

SCIENTIFIC LIFE

U.S. Embassy in Bucharest and the Institute of Political Sciences
and International Relations, Romanian Academy, Bucharest

30 May 2012

INAUGURATION OF THE WASHINGTON ROOM AT ISPRI and the debate U.S. ELECTIONS. AGENDA CANDIDATES, INTERNAL STAKES AND GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE

David Morris, Political Counselor in U.S. Embassy in Bucharest gave a presentation on U.S. elections, followed by debate points of view on the subject, along with intervention of Sandra Pralong, former adviser to President Emil Constantinescu took part in the debates and presidential advisor Julian Chifu, and Constantin Degeratu.

In the inauguration ceremony, Dan Dungaciu, Director of ISPRI, noted that Washington room, furnished with the support of the U.S. Embassy, located in the building, opens a former socio-communist political institution run by Stefan Gheorghiu Academy, to the new opened and transparent European and American scientific structures.

After the ceremony, David Morris, policy adviser to U.S. Embassy, gave a presentation about the U.S. elections, highlighting the commonalities between Romania and the United States systems.

Morris recalled that the recent electoral law adopted in Romania is similar in some respects with the U.S. one.

On U.S. elections, U.S. advisor noted that the Democratic Party and Republican Party are “further apart than ever.” “An argument to this effect, well known also in Romanian is that, before 1989, everything was black and white for the foreign policy. And that, somehow, kept the two parties together, in many respects. Fight against the communist threat, terror cells — as it was called — established a specific unit which lasted from the end of World War II until the early ’90s. But once the Cold War ended, with the Soviet enemy gone, and the Russian getting weak, the U.S. suddenly found themselves without a unifying purpose and the parties have realized that they have more time to deal with their own agenda”, said David Morris.

He approached the fact that the American population is equally divided in terms of policy options such as in Romania.

Internal issues will play a very important role, to an extent greater than in Romania and Europe in general, because the U.S. is “a continental nation” without external enemies around, Morris said.

David Morris anticipates that there will be a “dirty” campaign, like that of 2004. If the popular vote will be tight, the result could be decided by one or two states. Regarding health care, counselor of the Embassy said that the law adopted by the Obama administration, requires a greater involvement of government, Republicans weren’t able to bring victory if elections were held last year.

In turn, Sandra Pralong, former adviser to President Emil Constantinescu pointed out that the law on health proposed by Obama is very similar to a law adopted in Massachusetts, the state where the governor is Mitt Romney, Republican candidate for president.

“The socialist system — requiring everyone to pay — was not imposed by Obama, but by the previous system that gave people who had no opportunity to be treated free of charge, to a certain limit, within the Medicaid and Medicare programs,” said Sandra Pralong.

International Scientific Conference
**“BESSARABIA — 1812. A NATIONAL PROBLEM,
 INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS”**

Chişinău - Iaşi, 14-16 mai 2012

At the conference have participated historians and specialists from Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Italy, Turkey, Austria, Latvia, Finland and Lithuania. From ISPRI has participated director and professor Dan Dungaciu.

The launching of the book

**RELIGION AND CONFLICT. RADICALIZATION
 AND VIOLENCE IN THE WIDER BLACK SEA REGION**

Authors Julian CHIFU, Oana Bogdan POPESCU and Bogdan NEDEA

May 29, 2012

Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations (ISPRI) and the Centre for Conflict Prevention and Early Warning have launched the book *Religion and Conflict. Radicalization and violence in the Wider Black Sea Region*, authors Julian Chifu, Oana Bogdan Popescu and Bogdan Nedeia, published at the ISPRI's Publishing House.

Along with the book authors have participated also, Teodor Melescanu, Director of Foreign Intelligence Service, Cornel Codiţă, military expert, Cristian Diaconescu, presidential advisor and Dan Dungaciu, director of ISPRI.

Following an extensive research project, during a year, the Centre for Conflict Prevention & Early Warning has brought into the spotlight an area of the eastern flank of Europe of endless tensions and conflicts. Caucasus, especially the North, is the terrible testimony to the collapse of an empire whose gravitational strength decreased significantly.

The book proposes an evaluation of potential conflict and the risk of escalation, based on an extremely powerful mobile — religion.

The event benefited from the German Marshall Fund, and the Institute of Political Science and International Relations of the Romanian Academy.

Romanian Academy, Section of Philosophy, Theology, Psychology and Pedagogy

Scientific session

BICENTENARY GEORGE BARIȚIU (1812-1893)

Romanian Academy Aula

14 June 2012

The allocutions and scientific evocations were approached by:

- Acad. Dan Berindei, vice-president of the Romanian Academy — *The Polyvalent George Barițiu*;
- Acad. Alexandru Surdu, president of the Section of Philosophy, Theology, Psychology and Pedagogy — *George Barițiu and Braşov*;
- Prof. Dumitru Acu, president of the *The Transylvanian Association for Romanian Literature and the Culture of the Romanian People* — *George Barițiu, president of the Transylvanian Association*.

The 13th International Conference of
International Society for the Study of European Ideas in cooperation
with University of Cyrus

July 2-6, 2012

**THE ETHICAL CHALLENGE OF MULTIDISCIPLINARITY:
RECONCILING 'THE THREE NARRATIVES' — ART,
SCIENCE, AND PHILOSOPHY**

Language — and by extension our story telling activities in general — enables us to confront the contingencies of life by answering the immediate question: what's happening and what is going to happen next. Science also attempts to answer this question. However, there appears to be — at least in the western cultural tradition — a fundamental tension between the literary-artistic and the scientific projects: whereas the artist seeks to recreate human experience, thereby evoking basic ethical issues, the scientist seeks ethically-neutral, evidence-based facts, as the constituents of our knowledge of reality. It is thus left to others — to the philosopher, theologian, critic, or historian — to bridge the theoretical and ethical gaps between the world of 'fiction' and the world of 'fact', of art and science. Among other things, the ever increasing rate of production of scientific data in the modern age poses a new multidisciplinary challenge: how to address the unresolved/unresolvable tensions between the language of normativity and the language of facticity.

The organizers of the 13th ISSEI Conference invite scholars from various academic fields to discuss the ethical challenge of multidisciplinary by characterizing the scope, effects and implications of the discontinuities among 'the three narratives': to consider how artists, scientists, and philosophers have articulated, explained and responded to them and/or have attempted to reconcile them.

Scientific researcher III, PhD, Viorella Manolache from ISPRI, has participated and presented the study *A Psychoanalytic Complacment of the Text: Two Romanian Cultural Cases of the Narrative Fetish*.

<http://issei2012.haifa.ac.il/>

SOLIDARITY, MEMORY AND IDENTITY

Interdisciplinary Conference in Gdansk

20-21 September 2012

What is the phenomenon of solidarity in the current world? What is the sense of talking about it with the increase of violence around the globe? What is its role in shaping identities — of cultures, nations, individuals? Is it born from memory or from oblivion? Questions such as these gave rise to the idea of our interdisciplinary conference. It is going to be devoted to solidarity in all its multiple aspects, in the broadest contexts possible — historical, cultural, artistic, psychological and philosophical. In the age of rapid socio-political changes, with deepening ethnic and religious conflicts on one hand, and, on the other hand, a diminishing feeling of identification with the community, there seems to exist a strong necessity for a reflection on the idea of solidarity. It would be difficult to think of a more inspiring place for such a reflection than the city of Gdansk. It was here that in 1980 "Solidarity" was born: a social movement which, in less than a decade, brought about the fall of the communist regime in Poland and played an important part in the historic changes

in Central Europe. Yet we do not want to make Polish “Solidarity” the dominating theme of the conference or privilege it in any way. On the contrary, we intend to present as fully as possible the broad spectrum of solidarity-related themes. Thus, we heartily invite academics from all sides of the world, representing various research fields: anthropology, sociology, philosophy, history, psychology, cultural studies, literary studies, film studies, theater studies, memory studies, postcolonial studies, gender studies et al. Both experienced scholars and young academics at the start of their careers are most welcome. We also invite all persons interested in participating in the conference as listeners, without presenting their papers. We are sure that we will have important reflections and fruitful discussions about *Solidarity, Memory and Identity*.

Scientific researcher III, PhD, Viorella Manolache from ISPRI, has participated with the study *Communism and the Modernity's Simulacra: the Recovered History*

http://solidaritymemory.ug.edu.pl/en/about_conference/

The first international symposium:
**THE MEDITERRANEAN PATTERN AND THE EXTENDED REGION
 OF THE BLACK SEA**

The University of South East Europe Lumina and the Italian Institute for
 Philosophical Studies from Naples

7-9 June, 2012, Bucharest, Romania

Scientific researchers III, PhD Cristian-Ion Popa has participated with “What Constitutional Role for State in a Post-Communist Society?”; and Bogdan Popescu, with the intervention approaching “Political Parties Facing the Electorate. Discourses, Messages and Campaigning Strategies”.

**“BEYOND GLOBALIZATION. THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL
 CONFERENCE OF THE ROMANIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY”**

University of Bucharest, Romania

31 May - 3 June 2012

Scientific researcher III, PhD Cristian-Ion Popa has participated with “Elements of Fiscal Sociology”, in the 11th section (which he have also moderated) HISTORY OF SOCIAL THEORY.

ACADEMOS CONFERENCE 2012 (ISI PROCEEDINGS, NSPAS, 2012)

National School of Political and Administrative Sciences
 and *European Journal of Sciences and Theology* (ISI ranking)

7-9 June 2012

Scientific researchers III, PhD Cristian-Ion Popa has participated with “Market, State and rules-based Welfare”, and Gabriela Tănăsescu with “Liberal neoclassicism and the current policy of «neoclassical synthesis»”.

ISPRI — HUB, BRUSSELS, *TOTALITARIAN DISCOURSE*

coordinators: Henrieta Anișoara ȘERBAN and Lut LAMS,
Inter-academic research program between Romanian Academy
and Royal Belgia Academy, Brussels

27 June - 2 July 2012

The purpose of this visit consisted in the continuation of the common project of research with Professor Lutgard Lams. From ISPRI has participated the coordinator of the project scientific researchers PhD Henrieta Șerban, Viorella Manolache and Răzvan Pantelimon with Professor Lut Lams, PhD and Professor Geert Crauwles in the international working-group meeting concerning similarities and differences in totalitarian discourses across various regions, on 28th and 29th of June and, conclusions, on the 2nd of July, 2012. This scientific gathering of contributors to the book project on totalitarian discourses represented a stimulating experience and an advancement of the project, in general.

The Romanian researchers have presented their studies, followed by the commentaries which described and assessed the originality of the contribution and its adequate scope. The questions aimed to clarify the correspondence of some concepts in studies with others in various articles in order to establish a coherence of terminology within the volume. At the same time, the discussions identified key notions, themes and perspectives are present in my paper and sustain concepts in the other chapters, or complete, or change the perspective of the others. We discussed and decided some ideas that could be presented by the editors in the general part of the introduction of the volume besides the mere presentation of the chapters.

The dialogue between the Romanian researchers and the editors set in perspective their works and clarified some details regarding the structure of the volume and the place of their chapter in relation to the best and clearer account of the subject matter.

The discussion was also beneficial in relation to their specific intellectual and work-related novel themes of interest related to the topic and inspired to identify other themes for future research.

More documentation on newer publications of related interests regarding the historical realities of totalitarian and authoritarian discourse in their philosophical dimension and their discursive dimension, was provided by Professor Lams who selected some interesting materials and shared them with us for discussion.

We have discussed the possibility of further publications in the *Romanian Review of Political Sciences and International Relations* with Professor Lutgard Lams and Professor Geert Crauwels. We have offered a recent issue of *Romanian Review of Political Sciences and International Relations* and two books (*Mapping Marginality*, by Manolache and Șerban and *Homo Posthistoricus*, by Viorella Manolache) for the library of the HUB.

Program no. 2, Research Project no.1, 2011-2013

THE IDEA OF REPUBLIC IN THE MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Coordinators, Scientific researchers and Professors Ion GOIAN and Henrieta ȘERBAN

ISPRI

May 2012

The international work-shop has as a special guest, WILLIAM STEARNS (PhD, scientific researcher and professor), following the already-opened international invitees on the inedited and actual perspective of the Republic and Republicanism.

The two international conferences and workshops of PhD., UE clerk SARI MAARIT FLORESCU and researcher and professor PhD WILLIAM STEARNS, confirm the Romanian scientific and academic harmonization with the strong Western and North American theoretical and applicative themes.

**THE 22TH GLOBAL CONGRESS OF THE SCIENCE
POLITICAL ASSOCIATION (IPSA),**

Madrid

8-12 July 2012

Scientific researcher PhD, Bogdan Popescu (ISPRI) has participated at the 22th Global Congress of the Science Political Association (IPSA), with the general theme *Reshaping Power, Shifting Boundaries*, which took place in Madrid, 8-12 July 2012.

His presentation has approached the *Romanian Political Parties and Diaspora. Discourses and electoral strategies for winning 2012 elections*, within the section chaired by PhD. Eva Ostergaard-Nielsen (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Department of Political Sciences, Bellaterra, Spain), *Migration, Transnational Citizenship and Political Parties: Comparing Overseas Electoral Campaigns*.

His Excellency Mr. Lamberto ZANNIER

OSCE: SECURITY THROUGH COOPERATION

Black Sea University Foundation and the Institute of Political Science
and International Relations Romanian Academy

September 4, 2012

OSCE Secretary General, His Excellency Mr. Lamberto Zannier has presented the conference on “OSCE: Security through cooperation“, with the participation of Ambassador Liviu Bota, Director ISPRI, Prof. Dan Dungaciu, members of academia, diplomats, journalists and security experts.

International Conference

**RUSSIA AND ROMANIA AFTER 20 YEARS:
PERCEPTIONS, REALITIES, PERSPECTIVES**

Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations
“Ion Heliade Rădulescu” Aula, Romanian Academy

4 October 2012

Introductory allocutions

Academician Dan Berindei, Vice president of Romanian Academy

Academician Alexandru Surdu, President of the Section of Philosophy, Psychology, Pedagogy and Theology, Romanian Academy

Representant of the Russian Embassy at Bucharest
 Dan Dungaciu, Director of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations,
 Romanian Academy

Section 1: *Russian Federation and the perspectives of the international system at the beginning of the 21th century*

Moderator: Dan Dungaciu, Director of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, Romanian Academy

Mikhail Golovnin, Doctor of Sciences, Deputy Director of Institute of Economy, Russian Academy of Sciences *Investments in Russia — CIS — EU triangle*

Daria Ushkalova, PhD Candidate, Head of the Sector for Problems of Russia's Participation in Global Economy, Institute of Economy, Russian Academy of Sciences *Foreign Trade in Russia — CIS — EU triangle*

Aurelian Lavric, associated professor, PhD, State University, Moldova, Chişinău *The relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova: the Romanian factor*

Irina Selivanova, PhD Candidate, Political Research Center, Institute of Economy, Russian Academy of Sciences *CIS: from the "civilized divorce" to the Eurasian Union*

Oana Simion, CS PhD, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, Romanian Academy *Rusia and the "nearby neighborhood"*

Lucian Dumitrescu, CS PhD, Institute of Sociology, Romanian Academy

Darie Cristea, lecturer, PhD dr., Faculty of Sociology, University of Bucharest, *Strategic identity and radically conservatism in Vladimir Putin's Russia*

Ludmila Coadă, lecturer PhD, Faculty of History and International Relations, Free International University, *Overseeing neighborhood: Russian policy towards Moldova and Georgia*

Larisa N. Harea, PhD student, National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest, *"Common neighborhood" reported to the two Europe - Western and Eastern*

Ileana Racheru, PhD student, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Bucharest, *Moldovan foreign policy analysis. Case Study: Moldova-Ukraine relations (1990-2009)*

Discussant: Bogdan Jora, CS PhD, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, Romanian Academy

Session 2: *Russia and Romania after 1990*

Moderator: Cristi Pantelimon, CS III PhD, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, Romanian Academy

Tatiana Bitkova, PhD, senior researcher, INION, Russian Academy of Science, *Romania and Russia place in the context of East - West relations: political and cultural issues*

Nadejda Feyt, PhD candidate, researcher, Institute of Economy, Russian Academy of Sciences *Russian Romanian relations in the 21st century*

Angela Grămadă, PhD student, Center of the East European and Asian Center, Bucharest, *Russian Federation influence on political processes (elections) of the relations between the EU and the Eastern Partnership*

Constantin Nica, CS I PhD, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, Romanian Academy, *Perspective of the evolution of the party systems in Russia*

Gabriela Tănăsescu, CS III PhD, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, Romanian Academy, *Cases of the semi-presidentialism — Romania and Russia. The problem of the presidentialization*

Lorena Păvălan Stuparu, CS III PhD, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, Romanian Academy, postdoctoral researcher University of Bucharest, *The problem of the political identity in post-decembrist Romania: between East and West*

Problema identității politice în România postdecembristă: între Est și Vest

Aristide Cioabă, CS I PhD, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, Romanian Academy, *Democratic consolidation in Romania. Incertitude and perspectives.*

Discussant: Bogdan Mihai Popescu, CP III PhD, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, Romanian Academy.

ASPEN DIALOGUES — NATIONAL INTEREST

Director of ISPRI, Professor Dan Dungaciu has participated to the debate series organized by the Aspen Institute Romania and the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Bucharest office. The two organizations launched together a “Dialogues on National Interest” series. The aim is to bring together a community of experts that would approach Romanian strategic interest, in both its internal and external manifestations, in a comprehensive, out of the box, crosscutting debate pushing the boundaries beyond what is conventional. The first debate brought together Romanian experts looking at Romania’s ambitions, needs and possibilities. The second debate in the series is designed to bring international perspectives in the discussion, placing Romania in the current regional and international context.

The draft of the project (elaborated by the ISPRI director along with two experts) approached the necessity to overcome the deficiencies from the public and private space regarding the national interest and the pragmatic definition of the concept.

Romania’s strategic interest has been rarely discussed in the last 20 years, and never in an open and inclusive intellectual debate. Integration in Transatlantic and European institutions has been the country’s strategic role for 17 years, a goal so consensual that debate was barely needed. Once the goal accomplished, Romania remained without a strategic compass, a dangerous condition in a world of major shifts and turns. Serious debate on Romania’s position and ambitions in the new context is now badly needed. Aspen Institute Romania and Bucharest office of German Marshall Fund have thus decided to break the habit of non-debate and facilitate a serious discussion between politicians, officials, business people and experts. The first meeting in the series allowed them to discuss the pillars of Romania’s strategic interest. The second meeting brought international perspectives into the discussion, to help frame the context in which Romania does and may operate.

The event was an international session, meant to complete previous dialogues and to open the space for future ones. It aimed less to achieve a detailed foresight of the future of the region, of Europe and indeed the world, and more to get a dynamic framework of thinking and discussion connecting interlocking perspectives. The discussion did not include just the perspectives of Romanian foreign policy projection, but also a diverse set of propositions and alternative readings.

In order to achieve this, the organizers invited a small, but highly competent, number of experts, business people, analysts and journalists from Romania and abroad to discuss a set of scenarios for Europe, Transatlantic Relations and regional developments in South Eastern Europe in the next 10 years. Romanian national interest is today a complex combination of “national”, “European” and “Trans-Atlantic or allied” perspectives. This makes any discussion on the regional and international framework impossible from a too narrow “domestic” approach.

<http://www.aspeninstitute.ro/articole/610/Aspen-Dialogues-National-Interest.html>

Conference
“SURVIVAL THROUGH DEMOCRACY”

Romanian Academy Aula

2 November 2012

The conference was organized as an anniversary of 150 years of Romanian Diplomacy and took place under the high patronage of Romanian Academy and Foreign Minister, with the participation of Excellency, Mr. Titus Corlăţean — Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ionel Haiduc — President of the Romanian Academy and Academicians Dan Berindei, Dinu Giurescu and Mircea Maliţa.

Moderators: Ambassador Liviu Bota and professor Dan Dungaciu.

The presentations have been followed by a discussion session.