



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON

Tenth Annual
**Romanian Studies
Conference**
April 14-15, 2017



Keynote address by

Dr. Mihaela Miroiu

*“Women and the Moral Dimension of Politics
in Contemporary Romania”*

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Program

Friday, April 14

Oak Room, Indiana Memorial Union

2:00 PM: Opening Remarks by **Elena Popa** (Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington)

Screening of ethnographic film “The Last Generation” (2009),
Dr. Alin Rus, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

4:00 PM: Introduction of keynote speaker by **Professor Maria Bucur-Deckard** (Department of History, Indiana University, Bloomington)

Keynote address by Professor Mihaela Miroiu (National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania)

“Women and the Moral Dimension of Politics in Contemporary Romania”

7:00 PM: Reception to follow

Saturday, April 15

Morning Session

Oak Room, Indiana Memorial Union

9:00AM - Light breakfast in IMU Oak Room

9:30 AM–10:30 AM

Panel 1: Media and Processes of National Identity Formation

Panel Chair: **Professor Christina Zarifopol-Illias** (Department of Classical Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington)

Mariana Bagrin (Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Chişinău)
Restoration of the Soviet Regime in Bessarabia and Tasks regarding Media in the Early Postwar Years (1944-1947)

Cameron Smith

Vlad Ţepeş, his military campaign against the Ottoman Empire in 1462, and the forging of a Romanian national identity

10:30 AM–12:00 PM

Panel 2: Charitable Giving, *Haiducs*, and Order in Socialist Romania

Panel Chair: **Professor Maria Bucur-Deckard** (Department of History, Indiana University, Bloomington)

Cristian Capotescu (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)
An Alternative Form of Relating? – Conceptualizing Moral Sentiments in Socialist Encounters

Justin Ciucevich (Ohio State University)

Outlaws and Communists: Negotiating the Image of the *Haiduc* in Ceauşescu's Romania

Karin Steinbrueck (Northwestern University)
The Second Earthquake: Nicolae Ceaușescu and his
Regime's Abrupt Cessation of Structural Assessments of and
Reinforcement Repairs to Buildings Damaged by the 1977
Earthquake in Romania

12:00 PM–1:00 PM – Lunch in IMU Oak Room

Afternoon Session

Oak Room, Indiana Memorial Union

1:00 PM–2:30 PM

**Panel 3: Nationalism, National Heritage, and
Multiculturalism: Critical Approaches**

Panel Chair: **Professor Aurelian Crăiuțu** (Department of
Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington)

Alex R. Tipei (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)
Civilization and Nation: The Balkans, Europe, and Romanian
Nationalism in the Early Nineteenth Century

Alin Rus (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
Building the National Heritage in Socialist and Postsocialist
Romania

Szabolcs László (Indiana University, Bloomington)
The Rise and Fall of Multiculturalism in Postsocialist Romania:
A Case Study into the Uses of a Political Concept

2:30 PM–2:45 PM – Coffee Break

2:45 PM–3:45 PM

Panel 4: Religion, Nation-Building, and Conversion in Romania

Panel Chair: **Professor Jeffrey Isaac** (Department of Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington)

Gelu Pacurar (Indiana University, Bloomington)

The Making of a Holy Nation: Pastoral Activity, Pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and Nationalism in Interwar Romanian Orthodoxy

Bogdan Dumitru (University of Florida)

Baptism in a Prison Cell. Nicolae Steinhardt's Conversion and the Diary of Happiness

3:45 PM–4:45 PM

Panel 5: Children left behind, Fake Maternity, and Gender Bias in Candidate Selection

Panel Chair: **Professor Mihaela Miroiu** (National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania)

Cătălina Florescu (Pace University, New York City)

Children Left Behind: The Empty Road in Teodora Mihai's *Waiting for August* (2014)

Oana Băluță (University of Bucharest, Romania)

Is incumbency a predictor of political support for women? Does incumbency reduce gender bias in candidate selection?

4:45 PM – End of Afternoon Session; Closing Remarks

Presenters

Mariana Bagrin is a senior researcher at the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, where she has been a member since 2010. She completed her undergraduate studies at Al. I. Cuza University in Iași, Romania and received her Ph.D. in history from the same university. Her primary research field is mass media in the Soviet Union, with particular emphasis on the role of the printed media as an instrument of social control during the first post-World War II decades in the Moldavian SSR. As a continuence of prior research and University teaching experience, her other areas of research include the Soviet Union's role in the Second World War (political and military aspects), Soviet-Romanian Relations and the Bessarabian Question (1918-1991), and the history of Southeastern Europe. She is married and has two children.

Oana Băluță is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Studies, University of Bucharest, and also affiliated with ICUB, the Research Institute of The University of Bucharest. She has a Ph.D. in Political Science with a thesis on gender and political interests and completed in 2015 her postdoctoral research on gender and political representation. Her main interests focus on gender political representation, gender policies, social movements. Major works: *Feminism modern reflexiv*, 2013, Tritonic Publishing House, *Impactul crizei economice asupra femeilor*, 2012, Editura Maiko (coordinator); *Parteneri egali. Competitori egali*, 2007, Maiko Publishing House (coordinator); *Șanse egale prin concilierea vieții de familie cu cariera*, 2007, Maiko Publishing House (coordinator), *Gen și interese politice*, 2007, Polirom Publishing House (coordinator); *Gen și putere*, 2006, Polirom Publishing House (coordinator).

Cristian Capotescu is doctoral candidate in History at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His fields of interest include Global History, humanitarianism, and the socialist and post-socialist period in Eastern Europe. He is recipient of dissertation fellowships from ASEES,

Fulbright, and the Social Science Research Council. Cristian is currently writing up his dissertation after having completed fieldwork in Germany, Hungary, and Romania last year.

Justin Ciucevich is a Master's student at the Center for Slavic and East European Studies, with a specialization in Romanian history, at The Ohio State University. He is interested in how national heroes are constructed under authoritarian regimes in order to gain legitimacy and popular support. More specifically, his current research examines the use of the *haiduc* figure as a Romanian national hero during the period of "national communism" (1965-1989) in Romania.

Bogdan Dumitru graduated from Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, with a B.A. in History and an M.A. in Jewish Studies. He currently is a second-year Ph.D. student in the History Department at the University of Florida. His research interests primarily include nationalism and nationalization, as well as social, cultural, and religious history of East Central Europe during the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century. Dumitru's ongoing research project on interethnic relations in Transylvania (1900-1948) focuses on how the everyday interactions at the local level between Romanians, Hungarians, and Jews can further our understanding of such phenomena and concepts like ethnicity, nationalism, and antisemitism.

Cătălina Florina Florescu was born in Romania and came to the United States of America decades ago with the intention to further her education and then return home. She earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Purdue University with a thesis that focused on cultural studies placed at the intersection of literature and medical humanities. Even though she did not return to Romania as originally planned, she has continued to promote her beloved Romanian culture and literature via various writings, scholarly presentations, and teaching. Presently, she edits a collection about immigration in literature and cinema, a collection that will be published next year: *Transnational Narratives of Englishness in Exile*. She is also the author of four books: *Transacting Sites of the Liminal Bodily Spaces* (literary criticism, narrative medicine;

human body); *Disjointed Perspectives on Motherhood* (mothers in literature & motion picture; feminist criticism); *Inventing Me/Exerciții de retrăit* (memoir); and *Plays*. More information about her scholarship can be found here: <http://www.catalinaflorescu.com/>. At Pace University in Manhattan, she teaches Romanticism and the Modern World, The Individual and Society; 21st Century Dramatic Texts as Inter-Cultural Dialogue; Introduction to Cultural Studies; and others.

Szabolcs László is a 1st-year Ph.D. student of history at Indiana University, Bloomington. He holds an MA in Nationalism Studies from Central European University (2013), and one in British Cultural Studies from the University of Bucharest (2011). His research interest include: global and transnational history, state socialism, dissent, nationalism, multiculturalism, identity politics. He is also a member of the József Attila Circle Literary Association of Young Writers, and publishes literary reviews and translations.

Gheorghe Gelu Pacurar studied history, theology, and Judaism at universities in Romania, Israel, and the United States. He has currently joined the Ph.D. program in the Department of Religious Studies at Indiana University where his primary research interest includes anthropological and historical examination of otherness, church–state relations, the encounter between Eastern Christianity and various religious traditions, and modern East European history.

Alin Rus received his Ph.D. in Philology at Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca in 2007 and he is currently a doctoral candidate in Cultural Anthropology at University of Massachusetts Amherst. Since 2000 he has conducted extensive field research in Romania, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine, focusing on post-socialist changes, miners' social movements, rural culture transformations under the influence of market economy, labor migration, and state-led heritagization policies. Alin's main work—"*Mineriadele* – Between Political Manipulation and Working Class Solidarity" (Curtea Veche Bucharest, 2007)—is a substantial study about Romanian miners' social movements

after 1989, or the so-called *mineriade*. Alin is currently finalizing his dissertation entitled “Migration and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Postsocialist Rural Romania,” in which he analyzes and explains the transformations of rural culture under the influence of labor migration, social inequalities and demographic decline, as phenomena characterizing post-socialist Romanian society.

Cameron Smith earned an M.A. in history from Montclair State University in 2016, after retiring from the United States Army. His research focuses on late medieval Romanian military history. As there is little information available in his home country or native language, he has traveled to Romania several times to conduct research and attend Romanian language courses. He is currently working on translating fifteenth century documents from Transylvania into English.

Karin Steinbrueck is a Ph.D. candidate in history at Northwestern University, where she earned an MA in History. She also holds an MA in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, spent a year in Cluj with a Fulbright Fellowship, and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Chişinău, Moldova. She plans to defend her dissertation, “Aftershocks: The Ceauşescu Regime, Its Securitate, and Romanian Citizens’ Responses to the 1977 Earthquake” in 2017.

Alex R. Tipei is a lecturer and Research Associate at the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center at the University of Illinois. She received her Ph.D. in History from Indiana University-Bloomington in 2016. She also trained at the *École Normale Supérieure*, Paris, the *Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales*, Paris, and the *Institut d'études politiques de Paris*. She is currently revising her first manuscript for publication, tentatively titled *Influence, Development, Civilization: French Soft Power in Early Nineteenth-Century Eastern Europe and the World*. Her research has benefited from the support of a number of fellowships and grants, including a Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, a Doris J. Quinn Dissertation Fellowship, two awards from the American Council of Learned Societies, and a Fulbright Fellowship.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Mihaela Miroiu

**Professor of Political Science,
National School of Political Studies and Public
Administration, Bucharest, Romania**

Professor Miroiu is a Romanian political theorist and feminist philosopher. She received her Ph.D. in Philosophy from University of Bucharest. Dr. Miroiu has authored twelve books, including *Priceless Women* (2006), *Road to Autonomy: Feminist Political Theories* (2004), and *Convenio: On Women, Nature and Morals* (1996). She has also edited or co-edited nine volumes, most of them on feminism and feminist theory.



Dr. Miroiu founded the first gender studies Master's program in Romania in 1998 and helped to organize one of the earliest independent women's nongovernmental organizations: AnA – The Romanian Society for Feminist Analyses. She is an expert advisor to both UNESCO and the European Union, and has won international fellowships at Cornell University, Oxford University, and the Central European University in Budapest. She was also a Fulbright recipient and was resident in the Department of Political Science at Indiana University, Bloomington in 2003-2004.

In 2010, the U.S.-based Association of Women in Slavic Studies awarded her its Outstanding Achievement Award for her accomplishments as a philosopher and her mentorship of a new generation of young Romanian feminists. The European Institute for Gender Equality also featured her in its "Women Inspiring Europe" 2011 calendar.

Selected Publications

- “What is Left from Democracy? Electoralism and Populism in Romania” in *Perspective Politice*, Vol. IV, Nr. 2, December, pp. 7-22, 2011.
- “Morality in Politics, or the Politics of Morality? “Neo-Purification” in Romania”, in Valentin MUREȘAN and Shunzo MAJIMA (Eds), *Applied Ethics. Perspectives from Romania*, Hokkaido University Press, 2013.
- “Feminism and Ethical Liberalism: Reflections on Postcommunist Transition”, in Vol. *Global Capitalism, Socialist Markets and Feminist Interventions*, Shanghai University, Shanghai, pp. 230-257, 2014.
- “On Women, Feminism and Democracy”, in Stan, Lavinia, Diane Vancea (Eds.), *Post-Communist Romania at Twenty-Five. Linking Past, Present and Future*, Lexington Books, New York, pp. 83-102, 2015.

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