



Faculty of Letters  
Ovidius University, Constanța



Romanian-U.S.  
Fulbright Commission



Romanian Association for  
American Studies - RAAS

## The 2021 RAAS-Fulbright Conference (online)

### *Eco Consciousness: Imperatives in American Culture*

October 7-9, 2021

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

#### Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

<b>09.30-10.15</b> Opening	webex
<b>10.30-11.30</b> Keynote lecture	webex
<b>11.30-11.45</b> Morning break	
<b>11.45-13.45</b> Sessions	webex
<b>13.45-14.45</b> Lunch break	
<b>14.45-15.45</b> Keynote lecture	webex
<b>15.45-16.00</b> Afternoon break	
<b>16.00-18.00</b> Sessions	webex

#### Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

<b>09.00-11.00</b> Sessions	webex
<b>11.00-11.15</b> Morning break	
<b>11.15-12.15</b> Keynote lecture	webex
<b>12.30-13.30</b> RAAS General Meeting	webex

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 9.30 – 10.15** [https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl\\_conferinte](https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl_conferinte)

### OPENING and WELCOME REMARKS:

**Prof. Eduard Vlad, RAAS President**

**Assoc. Prof. Dan Marcel Ilescu, President, Ovidius University, Constanța**

**William O'Connor, Cultural Attaché, U.S. Embassy in Romania**

**Prof. Rodica Mihăilă, RAAS Honorary President; Executive Director Emerita, Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission**

**Assoc. Prof. Alina Buzatu, Dean, Faculty of Letters, Ovidius University, Constanța**

**Lect. Nicoleta Sava, Head of Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and Communication Sciences, Faculty of Letters, Ovidius University, Constanța**

**Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 10.30 – 11.30** [https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl\\_conferinte](https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl_conferinte)

**KEYNOTE LECTURE:**        **Professor Philip John Davies,**  
**Professor Emeritus of American Studies, De Montfort**  
**University and Emeritus Director, Eccles Centre for**  
**American Studies, The British Library; Distinguished**  
**Fellow, Rothermere American Institute, University of**  
**Oxford**

**Title:**            **The Ecosystem of US Politics**

**Chair:**           **Professor Adina Ciugureanu,**  
**Professor Emerita, Ovidius University, Constanța, Romania;**  
**Fulbright Ambassador**

**Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 11.45 – 13.45** [https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl\\_conferinte](https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl_conferinte)

Click **Participants / Participanți** → Click **Main meeting / Întâlnire principală** → Click **Breakout sessions / Secțiuni divizate** → Click **Session A Join / Sesiune A Intrați**

**Session A:**        **(New) Gothic Narratives and Ecodefense**

**Chair:**            **Dragoș Manea, University of Bucharest**

Dragoș Manea, University of Bucharest

“Flora and Fauna”: *Manifest Destiny* (Chris Dingess, 2013-) and the New Frontier Gothic

Pauline Boisgerault, Rennes 2 University

“Not the glow of red or green as in picture-book terror wolves, but a dullish, perversely dignified human gold.” An Eco-Critical Reading of *Hold the Dark* by William Giraldi

Patrycja Pichnicka-Trivedi, University of Warsaw

Ecological Thinking in Fantastic Literature. Symbolism of New Heroes: A Case Study of 21st century American Vampire Narration

Nicoleta Marinescu, Babeş-Bolyai University

Sense and Sensuality in Virginia Friedman's Novel, *Palindrome*

Florian Andrei Vlad, Ovidius University, Constanța

Rednecks for Wilderness: Reframing Ecodefense Post-9/11

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**Session B: Ecocriticism: Historical and Pandemic Revisitations**

**Chair:** Eduard Vlad, Ovidius University, Constanța

Eduard Vlad, Ovidius University, Constanța

Pandemic Narratives in the Age of the Great Reset

Anamaria Schwab, Transilvania University, Braşov

A Glimpse at the Anthropocene in Updike's *Rabbit at Rest*

Carla Francellini, University of Siena

Ecocriticism and Dramatic Climate Changes in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*

Zennure Köseman, Inonu University

Nick Adams' Ecocritical Outlook by Returning to his Natural Surrounding in Ernest Hemingway's "Big Two-Hearted River"

Loredana Bercuci, West University of Timișoara

Colonizing Environmental Knowledge in William Byrd II's *Histories of the Dividing Line betwixt Virginia and North Carolina* (1728/ 1929)

**Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 11.45 – 13.45** [https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl\\_conferinte](https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl_conferinte)

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**Session C: Ecological Outlooks and Eco-Consciousness**

**Chair:** Raluca Rogoveanu, Ovidius University, Constanța

Marianne Berger Woods, University of Texas Permian Basin

Herstory in Earth Art

Nicolae Bobaru, West University of Timișoara  
Peter Matthiessen's *Far Tortuga*. An Ecological Outlook

Dragoș Osoianu, Ovidius University, Constanța  
Material Ecotheological Implications of Food Eating

Raluca Rogoveanu, Ovidius University, Constanța  
Glimpses of Romanian Ethnicity Abroad: Romanian Heritage Centers in the United States

Ana-Maria Demetrian, University of Craiova  
Rethinking English Language Teaching for an Eco-Conscious World

**Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 14.45 – 15.45** [https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl\\_conferinte](https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl_conferinte)

**KEYNOTE LECTURE:**        **Professor Adina Ciugureanu,**  
   **Professor Emerita, Ovidius University, Constanța,**  
   **Romania; Fulbright Ambassador**

**Title:**                    **Mapping *The Waste Land* and Climate Change**

**Chair:**                   **Professor Eduard Vlad, Ovidius University, Constanța; RAAS**  
**President**

**Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 16.00 – 18.00** [https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl\\_conferinte](https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl_conferinte)

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**Session A:**            **Ecocriticism: Dystopias and Ecocatastrophes**

**Chair:**                   **Olga Thierbach-McLean, University of Hamburg**

Olga Thierbach-McLean, University of Hamburg

From Cyberspace to Climate Change: Shifting Social Concerns in Contemporary  
Cyberpunk Fiction

Lucia Opreanu, Ovidius University, Constanța

No Planet for Old Men: Resource Management and Population Control in Dystopian  
Literature and Film

Anouk Aerni, University of Basel

“Time kept them there, and time would let them leave”: An Ecocritical (Re-) consideration  
of James Webb's *Fields of Fire*

Mariana Chiseliță (Bimbirică), Ovidius University, Constanța

New Apocalyptic Worlds in Dystopian Literature of the Fifties

Robert Enescu, Ovidius University, Constanța  
Ecocritical Overtones in Don DeLillo's *White Noise*

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**Session B: Ecocritical and Ecofeminist Reconsiderations**  
**Chair:** Maria Sabina Draga Alexandru, University of Bucharest

Maria Sabina Draga Alexandru, University of Bucharest  
West Coast Revelations: Ecofeminist Views on the American Dream in Amitav Ghosh's *Gun Island*

Oana Gheorghiu, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați  
Re-Imagining *The Waste Land*. Infertility, Barrenness and Ecocatastrophe in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*

Gabriela Debita, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați  
"When we lived together it was all one place": Dissolving Boundaries as Cultural Resistance in Ursula K. Le Guin's "Buffalo Gals, Won't You Come Out Tonight"

Iulia-Maria Gheorghe, Ovidius University, Constanța  
The Disneyfication Process and its Influence on the Perception of Fairy Tales in American Literature

Andra-Astrid Belibou, Ovidius University, Constanța  
Building the Eco-Consciousness: Reflections on Eco-Trauma in Young Adult Fiction

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**Session C: Cinematic and Theatrical Ecologies**  
**Chair:** Ludmila Martanovschi, Ovidius University, Constanța

Mihaela Precup, University of Bucharest  
Land, Ownership, and Perpetration in *White Lotus* (HBO, 2021-)

Ileana Jitaru, Ovidius University, Constanța  
Hollywood's Eco-narratives: Documentary Films as Forms of Cinematic Ecological Awareness

Ludmila Martanovschi, Ovidius University, Constanța  
Ecodrama Meets the Arctic: Chantal Bilodeau's *Sila* and *Forward*

Diana Benea, University of Bucharest  
Theatrical Ecologies: Ping Chong + Company's *Alaxsxa/Alaska* (2017)

Sînziana Popescu, Ovidius University, Constanța  
Dwelling in August Wilson's American Century Cycle An Ecocritical Approach

**Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 9.00 – 11.00** [https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl\\_conferinte](https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl_conferinte)

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**Session A: Ecocriticism: Activism and Protest**  
**Chair:** Bill Issel, San Francisco State University

Bill Issel, San Francisco State University  
Citizen Activism, and the Making of American Environmental Politics:  
The Save the Bay and Stop the Freeway Movements in the San Francisco Bay Area

Maria Niță, The Open University, UK  
Transatlantic Roots in the Performance of the Climate Crisis: The Semiotics of Protest

Luiza Maria Filimon, Ovidius University, Constanța  
Green New Deals or Green New Dreams? The Democratic Party's Position on Climate Change

Yusuf Eradam, Independent Scholar  
“Sustaining the Ylemcene: Re-Reading the Rebel-Ecologies in the Patterns of Canonized American Literature and Film for Ecological-Ecesis

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**Session B: Eco-poetic Paths and Limits**  
**Chair:** Nick Selby, University of East Anglia

Nick Selby, University of East Anglia  
Creeley — poem — world: an eco-poetic limit case

Alina Cojocaru, Ovidius University, Constanța  
Transatlantic Perspectives on Urban Environments: Toward a Poetry of the Anthropocene in William Carlos Williams's *Paterson* and T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*

Panteleimon Tsiokos, University of Western Ontario  
Eco-Conscious Poetic Landscapes: San Francisco Renaissance and Gary Snyder's Cosmos

Bianca Roxana Neacșu, Ovidius University, Constanța  
The Beats' Ecological Consciousness: Environmental Activism in the Works of Gary Snyder

Andreea Cosma, Ovidius University, Constanța  
The Poetess as Activist: Eco poetics in Diane di Prima's *Revolutionary Letters*

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**Session C: Ecocritical Space and Discourse**  
**Chair:** Roger L. Nichols, University of Arizona

Roger L. Nichols, University of Arizona  
American Indians and Eco Consciousness

Mihaela Paraschivescu, Independent Scholar  
Nature as Sacred – An Ecocritical Approach to Mircea Eliade's Works

Otilia Cușă, Ovidius University, Constanța  
The Stories We Live By: A Climate for Metaphors? An Ecolinguistic Approach

Nashwa Elyamany, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport  
More than Meets the Eye: A Multimodal Approach to Science-Popularizing Discourse in a Selection of *National Geographic* Feature Articles

Daniel Clinci, Ovidius University, Constanța  
Posthumanism and Climate Change: Why Theory Matters

**Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 11.15 – 12.15** [https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl\\_conferinte](https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl_conferinte)

**KEYNOTE LECTURE: Professor Michaela Praisler,**  
**“Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați, Romania**

**Title:** “Is this the house you want to live in?” Fictional Warnings from a Feminine Eco Consciousness

**Chair:** Ileana Jitaru, Ovidius University, Constanța; RAAS Treasurer

**Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 12.30 – 13:30** [https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl\\_conferinte](https://ovidius.webex.com/meet/fl_conferinte)

**RAAS GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS FOR TERM 2021-2024**