This year, the keynote talk entitled “The Good and the Bad: Civil Society Input in Romanian Transitional Justice” will be delivered by Dr. Lavinia Stan, associate professor of Political Science and Chair of the Department of Political Science at St. Francis Xavier University, in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada. Dr. Stan received her PhD in Political Science from University of Toronto. Dr. Stan has authored two books on civil society and post-communist transition in Romania: Leaders and Laggards: Governance, Civicness and Ethnicity in Post-Communist Romania (2003) and Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Romania: The Politics of Memory (2013), published by Cambridge University Press. She has also contributed to, edited, and co-authored eight other books that analyze post-communist transition and democracy in Romania.

Expanding on her previous work, Dr. Stan’s talk will argue that some civil society can have a seriously detrimental input on transitional justice and, through it, on the democratization effort. In post-communist Romania, groups and associations gathering former communist-era perpetrators (secret political police agents, and tenants occupying abusively confiscated dwellings) and collaborators (the Romanian Orthodox Church) have persistently undermined accountability, transparency and the rule of law, while blocking meaningful reckoning with the communist crimes in which they participated.

With special guest Hans Klemm, U.S. ambassador to Romania

Friday, March 25th:          Oak Room, IMU          3:00p - 5:30p
Saturday, March 26th:       Oak Room, IMU          8:00a - 3:30p