



The 2018 RAAS – Fulbright Conference
Ideology, Identity, and the US: Crossroads, Freeways, Collisions
October 4-6, 2018

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 4th

09.00-13.00	Registration	University Campus (1st floor)
09.30-10.00	Opening	Senate Hall (1st floor)
10.00-11.00	Keynote lecture	Senate Hall (1st floor)
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	Room 136 (1st floor)
11.30-13.30	Sessions	Room 118 (1st floor), Umberto Eco Room, American Corner (2nd floor)
13.30-14.30	Lunch	Room 136 (1st floor)
14.30-16.30	Sessions	Room 118 (1st floor), Umberto Eco Room, American Corner (2nd floor)
16.30-17.00	Coffee break	Room 136 (1st floor)
17.00-18.00	Keynote lecture	Umberto Eco Room (2nd floor)
18.00-19.00	Fulbright Roundtable	American Corner (1st floor)
19.30	Welcoming Cocktail	Casa Arad, Satul de Vacanță / Arad House, Holiday Village, Constanța

Friday, October 5th

09.00-11.00	Sessions	Room 118 (1st floor), Umberto Eco Room, American Corner (2nd floor)
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	Room 136 (1st floor)
11.30-12.30	Keynote lecture	Umberto Eco Room (2nd floor)
12.30-13.30	Lunch	Room 136 (1st floor)
13.30-15.30	Sessions	Room 118 (1st floor), Umberto Eco Room, American Corner (2nd floor)
15.30-16.15	RAAS General Meeting	Umberto Eco Room (2nd floor)
16.30-18.00	Doctor Honoris Causa Award - Senate Hall, 1st Floor Rodica Mihăilă, Professor Emerita, University of Bucharest, Executive Director, Romanian-US Fulbright Commission	
19.30	Festive Dinner (optional)	Restaurant Harlequin, Mamaia

Saturday, October 6th

10.00-16.00	(Departure from Oxford Hotel) Visit to the ruins of the ancient City of Histria (700 BC), wine tasting and lunch at Crama Histria / Histria Winery (optional)	
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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, October 4th 9.30 – 10.00 Senate Hall (1st floor)

OPENING and WELCOME REMARKS:

**Prof. Mihai Gîrțu, Vice-President, Ovidius University of Constanța;
Prof. Cristina Tamaș, Dean, Faculty of Letters, Ovidius University of
Constanța;
Prof. Eduard Vlad, RAAS President
Prof. Rodica Mihăilă, Executive Director, Romanian-U.S. Fulbright
Commission;
Prof. Adina Ciugureanu, Director, Institute of Doctoral Studies, Ovidius
University of Constanța, Fulbright Ambassador**

Thursday, October 4th 10.00 – 11.00 Senate Hall (1st floor)

**KEYNOTE LECTURE: Professor Ann Marie Plane, Department of History,
University of California, Santa Barbara, USA**

**Title: The Doubled Meaning of the 'Native American': Identity, Colonialism
and Loss in a Suffering World**

Chair: Professor Adina Ciugureanu, Ovidius University of Constanța

Thursday, October 4th 11.30 – 13.30 Umberto Eco Room (2nd floor)

Session 1 A: Crossroads: Trauma, Memory and the US

Chair: Roxana Oltean, University of Bucharest

Roxana Oltean, University of Bucharest

Re-Membering the Holocaust in Promised Lands. Crossroads and Routes from U.S. Perspectives

Dana Mihăilescu, University of Bucharest

Facets of Anti-Semitism and Jewish Identity from World War I to World War II in Europe and the U.S.: On Will Eisner's Graphic Memoir *To the Heart of the Storm* (1990)

Marina Cap-Bun, Ovidius University of Constanța

Digging into Traumatic Memories: The Diary of an American Psychologist

Anca Pirnoiu, University of Bucharest

Clash and Disparagement: Refracting Identity in the Journals of Matei Călinescu

Sînziana Popescu, Ovidius University of Constanța

The Trauma of Re-location in August Wilson's *The Pittsburgh Cycle*

Thursday, October 4th 11.30 – 13.30 Room 118 (1st floor)

Session 1 B: Identity Collisions in Contemporary American Literature

Chair: Michaela Praisler, “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați

Michaela Praisler, “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați

As *The Hours* Turn into *Specimen Days*

Anca Popa, University of Bucharest

Reconfiguring Immigrant Masculinity in Philip Roth’s *American Pastoral*

Alina Cojocaru, Ovidius University of Constanța

“The disruption of the anticipated American future”: Place and Protest in *American Pastoral*

Diana Benea, University of Bucharest

Performing Citizenship in the Recent U.S. Theater of Undocumentedness

Lidia Mihaela Necula, “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați

David Lodge: From Consumerist Ideologies to Co(n)textual Globalism

Thursday, October 4th 11.30 – 13.30 American Corner (2nd floor)

Session 1 C: Crossing Border(land)s

Chair: Anca Dobrinescu, Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești

Anca Dobrinescu, Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești

Cultural Borders in Contemporary American Fiction

Adina Ciugureanu, Ovidius University of Constanța

Bridges and Collisions in Alejandro Morales's *River of Angels*

Monica Got, Bucharest University of Economic Studies

Towards a Geography of Trauma: From *El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán* to the Birth of Chicana Spiritual Feminism

Raluca Andreescu, University of Bucharest

“In the desert, we are all illegal aliens”: Border Confluences and Border Wars in Luis Alberto Urrea’s *The Devil’s Highway*

Mihaela-Cristina Oancea, Ovidius University of Constanța

The Evolution of the American West Myth: Cormac McCarthy's Portrayals of Home and Border in *No Country for Old Men* and *The Road*

Thursday, October 4th 14.30 – 16.30 Umberto Eco Room (2nd floor)

Session 2 A: Crossroads: Popular Culture, Consumerism and the US

Chair: Elizabeth Lightfoot, University of Minnesota, USA

Elizabeth Lightfoot, University of Minnesota, USA

Consumer Activism in the United States

Ileana Jitaru, Ovidius University of Constanța

When the Private Turns Public: Patterns of Performance and Consumption in Contemporary American Media

Lucia Opreanu, Ovidius University of Constanța

Project Mayhem Revisited: Anarchy, Identity, Prophecy in Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club*

Alina Buzarna-Tihenea, Ovidius University of Constanța

Symbols at the Crossroads in American Popular Culture: Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Cinderella*

Irina-Ștefania Gheorghe, Ovidius University of Constanța

Re(Creating) Home: Family, Gangsters and the American Dream in Mario Puzo's *The Godfather*

Thursday, October 4th 14.30 – 16.30 Room 118 (1st floor)

Session 2 B: Freeways to/from America

Chair: Eduard Vlad, Ovidius University of Constanța

Eduard Vlad, Ovidius University of Constanța

A Geopolitical Reading of Twain's *The Innocents Abroad*

Dan Horațiu Popescu, Partium Christian University, Oradea

In Central Europe, the Sun Also Rises

Teodora Narcisa Giurgiu, University of Bucharest

The Spatial Other: Where Emily Dickinson Meets Flannery O'Connor – the Junction between Inner and Outer Space

Marcela Ganea, Artifex University of Bucharest

US Interests in the Asia Pacific as Reflected in Images of China in American Public Discourse

Thursday, October 4th 14.30 – 16.30 American Corner (2nd floor)

Session 2 C: Revisiting Asian American Studies

Chair: Pin-chia Feng, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan

Pin-chia Feng, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan

Homing Desire, Transnational Migration and Minority Cosmopolitanism in Kim Sunée's Food Memoir *Trail of Crumbs*

Barbara Nelson, University of Bucharest

Jerry-Rigged Identities: At the Crossroads of Revisioning and Repurposing

Meihsu Lin, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan

"Are We What We Eat?": Identities in Food in Asian American Food Memoirs

Stephanie Coxon, New York University, USA

Reconsidering the Usage of "Hapa": Identity Theft Versus Identity Formation

Thursday, October 4th 17.00 – 18.00 Umberto Eco Room (2nd floor)

KEYNOTE LECTURE: Ștefan Avădanei, Professor of British, American and Canadian Studies, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iași

Title: The Humpty - Dumpty Syndrome

Chair: Professor Eduard Vlad, Ovidius University of Constanța

Thursday, October 4th 18.00 – 19.00 American Corner (2nd floor)

FULBRIGHT ROUNDTABLE: Sharing the Fulbright Experience

Chair: Rodica Mihăilă, Executive Director, Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission

Participants: Monica Cure, Esther Thyssen, Barbara Nelson, Adina Ciugureanu, Diana Benea, Monica Got

Friday, October 5th 9.00 – 11.00 Umberto Eco Room (2nd floor)

Session 3 A: American (Artistic) Creations

Chair: Mihaela Precup, University of Bucharest

Esther Thyssen, Rhode Island School of Design, USA

Sociality and Displacement: Creating and Re-creating Community in Louisville, KY

Dragoș Manea and Mihaela Precup, University of Bucharest

Class Warfare, Neoliberalism, and Graphic Documentation in *The Black Monday Murders* (Jonathan Hickman, 2016–)

Luiza Maria Filimon, Independent Researcher

Walls and Specters of Alterity: Analyzing the Construction of Identity in the American Contemporary Monumentalization Subgenre of Wall Building

Marianne B. Woods, University of Texas of the Permian Basin, USA

Russians Rushing West

Adriana-Carolina Bulz, Military Technical Academy, Bucharest

A Challenge to American Pragmatism: Revisioning Identity in O'Neill's *Hughie* by Alexa Visarion

Friday, October 5th 9.00 – 11.00 Room 118 (1st floor)

Session 3 B: American Perspectives on Romanian Identity

Chair: James Deutsch, Smithsonian Institution, USA

James Deutsch, Smithsonian Institution, USA

Gateways and Crossroads on the U.S. National Mall: The Romania Program at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Monica Cure, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iași

Where-ing the Ie: Cultural Re/Appropriation in Circulation

Trent Sanders, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA

Mask: A Dialogue from Aiud Prison

Raluca Rogoveanu, Ovidius University of Constanța

Blending Emotions and Memories: A Glimpse into Romanian Heritage Festivals in the United States

Friday, October 5th 9.00 – 11.00 American Corner (2nd floor)

Session 3 C: African American Cultural Ideology

Chair: Bill Issel, San Francisco State University, USA

Bill Issel, San Francisco State University, USA

Fighting Words: Black Power and the Language of American Freedom

Ana-Irina Drobot, Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest

The Ghost in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*: Paranormal or Psychological Phenomenon?

Dragoș Osoianu, Ovidius University of Constanța

The Law of Nature in Howard Jones's *Mutiny on the Amistad* – an Ecosophic Perspective

Costin-Valentin Oancea, Ovidius University of Constanța

Constructing Ethnic Identity in Interaction: African American Vernacular English

Otilia Cușa-Fulea, Ovidius University of Constanța

On Gastronomicalism and Other Miscellanea: Food Tradition and Authenticity in the USA. A Corpus-based Analysis

Friday, October 5th 11.30 – 12.30 Umberto Eco Room (2nd floor)

KEYNOTE LECTURE: Philip M. Hosay, Professor of International Education, Director of the Multinational Institute of American Studies, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University, USA

Title: American Individualism in the Age of Trump

Chair: Ileana Jitaru, Ovidius University of Constanța

Friday, October 5th 13.30 – 15.30 Umberto Eco Room (2nd floor)

Session 4 A: Redefining Ethnic Identities

Chair: Ludmila Martanovschi, Ovidius University of Constanța

Arunima Dey, University of Delhi, India

What makes an American Bengali? Diaspora, Ethnicity, and Gender in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* (2003)

Ludmila Martanovschi, Ovidius University of Constanța

Memory and Cultural Experience in Wendy Rose's Poetry

Iuliana Vizan, Ovidius University of Constanța

Only What *They* Could Carry: Family History and (Bio)Power in Yoshiko Uchida's *Journey to Topaz* and *Journey Home*

Ioana Rădulescu, Ovidius University of Constanța

Heterotopia of Deviation in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

Ileana-Mihaela Motroc (Popescu), Ovidius University of Constanța

Hybridity of the Self in between Desh (Home) and Pardesh (Abroad)

Friday, October 5th 13.30 – 15.30 Room 118 (1st floor)

Session 4 B: Challenges to Americanness

Chair: Irina Toma, Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești

Irina Toma, Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești

A Nation in Books-*The Republic of Imagination* by Azar Nafisi

Eman El Attar, Sohag University, Egypt

Negotiating Identity of Muslim Arabs in the post 9/11 America: Khaled's Dilemma in El Guindi's *Back of the Throat*

Oana-Celia Gheorghiu, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați

Framing Islam in Post-9/11 New York. A Fictional Account

Oana-Alexandra Chirilă, University of Bucharest

"They Have Made You Drunkards From Their Wine": Intoxicants in Nation of Islam's Ideology

Friday, October 5th 13.30 – 15.30 American Corner (2nd floor)

Session 4 C: American Studies Debates and Freeways

Chair: Octavian Roske, University of Bucharest

Constantin Crânganu, City University of New York, USA

Four Essential Myths of Climate Change: Edenic, Apocalyptic, Babelian, and Themisian. A Cultural Perspective

Octavian Roske, University of Bucharest

"Men of one flesh, of one bone, of one interest": Jefferson Davis and the Identity of the Confederate Nation

Joshua Kurtz, Brown University, USA

For We Were Once Strangers: Religion in an Age of Moral Emergency

Andrei Vlad, Ovidius University of Constanța

"Just Take it Easy, Man!": Buddhist Practice in *The Catcher in the Rye* and *The Big Lebowski*

Nicoleta Stanca, Ovidius University of Constanța

Space Representations in Colum McCann's *This Side of Brightness*

Friday, October 5th 15.30 – 16:15 Umberto Eco Room (2nd floor)

RAAS GENERAL MEETING