

GIRL, INTERRUPTED.

Testimonies, Silences and Self-Censorship in Women's Life Writing

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

10.00-10.20 Welcome address

Adrian Tudurachi, Head of the Institute of Linguistics and Literary History "Sextil Puşcariu", Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch

Rareş Moldovan, Dean of the Faculty of Letters, Babeş-Bolyai University

Andrada Fătu-Tutoveanu, Lecturer, Faculty of Letters, Babeş-Bolyai University, Conference convenor

10.30-11.30 Keynote address and Q&A

Marta Fernández Morales (University of Oviedo, Spain), *The Times They Are A-Changin'.*

Women's Life Writing and the Metacrisis of Meaning in the #MeToo Era

Convenor Andrada Fătu-Tutoveanu, Babeş-Bolyai University

11.30-11.45 Coffee break

11.45-13.30 Panels (1A/ 1B)

Panel 1A: Letters, Diaries and Intimate Narratives

Chair: Andrada Fătu-Tutoveanu

11.45 Merima Omeragić (University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina), *Autobiographization of the Self: Letter and Diary as Plural Reflections*

12.15 Elena Alberti (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany), *Intimate Testimonies: Domestic Abuse in Sophie Mereau's Letters*

12.45 Justyna Avci (University of Warsaw, Poland), *Written Voices from the Periphery: Polish Women Migrants' Letters*

11.45–13.30 Panel 1B: Testimony, Resistance, Self-Censorship

Chair: Fátima Serra

11.45 Christina Sterniša (University of Graz, Austria), *Rewriting Female Resistance during the 1940s: “aloof from a penetrating gaze...”*

12.15 Ana María Díaz-Marcos (University of Connecticut, USA), *“A Fistful of Antifascist Energy”: Ernestina González Fleischman’s Biography*

12.45 Eugenia Mihalcea, *The Diary as Testimony: Silence and Self-Censorship in Miriam Korber Bercovici’s “Jurnal de ghetou”*

13.30–15.00 Lunch (Casa Universitarilor/ The Academic College)

15.00–17.00 Panels (2A/ 2B)

Panel 2A: Violence and Totalitarianism. Surveillance, Memory and the Gulag

Chair: Dana Trif

15.00 Salome Pataridze (Ilia State University, Georgia), *The Tradition of Self-telling: Women’s Voices in Soviet Trauma Narratives*

15.30 Ekaterina Gurtovaya (University of Palermo, Italy), *Narrating Violence: Gendered Experiences in Women’s Gulag Memoirs*

16.00 Erika Magarelli & Denisa Catalina Nadejde (University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy; Catholic University of Murcia, Spain), *Words as Weapons: Panoptic Surveillance and the Scripting of the Self in Communist Romania*

Panel 2B: Domestic Places, Privacy and Reclaiming Agency

Chair: Laura Ilea

15.00 Annalaura De Rosa (University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy), *A Critique of Domestic Space in Diary Form. Power System and Liberation Practices*

15.30 Wioletta Rebecka (Independent Researcher, USA), *Silence as Regulation, Not Absence: Rethinking Women’s Life Writing (SPNS)*

16.00 Anuska Bhaumik (Jadavpur University, India), *Unspeakable Corridor: Gendered Silence, Violated Bodies and Testimonial Rupture*

17.00-17.15 Coffee break

17.15–19.00 Panels (3A/ 3B)

Panel 3A: Decolonising Memory and Gender

Chair: Marta Fernández Morales

17.15 A. Ekka (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India), *The Refusal: Jacinta Kerketta's Hybrid Life Writing as Decolonial Testimony*

17.45 Maria Bucşea (Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania), *Feminist Resistance against Hegemonic Masculinity in "Purple Hibiscus"*

18.15 Joyashree Dey (Independent Researcher, India) and Pooja Gupta (IILM University, India) *Material Memory and the Afterlives of Partition in Women's Life Writing*

Panel 3B: Generational Traumas and Legacies

Chair: Ana María Díaz-Marcos

17.15 Amalia Cotoi (Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania), *Embodying the Mother: Trauma and Maternal Representation*

17.45 Katarina Grković (Andrássy Gyula University, Budapest, Hungary), *Lonely Archives: Autofiction, Post-Memory, and the Maternal Past*

18.15 Elizabeth Swanson (Babson College, USA), *Ineffable Conversations: A Meta-Reflection on an Attempt to Map*

18.30-19.30 Guided Tour Historical Centre Cluj-Napoca. Meeting Point: conference venue.

19.30 Dinner (Casa Universitarilor/ The Academic College)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026

10.00–11.30 Panel 4A: Defrosting Silences: Women's Voices on the Margins

Chair: Elizabeth Swanson

10.00 Maria Antonietta Struzziero (Independent Researcher, Italy), *Resisting Silence, Defying Erasure: A Woman's Voice in "Girl" (2019)*

10.30 Aneta Stępień (Maynooth University, Ireland), *Resisting Medical and Homophobic Narratives of Silencing in Izabela Morska's "Znikanie"*

11.00 Ana Jovkovska (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, North Macedonia), *Mapping Trauma and Violence through Women's Stories on the Margins*

Panel 4B: PhD Focus. Researching Life-Writing

Chair: Constantin Tonu

10.00 Diana Huţanu (Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania), *The Personal Space is Political: Gendered Spatial Experiences in Postsocialist Romania*

10.30 Horaţiu Tohăţan (Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania), *Lying Intentionally. Reading Autofictional Traumas between France and Romania*

11.00 Sara Chira and Mihaela Botiz, *Research and Oral History in North Romania: Border Identity and Trauma in Hutul/Ukrainian Minority Communities*

11.30–11.45 Coffee break

11.45–12.45 Special Panel: The Case Study of a Former Woman Political Detainee, Nina Moica.

Chair: Ruxandra Cesereanu (Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania)

Speakers: Clara Mareş (The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile - IICMER). and Alin Mureşan (Journalist, Independent Scholar)

12.50–14.00 Panel 4C: Holocaust and Postmemory

Chair: Eugenia Mihalcea

12.50 Tímea Jablonczay (University of Jewish Studies, Budapest, Hungary), *Speaking Objects about the Unrecoverable Past*

13.15 Fátima Serra (Salem State University, USA), *"Romería" by Carla Simón: Postmemory and the Excavation of Silenced Histories*

13.45 Ella Mintsyts, Tetiana Marchuk and Iryna Malyshevskaya (Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University, Ukraine), *"Disturbing Thoughts Still Possessed Me": Trauma and Memory in Holocaust Survivors' Memoirs*

14.00–15.00 Lunch (Casa Universitarilor/ The Academic College)

15.00–16.20 Panels (5A/ 5B)

Panel 5A: War, Post-Conflict Trauma and Family Legacies

Chair: Amalia Cotoi

15.00 Kokob Gebru (Leiden University Medical Center, Netherlands), *Trauma, Silence, and Meaning-Making after Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Tigray*

15.25 Manuel Kolanowitsch (Sigmund Freud PrivatUniversität Wien, Austria), *Parallel Silences and Testimonies, Gendered War Narratives in Family Memory*

15.55 Szidonia Haragos (ShanghaiTech University, China), *Gendered Genealogies and Trauma Uninterrupted: Jean Said Makdisi's Memoirs*

Panel 5B: Archives, Affective Legacies and Counter-Narratives

Chair: Elena Alberti

15.00 Sayantina Dutta (Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya College, India), *Parallel Stories and Counter-Archives: Rewriting History in Women's Life Writing*

15.25 Aparna Mohan & Vrinda Varma (National Institute of Technology Calicut, India), *Affective Legacies and Lesbian Refuge in Putsata Reang's "Ma and Me"*

15.55 Ebrar Başığit (Boğaziçi University, Turkey), *Reading the Poetry of Semra Ertan and May Ayim: Their Lives and Legacies*

16.20–16.30 Coffee break

16.30–17.45 Keynote address and Q&A

Monica Ciobanu (Plattsburgh State University of New York), *Postmemory and Activism: A Gendered Lens*

Convenor Anca Sincan ("Ioan Petru Culianu" Religious Studies Institute, Romania)

17.45–18.00 Coffee break

18.00–19.30 Panels (6A/ 6B)

Panel 6A: Performing the Self: Word, Image, Silence

Chair: Elena Voj

- 18.00** Anca Paşca-Saturn (Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania), *“The Image is the Message”*: A Reevaluation of Unclaimed Experience
- 18.30** Ioana Urda (West University of Timişoara, Romania), *Performing the Self & Processing Trauma: Autobiography Beyond Text*
- 19.00** Camelia Dinu (University of Bucharest, Romania), *The Genome of Silence: Reconstructing Female Life Writing in Ludmila Ulitskaya’s “Jacob’s Ladder”*

Panel 6B: Life-Writing Literary Mapping

Chair: Petronia Petrar

- 18.00** Ikram Ben Talha and Brahim Barhoun (Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Tetouan, Morocco), *Trauma, Silence, and Other Archives in Moroccan Women’s Writing*
- 18.30** Denisa Suciuc (Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania), *As the Land Bore, so Bore the Women’s Motherhood in Irish Literature*
- 19.00** Izabella Grexa (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary), *Mapping the Second Half of 20th -Century History and Violence Through a Woman’s Life Narrative*

19.00 Closing Remarks

19.30 Dinner (Casa Universitarilor/ The Academic College)

***The conference venue will host a book corner.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

Optional Trip to Alba Iulia

9am Meeting point to be announced at the conference

Conference organized by the Faculty of Letters of Babeş-Bolyai University and
“Sextil Puşcariu” Institute of Linguistics and Literary History
Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch, Venue: 9 Republicii Street, Cluj-Napoca