

# SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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## From the President

We started 2016 in a good position, with an expanded membership and some money in the bank. The new Board and the new officers were all eager to make the Society an active hub of scholarship on Romanian Studies, broadly defined.



According to the new by-laws, which were approved in late 2015, the mandates of the new officers and Board members were extended to three years, until December 2018. Irina Livezeanu continues as Past President, Bill Crowther as Treasurer, and Chris Davis as H-Romania main Editor. Margaret Beissinger serves as the new Vice-President and Roland Clark as the new Secretary. The new Board is composed of Jennifer Cash, Roxana Cazan, Monica Ciobanu, Petru Negură, Bruce O'Neill, Anca Șincai, Oana Suci, as well as Andrei Terian. Ruxandra Canache and Alexandra Ghit are the new student representatives on the Board, Petru Negură and Lucian Turcescu share the webmaster position, whereas Ana Fumurescu and Cristina Plămădeală have replaced Ben Thorne as new Newsletter Editors. A big thank you to Jill Massino, Paul Michelson, Jonathan Stillo, and Paul Sum who are stepping down as officers and Board members for their dedication and service to the Society!

Compared to 2015, this has been a low-key year that allowed us to consolidate our existing programs. Our first task was to move the website onto a new, less expensive platform without losing

content and with added interactivity. Emilian Ghelase executed the move in March, with the help of a newly formed Website Committee chaired by Petru Negură. The committee worked hard to review all webpages and suggest changes, updates and amendments to their format and content. The website still needs some more updating and a number of additional revisions. We would welcome your suggestions on how to improve it and on what kind of new material might be of interest to junior and senior scholars working in Romanian Studies. Please direct your inquiries and suggestions to Petru at [petru.negura@gmail.com](mailto:petru.negura@gmail.com).

During the past months very important work has been conducted by the PR & Membership Committee, chaired by Bob Ives. While in most previous years our main dilemma was to recruit additional graduate students and academics in order to expand our membership base and make ourselves known to the world, this year the Committee has been primarily focused on retaining the membership gains we've made as a result of the summer 2015 international conference organized in Bucharest. A calendar of recruitment events has been put together by the Committee, and a new gmail account was created specifically for this task. We are looking forward to seeing the concrete results of this effort! Again, this Committee would be interested to hear your ideas about recruitment and retention (you can reach Bob at [rives@unr.edu](mailto:rives@unr.edu)).

Irina Livezeanu and I have worked hard to identify books for inclusion in the interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary SRS-Polirom book collection, which aims to make available in the Romanian language to the Romanian public rigorous analyses that broadly exemplify Romanian Studies at its best. The collection was launched last year with the publication of two titles. These were the translations into Romanian of Vladimir Solonari's *Purifying the Nation: Population Exchange and Ethnic Cleansing in Nazi-Allied Romania* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press and Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009), and Roland Clark's *Holy Legionary Youth: Fascist Activism in Interwar Romania* (Cornell University Press, 2015). Both titles were extremely well received in Romania, being reviewed in a number of notable local journals. Several other informative and highly topical titles are currently in production and will be published later this year or in 2017. The collection editors are interested to hear from authors interested to make their work known to a larger public in Romania. You can address queries on this topic to Irina Livezeanu ([irlznu@gmail.com](mailto:irlznu@gmail.com)) or Lavinia Stan ([lstan@stfx.ca](mailto:lstan@stfx.ca)).

Last but not least, I want to thank our dedicated team of volunteers, especially Roland Clark, Irina Livezeanu, Roxana Cazan, and Alexandra Ghit, for helping us to maintain a constant presence on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Our strong social media presence reflects our expanded membership and the increased relevance of Romanian Studies across borders. We encourage all of you to send us news items of interest to Romanian Scholars faculty and students!

**Lavinia Stan**

## Call for Manuscripts: The SRS-Polirom Book Series Studii Românești/Romanian Studies/Études Roumaines/ Rumänische Studien

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The SRS-Polirom book series, was launched in 2015 with the publication of Roland Clark's *Sfântă tinerețe legionară. Activismul fascist în România interbelică*, and Vladimir Solonari's *Purificarea națiunii: dislocări forțate de populație și epurări etnice în România lui Ion Antonescu, 1940-1944*. Both the series and the first books have met with critical acclaim in Romania. Cristian Pătrășconiu wrote in *Revista 22* that this was "a series to follow with the greatest attention....The thematic span of those who belong to or gravitate toward SRS is truly impressive." *Revista 22*, 1 September 2015.

Roland Clark's book, well received by Romanian and Moldovan publics, is already in its second print run, and reviewers have commented:

"Roland Clark's book fits perfectly alongside the more rational opinions about the Legion that have been voiced in the public sphere lately. It is helpful for anyone wanting to draw conclusions about the contradictory discussions we have been hearing, as well as being necessary and useful reading for explaining a traumatic and not too distant past."

Cristian Vasile, Contributors.ro, 13 September 2015.

"Clark quickly and distinctively differentiates his book from other histories of the Legion. For the first time we have a study that analyzes the legionary movement not just, or even primarily, in terms of its leaders or in terms of the major events that punctuated its birth, rise, and fall. ... Themes of legionary history - with a temporal focus on the interwar period - are explored on a number of 'levels', obviously in both qualitative and quantitative terms. A brief summary: student congresses and the spirit of the times; violence and the courts; student dormitories and the Legion; legionaries and peasants; workers; tradesmen and legionaries; death teams; the political press and propaganda organs; work camps; clerical activism and the legionary movement; burial rituals of martyrs."

Cristian Pătrășconiu, *Revista 22*, 1 September 2015.



"Highly interdisciplinary, analytically comprehensive, and informed by a prodigious array of both primary sources and secondary literature, Clark's book is a much-awaited reading for researchers, university professors, and students alike." Ionut Biliuță, *Hungarian Historical Review*, 5/1 (2015).

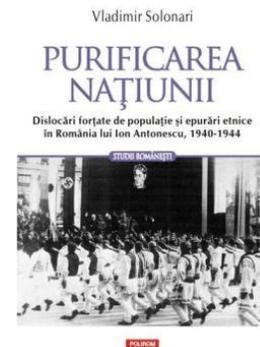
About Vladimir Solonari's book Romanian reviewers have written:

“The conclusion of this book [that the Romanian program of ethnic purification had its roots in Romania's own interwar radical nationalist thought rather than in Nazi doctrine] is memorable and worth our careful and honest reflection.”

Cristian Pătrășconiu, *Revista 22*, 1 September 2015.

“Vladimir Solonari's book is more than a history of the Holocaust in Romania. This book makes a substantial contribution to our understanding of the way the modern Romanian nation was built in relation to its ethnic minorities.... It is a call to remember, and it is addressed not only to erudite professional historians but to all of us. Let us pay careful attention to him.....”

Petru Negură, *Observator cultural*, 13 May 2016.



We are currently accepting three types of manuscripts and books: 1) Romanian translations of scholarly monographs published in a foreign language; 2) Original scholarly monographs in Romanian; and 3) Edited collections of essays dealing with a unifying theme. Book proposals should deal with Romania and/or Moldova and the populations living on their territories, or with the Romanian and Moldovan diasporas and cultures. Manuscripts should have primarily an academic profile, and a disciplinary, interdisciplinary, or multidisciplinary focus, drawing on history, political science, sociology, anthropology, law, economics, linguistics, literature, art history, and other fields. All proposals, manuscripts, and books for translation will be carefully reviewed for publication in the series. The ultimate decision rests with Polirom.

Further information on how to submit a book proposal is available on the SRS website at <http://www.society4romanianstudies.org>. For further inquiries, and suggestions please contact the series editors, Lavinia Stan and Irina Livezeanu. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

**Lavinia Stan** ([lstan@stfx.ca](mailto:lstan@stfx.ca))

**Irina Livezeanu** ([irinal@pitt.edu](mailto:irinal@pitt.edu))

## SRS Annual meeting for 2016!

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It's that time of year again! The Society for Romanian Studies will hold its annual general meeting at the ASEES conference in Washington, DC. We are scheduled for Friday, November 18 from 6:15 pm to 7:45 pm in the McKinley Room of the Wardam Marriott Hotel, Washington DC. During our annual general meeting, the officers will present their reports, we will give out the graduate student essay prize, and will have a discussion with our members about what's important for our Society. [For further details on the SRS-sponsored panel see p. 13]

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## Graduate Student Essay Prize Committee Announcement

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The 2016 Prize Committee thanks the students who submitted entries for the 2016 Graduate Student Essay contests.

The committee consisted of Peter Gross (Chair), and Margaret Beissinger, Chris Davis and Diane Vancea (members). The Committee was gender balanced and diverse in terms of disciplines: media studies, ethnography, history, as well as economics.

This year, the Committee sent out a call for submission to varied disciplinary units at over 50 U.S. and Romanian universities. It received a number of entries but only four qualified, i.e. were from students enrolled in MA and PhD programs in various disciplines and touched directly on Romania.

After careful deliberation the Award Committee has decided not to offer the SRS Graduate Student Essay Prize this year. We considered that none of few submissions we received was theoretically sound and methodologically rigorous enough to merit this recognition. The Committee hopes that graduate students at universities in Romania, Moldova and other countries will continue to compete for this important award in future years.

*Peter Gross, Committee Chair*

## Coming Soon: SRS Mentoring Program

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Our new mentorship program is designed to pair scholars at different stages of their careers or in different parts of the world to facilitate mutually beneficial discussions and communication. Junior scholars gain local information formally from their supervisors and informally from others they come into contact with. Informal mentorship is particularly important for students and scholars working in the West whose primary supervisors are not themselves specialists in Romania and Moldova. Similarly, students and scholars based in Eastern Europe will find it beneficial to establish informal relationships with their colleagues abroad, with whom they can discuss disciplinary trends and other questions of mutual interest. Mentoring also benefits senior scholars by helping them stay abreast of new literatures and trends in the field as well as providing insights into other universities and other countries.

The purpose of the SRS Mentoring Program is to provide SRS members with invaluable support and established scholars the opportunity to help shape the future of the field and support new research. Responsibility for making the mentoring relationship work rests with the individual mentor/mentee, but the SRS acts as a sponsoring organization that matches mentors and mentees and suggests parameters for the relationship. The SRS aims at facilitating formal mentoring initiatives in cases where mentors and mentees do not know each other, have no clear understanding of their current expertise areas, and need help to connect.

The program is still under construction, but we hope to be able to launch it within the next couple of months. For further details, please contact **Roland Clark** ([clarkr@liv.ac.uk](mailto:clarkr@liv.ac.uk)).

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## Member News

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***Monica Ciobanu** was promoted to the rank of Professor at Plattsburgh State University of New York.*

***Katherine Verdery** was awarded Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Bucharest, on Oct 4, 2016.*

***Alice Isabella Sullivan** will be completing in 2017 her dissertation titled "The Painted Fortified Monastic Churches of Moldavia: Bastions of Orthodoxy in a Post-Byzantine World" (History of Art, University of Michigan).*

She has received research grants from the Medieval Academy of America (Robert and Jane Lumiansky Dissertation Grant), the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture, the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Foundation, and the University of Michigan. In 2016, Alice was awarded the Diane Owen Hughes Scholar prize in recognition of academic performance and merit of dissertation from the Medieval and Early Modern

Studies Program (University of Michigan). Alice has a few articles in the works, including a forthcoming article titled “Architectural Pluralism at the Edges: The Visual Eclecticism of Medieval Monastic Churches in Eastern Europe” that will appear in *Studii de Istoria și Teoria Arhitecturii / Studies in History and Theory of Architecture*.

**Mihai Stelian Rusu** published *Memoria națională românească. Facerea și prefacerile discursive ale trecutului național*. Iași: Institutul European, 2015; and “The Sacralization of Martyric Death in Romanian Legionary Movement: Self-sacrificial Patriotism, Vicarious Atonement, and Thanatic Nationalism” in *Politics, Religion & Ideology*, 17(2) (2016).

**Florin Abraham** has recently published *Romania since the Second World War. A Political, Social and Economic History* (London and New York: Bloomsbury, 2016).

**Ernest Latham** will soon publish *What Strange Fate: J. Breckinridge Bayne, An American Doctor on the Eastern Front 1916 - 1919* (Bucharest: Editura Vremea, 2016).

**Margaret Beissinger, Speranța Rădulescu, and Anca Giurchescu** have recently co-edited *Manele in Romania: Cultural Expression and Social Meaning in Balkan Popular Music* (Lanham, MA: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016).

The book treats *manele*, the contemporary “Oriental” Balkan ethnopop genre performed by Romani musicians especially at weddings which became immensely popular after the Romanian Revolution of 1989 yet engendered much controversy among the educated and professional elite.

**Irina Nastasa-Matei** recently published *Educație, politică și propagandă: Studenți români în Germania nazistă* (*Education, politics and propaganda: Romanian students in Nazi Germany*), Cluj-Napoca, Editura Școala Ardeleană / București, Eikon, 2016.

The book concerns Romanian students enrolled in universities in Nazi Germany. It shows how the exchange of students between Romania and Germany acquired new meanings during the years 1933-1945. These young Romanians became foreign policy agents for both countries, serving as tools of propaganda for both states.

**Irina Nastasă-Matei coedited with Zoltan Rostas** *Alma Mater în derivă. Aspecte alternative ale vieții universitare interbelice* (*Alma Mater Adrift. Alternative Aspects of the Interwar University Life*), Cluj-Napoca, Editura Școala Ardeleană / București, Eikon.

## CNATCDU: A View From Within

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### *Interview with Lucian Turcescu*

Given the public attention the CNATCDU has recently received in the Romanian press, we are including here an interview with Lucian Turcescu (Professor of Theology and Graduate Program Director, Department of Theological Studies, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada), member of the CNATDCU Theology Committee.

**1) *What is the present role of the CNATDCU and what kind of attributions does it have?***

LT: CNATDCU is short for Consiliul Național de Atestare a Titlurilor, Diplomelor și Certificatelor Universitare (The National Council for the Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates). It is an agency of the Romanian Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research responsible for creating and upholding the academic standards necessary for obtaining a doctorate, promotion through the professorial ranks, and evaluation of doctoral schools. There is some fluidity in terms of which new agency responsibilities are added, withdrawn, or even emphasized in any given parliamentary session, depending on the interests of various political parties, ministers, and parliamentarians.

**2) *Which CNATDCU committee are you a member of, when were you appointed, and how many other academics working outside of Romania are on your panel?***

LT: I have been a member of the Theology Committee since July 2016, alongside 14 other professors working in universities from Romania and other countries. There are only two of us from outside of Romania at this time, and external scholars (from outside of the country) have generally accounted for not more than two percent of all members of the CNATCDU committees. In my Committee we represent the three main languages present in Romania (Romanian, Hungarian, and German), as well as three branches of Christianity (Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant). Unfortunately, there is only one female member on this Committee.

**3) *What are the main goals of your Committee in terms of academic standards?***

LT: Since we began work in July, we have updated doctoral and habilitation standards. A new set of standards was approved by CNATDCU in September. In addition, the Committee has been presented with some thirty doctoral dissertations for approval already. In Romania, like in some other European Union countries (such as Germany),

habilitation was introduced as a step a professor has to acquire after the doctorate in order to be allowed to supervise PhD students.

4) *How do you view the recent cases of plagiarized doctoral theses?*

LT: The new CNATDCU appointed in the summer has begun to combat corruption in the Romanian educational system, and I hope it will be allowed to continue to function and bring its mandate of renewal to completion. As the press reported, several doctoral titles have already been withdrawn. As I see it, CNATDCU is some sort of *academic* National Anti-Corruption Directorate (Direcția Națională Anticorupție, DNA). In recent years, the plagiarism affecting doctoral dissertations has been one of CNATDCU's preoccupations. In Romania, the verification of doctorates suspected of plagiarism remains a highly sensitive issue because many such degrees held by politicians were plagiarized. Politicians such as the former Prime Minister Victor Ponta, Gabriel Oprea, Petre Toba, and Florentin Pandele, among others, have already been left without a doctoral title as a result of CNATDCU's recommendations. Based on the recommendation made by a scholarly evaluation committee, CNATDCU's General Committee (composed of the presidents of individual committees, including the Theology Committee) voted for the withdrawal of questionable doctoral titles. As a result, the Minister of Education withdrew these individuals' titles. However, the backlash from those affected is extremely strong and we feel it not only in the way the media is reporting on our activity, but also inside our committee and in CNATDCU more generally. We will soon review doctoral schools in Romania. To help you understand the magnitude of the problem we face, I will only mention, without naming names, that a few years ago one such school had as many as 300 doctoral students but fewer than ten doctoral supervisors.

5) *What do you think is the future of CNATDCU, given the recent events in Romania?*

LT: The agency's very existence and future are rather unclear. Instead of viewing it as a scholarly institution guaranteeing the quality of Romanian higher education, many politicians see CNATDCU as their number two enemy (the first is the DNA), and they are fighting it tooth and nail. In 2012, following his appointment as Prime Minister, Victor Ponta took away CNATDCU's power to verify allegations of plagiarism in Romanian doctorates and gave it to an Ethics Committee of Parliament. That Committee cleared him, and other politicians, of any wrongdoing. This year the current Prime Minister, Dacian Cioloș, gave back CNATDCU the prerogative to validate doctorates. But in October 2016 Parliament passed legislation removing that prerogative, while allowing CNATDCU to verify only doctorates suspected of plagiarism. The Romanian Constitutional Court, however, decided that the recent legislation was unconstitutional and thus upheld the newer standards of academic work.

## SRS-Polirom Book Collection Series-Upcoming Publications

*Lavinia Stan and Diane Vancea, eds., Post-Communist Romania at Twenty-Five: Linking Past, Present, and Future (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015).*

2014 marked the 25th anniversary of the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe. The events of 1989 are widely seen as having ushered in new all-encompassing reforms in almost all areas of life. In few other places were reforms more contested and divisive than in Romania, a country that suffered greatly under the sultanistic-cum-totalitarian dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu, faced the region's only bloody anti-communist revolt, and as such had the longest to travel on the road from communism to democracy. We now have a generation's worth of experience with these wrenching reforms that have deeply affected Romania's political institutions and political culture, and ultimately allowed it to become a member of the coveted European Union club. This volume gathers key lessons for democratic theory and practice from Romania's first twenty-five years of post-communist transformation. Written by leading experts in the field of Romanian Studies – Radu Cinpoș, Dennis Deletant, Tom Gallagher, Peter Gross, Ron King, Duncan Light, Mihaela Miroiu, Csaba Novak, Levente Salat, Lavinia Stan, Marius Stan, Paul E. Sum, Vladimir Tismăneanu, Diane Vancea, Katherine Verdery, Craig Young, Cosmin Gabriel Marian, Monica Ciobanu, Cristina Pârău -- the chapters focus on the most important factors that have shaped the country's political transformation during the first 25 years of post-communism.



*Alex Drace-Francis, The Making of Modern Romanian Culture: Literacy and the Development of National Identity (I. B. Tauris, 2005).*

How do literacy and the development of literary culture promote the development of a national identity? Here Alex Drace-Francis offers a well-researched and readable guide to the development of literary, educational, and printing institutions in the Romanian lands in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In twenty concise yet scholarly chapters, Drace-Francis both provides a state-of-the-art overview of current knowledge, and makes an original contribution to debates about print culture, modernization, national identity, and state formation. As Irina Livezeanu wrote, this is "an enormously erudite study... for anyone interested in the origins of modern Romanian literary production and education in the context of the Enlightenment, modernization, and state-formation this is an indispensable book."



Two more translations from English are slated to appear next year: Maria Bucur, *Heroes and Victims. Remembering War in Twentieth Century Romania* (Indiana University Press, 2010); and Cristina Vătulescu, *Police Aesthetics: Literature, Film, and the Secret Police in Soviet Times* (Stanford University Press, 2010).

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## Updates from the SRS Organizational Members

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### *Ovidius University of Constanța*

As many SRS members know, Ovidius University is the most important higher education institution in the European Union located at the Black Sea. Building on a rich cultural and historical heritage, Ovidius University and Constanta have sought to position themselves as regional leaders in education and research. This ambition is backed by the many advantages that Constanta offers – an attractive economy, touristic and commercial potential, a multicultural population, and tolerant attitudes evidenced by the diversity of places of worship in the old town. All these make our university center attractive to students from other countries.

Our sixteen faculties offer degrees ranging from naval engineering, IT, medicine and law to economics, literature, history and political science. The University is a founding member of the Black Sea Universities Network. We have partnered with prestigious institutions in the United States, opened an American Corner Center in collaboration with the Fulbright Commission, and maintained close relations with the British Council, the Francophone University Agency, the Goethe Institute, the Cervantes Institute, and a range of universities in South America. We also host a Confucius Class and a Turkish Language, Culture and Civilization Chair.

More importantly for this Newsletter, Ovidius University became a SRS organizational member in 2015, and hosted the 2007 SRS international conference, which attracted close to 200 participants from a number of countries. Many of our faculty and students are actively engaged in Romanian Studies, some of them working from an interdisciplinary perspective. Our Romanian Studies experts have studied, published and lectured at Ovidius and other universities in Romania, Western Europe and North America. We are actively looking for research partners, and would be happy to hear from you!

**Daniel Citiriga** ([danicitiriga@yahoo.com](mailto:danicitiriga@yahoo.com))

### *Academia de Studii Economice (ASE), Bucharest*

This past September, the SRS Board approved ASE Bucharest as the location for its upcoming international conference to be organized in Romania. The Academy, and especially Centrul de Cercetări în Relații Economice Internaționale (CCREI), are looking forward to host the SRS conference in 2018, a year that marks the 100th anniversary of not only the unification of the three Romanian provinces but also ASE's first graduating cohort. Indeed, in 1918 our first young and bright specialists in "High Commercial and Industrial Studies" graduated from the then newly established ASE. We are excited to celebrate these anniversaries by hosting the SRS, and thus support Romanian Studies.

Established in 2004 by faculty members teaching at the Faculty of International Economic Relations, the CCREI seeks to prove that the reputation the Academy enjoys among students can be matched by its research accomplishments. The Center has a unique characteristic, which is also an exceptional resource: its ability to bring together academics with various research interests ranging from theoretical inquiry in the area of economic theory to applied disciplines like business strategy or corporate finance. Its interdisciplinary character allows the Center to develop interesting and timely research. Among the events the CCREI organizes are its periodic "book forums," which discuss recently published titles that address timely topics of relevance for the Romanian academia and the general public, as well as annual conferences and symposia. In addition, the Center provides logistic support to the "Future of Europe," the annual conference of the Faculty of International Economic Relations. The Center is interested in cooperating with similar research centers from outside of Romania. Such cooperation would allow ASE to increase its visibility on the international arena, and interested academics and researchers to find partners in Romania.

For more information on the CCREI, please contact ***Dr. Rodica Milena Zaharia*** at [milena\\_zaharia@yahoo.com](mailto:milena_zaharia@yahoo.com).

## 2016 ASEES Convention

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The 48th Annual ASEES Convention will be held at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park on November 17-20, 2016.

### **SRS SPONSORED PANEL: *Dissent, Resistance, and Accommodation in Communist and Post-Socialist Eastern Europe***

**Date:** Friday, 18 November, 2016

**Time:** Session 5-42, 10:00-11:45 am

**Location:** Tyler

**Chair:** Jill Marie Massino, UNC at Charlotte

**Papers:**

*Edward Cohn*, "Prophylactic Policing and the KGB's Struggle with the Baltic Dissident Movement in the 1970s and 1980s"

*Manuela Ana-Maria Marin*, "Resistance at the Periphery: Roma People in Communist Romania"

*Ruxandra Iuliana Petrinca*, "Resistance and Cohabitation during the Last Decades of Socialist Rule in Romania"

**Discussant:** Cynthia Michalski Horne, Western Washington U

"The ASEES conference also features other papers that might be of interest to SRS members. See [FULL PROGRAM](#) details.

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## Message from H-Romania

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H-Romania is now in its second year of operation, with around 260 subscribers to the network. We have published a dozen reviews of books written in English, Romanian, German, and Serbian, in disciplines ranging from history to anthropology to literature, with many more titles on the way. 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.

*To join H-Romania (and set up an H-Net account), follow 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.

"We would also like to take this opportunity to invite new network and book-review editors. Please contact **Chris Davis** <[rcdavis@mail.h-net.msu.edu](mailto:rcdavis@mail.h-net.msu.edu)> if you are interested in joining the H-Romania editorial team."

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## Moldova's Presidential Election

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In the first round of Moldova's presidential elections on 20 November 2016, the runner-ups were Igor Dodon, candidate of the Socialists' Party of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM), with 48.23% of the vote, and Maia Sandu, candidate of the Action and Solidarity Party (PAS), with 38.42%. These two candidates represent two forces of the opposition that have fashioned their electoral message against the current political establishment, classified as corrupt and incompetent.

This outcome spells an evident defeat of the Republic's existing ruling elite. Moreover, this result likewise indicates a notable political transformation, whose roots emerged at the start of 2015, after news came out of the large financial fraud committed by three of the country's banks, with the suspected complicity of multiple high officials of the state. This event served as the catalyst for a powerful popular mobilization over the course of 2015.

With the modification of Moldova's constitution in March 2016 and the subsequent election of the president through universal suffrage, the institutionalization of the civic movement that developed in spring 2015 under the direction of the Political Party of Dignity and Truth (PPDA) gained considerable traction. Likewise, PAS consolidated around Maia Sandu, who gained renown for her anti-corruption initiatives in the realm of education, as well as for her stinging critiques of the government and the administration of the central Bank.

These two political parties embody a new model of political activism in the Republic of Moldova. As opposed to the traditional party model created from the top-down by a charismatic leader, Maia Sandu's party is horizontally organized through grassroots mobilization and a transparent democratic administration. The accumulation of 38% of the vote by Sandu with the use of minimal financial resources showed that expensive publicity, sophisticated political technologies, and a propaganda campaign undertaken with the

collaboration of the mass media (controlled by the oligarch Vlad Plahotniuc), are no longer sufficient for clearing the reputation of a government compromised by high-level fraud and corruption.

In the second round of the elections, the contest will therefore be between two opposition candidates: Maia Sandu, considered to be of the center-right, and Igor Dodon, of the center-left. This political cleavage overlaps with a geopolitical division between the candidates—Sandu articulates a clear pro-European message, while Dodon has declared himself a supporter of the Republic's Eurasian orientation. The fact that the current establishment, which has proven to be the country's most corrupt, has compromised the Republic's pro-EU position, seems to benefit Dodon's pro-Russian stance.

The results of the second electoral round will depend on the direction that the polemic between the two candidates will take, particularly if this polemic were to move away from external (EU vs. Russia) policy, and towards domestic concerns such as corruption, poverty, and economic inefficiency. Despite the novel elements of this campaign, the election of a new president will not bring an immediate substantial change to the Republic's political atmosphere, as the executive function is not endowed with powerful decision-making prerogatives. Nevertheless, these elections bring with them the potential of medium- and long-term change, and lay the groundwork for the decisive parliamentary elections that will take place in two years' time.

*Petru Negură*

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## The 2016 Diaspora and Its Friends

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The fourth and largest conference of the Romanian academic diaspora, which brought together more than 900 participants including university professors, researchers, experts in the areas of education and development, civil society representatives, and government officials, was held from April 25 to April 28, 2016 under the patronage of President Klaus Iohannis. The conference sought to connect academics affiliated with Romanian universities and research centers with those from the diaspora who share similar interests and expertise, as well as with grant and international exchange agencies. Furthermore, the gathering served as a platform for launching the national project, "Educated Romania," an ambitious program that seeks to establish the priorities, standards, and main directions for reforming the educational system with a long-term view to a 2030 completion.

Two full days of the conference were devoted to twenty-one exploratory workshops reflecting a wide-range of themes and disciplinary areas such as immigration and its relationship to education, arts and humanities, international relations and globalization, philosophy, psychology, medicine, engineering, physics, bio-economy, and technology. Together with political scientist and theologian Silviu Rogobete from West University of Timișoara, I had the

pleasure to moderate the workshop *International Relations in the Era of Globalization –interests, interactions, institutions*.

Lively and animated discussions among the participants focused around current and challenging topics affecting the world, such as national and international security, civil wars and unrecognized states, the current refugee crisis, the European Union and foreign policy, the role of diasporas in the context of globalization, regional security, the rise of radical right wing populism, and the role of the military. Some of the most relevant conclusions were that, in order to promote a competitive educational system with practical applicability, some important steps need to be taken in strengthening the collaborative relationships between academics, society, and government; designing mechanisms to promote merit and combat mediocrity; and involving mass-media and civil society in this national program.

The *2016 Diaspora and Its Friends* represents just the beginning of a major but necessary and timely transformation of the Romanian educational system that has been recently plagued by scandals of corruption and unethical practices. It will take will and consistency from the political establishment and commitment from academics (both from Romania and the academic diasporas) to bring this project to fruition.

**Monica Ciobanu**

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## Upcoming Events

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***Romanian Film Festival, Third Edition:*** will be held in Seattle, WA, on November 18-20, 2016. Details

***22nd Annual American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Conference:*** will be held in San Francisco, CA, on February 2-5, 2017. Details.

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## Calls for Papers

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**CFP: Remembrance of the First World War in Interwar Europe. In search for new analytical categories**

***Deadline for submissions:*** 30 November, 2016

***Date:*** 21-24 September, 2017

***Location:*** Nida, Lithuania

***Description:*** The conference aims to cover the role that was given to the Great War in various European countries on the national level and to turn attention to the group

level—memory carriers, their justified or unjustified expectations, and the relationships of different political regimes of the interwar Europe with these expectations.

**Contact:** Please submit your paper proposals and direct any questions to Vasilijus Safronovas ([ww1conference@gmail.com](mailto:ww1conference@gmail.com)).

[Details.](#)

### **CFP: Studies in East European Cinema**

**Deadline for submissions:** 30 November, 2016

**Description:** We invite scholars to re-read the East-Central European cinema and fiction television of 1980-2000 as documenting Europeanization and producing collective post-national (and not only post-socialist) identities. Original articles on institutional (all aspects of financing, production, and distribution), contextual (migrant, transnational, diasporic film) or diegetic (content, storytelling and visual style) aspects of Europeanization are welcome. Transnational approaches are desired.

**Contact:** Queries should be sent to guest editors: Constantin Parvulescu ([cparvulescu@unav.es](mailto:cparvulescu@unav.es)) and Claudiu Turcuş ([claudiu.turcus@ubbcluj.ro](mailto:claudiu.turcus@ubbcluj.ro)).

[Details](#)

### **CFP: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual AWSS Conference: Roots and Legacies of Revolution**

**Deadline for submissions:** 15 December, 2016

**Date:** 7 April, 2017

**Location:** Alexandria, VA

**Description:** The conference theme recognizes the centennial of the Russian revolutions of 1917, which had a significant impact on the status and lives of women, as well as on the configuration of gender relations and representations throughout our region. We also draw attention to the roots of those revolutionary transformations in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian social, economic, political, literary, and creative practices and events of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Thus, while we commemorate the Russian revolutions, we welcome papers across chronological and geographical spans from the tsarist era to the present day, from Berlin to Vladivostok.

**Contact:** Any questions about the conference or the program should be directed to Sharon Kowalsky ([Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu](mailto:Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu)) or Betsy Jones Hemenway ([ehemenway@luc.edu](mailto:ehemenway@luc.edu)).

[Details](#)

### **CFP: Re-thinking the Russian Revolution of 1917 as a global event in local contexts**

**Deadline for submissions:** 15 December, 2016

**Date:** 15-16 September, 2017

**Location:** University of Essex, United Kingdom

**Description:** The Russian Revolution was a truly global event with many faces. This is the larger picture we plan to discuss at our upcoming conference. Relative immediacy is a core organizing concept of the conference - we are most interested in imaginations,

interpretations, and reactions that unfolded simultaneously during the course of 1917 or close to this time span in and outside of the former Tsarist Empire. The conference aims to assemble scholars (including advanced PhD students) whose work is both historical and interdisciplinary to contribute to the discussion about re-thinking the Russian Revolution as a global event in local contexts.

**Contact:** Submission of abstracts (approx. 400 words) should be sent to [nrossol@essex.ac.uk](mailto:nrossol@essex.ac.uk), [fschnell@essex.ac.uk](mailto:fschnell@essex.ac.uk), [lhaid@essex.ac.uk](mailto:lhaid@essex.ac.uk)

[Details](#)

### **CFP: IARCEES Conference**

**Deadline for submissions:** 16 December, 2016

**Date:** 4-6 May, 2017

**Location:** Galway, Ireland

**Description:** IARCEES is committed to providing a forum for scholars of Russian, Central and East European Studies in Ireland and abroad. This conference seeks to explore the ways in which journeys functioned as a motor of change in the past and whether journeys can serve as a useful metaphor for processes of learning and self-development. It thus contributes to the new field of mobilities studies, which highlights the central role of movement and travel in the human experience.

**Contact:** Please email your paper or panel proposals, limited to 300 words per paper, together with a biographical note of 100 words, to [roisin.healy@nuigalway.ie](mailto:roisin.healy@nuigalway.ie).

[Details](#)

### **CFP: The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Romanian Studies Conference at Indiana University**

**Deadline for submissions:** 16 December, 2016

**Date:** 14-15 April, 2017

**Location:** Bloomington, IN

**Description:** We welcome proposals from graduate students and recent PhDs on any topic related to Romania, Moldova, or the Romanian diaspora, in any discipline or methodology. We especially encourage interdisciplinary approaches but we regularly accept papers from historians, political scientists, economists, sociologists, anthropologists, folklorists, linguists, literary critics, and musicologists.

**Contact:** Please submit abstracts of 250-300 words, along with your contact information and a brief biography, to Elena Popa at [romso@indiana.edu](mailto:romso@indiana.edu).

### **CFP: APSA 2017, Society for Romanian Studies Panel**

**Deadline for submissions:** 9 January, 2017

**Date:** August 31-September 3, 2017

**Location:** San Francisco, CA

**Description:** This year's conference theme is "The Quest for Legitimacy: Actors, Audiences and Aspirations." In recent years, Romania seems to have experienced a generalized crisis of legitimacy. Years of disappointment in incumbents seem to have transformed into questions about the legitimacy of key institutions, from the presidency,

to political parties, to the educational system. We are particularly interested in proposals that use Romania in comparative perspective or as a single case study and that are related to the conference theme.

Contact: To submit proposals (500 words) or for additional information, contact Claudiu Tufiş, ([claudiu.tufis@fspub.unibuc.ro](mailto:claudiu.tufis@fspub.unibuc.ro))

### **CFP: Gender and Sexuality in Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia: Past and Present**

**Deadline for submissions:** 9 January, 2017

**Date:** 8 March, 2017

**Location:** *University of Nottingham, United Kingdom*

**Description:** Research into gender and sexuality in Russian, East European and Eurasian contexts has rapidly expanded in recent years in the disciplines of history, geography, sociology, literature, politics and cultural studies. The aim of this conference is to facilitate the continued development of this field by encouraging cross-disciplinary conversations around these central themes.

**Contact:** Proposals for 20-minute papers and for panels of 3 papers are welcomed. Please send abstracts of 250 words and a brief biographical note to the organiser Siobhan Hearne ([siobhan.hearne@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:siobhan.hearne@nottingham.ac.uk)).

### **CFP: The Novels of Elie Wiesel (edited volume):**

**Deadline for submissions:** End of January 2017

**Description:** Elie Wiesel's death in July 2016 invites examination of what form his literary, political, and cultural legacy will take. Despite a large and distinguished body of scholarship on his writing, many of his works, particularly his more recent fiction, have yet to be subject to sustained critical analysis. The editors invite abstracts on any work concerning Wiesel's novels.

**Contact:** Please direct any questions and 500-600 word proposals to Victoria Nesfield ([victoria.nesfield@york.ac.uk](mailto:victoria.nesfield@york.ac.uk)) and Philip Smith ([Philip.Smith@cob.edu.bs](mailto:Philip.Smith@cob.edu.bs))

[Details](#)

### **CFP: Constructing the Social (and Individual) World: Myth, Memory, and Identity**

**Deadline for submissions:** 1 February, 2017

**Description:** We welcome articles that address the complex process through which memories are transformed into myths. This problematic interplay between memory and myth-making might be analysed in conjunction with the role of myths in the political and social life of nations, regions, etc. We are interested in papers dealing with myths as means of creation of national, local, collective, and even individual identities. We look for papers that show how the mythological dimension of traditional societies continued to play a role in our contemporary world, inasmuch as the new cultural/political myths reused many of the symbols that defined the earlier mythology. We

welcome articles that address the issue theme from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

**Contact:** For questions and further details, contact Claudia-Florentina Dobre (contact@studii-memorale.ro).

[Details](#)

### **SCOPE 2017, 4th International Interdisciplinary Conference for Political Research**

**Deadline for submission: February 15, 2017**

**Date: 26-28 May, 2017**

**Location: Bucharest**

**Description:** We invite scholars across different disciplines to submit papers, panels or round table proposals on “Democracy in Development: Comparative Perspective on the Governance of the Public Good,” and treat this general theme from various conceptual, empirical, and methodological perspectives.

[Details](#)

### **IICCMER Manuscript Competition, 2016-2017 edition:**

**Deadline for submission:** 31 May, 2017

**Description:** The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of Romanian Exile (IICCMER) is organizing a manuscript competition for those interested in the history of the period 23 August 1944-22 December 1989.

**Contact:** For further details, please contact IICCMER at alin.muresan@iiccmr.ro.

[Details](#)

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## **Recent Publications**

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Abraham, Florin. *Romania since the Second World War. A Political, Social and Economic History*. London and New York: Bloomsbury, 2016.

Beissinger, Margaret, Speranța Rădulescu, and Anca Giurchescu, eds. *Manele in Romania: Cultural Expression and Social Meaning in Balkan Popular Music*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

Budeancă, Cosmin. *Imaginea enticilor germani la românii din Transilvania după 1918. Studiu de caz: județele Sibiu, Hunedoara, Alba*. Târgoviște: Editura Cetatea de Scaun, 2016.

Clark, Roland. *Holy Legionary Youth: Fascism Activism in Interwar Romania*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015.

Deletant, Dennis. *British Clandestine Activities in Romania during the Second World War*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Georgescu, Tudor. *Eugenic Fortress: The Transylvanian Saxon Experiment*. Budapest: Central European University, 2016.

Jung, Martin. *In Freiheit. Die Auseinandersetzung mit Zeitgeschichte in Rumänien (1989-2009)*. Frank & Timme: Berlin, 2016.

Ernest Latham, Ernest. *What Strange Fate: J. Breckinridge Bayne, An American Doctor on the Eastern Front 1916 - 1919*. Bucharest: Editura Vremea, 2016.

Marin, Manuela. *Nicolae Ceaușescu: Omul și Cultul*. Târgoviște: Editura Cetatea de Scaun, 2016.

Nastasa-Matei, Irina. *Educație, politică și propagandă: Studenți români în Germania nazistă*. Cluj-Napoca, Editura Școala Ardeleană / București, Eikon, 2016.

Irina Nastasă-Matei, Irina and Zoltan Rostas, eds. *Alma Mater în derivă. Aspecte alternative ale vieții universitare interbelice*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Școala Ardeleană / București, Eikon.

Petrescu, Cristina. *From Robin Hood to Don Quixote. Resistance and Dissent in Communist Romania*. Bucharest: Editura Enciclopedică, 2013.

Rusu, Mihai Stelian. *Memoria națională românească. Facerea și prefacerile discursive ale trecutului național*. Iași: Institutul European, 2015.

Stan, Lavinia and Vancea, Diane, eds. *Post-Communist Romania at Twenty-Five: Linking Past, Present and Future*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2015.

Toader, Alexandra. *Cultul Personalității lui Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej (1944-1965)*. Iași: Editura Universității "Alexandru Ioan Cuza," 2015.

Verdery, Katherine. *Secrets and Truths: Ethnography in the Archive of Romania's Secret Police*. Budapest: Central European University, 2013.

## Membership Reminder

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We use dues to help with monetary prizes for outstanding publications and to budget and pay for the cost of our upcoming 8th International Conference, which will be held in Romania in 2018.

*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  
UNCG P.O. Box 26170  
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170

*Dues are:*

First year graduate students free  
**\$10** for renewing graduate  
**\$25** for a regular membership  
**\$45** for joint SRS/SEESA  
membership (a savings of \$10)  
**\$37** for joint SRS/RSAA membership  
**\$50** for sustainers  
**\$100** for sponsors  
**\$300** for patrons

## About the Society for Romanian Studies

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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>.

If you have any recent activities to report (publications, conferences organized, etc.) please send such information to the Newsletter Editors, Ana Fumurescu and Cristina Plămădeală ([s.romanian.studiesnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:s.romanian.studiesnewsletter@gmail.com)).