International Conference
For the Study of the Novel

Fourth Edition

The Novel in an Unequal World: Core, Periphery, Semiperiphery

PROGRAMME | 13-14 NOVEMBER 2026
Cluj-Napoca, Romania | Local time: UTC+2

FRIDAY, 13 NOVEMBER

Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch (9 Republicii St.)
Conference Hall, 2nd floor

TIME	PROGRAMME
09:45	**Welcome address** **Adrian Tudurachi ("Sextil Pușcariu" Institute of Linguistics and Literary History, Cluj-Napoca)** **Daiana Gârdan (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** **Andrei Terian ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)**
10:00	**KEYNOTE ADDRESS** Chair: Mihaela Ursa **Franco Moretti (Stanford University, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)** *A Novel with Eight Hundred Poems. Prose and Verse in the* Genji monogatari
11:10	Coffee break
11:30	**Research panel A** ***The Worlds of the Romanian Novel (1845-1947): Corpus Expansion, Cognitive Mapping, and Computational Semantics*** Chair: Andrei Terian
11:30	**Andrei Terian ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)** *National Novels in an Unequal World: Literary Deficiency and the Politics of Genre in the Late Nineteenth Century*
11:50	**Maria Chiorean ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu) & Mihai Țapu (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *Born to the Trade: Race Science, Descent, and the Division of Labour in the Romanian Novel (1901-1942)*
12:10	**Vlad Pojoga ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)** *Prompting the Interface, Auditing the Data: Building Digital Humanities Dashboards for the Romanian Novel with LLMs*
12:30	**Mihai Țapu (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *The Archive Is Not Yet a Corpus: Technical Challenges in Reading the Digital Museum of the Romanian Novel at Scale*
12:50	Discussions
13:10	Lunch break

14:40	**Research panel B** ***The Social Function of Sentimental Modes and the Modern Romanian Novel*** Chair: Daiana Gârdan
14:40	**Daiana Gârdan & Alisa Tite (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *Our National Wo/Man of Feeling. The Modern Romanian Novel and the Sentimental Mode*
15:10	**Bogdan Vișan (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *Out of the Ottoman Fold, Into Europe's Court: Orientalizing and Europeanizing the Enslaved Roma in V. A. Urechia's* Coliba Măriucăi *(*Măriuca's Cabin*)*
15:30	**Mihaela Ursa (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *Sympathetic Communities for Queer Hearts. A Case Study*
15:50	Discussions
16:10	Coffee break
16:30	**Research panel C** ***MEELNA – Measuring East European Literary Nations: Quantitative History, Geographies of Production, and Networks of Prestige*** Chair: Ștefan Baghiu
16:30	**Ștefan Baghiu & David Morariu ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)** *Platform Canonicity: Notes on the Popularity and Prestige of Central and East European Writers*
16:50	**Tomasz Krupa (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)** *The World Novel on the Semi-Periphery: Translation and Publishing in Twentieth-Century Poland and Romania*
17:10	**Erik Robert Kovacs (Bucharest University of Economic Studies, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu) & Ioana Moroșan (University of Bucharest, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)** *The Evolution of the Historical Novel in Hungarian Literature: A Quantitative Approach*
17:30	**Snejana Ung ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)** *Counting Before Computing: Bibliographical Infrastructures and the Distant Reading of Yugoslav Literature(s)*
17:50	Discussions
18:10	Coffee break
18:30	**KEYNOTE ADDRESS** Chair: Andrei Terian **Jessie Labov (ELTE Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest)** *The World Novel in Pieces: Nagyvilág, Competing Internationalisms, and the View from the Semiperiphery*
19:40	Conference cocktail (Garlic Bistro, 13 Inochențiu Micu Klein St.)

SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER · PARALLEL SESSIONS
"Sextil Pușcariu" Institute of Linguistics and Literary History (21 Emil Racoviță St.)

TIME	ENGLISH · LIBRARY HALL	ROMANIAN · NICOLAE DRĂGANU ROOM
10:00	**Panel A1 (English)** *Gothic Forms and Peripheral Worlds* Chair: Bogdan Vișan	**Panel B1 (Romanian)** *Genres and Ideologies in the Romanian Novel* Chair: Magda Wächter
10:00	**Andrei Nicolae Martin-Calutiu & Anca Simina Martin ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)** *Peripheral Vampires, Central Vampires: Character Networks in Romanian and American Vampire Fiction*	**Mihai Iovănel ("G. Călinescu" Institute for Literary History and Theory, Bucharest)** *The Paraliterary Beyond Genre: Towards an Anthropological Metatheory*
10:20	**Ioana Danielescu ("Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași)** *Emancipatory Self-Peripheralisation: The Strange Case of the Southern Gothic*	**Ștefana Man (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *A Quantitative Analysis of the Sensation Novel in Romania*
10:40	**Adriana Răducanu (Yeditepe University, Istanbul)** *Audit Gothic: Worlding Testimony in Olga Ravn's* The Employees	**Anastasia Fuioagă (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *The Closets of Modernity: Queer Modernism in the Romanian Semi-Periphery*
11:00	**Andrei Nae ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu) & Denisa Chirteș (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *From Compressed Gothic to Situated Horror: Romanian Locality in Video Games*	**Geanina Giuhat (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *Emancipation Without a Voice: Character-Space and Female Subjectivity in the Romanian Collectivization Novel*
11:20	**Ana-Maria Deliu ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)** *Engineering Memory: Geotrauma and Mediation in Jeff VanderMeer's* Borne	**Mihai-Cătălin Popa (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *A Young Reporter in the Labyrinth of Socialist Realism: Compromise, Hybridization, and Innovation in Radu Cosașu's Early Writings*
11:40	Discussions	
12:00	Coffee break	
12:20	**Panel A2 (English)** *Translation and Literary Consecration* Chair: Emanuel Modoc	**Panel B2 (Romanian)** *Literary Circulation and Postcommunist Forms* Chair: Robert Cincu
12:20	**Mihai Rusu & Ștefan Baghiu ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)** *"Here Lived and Created...": The Memorial Literaturization of Bucharest through Writers' Plaques*	**Mihai Iacob (University of Bucharest)** *A Contemporary Romanian Writer Claimed by the Spanish Right? Ideological Themes in the Representation of Mircea Cărtărescu in Spain*
12:40	**Victor Cobuz & Alexandra Ivan (University of Bucharest)** *Translating Western Theory in Socialist Romania: Mapping the Mediation of the "Studii" Collection*	**Iulia-Maria Vîrban (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *Thinking Core and Periphery through Form: Semi-Peripheral Maximalism in Mircea Cărtărescu's* Orbitor
13:00	**Crina Neacșu & Hanna Han ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)** *The Discursive Production of the Semi-Periphery: Romanian Fiction in Anglo-American Literary Criticism*	**Laura Popan (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *Quantifying Literary Reception: Lexical Patterns and Regimes of Relevance in French and German Reviews of Romanian Postcommunist Fiction*
13:20	**Maria Ioana Oancea ("G. Călinescu" Institute for Literary History and Theory, Bucharest)** *Pseudotranslation: A Mutual Fetishising between Centre and Periphery?*	**Magda Wächter ("Sextil Pușcariu" Institute of Linguistics and Literary History, Cluj-Napoca)** *Existential Peripheries in the Romanian Novel of the 1990s: The Symbolism of Mariana Șora's* Rătăcire

TIME	ENGLISH · LIBRARY HALL	ROMANIAN · NICOLAE DRĂGANU ROOM
13:40	Discussions	
14:00	Lunch break	
15:00	**Panel A3 (English)** *Narrating Migration, Exile and Belonging* Chair: Ovio Olaru	**Book discussion (Romanian)** Chair: Andreea Mironescu Discussants: Bogdan Vișan & Horațiu Tohătan
15:00	**Charles Sabatos (Yeditepe University, Istanbul)** *Modernist Rogues in the Peripheral Space of the Black Sea Interliterary Community*	***Platforme ale memoriei. Romanul în postcomunismul românesc*** Participants **Andreea Mironescu** ("Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași) **Mihai Iovănel** ("G. Călinescu" Institute for Literary History and Theory, Bucharest) **Adriana Stan** (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca) **Cosmin Borza** ("Sextil Pușcariu" Institute of Linguistics and Literary History, Cluj-Napoca)
15:20	**Raluca Ciortea (University of the Republic, Montevideo)** *Threshold and Periphery: Two Positions of Displacement in Dubravka Ugrešić's* The Museum of Unconditional Surrender *(1998) and* The Ministry of Pain *(2006)*	
15:40	**Mihnea Bâlici (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *Can the Strawberry-Picker Speak? Degrees of Fictionalization and Class Positionality in Romanian Migration Literature*	
16:00	**Constantina Raveca Buleu ("Sextil Pușcariu" Institute of Linguistics and Literary History, Cluj-Napoca)** *Relegated Marginality and Spiritual Rebirth. Assuming the Exile in Vintilă Horia's* God Was Born in Exile	
16:20	Discussions	
16:40	Coffee break	
17:00	**Panel A4 (English)** *Emancipation and Peripheral Forms* Chair: Constantina Raveca Buleu	**Panel B3 (Romanian)** *Literary Spaces and Existential Peripheries* Chair: Cosmin Borza
17:00	**Horațiu Tohătan (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *Updating and Synchronization: How Can We Explain the Emergence of Autofiction in the Romanian Literary Field?*	**Andreea Mîrț (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *From Bucharest to Rio de Janeiro: Representations of the Core-Periphery Relationship in the Novels of Cezar Petrescu and Jorge Amado*
17:20	**Ovio Olaru (**"Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu**)** *Global South, Far North. Patterns of Interperipherality*	**Gabriela Vieru ("Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași / Sorbonne Nouvelle)** *A Divided Core? American Aesthetics and French Consecration in the Post-1989 Romanian Novel*
17:40	**Snejana Ung ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu)** *The Success Story of an Import: Postmodernism in the Post-communist Balkans*	**Robert Cincu ("Sextil Pușcariu" Institute of Linguistics and Literary History, Cluj-Napoca)** *(Re)creative Adaptations of Space: Local Mobility and Monastery Lodging in Romanian Literature*
18:00	**Dragoș Bucur (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)** *The Ghetto Novel as Ideological Form within Jewish-Romanian Interwar Literature*	**Ioan Streza ("Sextil Pușcariu" Institute of Linguistics and Literary History, Cluj-Napoca)** *The Postwar Romanian Existentialist Novel in a (Semi-)Peripheral Context*
18:20	Discussions	
18:40	End of the conference	