



Faculty of Letters
Ovidius University, Constanța



Romanian Association for
American Studies – RAAS



Romanian- U.S.
Fulbright Commission

The 2023 RAAS-Fulbright Conference

Mapping Spaces and (the) US October 5-7, 2023

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 5th

12.00-15.00	Registration	University Campus (1st floor)
14.00-14.30	Opening	Senate Hall (1st floor)
14.30-15.00	Coffee/tea	1st floor
15.00-16.20	Sessions	American Corner/ Room 132
16.30-17.30	Keynote lecture	Senate Hall (1st floor)
17.30-18.30	Documentary Video	Senate Hall (1st floor)
18.30- 20.30	Welcome Reception	1st floor

Friday, October 6th

09.00-12.00	Registration	University Campus (1st floor)
09.00-10.30	Sessions	American Corner/ Room 132
10.30-10.45	Coffee/tea	Room 118 (1st floor)
10.45-11.45	Keynote lecture	Senate Hall (1st floor)
12.00-13.30	Sessions	American Corner/ Room 132
13.30-14.30	Lunch	Room 118 (1st floor)
14.30-15.30	Keynote lecture	Senate Hall (1st floor)
15.30-15.45	Coffee/tea	Room 118 (1st floor)
15.45-17.15	Sessions	American Corner/ Room 132
17.15-18.30	RAAS General Meeting	Umberto Eco Room (2nd floor)
19.30-	Festive Dinner (optional)	

Saturday, October 7th

9.30- 11.00	Sessions	American Corner/ Room 132
11.00-11.30	Coffee/tea	Room 118 (1st floor)
11.30-13.00	Sessions	American Corner/ Room 132
13.00-14.30	Lunch	Room 118 (1st floor)

Visit to the History Museum (optional)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, October 5th 14.00 – 14.30 Senate Hall (1st floor)

OPENING and WELCOME REMARKS:

Thursday, October 5th 15.00 – 16.20 American Corner (2nd floor)

Session I: Space and Visual Culture
Chair: Florian Andrei Vlad, Ovidius University, Constanța

Michaela Praisler and Oana Gheorghiu, “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați
Mapping Gendered Spaces in *The Hours*

Burçin Erol, Hacettepe University, Ankara
M. NourbeSe Philip’s *ZONG!*: Use of White Space to Express Lament and Loss

Florian Andrei Vlad, Ovidius University, Constanța
Remapping John Quinn’s Poetic Oregon Trail: A Poetry of Travel, Observations
and Mapmaking the Great Outdoors

Emerald Drysdale, American Corner, Ovidius University, Constanța
Rockwellian Space: War Propaganda and the People’s Freedom

Thursday, October 5th 15.00 – 16.20 Room 132 (1st floor)

Session II: Journeys, Space, Displacement I
Chair: Eduard Vlad, Ovidius University, Constanța

Cornelia Vlaicu, Independent scholar
Becoming (of) Story: A Blackbird’s Journey in Madeline Sayet’s *Where We Belong*

Eduard Vlad, Ovidius University, Constanța
Tribute to a Special Passenger and Literary Cartographer: From Knoxville to Texas
and Beyond

Alice Carletto, NOVA University of Lisbon
William Least Heat-Moon’s *Blue Highways*: Representing Space through an
American Road Narrative

Ștefan Ionescu Ambrosie, University of Bucharest
The Labyrinth of Nonclosure: Getting Lost in David Foster Wallace’s *Infinite Jest*

Thursday, October 5th 16.30 – 17.30 Senate Hall (1st floor)

**KEYNOTE LECTURE: Professor Robert T. Tally Jr.,
Texas State University**

**Title: Unmappable America: Space and the Contemporary Crisis
of Representation**
Chair: Adina Ciugureanu, Ovidius University, Constanța

Thursday, October 5th 17.30 – 18.30 Senate Hall (1st floor)

**DOCUMENTARY VIDEO: David Gracon, PhD, US Fulbright
Scholar, Transilvania University, Brașov**

Title: *Walls of Sound — A Look Inside the House of Records* (2012)
Chair: Florian Andrei Vlad, Ovidius University, Constanța

Thursday, October 5th, 18.30 - Welcome Reception (1st floor)

Friday, October 6th 9.00 – 10.30 American Corner (2nd floor)

Session I: Space and Trauma I
Chair: Mihaela Precup, University of Bucharest

Mihaela Precup, University of Bucharest
Graphic Storytelling and the Construction of Multidirectional Memory Spaces in
Ali Fitzgerald's *Drawn to Berlin: Comic Workshops in Refugee Shelters and Other
Stories from a New Europe*

Alexandru Oravițan, West University of Timișoara
The "Beautiful and Airy Concepts" of Space and Time in Don DeLillo's 21st-
Century Novels

Loredana Bercuci, West University of Timișoara
Spaces of Trauma in Jesmyn Ward's *The Men We Reaped* (2013)

Raluca Andreescu, University of Bucharest

“The space I inhabited was invisible to the outside world, just like I was”:
Contemporary Stories from Solitary Confinement

Ana Brígida Paiva, NOVA University of Lisbon

Self-Representation in the Wake of Trauma: The Symbolic Significance of the Art
Gallery in *Cat's Eye* and *As Rosas Mortas*

Friday, October 6th 9.00 – 10.30 Room 132 (1st floor)

Session II: Urban and Suburban Spaces I
**Chair: Roxana Marinescu, Bucharest University of
Economic Studies**

Roxana Marinescu, Bucharest University of Economic Studies

Spatial Readings and their Feminist Dimension in *Victory City* by Salman Rushdie

Ludmila Martanovschi, *Ovidius* University, Constanța

Greta Gerwig's City Symphony: Mapping Sacramento in *Lady Bird* (2017)

Lucia Opreanu, *Ovidius* University, Constanța

Way Out Yonder: Spaces of Nature and Nurture in Delia Owens's *Where the
Crawdads Sing*

Andreea Cosma, *Ovidius* University, Constanța

The “Eerie City:” San Francisco and its Surroundings in Jack Kerouac's *Big Sur*

Friday, October 6th 10.45 – 11.45 Senate Hall (1st floor)

**KEYNOTE LECTURE: Professor Meldan Tanrisal
Hacettepe University, Ankara**

**Title: Spatial Existences: The Significance of Land and Nature for
Native Americans**

Chair: Adina Ciugureanu, *Ovidius* University, Constanța

Friday, October 6th 12.00 – 13.30 American Corner (2nd floor)

Session III: Space and Trauma II

**Chair: Elena Ciobanu, “Vasile Alecsandri” University,
Bacău**

Elena Ciobanu, “Vasile Alecsandri” University, Bacău
Spaces of Psychic Fracture in Post-Confessional American Poetry

Maria Sabina Draga Alexandru, University of Bucharest
Looking for Home: Countries and Languages in Jhumpa Lahiri’s Writing

Hristo Boev, Shumen University
Chromesthesia in the Early Poetry of Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton and Petya Dubarova – Cold War Daydreaming on Both Sides of the Atlantic

Adriana Ioana Giorgiana Colibaba, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, Iași
Reality and Illusion in *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Ömer Aytaç Aykaç, University of Van, Turkey
The Battlefield as a Literary Space: *Once There Was a War*

Friday, October 6th 12.00 – 13.30 Room 132 (1st floor)

Session IV: Urban and Suburban Spaces II
Chair: Kai Schafft, Penn State University/Transylvania
University of Brasov

Adina Ciugureanu, *Ovidius* University, Constanța
Mapping Space and Race and their Representations in *The Los Angeles Times*
(1880-1932)

Kai Schafft, Penn State University, Fulbright Fellow, Transylvania University of Brașov
The Relationship Between Spatial and Ideological Divides in the United States: The
Cultural and Structural Roots of Rural Resentment

Alyssa Heath, New York University
Development for Whom? Understanding the Global Imprint of Contentious Urban
Development under a Neoliberal Order

Gabriela Tucan, West University of Timișoara
Sites of Imagination in *Lolita’s* American Landscape

Alina Petre, *Ovidius* University, Constanța
Langscaping: Mapping a Sensorial New York City in American Psycho

Friday, October 6th 14.30 – 15.30 Senate Hall (1st floor)

KEYNOTE LECTURE: Professor Anca Dobrinescu
Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești

Title: Mapping (the) US by a Non-American Black
Chair: Eduard Vlad, *Ovidius University, Constanța*

Friday, October 6th 15.45 – 17.15 American Corner (2nd floor)

Session V: Digital and Virtual Spaces
Chair: Mihai Barbosu, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)/Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj

Mihai Barbosu, Rochester Institute of Technology, Fulbright Fellow, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj
Spatial Data Science in Modeling Catastrophic Landslides

Amy Biedermann, Fulbright Fellow, “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați
Community Education and the Public Sphere as Pedagogical Space

Ileana Marin, University of Washington, Seattle and University of Bucharest
Digital Space – the New Medium of Life and Life Writing

Lidia Mihaela Necula, “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați
Hyperreal Hideaways or, of Mental Spaces and American Architecture in Video Games

Iuliana Dode, Independent scholar
Virtual Spaces – (In)Tangible Consequences: Analyzing Jeff Orłowski’s *The Social Dilemma* in the 21st Century EFL Classroom

Friday, October 6th 15.45 – 17.15 Room 132 (1st floor)

Session VI: Dystopia/Fantasy/SF I
Chair: Dragoș Manea, University of Bucharest

Dragoș Manea, University of Bucharest
On the American Appropriation of the Viking World: Fantasy, Religion, and Far-Right Politics in Brian Wood and Riccardo Burchielli’s “Metal” (2017)

Ana Cristina Băniceru, West University of Timișoara
Ecophobia, Puritan Gothic, and the Trans-Corporeal Female Body in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Fiction

Gabriela Debita, “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați
“The Ogres Are Everywhere”: Exploring Secret Textual Spaces in Sofia Samatar’s “Ogres of East Africa”

Rui Mateus, NOVA University of Lisbon
The Dynamics of Space and Identity in Robert Jordan's *The Wheel of Time*

Friday, October 6th 17.15 – 18.30 Umberto Eco Room (2nd floor)

RAAS General Meeting

Saturday, October 7th 9.30 – 11.00 American Corner (2nd floor)

Session I: Space and Exile
Chair: Nicoleta Stanca, *Ovidius* University, Constanța

Nicoleta Stanca, *Ovidius* University, Constanța
Mapping Ireland Across the Atlantic. Representations of the Irish Diaspora in Recent Irish Fiction

Oksana Starshova, Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University, Mykolaiv
“At First We Thought We Liked the Place”: New York Space and Migration

Oana Condurache (Timoc), West University of Timișoara
Cultural Memory Reflected Through a Pluralist Identity- Fictional Borders

Raluca Nicoleta Rogoveanu, *Ovidius* University, Constanța
Spaces of Convivial Ethnicity: Early 20th Century Romanian Celebrations in Philadelphia

Saturday, October 7th 9.30 – 11.00 Room 132 (1st floor)

Session II: Journeys, Space, Displacement II
Chair: Alina Cojocaru, *Ovidius* University, Constanța

Alina Cojocaru, *Ovidius* University, Constanța
Modernist Cityscapes in the Expatriate Literature of the Lost Generation

Dusty Keim, University of Vienna
Non-Normative, Transformative: Queer Conceptions of Tourism

Alexandra Georgiana Sălcianu, Politehnica University Bucharest
(Un)conventional Space in US Advertising Imbued with Literary Components

Daniela Ianole, *Ovidius* University, Constanța

Mapping Borderlands and the Cowboy Consciousness in McCarthy's *The Border Trilogy*

Saturday, October 7th 11.30 – 13.00 American Corner (2nd floor)

Session III: Space and Faith
Chair: Liviu Andreescu, University of Bucharest

Liviu Andreescu, University of Bucharest

Neither Here nor There, in Both Places at Once: the Discursive Upskilling of Romanian Conservative Religious Activism

Cayla Bleoaja, Fulbright Fellow, West University of Timișoara

Mapping Spaces of Trauma and Transition in Religious Narratives

Alina Bottez, University of Bucharest

The Edenic Home: A Spatial Reflection of the American Dream in Frank Lloyd Wright's Architecture

Mihaela Paraschivescu, Independent scholar

Mircea Eliade and the Thirdspace

Andrei Zamfir, *Ovidius* University, Constanța

Mapping Trauma: Spatiality and Identity in Don DeLillo's *White Noise*

Saturday, October 7th 11.30 – 13.00 Room 132 (1st floor)

Session IV: Dystopia/Fantasy/SF II
Chair: Buket Boz, University College London

Buket Boz, University College London

Nocturnal Dead Zones: Socio-Political Organization of the Urban Night in Dystopian Fiction

Oana Gări Neguț, *Ovidius* University, Constanța

The Mapping of Spaces within (the) US – Mircea Cărtărescu's *Solenoid*

Dragoș Osoianu, *Ovidius* University, Constanța

Spatial Epiphanies of Covid19 – A Dark Ecological and Material Ecocritical Approach

Mariana Chiseliță (Bimbirică), *Ovidius* University, Constanța

Solaria - A Planet of One's Own