

Contributors

Associate Professor dr. Gabriel Dan BĂRBULEȚ, 1 Decembrie 1918 University of Alba Iulia. Born in 1974 in Blaj, a town located in Alba County, Romania. Demonstrating an early passion for languages and literature, he pursued his higher education at the prestigious Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. Here, he majored in English language and literature and minored in Romanian language and literature. His academic journey did not stop at his undergraduate studies; he earned a Ph.D. in Philology from the same university. His doctoral dissertation, titled *Movie Talk: A Study of Slang in Prison Movies*, reflects his unique interest in the intersection of language, culture, and media. Currently, Gabriel Dan Bărbuleț serves as an Associate Professor at 1 Decembrie 1918 University of Alba Iulia, Romania. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he holds the significant administrative role of Dean of the Faculty of History, Letters, and Educational Sciences. His scholarly interests are broad and diverse, encompassing Pragmatics, Semantics, English Syntax, English Methodology, and British and American Culture and Civilization. His wide-ranging expertise is reflected in his numerous publications in national and international journals and his active participation in various conferences. Dr. Bărbuleț is also a key member of several editorial boards for peer-reviewed journals. His contributions include work with international and domestic publications such as *The Journal of Linguistic and Intercultural Education - JoLie*, *Annales Universitatis Apulensis*, *Incursiuni în Imaginar*, *Buletinul studentilor si masteranzilor filologi*, and *Current and Future Perspectives on Teaching and Learning*. These roles underscore his commitment to advancing scholarly communication and his dedication to fostering academic discourse across various linguistic and cultural fields.

Gabriela CHICIUDEAN, Associate Professor, PhD in Philology since 2005, she teaches Theory of Literature, Literary Criticism, Introduction in the Science of Imaginary, Comparative Literature. She is the author of some individual volumes (*Incursiuni în lumea simbolurilor*, Sibiu, Imago Publishing House, 2004; *Pavel Dan și globul de cristal al creatorului*, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2007; *Obiectiv/ Subiectiv. Încercări de stabilizare a fluidului*, Tipomoldova Publishing House, 2013; *Studii literare. Abordari pe suportul Stiintei imaginarului*, The Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2016), and the co-author and coordinated of a few other volumes. She published many articles and studies in dedicated periodicals in Romania and abroad. She is the manager of Speculum Centre for the Study of Imaginary, 1 Decembrie 1918 University of Alba Iulia. She is the organizer of Speculum Conferences and the editor of *Incursiuni în imaginar*, the literary journal of Speculum Conferences, and editor of *Swedish journal of Romanian studies*, Lund, Sweden.

Bogdan CIOABĂ is full professor H.D.R. in Theatre and Performing Arts at the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Pitești Pole and a theatre director (UNATC 1996 license), with over 70 shows staged on various professional stages, with which he has participated in numerous festivals, winning important awards. As a manager, artistic director or director, he has been involved in many national and international cultural projects, which he has carried out with professionalism. He holds a

PhD in Visual Arts (2010) and another one in Theatre and Performing Arts (2020) as well as the qualification to be a PhD supervisor (2021). In 2016 he founded the acting department of the University of Pitesti, today the National University of Sciences and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, which he got accredited in 2023 and where he works as a university professor. He is the author of several theatrical translations (*Who is this Ionesco*, 2014), specialist books (*Flexibility of the scenic space according to the directorial concept*, 2021 and *Modalities of figuration of the scenic space*, 2021) and several scientific articles. He is currently artistic director of the Alexandru Davila Theatre, Pitesti and full professor at the Faculty of Theology, Letters, History and Arts, where he teaches courses on Directorial Poetics and Analysis of the scenic process.

Lavinia-Ileana GEAMBEI, PhD, is a philologist, lecturer at the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Pitești Pole, and a member of the Centre of Research on the Imaginary. Text. Discourse. Communication. *IMAGINES*, of the Faculty of Theology, Letters, History and Arts. Her research mainly tackles a new chapter of modern literature, i.e. the literature of communist prisons and penal camps. Initially, these research addressed the lyrical poetry of detention and materialized in the book *Aspects of metaphor in the lyrical poetry of detention* (published at Pitești University Publishers, 2007); currently, they especially approach memories writing of communist detention and camps, with some of the results presented as papers in several international conferences and published in their proceedings volumes.

Cristina ILEA (ROGOJINĂ) holds a PhD in Philology with a thesis on the Anthroponymy of the Romanian folktale. She has a BA in Romanian and English Language and Literature followed by an MA in Romanian Studies (Faculty of Letters at Ovidius University of Constanța). She is an Assistant professor in the Department of Romanian Philology, Classical and Balkan Languages at the above-named university. She is also a member of *Speculum* Research Centre of the Imaginary (Alba Iulia) and Classical Studies Society (Bucharest) and is interested in folklore, language and naming.

Diana-Adriana LEFTER is full professor H.D.R. in Literature at the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Pitești Pole, and Director of the Philology Doctoral School at the same university. After completing her doctoral thesis at the University of Bucharest in 2007 on *Le mythe classique dans l'œuvre d'André Gide*, she has written numerous articles on Gide's work, in particular on the explicit and implicit presence of myths, corporality and Gide's theater, as well as on dramaturgy in general and French Enlightenment literature in particular. For the past ten years, she has been particularly interested in the study of dramatic texts and theories, which she teaches to students of foreign languages as well as performing arts. Her research in Hispano-American literature focuses on two main areas: the novel of dictatorship and magic realism, with studies of the *boom's* key authors.

Professor dr. Sibusiso Hyacinth MADONDO, University of South Africa. Born in Ladysmith, in the province of South Africa, Professor Sibusiso Hyacinth Madondo obtained

a BA degree from the University of Natal (Howard College), specializing in English, French and Spanish Literatures. He was awarded a French government scholarship to study in France, where he obtained a master's degree from the University of Paris III (La Sorbonne Nouvelle), DEA and Doctorat de Lettres Modernes from the University of Paris IV (Paris-Sorbonne) specializing on the Medieval romancer, Chrétien de Troyes. He is also involved in the study of comparative mythology, and he is the chairman of the Myth Study Group which he founded in 2006. He was the founding editor of the journal, *Trictrac: Journal of World Mythology and Folklore*. He has collaborated with many centers of research and has lectured in the following countries: Germany, England, Wales, France, Réunion Island, Japan, Romania, Iceland, Australia and New Zealand. He is the Emeritus Professor from the University of South Africa (Unisa).

Laura MĂCINEANU is researcher with a keen interest in fantastic literature. She is a PhD graduate in the Philology Domain, from the Doctoral School of Humanities, West University, Timișoara, Romania. Her PhD thesis consists in a comparative study of J.R.R. Tolkien's, C.S. Lewis's and J.K. Rowling's epic fantasies, published in 2018 as *Dilemmas and Confrontations in Epic Fantasy Tolkien, Lewis, Rowling*. Her publications also include articles, such as *Feminine Hypostases in Epic Fantasy: Tolkien, Lewis, Rowling* (2016), *Masculine and Feminine Insights into the Fantastic World of Elves: J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" and Muriel Barbery's "The Life of Elves"* (2017), *Impressive Women in the Latest Productions Set in J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World* (2018), *Consciously Rejecting the Magic – The Cases of Susan Pevensie and Petunia Dursley* (2019), or *Women Figures in George MacDonald's and J.R.R. Tolkien's Fantasy Writings* (2020) in *Gender Studies*. Other research interests are myths and fairytales, fantasy literature and their appeal to the present-day reader.

Amalia MĂRĂȘESCU is associate professor, PhD, at the Language, Literature, History and Arts Department of the Faculty of Theology, Letters, History and Arts, National University of Science and Technology Politehnica of Bucharest, University Centre of Pitești, Romania. She holds a BA in English Language and Literature – Romanian Language and Literature from the Faculty of Letters, Philosophy and History of the West University of Timișoara, an MA in Translation Theory and Practice. English Language from the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and a PhD from the West University of Timișoara with the thesis *Mihail Sadoveanu și romanul mitico-istoric european (Mihail Sadoveanu and the Mythical-Historical European Novel)*. Amalia Mărășescu currently teaches Twentieth Century English Literature, English Language Teaching Methodology, Translation Studies and History of England. She has published eight books as sole author, three books as co-author, six translations from English into Romanian and more than forty articles.

Delia-Maria RADU is an Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Theory of Literature at the University of Oradea, Faculty of Letters. She is the author of *Specular Women in Romanian Fiction*, co-author of *Gastroselves: Expressing Identity in a Hyper-*

Consumerist Society and has published numerous articles on comparative literature, cultural studies and magic realism, such as: *Riflessi della storia e della politica nei romanzi di Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Salman Rushdie e Isabel Allende*; *On Silences and Voices in Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children*; *Magic Realism, Between Globalization and National Identity*; *Solitude, Longing and Struggle for Survival in Cătălin Dorian Florescu's "The Man Who Brings Happiness"*; *Coming from Elsewhere. Migrant Experiences in Fiction/Cuando venimos de otra parte. Experiencias migratorias en la ficción*; *From Commodity to Daily Ritual: Coffee in Fiction*; a.s.o. Her research has three main strands: food image and symbolism in fiction and film; magic realism; migrant identities and experiences in fiction.

Professor dr. habil. Maria-Ana TUPAN Born in 1949, Professor Maria-Ana TUPAN is currently affiliated with the Doctoral School of Alba Iulia University. A graduate of Bucharest University, she got her Ph.D. Degree from Bucharest University and the Romanian Academy in 1992. Habilitation from Iași University in 2014. From 1991 to 2014 she taught courses in the history of British literature and in applied literary theory at Bucharest University. Fulbright Visiting Professor affiliated with Penn State University, USA (1994-5). Member of The Romanian Writers Union, and of several European academic societies. Appointed to the Editorial Board of several international journals. Guest Editor of two issues of the *Rupkatha Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities*. Author of 17 books, book chapters and articles published in Romania, U.K., Germany, India, Australia and U.S.A. Papers read at conferences in Athens, University Park (Penn State University), Madrid, Manchester, Salzburg, Vienna, Dresden, Graz, Rome, Cologne, Dortmund. Awards from the Romanian Writers' Union and literary reviews. Relevant titles include *Phenomenology and Cultural Difference in High Modernism* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing), *The Shakespearean Search for Archetypes* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing), *The Key to Change. Interdisciplinary Essays in Cultural History* (Saarbrücken: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, 2017), *The Kantian Legacy of Late Modernity* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016), *Realismul magic* (București: Editura Academiei Române, 2013), *Relativism/ Relativity: The History of a Modern Concept*. (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013), *Modernismul si psihologia. Încercare de epistemologie literară. Modernism and Psychology. An Inquiry into the Epistemology of Literary Modernism* (București: Editura Academiei Române, 2009); *Genre and Postmodernism* (București: Editura Universității din București, 2008), *A Survey Course in British Literature*, 2 vols. (Editura Universității din București, 2004). Publishing mainly in the areas of literary theory, with a focus on the nexus of literature, science and philosophy, her works are as many occasions for revisiting and reinterpreting canonical status (such as Wilhelm Wundt as philosopher of phenomenological constitution), tracing travelling concepts (objective correlative), or identifying non-literary sources (Shakespeare's *Richard II* and Plato's *Timaeus*, *Othello* and the Quran).

Andra-Iulia URSA is a Senior Lecturer at 1 Decembrie 1918 University of Alba Iulia. Her research and publications address translation studies and semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic

strategies in literary translation, untranslatability, and world literature. Her professional experience includes teaching a diverse range of subjects, such as Simultaneous and Consecutive Interpretation, English Syntax, Technical Translation, English for Law, Kinesiotherapy, and Business Administration students. She is a certified translator for English and French, with eleven years of specialized experience in translating legal and technical documents.

Cristina Matilda VĂNOAGĂ is a PhD lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia. Her PhD thesis, *The Significance of Topoi in Andrei Codrescu's Prose*, was published in 2019 by Tracus Arte Publishing House, in its Romanian variant. She is specialised in the analysis of discourse and mentalities in the literary texts. She is a translator specialised in theology and her latest translation is Michael Keiser's *Spread the Word: Reclaiming the Apostolic Tradition of Evangelism*. Her current research interests are contemporary culture and identity in relation with the theories of imaginary, virtuality, and diplomacy.

Iuliana VORONEANU (PĂUNESCU) holds a PhD in Philology with a thesis on Vasile Voiculescu's short tales at *1 Decembrie 1918* University of Alba Iulia (2022) and at present being admitted to postdoctoral studies of advanced research. She graduated from *Lucian Blaga* University of Sibiu. She is a teacher of English at *Regina Maria* National Pedagogical College, Deva, with several important responsibilities in the pre-university field. Since 2020, a member of *Speculum* Research Center on the Imaginary, Alba Iulia. During the last years, she has published several articles in specialized periodicals and a book, and she has also participated in national and international conferences. She is an author of auxiliaries for teaching English, and a keen researcher in Romanian fantasy literature.