



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON

**5th ANNUAL
ROMANIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE**

March 30-31, 2012



Simon Hall 101, Bloomington campus

Keynote Speaker: Professor Dennis Deletant
Special Guest: Romanian Ambassador to the United States,
Adrian Cosmin Vierita

HOST: Indiana University Romanian Studies Organization, RomSO@indiana.edu

SPONSORS: Borns Jewish Studies Program, History Department, REEL, Horizons of Knowledge, IUSA

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, March 30, 2012

LOCATION: Simon Hall 101

2:30-3:00 **Registration and Welcome**

3:00-4:30 **Panel I: World War II/Transnistria/Holocaust**

Chair: Professor Jeffrey Veidlinger

Ben Thorne - "Bandits or Partisans? Romani Resistance in Transnistria, 1942-1944," PhD, Indiana University

Julie Dawson - "The Diaries and Letters of Blanka Lebzelter: Introduction and Approaches," MA candidate, Columbia University

Dallas Michelbacher - "The Ford Motor Company in Romanian-Occupied Odessa, 1942-44," PhD candidate, Central Michigan University

5:00 **Keynote Address by Professor Dennis Deletant**

7:30 **Evening Reception (Location TBA)**

SATURDAY, March 31, 2012

LOCATION: Simon Hall 101

8:00-8:30 **Registration**

8:30-10:00 **Panel II: Romanian Intellectuals in the Interwar Period**

Chair: Professor Aurelian Craiutu

Ruxandra Pop - "Mihai Pop – an intellectual biography," Indiana University fellow

Christina Bejan - "Modernity Aborted: The Criterion Association of Interwar Bucharest," Visiting scholar, Duke University

Theodora Vacarescu - "No Recognition of Their Own: Women in Romanian Interwar Sociology," Assistant lecturer, University of Bucharest

10:00-10:15 **Bagels & Coffee**

10:15-11:45 **Panel III: Conflicts in Rural Romania, during and after Communism**

Chair: Professor Christina Zarifopol-Illias

Catalin Cristoloveanu - "Conflict in the Countryside: Peasants, Resistance, and the Romanian Communist State during Collectivization, 1949-1953," MA/PhD candidate, Indiana University

Ryan Voogt - "Perceptions of Collaboration: Church-State Relations in Romania, 1945-1989," PhD candidate, University of Kentucky

Leonard Leid - "Reproducing Agricultural Entrepreneurship in Romania," MA candidate, Indiana University

12:00-1:30 **Lunch Event; Talk by the Ambassador Adrian Cosmin Vierita**

Please join us for lunch

1:45-3:15 **Panel IV: Communist Legacies, Post-Communist Challenges**

Chair: Professor Maria Bucur-Deckard

Irina Costache - "The Biography of a Socialist Guru: Sexuality and Belief in Ceausescu's Romania," PhD candidate, Central European University and UCLA/CEES

Roxana Cazan - "Undoing Communist Reproduction in Literature from the Diaspora: The Case of *Black Sea Twilight* by Domnica Radulescu," PhD candidate, Indiana University

Malina Dumas - "Children Left Behind: The Impact of Migration on Moldovan Youth," MA candidate, Georgetown University

3:30-4:00 **Closing remarks**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Professor **Dennis Deletant** is currently Visiting Ion Ratiu Professor of Romanian Studies at Georgetown University and Emeritus Professor of Romanian Studies at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College, London. He was Professor of Romanian Studies at the University of Amsterdam (on secondment from UCL) between 2003 and 2010. He was appointed to the board of the British Government's 'Know-How Fund for Central and Eastern Europe' in 1990 and was actively involved in its work in Romania and in the Republic of Moldova until 1999. For this service he was made an officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1995. He was awarded "Ordinul pentru merit" with the rank of commander for services to Romanian democracy on 1 December 2000 by President Emil Constantinescu of Romania.

Between 2000 and 2001 he was Rosenzweig Family Fellow at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC. He is the author of several monographs and volumes of studies on the recent history of Romania, among them *Ceașescu and the Securitate: Coercion and Dissent in Romania, 1965-89* (London; New York, 1996), *Romania under Communist Rule* (Bucharest, 1998), *Communist Terror in Romania: Gheorghiu-Dej and the Police State, 1948-1965*, (London; New York, 1999) and *Ion Antonescu. Hitler's Forgotten Ally* (London: New York, 2006). He is currently researching a study of British clandestine operations in Romania during World War II.

GUEST SPEAKER

Ambassador **Adrian Cosmin Vierita** presented his credentials to President of the United States, *George W. Bush on January 22, 2008*. Prior to his current assignment, Adrian Vierita served as State Secretary for European Affairs with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since July 2006. Between 2002 and 2006, he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to the Federal Republic of Germany. Mr. Vierita graduated the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna program of post-academic studies in International Affairs and European Integration, as well as the Romanian Institute of International Studies in Bucharest, specializing in international affairs and world economy, both awarded with Merit Diplomas. He holds a PhD in economic sciences from the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest. He has a Master's Degree from the Faculty of Technology of the Polytechnic University in Bucharest. He was also a Visiting Lecturer to the European College for Liberal Arts in Berlin and co-authored the book "Romania in the United Nations Organization," published by the Encyclopedic Publishing House of Bucharest, in 1995.

PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES

M. Benjamin Thorne received his PhD in East European history at Indiana University earlier this year. The research and writing of his dissertation, *The Anxiety of Proximity: The Gypsy Question in Romanian Society, 1934-1944 and Beyond*, was funded through fellowships from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Fulbright-Hays, the Social Science Research Council, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. He is currently preparing a monograph based on his dissertation.

Julie Dawson will complete an MA in Jewish Studies and Certificate in East-Central European Studies at Columbia University this spring. Her research focuses primarily on the Jewish communities and interethnic relations of southern Transylvania and Bukovina. In addition to her studies, Ms. Dawson is employed as an archivist at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York City. She holds a BA in German and a BM in Ethnomusicology from Northwestern University. Prior to her graduate studies, she lived in Germany and Romania for 10 years and hopes to soon move back.

Dallas Michelbacher is a doctoral student in the Department of History at Central Michigan University. He is currently working as a grading assistant for undergraduate U.S. History at Central Michigan University. He earned his B.A. in History from Auburn University in 2011, with a focus in Russian and Soviet history. He is a native of Warner Robins, Georgia. His main research interests center on the Fascist and Communist periods of Romanian history, with a particular focus on systems of forced labor and economic exploitation. He intends to pursue a career in the academia after he completes his doctoral studies and to continue his research into these aspects of Romanian history.

Catalin Cristoloveanu is a 2nd year graduate student in the MA/PhD History program at Indiana University. Arriving to the United States as a young child, Catalin studied European and Romanian history during his time in college at Vanderbilt University and graduate school at Indiana, both as a way to understand the world in which he was born and that in which he lives. His undergraduate thesis focused on the communist appropriation of Lucian Blaga's literature during the 1960s, while at Indiana University, his focus shifted to peasant resistance, both violent and passive, against communist collectivization in Romania. Currently, he is in the process of completing his graduate coursework and has planned to conduct pre-dissertation research and fieldwork in Romania during the summer of 2012 in order to prepare for a future dissertation proposal and preliminary examinations.

Ryan Voogt is a PhD candidate in history at the University of Kentucky. He holds a B.S. in engineering from Calvin College as well as an M.A. in Russian and East European Studies from the University of Michigan. His intellectual interests include questions of society in Eastern Europe and Russia as well as Russian literature and philosophy. This fall he will be attempting to pass his qualifying exams in four fields, modern Russian history, East European history, West European history, and Russian literature. He intends on doing research on issues involving religion and society during the communist periods with hopes of a comparative analysis of the Soviet Union and Romania. In Romania, he was a volunteer and studied Hungarian and Romanian.

Leonard H. Leid is a graduate student in the Russian and East European Institute at Indiana University focusing on Romanian studies. He graduated with a BA degree in International Relations in 2008 after a several month hiatus in Romania. His research interests include agriculture, memory studies and foreign languages and he is currently studying Romanian, Hungarian, and Macedonian. During the summer 2012, Leonard will be in Ohrid, Macedonia studying advanced Macedonian.

Ruxandra Pop is currently a Fulbright Research Scholar at REEI (Indiana University) and a PhD Candidate at Bucharest University. She graduated with an MA in Ethnology, Cultural Anthropology and Folklore at Bucharest University and a BA in Romanian and English Philology at Transylvania University (Brasov, Romania). She also attended the Non-degree postgraduate program in Journalism at Academia Istropolitana Nova (Bratislava, Slovakia) and received an MA in Sociology at the Central European University (Warsaw, Poland). Ruxandra is a contributor for various academic and cultural publications such as *Arca*, *Vatra*, *Tomis*, *CERC*, *Noua literatură*, *Dor*, *Tataia*, *Dilema Veche*.

Dr. Cristina Adriana Bejan was most recently a Title VIII Supported Research Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC. Prior to that, she was the Ion Ratiu Post-Doctoral Fellow at Georgetown University. She completed her MA and PhD as a Rhodes and Fulbright Scholar at Oxford University.

Theodora-Eliza Văcărescu teaches at the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication Studies, University of Bucharest. Her publications include *Cealaltă jumătate a istoriei. Femei povestind* (The Other Half of History: Women Telling Stories), co-edited with Zoltán Rostás, Bucharest: Curtea Veche, 2008; *Cartea neagră a egalității de șanse între femei și bărbați în România* (The Black Book of Equal Opportunities between Women and Men in Romania), co-authored with Laura Grünberg and Ioana Borza, Bucharest: AnA, 2006; *Gender and the (Post) 'East' / 'West' Divide*, co-edited with Mihaela Frunză, Cluj: Limes, 2004, and several articles on topics related to women's history, gender in the media, body and illness. Her current research interests and projects are on women's and gender history in twentieth century Romania, particularly focusing on interwar sociological research and social reform, and on "political" repression and detention during 1947-1964.

Irina Costache is a Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Gender Studies at the Central European University in Budapest (and Fulbright Junior fellow at UCLA for 2011/2012 academic year), where she focuses on East European contemporary history and feminist philosophy. In 2007, she received an MA degree from the same department for a work on feminist interpretations of embodiment. Her most recent publication are “Sociologia corpului gol: istorii si ideologii ale nudismului” in Laura Grumberg (ed.) *Introducere în sociologia corpului: Teme, Perspective si Experiente Întrupate* (Iasi: Polirom 2010) and “From the Party to the Beach Party: Nudism and Artistic Expression in the People’s Republic of Romania” in Cate Giustino and Alexander Vari (eds) *Socialist Escapes Breaking Away from Ideology and Everyday Routine in Eastern Europe, 1945-1989* (Bergham Books: forthcoming). She is currently completing her doctoral dissertation provisionally titled, *Socialist Bodies: paradoxes of embodiment and transcendence in Ceausescu’s Romania*, in which she rereads everyday life during Ceausescu’s dictatorship through the trope of the body.

Roxana Cazan was born and raised in Sibiu, Romania and graduated from ULBA in her hometown. She completed her graduate work at the University of Louisville, KY and IU Bloomington from where she received an MFA in Creative Writing in 2009. In 2011, Roxana published a collection of poems entitled *Dust & Jewels*. At present, she is a PhD candidate in the IU English Department. In her dissertation, Roxana is interested in analyzing representations of women’s reactions to reproduction in the literature of the Romanian diaspora in the US. Her scholarly work appeared in *Muse India* and *Women Studies Quarterly*. Her poetry and translations appeared in *Harpur Palate*, *The Boston Review*, *Sojourn Journal*, *The Innisfree Poetry Journal* among others.

Malina Dumas is an MA candidate at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies. After graduating from Wellesley College in 2010 with a degree in Russian Language & Literature, Malina spent the 2010-2011 academic year in the Republic of Moldova on a Fulbright full grant to conduct research on anti-trafficking work. While in Moldova, she studied Romanian and lived with a Romanian-speaking host family. She became fascinated by Moldovan culture and politics and has an interest in many issues facing Moldovan society today. Next year she plans to conduct research on engagement of the Moldovan diaspora to promote development in their country of origin.



The Indiana University Romanian Studies Organization would like to thank the following sponsors for making this event possible:

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We would like to thank our keynote speakers, Ambassador Adrian Cosmin Vierita and Professor Dennis Deletant for their presence, and to all of our guests!



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THANK YOU!

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