria  
**Deadline for Submissions:** April 30, 2015  
**Details:** <http://www.vwi.ac.at/index.php/startseite-de/60-german-site/newsfeed/238-cfp-sww-2015>

**Conference:** International Conference on Female Migration  
**Date:** July 30-31, 2015  
**Location:** Maltepe, Istanbul, Turkey  
**Deadline for Submissions:** May 15, 2015  
**Details:** <http://www.edu-active.com/conferences/2015/mar/30/international-conference-female-migration-istanbul.html>

**Journal:** Studia Politica. Romanian Political Science Review  
**Deadline:** May 15, 2015  
**Contact:** [info@studiapolitica.eu](mailto:info@studiapolitica.eu)

**Conference:** 18th International Conference of Conceptual History  
**Date:** April 22-25, 2016  
**Location:** West University of Timișoara, Romania  
**Deadline for Submissions:** September 16-18, 2015  
**Link for Submissions:** <https://networks.h-net.org/node/3911/discussions/65324/cfp-multi-inter-pluri-languages-cultures-and-identities-complex>

**Conference:** European Association for American Studies  
**Date:** April 22-25, 2016  
**Location:** Constanța, Romania  
**Deadline for Submissions:** June 15, 2015  
**Link for Submissions:** <http://www.enl.auth.gr/abstracts/index.html>

**Conference:** Conference on Contested Property Claims  
**Date:** December 10-11, 2015  
**Location:** Aarhus University, Denmark  
**Deadline for Submissions:** September 15, 2015  
**Details:** <http://conferences.au.dk/propertyclaims2015/>

**Edited Volume:** Intermarriage in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Ethnic Mixing Under Fascism, Communism, and Beyond  
**Details:** <https://networks.h-net.org/node/19384/discussions/64240/call-submissions-edited-volume-intermarriage-eastern-europe-and>

**Journal:** New Perspectives, Interdisciplinary Journal of Central & East European Politics and International Relations  
**Details:** <http://perspectives.iir.cz/home>

**Journal:** Revista de etnologie și culturologie  
**Language:** English or Romanian  
**Contact:** Dusacova Natalia, [dushakova@list.ru](mailto:dushakova@list.ru)

**Book Series:** Global and Insurgent Legacies  
**Publisher:** Duke University Press  
**Editors:** Eve Darian-Smith and Jonathan Goldberg-Hiller  
**Details:** <http://www.global.ucsb.edu/sites/secure.lsit.ucsb.edu.gisp.d7/files/sitefiles/people/Flyer%202.pdf>

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Abraham, Herman Konradowitsch. *Unter rotem Nordlicht: aus dem rumänischen Gura Humora im sowjetischen Polarzonen-GULag Workuta verbannt und ein aktiver Lebensabend in Israel 1924-2012: jüdische Schicksale im 20. Jahrhundert*. Konstanz: Hartung-Gorre Verlag, 2014.
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## 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:

William Crowther  
Department of Political Science  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
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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); the American Historical Association (AHA); and the Romanian Studies Association of America (RSAA).

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

This newsletter was assembled with the generous assistance of Miles Wilkerson of Eastern Connecticut State University. 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](mailto:roloclark80@gmail.com).