Romanian Studies Conference
March 29-30, 2013

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The Devil in History: Communism, Fascism, and Some Lessons of the Twentieth-Century (2012)

Presentation and Book Launch by Professor Vladimir Tismăneanu
Program: Friday, March 29
Persimmon Room, IMU

4:15PM Introductory Remarks
Presentation: Prof. Vladimir Tismăneanu

6:00PM Book signing

7:00PM Conference Reception

Program: Saturday, March 30
Dogwood Room, IMU

Morning Sessions

9:00AM Panel 1: “Landscapes of Heritage in Romania” Panel Chair: Professor Maria Bucur
Alice Isabella Sullivan, “Formed in the Crucible of the Post-1453 World:: Ecclesiastical Architecture in Moldavia (1457-1546),” University of Michigan

Daniela Calciu, “Bridging Architecture and Society in Post-Communist Romania,” University of Cincinnati

Crystal DeCell, “Defining Heritage in Roșia Montană,” Indiana University

10:15AM Break

10:30AM Panel 2: “Eclectic Entities and Dilemmas of Inclusion” Panel Chair: Professor Padraic Kenney


Amy Samuelson, “‘When the middle is gone, it doesn’t work’: Intergenerational tension in Moldova,” University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee


12:15PM End of morning sessions

12:30PM Lunch

Afternoon Session

2:00PM Panel 3: “Politicizing Ethnicity: Individual and Collective Identities” Panel Chair: Professor Lászlo Borhi
Roxana Cazan, “No Return Address and Anca Vlasopolos’ “Ransom” (Rescue) of Jewish Women,” Indiana University

Natalya Lazar, “Between Rescue and Death: Czernowitz Jews and Interethnic Relations during the Holocaust,” Clark University


4:00PM End of Afternoon Sessions; Closing

Panel presenters—Biographies

Daniela Calciu graduated from the “Ion Mincu” University (Bs.Arch) and from Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Paris La Villette (M.Arch) in 2007, and continued her academic studies with a master programme of integrated urban development (MSc.Urb. 2009), and with an ongoing doctoral training at the “Ion Mincu” University in Bucharest, where she teaches basics of architectural design and architectural theory seminars. She won the Fulbright Junior Award as a visiting researcher at the University of Cincinnati (2012-2013).

Alice Isabella Sullivan is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of the History of Art at the University of Michigan. She received her B.A. from Bowdoin College where she majored in art history and romance languages. She earned an M.A. from the Williams College Graduate Program in the History of Art where she specialized in Romanesque architecture and architectural sculpture. Her current research, broadly defined, focuses on the artistic production of the Carpathian Mountain region in modern Romania in the late medieval and early modern periods. Her doctoral thesis centers on the inter-cultural interactions between the Latin and Orthodox ecclesiastical domains in the region of Moldavia during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, which contributed to the unique character of the fortified monastery churches built and decorated in the decades following the fall of Eastern Roman Empire to the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

Malina Dumas is an MA candidate in Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies at Georgetown University. After graduating from Wellesley College in 2010 with a degree in Russian Language & Literature, Ms. Dumas received a Fulbright grant to conduct research on anti-trafficking work in the Republic of Moldova. Ms. Dumas has focused her graduate work on migration and development in Moldova and is writing her capstone paper on Moldovan diaspora engagement. She also works for the non-profit organization the Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) in Washington, DC, where she is currently designing diaspora volunteer projects for Moldova and Laos.

Rodica Frimu was born in Chisinau, Moldova. After high school she moved to France, for her undergraduate studies at the University of Provence, in Aix-en-Provence. She received her diploma in Applied Foreign Languages for English and Portuguese. She then moved to Bloomington, Indiana, where she received her Master’s Degree in French Linguistics from Indiana University in 2012. Currently she is a PhD student in the same program. Her main area of
interest is Second Language Acquisition, applied to French. She is also interested in studying Romanian Linguistics, especially the Moldavian Daco-Romanian variety of her country, which will be discussed in the presentation.

Amy Samuelson is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her dissertation explores environmentalism in the Republic of Moldova, based on 14 months of ethnographic field research funded largely by a grant from the J. William Fulbright U.S. Student Research Program. She has also conducted ethnographic research on environmentalism in Romania as a fellow at the New Europe College in Bucharest and with support from the Council for European Studies.

Dallas Michelbacher is a second-year doctoral student in the Department of History at Central Michigan University. He received his BA in history from Auburn University in 2011. His research focuses on the Holocaust and southeastern Europe. His dissertation will analyze the forced labor of Jews in Romania during the Second World War.

Jason Vincz is currently a Ph. D. candidate in Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University; “Black Monastery and The Forest of the Hanged” is the master’s thesis he submitted to Indiana’s Russian and East European Institute in 2012. Since 2010, he has been studying the relevant literature with the help of Christina Zarifopol-Illias, Maria Bucur, Valéria Varga, László Borhi, and Martin Spechler, among others.

Crystal DeCell is an MA/MIS student at Indiana Universities’s Russian and East European Institute (REEI) and School of Library and Information Science (SLIS). Her academic research focuses on how new database and scanning technologies might be used to both preserve artifacts and make them more widely available to researchers and the interrelation between heritage and identity in Eastern European archaeology.

Roxana Cazan is a PhD candidate in the English department, a poet, and a Romanian in America. In her dissertation, Roxana investigates the trope of white motherhood in literature written by contemporary Romanian-American authors. While scholars of race and motherhood like Ruth Feldstein, Patricial Hill Collins, Andrea O’Reily and others have astutely pointed out a model of “black motherhood” that surfaces in literary representations in the US, white motherhood as an analytic remains elusive primarily because of the invisibility of whiteness. In her dissertation, Roxana considers the ethnocultural constituent of whiteness in the US: the Romanian diaspora offers her a model through which she can read white diversity. By considering contemporary literature written in this diaspora, Roxana analyzes female characters’ attitudes towards motherhood and the ways in which they subvert, transform, or complicate reproduction as institutionalized during Communism in Romania. These analyses offer one particular understanding of white motherhood in the US, which is influenced by political and historical contexts abroad, and delegitimize the hegemonic status of whiteness as monolithic.
Guest Speaker

Professor Vladimir Tismăneanu

Education

- Ph.D., University of Bucharest, 1980
- B.A., University of Bucharest, 1974

Select Publications

- Reinventing Politics: Eastern Europe from Stalin to Havel (Free Press, 1994)

Research Areas

Communist Political Systems, Comparative Politics, Political Sociology, and Political Theory. Research interests include forms of political participation, democracy building, the dynamics of political parties in East-Central Europe, and the theoretical foundations of civil society.

Fields of Study

- Classical Political Theory
- Formal Political Theory
- Comparative Politics

Thank you

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