



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

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

<b>09.00-13.00</b>	<b>Registration</b>	<b>University Campus (1<sup>st</sup> floor)</b>
<b>09.30-10.00</b>	<b>Opening</b>	<b>Senate Hall (1<sup>st</sup> floor)</b>
<b>10.00-11.00</b>	<b>Keynote lecture</b>	<b>Senate Hall (1<sup>st</sup> floor)</b>
<b>11.00-11.30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	<b>Room 136 (1<sup>st</sup> floor)</b>
<b>11.30-13.30</b>	<b>Sessions</b>	<b>Room 118 (1<sup>st</sup> floor), American Corner/ Umberto Eco Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</b>
<b>13.30-14.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Room 136 (1<sup>st</sup> floor)</b>
<b>14.30-16.30</b>	<b>Sessions</b>	<b>Room 118 (1<sup>st</sup> floor) American Corner/ Umberto Eco Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</b>
<b>16.30-17.00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	<b>Room 136 (1<sup>st</sup> floor)</b>
<b>17.00-18.00</b>	<b>Keynote lecture</b>	<b>Umberto Eco Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</b>
<b>18.00-19.00</b>	<b>Fulbright Roundtable</b>	<b>American Corner (1<sup>st</sup> floor)</b>
<b>19.30</b>	<b>Welcoming Cocktail</b>	

(Casa Arad, Satul de Vacanță / Arad House, Holiday Village, Constanța)

**Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

<b>10.00-16.00</b>	<b>(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)</b>	
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## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30 – 10.00 Senate Hall (1<sup>st</sup> 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, Fulbright Ambassador;**

**Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 10.00 – 11.00 Senate Hall (1<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 11.30 – 13.30 Umberto Eco Room (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 11.30 – 13.30 Room 118 (1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

**Session 1 B: Identity Collisions in Contemporary American Literature**

**Chair: Michaela Praisler, "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati**

Michaela Praisler, “Dunarea de Jos” University of Galati  
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, “Dunarea de Jos” University of Galati  
David Lodge: From Consumerist Ideologies to Co(n)textual Globalism

**Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 11.30 – 13.30 American Corner (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 14.30 – 16.30 Umberto Eco Room (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 14.30 – 16.30 Room 118 (1<sup>st</sup> 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  
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 4<sup>th</sup> 14.30 – 16.30 American Corner (2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

Kun Jong Lee, Korea University, South Korea  
Contextualizing Paul Yoon's *Snow Hunters*

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 4<sup>th</sup> 17.00 – 18.00 Umberto Eco Room (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 18.00 – 19.00 American Corner (1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

**FULBRIGHT ROUNDTABLE: Sharing the Fulbright Experience**

**Chair: Rodica Mihăilă**

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

**Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 9.00 – 11.00 Umberto Eco Room (2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Dragoş 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 5<sup>th</sup> 9.00 – 11.00 Room 118 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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 5<sup>th</sup> 9.00 – 11.00 American Corner (2<sup>nd</sup> 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?

Dragoş Osoianu, Ovidius University of Constanţa

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

Costin-Valentin Oancea, Ovidius University of Constanţa

Constructing Ethnic Identity in Interaction: African American Vernacular English

Otilia Cuşa-Fulea, Ovidius University of Constanţa

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

**Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 11.30 – 12.30 Umberto Eco Room (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Constanţa**

**Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 13.30 – 15.30 Umberto Eco Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**

**Session 4 A: Redefining Ethnic Identities**

**Chair: Ludmila Martanovschi, Ovidius University of Constanţa**

Arunima Dey, University of Delhi, India

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

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

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

Ludmila Martanovschi, Ovidius University of Constanţa

Memory and Cultural Experience in Wendy Rose's Poetry

Iuliana Vizan, Ovidius University of Constanţa

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 Constanţa

Heterotopia of Deviation in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

**Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 13.30 – 15.30 Room 118 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 13.30 – 15.30 American Corner**

**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*