

International Conference  
**for the Study of the Novel**  
**Third Edition: Ideologies of Popular Fiction in**  
**Romania and Beyond: Cultural Functions,**  
**Global Circulations**

Programme

17-18 October 2025

Romania: GMT+3

TIME	PROGRAMME
<b>17 OCTOBER</b>	
10.00	Welcome address Room Adenauer, Faculty of European Studies, 22 I.C. Brătianu St. Adrian Tudurachi (Sextil Pușcariu Institute of Linguistics and Literary History) Cosmin Borza (Sextil Pușcariu Institute of Linguistics and Literary History) Mihai Iovănel (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, G. Călinescu Institute of Literary History and Theory)
10.15	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Room Adenauer Chairing: Anca Simina Martin Clive Bloom (Middlesex University London), <i>Fangs for the Memory: Why We Still Love Nineteenth-Century Horror Tropes</i>
11.15	Coffee break
	Research panel sessions Room Adenauer
	Research panel A Ideological Functions of Popular Fiction in Post-communist Romania Chairing: Ștefan Baghiu
11.30	Mihai Iovănel (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, G. Călinescu Institute of Literary History and Theory), <i>Crime Fiction as a Paradigmatic Form of Post-communism</i>
11.50	Anca Simina Martin (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>Nationalizing the Vampire in George Baronzi's Adaptation of Alexandre Dumas père's Histoire de la dame pâle</i>
12.10	Andrei Nae, Irina Vasile, and Diana Dragomir (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, University of Bucharest), <i>Laughing with/of Trauma: Articulating Womanhood on Postsocialist Romania in Anca Munteanu's Nuntă în Oaș</i>
12.30	Ana-Maria Deliu (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>Monsters, Markets and the Novel: The Romanian New Weird</i>
12.50	Andreea Mironescu (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași), <i>Self-Help Postcommunist Literature from Self-Building to State-Building</i>
13.10	Discussions
13.30	Lunch break
15.00	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Room Adenauer Chairing: Adrian Tudurachi Matthieu Letourneux (Paris Nanterre University), <i>A (Popular) European Culture? The International Circulation of Serial Fictions and the Sedimentation of Collective Imaginaries</i>
16.00	Coffee Break

Research panel B The Worlds of the Romanian Novel (1845–1947): Corpus Expansion, Cognitive Mapping, and Computational Semantics Chairing: Ana-Maria Deliu	
16.10	Andrei Terian (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>Why Ștefan Killed Ela: Popular Fiction Scripts in Camil Petrescu's Last Night of Love, First Night of War</i>
16.30	Maria Chiorean, Cătălina Stanislav (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>Sentimental Novels Written by Women in Modern Romania: The French Model and Its Semiperipheral Mutations</i>
16.50	Ștefan Baghiu, Costi Rogozanu (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>Liviu Rebreanu as Popular Fiction</i>
17.10	Vlad Pojoga (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>The Character Network in Mihail Sadoveanu's Baltagul</i>
17.30	Discussions
19:00	Conference cocktail Piramida Restaurant, Babeș-Bolyai University, 1 Emmanuel de Martonne St.

18 OCTOBER		
Panel sessions Sextil Pușcariu Institute of Linguistics and Literary History 21 Emil Racoviță St., Cluj-Napoca		
	Panels A.1-A.2 (English) Room: Library Hall (2 <sup>nd</sup> building, ground floor) Chairing: Andrei Nae, Constantina Raveca Buleu	Panel B.1-B.2 (Romanian) Room: Nicolae Drăganu (main building, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor) Chairing: Cosmin Borza, Andreea Mironescu
10.00	Gabriela Vieru (Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași), <i>The "Ugly-Attractive" Strategy: Deliberate Ambiguity in Houellebecq's Three-Bodied Persona</i>	Iulia Virban (Babeș-Bolyai University), <i>Popular Forms in Cărtărescu's Prose: The Internalization of Market Logic</i>
10.20	Marius Crișan (West University of Timișoara), <i>Dracula as Popular Fiction: The Case of Romanian literature</i>	Sofia Ilie (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>Utopias in Transition: The Transformations of Romanian Science Fiction in Postsocialism</i>
10.40	Ovio Olaru (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>Scandinavian Noir in Romania: Consumer Ideologies and Readership-Making Strategies</i>	Florina Ilis (Babeș-Bolyai University), <i>Influences of Cyberpunk Fiction on Japanese Pop Culture and Contemporary Japanese Literature</i>
11.00	Jordan Lyutskanov (Institute for Literature, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), <i>Santa Esperansa by Aka Morchiladze as a Site of Competing Novel Sub-Genres, Ideologies, and Oecumenae (World-Systems)</i>	Silviu Romaniuc (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași), <i>Cartographies of Marginality: Social Structures and the Poetics of Orality in Dan Lungu's Prose</i>
11.20	Discussions	
11.40	Coffee break	
12.00	Rebecca Gigli (Institute for Literature, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), <i>Questioning Ideologies in Russian Popular Fiction: the Novel "Aviator" by E. G. Vodolazkin</i>	Anda Ionaș (Independent Researcher), <i>The dark mirror of Romanian society in contemporary neo-noir films</i>

12.20	Taisija Oral (Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, Vilnius), <i>Post-Soviet Bestseller into Neoliberal TV Series: Popular Narratives and Ideology in Lithuania</i>	Gianina Giuhat (Babeş-Bolyai University), <i>Temporalities of Care and Continuity: Feminist Narration and Socialist Futurity in Romanian Women's Science Fiction</i>
12.40	Snejana Ung (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>Narrating the Crises: The Politics of (Post-)Yugoslav Literature</i>	Gabriela Varia (National University of Political Studies and Public Administration), <i>The Afterlife of Mihail Drumeş's Şoimaru Cătălin: From Fictional Character to Anti-Capitalist Voice</i>
13.00	Maria David (West University of Timişoara), <i>From Monster to Anti-Hero: Reimagining Count Dracula in Fred Saberhagen's The Dracula Tape</i>	Emanuel Lupaşcu (Babeş-Bolyai University), <i>"Straight Out of a Horror Novel": Petty-Bourgeois Media, Horror Translations, and Class Anxiety in Post-Communist Romania</i>
13.20	Discussions	
13.40	Coffee & lunch break	
	Panels A.3-A.4 (English) Room: Library Hall (2 <sup>nd</sup> building, ground floor) Chairing: Maria Chiorean, Emanuel Modoc	Panel B.3-B.4 (Romanian) Room: Nicolae Drăganu (main building, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor) Chairing: Mihai Iovănel, Vlad Pojoga
15.00	Constantina Raveca Buleu (Sextil Puşcariu Institute of Linguistics and Literary History), <i>Dark, Mediaeval Wallachia: A Fictional, Astrological Approach of Vlad The Impaler's Destiny</i>	Rodica Iavorschii (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>Ideological and Geopolitical Anxiety in the Moldovan Novel. The Proximity Theory and the Rise of Docufiction in Peripheral Literature</i>
15.20	Bogdan Imbri (West University of Timişoara), <i>The Ages of Comics as Reflected in Batman</i>	Mihnea Bâlici (Babeş-Bolyai University), <i>Eclipsed by Populist Media: Refunctionalizing Migration Narratives beyond the Local Literary Fields</i>
15.40	Angelia Subin (West University of Timişoara), <i>Reshaping Dracula in Elizabeth Kostova's The Historian: From History to a Living Legend</i>	Hanna Han (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>Popular Literature in Romanian Critical Discourse: From E. Lovinescu to Mihai Iovănel</i>
16.00	Ramona Mihăilă (Dimitrie Cantemir Christian University), Bucharest, Romania, <i>Ideologies of 19th-Century Popular Fiction in Romanian Spaces and Beyond: Cultural Roles, Transnational Circulations, and Women's Voices</i>	Denisa Chirteş (Babeş-Bolyai University), <i>Cultural Delay in Romanian Adaptation Practices</i>
16.20	Discussions	
16.40	Coffee break	
17.00	Ioana Danieleescu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi), <i>Algorithmic Desire and the Digital Gothic: Ideological Functions of the Made-for-TikTok Melodrama</i>	Loredana Cuzmici (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi), <i>Paper Lives: Writers Turned into Characters</i>
17.20	Bogdan Vişan (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi), <i>Is the Post- in Post-fiction the Post- in Post-transition? The Media Circulation of Late Socialist Love Stories</i>	Ştefana Man (Babeş-Bolyai University), <i>Gender Transgressions and Anti-Fascism in Noiembrie însângerat by Haralamb Zincă</i>

17.40	Anastasia Fuiogă (Babeş-Bolyai University), <i>Reversing Queer Modes of Circulation: The Transnational Circulation of Danmei into Western Media</i>	Ioan Streza (Babeş-Bolyai University), <i>Alternative Modernities: The Case of Science Fiction in Central and Eastern Europe (1955–1960)</i>
18.00	Crina Neacşu (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>Adam and Eve Meet Capitalism: The Rebranding of the Heteronormative Couple in Popular Romance (Auto)Fiction</i>	Bogdan Contea (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), <i>From Tragic Form to Clickbait: The Uses of Tragedy in the Romanian Literary Market</i>
18.20	Mihai Ţapu (Babeş-Bolyai University), <i>Platform Transgression and Neo-Reactionary LARPing in the Dimes Square Art Scene</i>	Victor Cobuz (University of Bucharest), <i>The Ideologies of Recovering the Romanian Interwar Period in Post-Communism in Two Uchronias</i>
18.40	Discussions	
19.00	Ending remarks	