



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ
Institutul de Istorie
Nicolae Iorga

„Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History



The National Museum of History of Moldova

Programme

International Conference

**Communism for Young People.
Passing on the Recent Past
in Central and Eastern Europe**

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Day 1

28 May 2026

9.00-9.30 : Registration of the participants

9.30-10.00 : Welcome Speech by dr.habilit. **Mioara Anton**, director of the `N. Iorga` Institute of History and dr. habilit. **Claudia-Florentina Dobre**, convenor of the conference

10.00-11.00: Keynote Address by dr. habilit. professor **Momchil METODIEV** (Head of the History Department, New Bulgarian University, Sofia): *Revealed Secrets, Unreckoned Past: Post-communist Transition in Bulgaria*

11.00-11.30: Coffee break

11.30-14.00: Panel I: Communism from/for Youth Perspective (Chair: Dalia

Bathory

Cristofer **SCARBORO** (King's College, USA), *A Future in Marble and Concrete: The American University in Bulgaria Literary Magazine, Communist Pasts, and Ends of History.*

Antony **HOYTE-WEST** (Nottingham Trent University), *Translating communist Europe for a present-day British readership: An examination of relevant shortlisted and prizewinning works in the International Booker Prize and the EBRD Literature Prize.*

Nicolae **ȚÎBRIGAN** (Institute of Political Science and International Relations "Ion I.C. Brătianu", Romanian Academy), *Reframing Digital Communism: Youth, Memory, and Geopolitics.*

Manuela **MARIN** (George Barițiu Institute of History, Romanian Academy, Cluj), *The Politics of Memory and the Refashioning of Communism for Young People: The Illustrated Guide to Romanian Communism.*

14.00-15.00: Lunch

15.00-17.00: Panel II: "The Future of Nostalgia" (Chair: Claudia-Florentina Dobre)

Cornel **MICU** (Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest), *"Youth" as an Object and Instrument of Social Mobilization Policies in Twentieth-Century Romania.*

Biljana **RISTOVSKA-JOSIFOVSKA** (Institute of National History, Skopje, Macedonia), *The Macedonian Historical Memory after the Fall of Socialism: National Discourse vs. Yugo-Nostalgia, and European Stereotypes.*

Dalia **BATHORY** (Institute for the Investigation of the Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile-IICCMER, Bucharest), *What the Romanian Post-Socialist Nation Dreams of Remembering on TikTok? Acceptable Nostalgia vs Unacceptable Nostalgia.*

Virgiliu **BÎRLĂDEANU** (Institute of History, Moldova State University), Corneliu **PINTILESCU** („N. Iorga” Institute of History/George Barițiu Institute of History, Romanian Academy, Cluj), *Memory of Communism as Battlefield: Collective Nostalgia and Its Political Uses in Contemporary Romania and Republic of Moldova.*

15.00-17.00: Panel III: The Memory of Communism in Romania and the Republic of Moldova (in Romanian) (Chair: Liliana Corobca)

Ludmila **COJOCARU** (National Museum of History of Moldova), *The Politics of Memory in the Republic of Moldova regarding the Soviet occupation period.*

Zinaida **BOLEA** (Moldova State University, Chişinău), *Grandchildren's representations of the traumatic experiences of their grandparents deported from the Moldavian SSR.*

Liudmila **CHICIUC** („Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu” State University in Cahul), Lidia **PĂDUREAC** („Alec Russo” Bălţi State University), *The History of Communism in the Republic of Moldova Textbooks: Issues and Perspectives.*

Maria **MATEONIU-MICU** (National Museum of Romanian Peasant-MŢR, Bucharest), *Public Identity Narratives. Minors as heroes of the working class.*

Narcisa **ŞTIUCĂ** (Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest), *Decree 770 between uttered infantilisms and concealed guilt.*

17.00-19.00: Panel IV: Communism at the museums and communist monuments in post-communist era (Chair: Claudia-Florentina Dobre)

Corina **MAŞCA** (Institute of Social-Humanistic Researches „Gheorghe Şincai”, Târgu Mureş), *#Ceausescu: Reconfiguring the Collective Memory of Nicolae Ceauşescu through AI-Generated Videos on Social Media Platforms.*

Silviu-Gabriel **LOHON** (“C. S. Nicolăescu-Plopşor” Institute of Socio-Human Research in Craiova), *Parallel Narratives in Stone: Monumental Art in Communist Romania and Bulgaria.*

Darius **JUODIS** (General Jonas Žemaitis” Military Academy of Lithuania), *Soviet Monuments in Lithuania: Dismantling and Demolition, 1990-1992.*

Michał **KRZYŻANIAK** (Doctoral School of Humanities at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), *Museums of the Polish People's Republic. A phenomenon of recent years.*

Nikolai **OSTASHOV** (Vabamu Museum of Occupations and Freedom, Estonia), *From Personal Narratives to Public Memory: Museumizing Communism in Estonia.*

Day 2

29 May 2026

10.00-11.00: Keynote Address by Professor **Robert PICHLER** (Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences), *Generations of Memory: Remembering Socialism among Albanians in Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia*

11.00-11.30: Coffee break

11.30-13.30: Panel V: Communism of the Children (Chair: Manuela Marin)

Kristina **POPOVA** (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), *The Power of Kindergarten: Reconstruction of Preschool Education in Bulgaria in the late 1940s – 1950s*.

Anastasiya **PASHOVA** (South-West University “Neofit Rilski” in Blagoevgrad), Nurie **MURATOVA** (South-West University “Neofit Rilski” in Blagoevgrad), Petar **VODENICHAROV** (South-West University “Neofit Rilski” in Blagoevgrad), *“Young people should have more children.” The socialist state policy in Bulgaria for punishing childlessness as a social deviation /1951 – 1990*.

Dragan **ZAJKOVSKI**, Vladimir **JANEV** (Institute of National History, Skopje), *Indoctrination from a young age (the daily life of Pioneers in Communist Yugoslavia)*.

Răzvan **PÂRÂIANU** (“George Emil Palade” University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology, Târgu Mureș), *An Inquiry into a Youth That Did Nothing: Youth, Identity, and Ideological Control in Late Socialist Romania*.

11.30-13.30: Panel VI: Youth Education during Communism (Chair: Ludmila

Cojocari)

Constanze **FRITZCH** (Kunsthistorische Institut Florence), *Retroutopia. The future lies in the past?*

Andreea **CORCA** (Brukenthal National Museum, Sibiu), *“The Education Issue” in the Archives of the Securitate. Sibiu County, 1970–1980*.

Laurențiu **DOLOGA** („N. Iorga” Institute of History), *Building Back the Past: Medieval Historical Narratives in Communist Romania*.

Mioara **ANTON** („N. Iorga” Institute of History), *The threat of „moral pollution”. Campaigns for the re(education) of youth in Romania in the 1970s*.

13.30-14.30: Lunch

14.30-16.30: Panel VII: Visual Memory of Communism (Chair: Corneliu Pintilescu)

Andrei **POPA** (Institute of the Romanian Revolution of December 1989), *The Lenin statue of Bucharest – from symbol of power to national condemnation.*

Cosmin **NĂSUI** (PostModernism Museum), *Commissioned Illustrators: Graphic Heritage from 'Class Enemy' Propaganda to the 'Baby Boom' Imaginary.*

Adrian **EPURE** (National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest), *From Secret Police to Cultural Symbol: Romanian Spy Films and the Cinematic Construction of Communist Memory.*

Alexandra **BARDAN** (Faculty of Journalism and Communication Studies, University of Bucharest), *Youth and the video culture in late Socialist Romania: an analysis from the perspective of oral history.*

16.30-18.30: Panel VIII: Literature and writers about communism (Chair: Virgiliu Bîrlădeanu)

Liliana **COROBCA** (IICCMER), *Propaganda literature for children: books about the war, about brave Chekists, about Lenin's childhood, anti-religious books.*

Jakub **NOWOCIN**, Katarzyna **WITEK-DRYKANSKA** (Doctoral School of Humanities at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan), *The portrayal of the Citizen's Militia in contemporary historical education.*

Oana-Ramona **ILOVAN**, Kinga Xénia **HAVADI-NAGY** (Faculty of Geography, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca), *Hans Bergel on Freedom and Attachment to Transylvania.*

Dorota **SKOTARCZAK** (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan), *The renaissance of the militia novel in the 21st century.*

16.30-18.30: Panel IX: Socialist legacy and the Future Generations (Chair:

Claudia-Florentina Dobre)

Justyna **BUDZINSKA**, Izabela **SKORZYNSKA**, Liwia **MAGNUS**, Angelika **SARNA**, Maja **SKORZYNSKA**, Karolina **ŁASKI**, Maksymilian **TUROWSKI** (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan), *Memory of Communism as a Source of Shaping the Worldviews of Young Polish Women and Men: A Case Study of Humanities Students.*

Georgeta **NAZARSKA** (State University of Library Studies and Information Technology, Sofia), *Social Engineering Projects for Children in Communist Bulgaria: 'lieux de mémoire' in the Transition Period.*

Georgeta **FODOR** (University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology "G. E. Palade", Târgu Mureş), *'22 December Should Be Our National Day: It Makes More Sense for My Generation than 1 December 1918': The Romanian Communist Regime through the Eyes of Gen Z.*

George **GOTSIRIDZE** (Teaching-Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Humanities, Georgia), *Communism as Totalitarianism and Its Legacy: Youth and Memory Politics in Post-Soviet Georgia.*

18.30-19.00: Final remarks by Claudia-Florentina Dobre and Ludmila Cojocari, co-directors of the project "Communism for Young People. Passing on the Recent Past to Young Generations in Romania and the Republic of Moldova"