

AICED-26

THE 26th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST, 29-31 May 2025

Literature and Cultural Studies Section:

***Writing in a World on Fire: Perspectives on War
and Climate Change***

Thursday, 29 May		
Bucharest time: 9.30-10.00	<p>MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p>Formal Opening and Welcome</p> <p>Mugur Zlotea, Director of the Humanities Section of the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest Alexandra Nicolaescu, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures Dragoş Ivana, Head of the English Department Alina Bottez, Coordinator of the AICED Organising Committee, Literature and Cultural Studies Section</p>	
Bucharest time: 10.00-11.30	<p>PANEL 1: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>Roots and Routes in Ecofiction and Ecocriticism</i> Panel Stream (I)*</p> <p>Convenor: Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Esther Jiménez Rodríguez, <i>University of Lleida</i>, “Ecodisasters as Nature’s Avenging Response to Patriarchy in Ghosh’s <i>The Hungry Tide</i> and <i>Gun Island</i>” Derya Alim, <i>West University of Timișoara</i>, “Climate Change, Time, Identity and Their Connections” Alberto Baracco, <i>University of Torino</i>, “Fire, Climate Crisis, and the Comet: The Poignant Satire of <i>Don’t Look Up</i>”</p> <p>*Organized by the Center for American Studies</p>	<p>PANEL 2: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p>Contemporary Ecodramaturgies Panel Stream (I)*</p> <p>Convenor: Diana Benea, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Diana Benea, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Staging Ecological Disaster in Recent American Theatre” Irina Costache, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “The sentiment of veracity”: Framing the Climate Crisis through the Mockumentary Mode in Abigail Thorn’s <i>Climate Grief</i> (2019)” Irina Vasile, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Contemplating Eco-Anxiety and Mortality in the Solo Performance <i>A Play for the Living in a Time of Extinction</i> by Miranda Rose Hall”</p> <p>*Organized by the Center for American Studies</p>

11.30-12.00	Coffee Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)	
	Thursday, 29 May	
Bucharest time: 12.00-13.30	<p>PANEL 3: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>Literal, Metaphorical, Archetypal Fire in Literature and the Arts</i> Panel Stream (I)</p> <p>Convenor: Alina Bottez, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Christine d’Anca, <i>University of California, Santa Barbara</i>, “‘We can’t live this way!’: Los Angeles Burning and Octavia Butler’s 30 Year Warning” Traian-Ioan Geană, <i>University of Bucharest</i>: “On the Ambivalence of Fire in J. R. R. Tolkien’s Work (<i>The Silmarillion</i>, <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>) and in Peter Jackson’s <i>Lord of the Rings</i> Trilogy” Antony Hoyte-West, <i>Independent Scholar</i>, “A Blinding and Incandescent Ball of Light”: The Volcano and Its Eruption in Patrick Leigh Fermor’s <i>The Violins of Saint-Jacques</i>”</p>	<p>PANEL 4: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>Roots and Routes in Ecofiction and Ecocriticism</i> Panel Stream (II)</p> <p>Convenor: Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Shruti Das and Ranjit Mandal, <i>Berhampur University, Odisha</i>, “Fires of the Pyrocene: Climate Change Narratives and the Ethics of Posterity in Alan Gratz’s <i>Two Degrees</i>” John Bessai, <i>University College of the North</i>, “Digital Flames: The National Film Board of Canada and the Storytelling of Climate Change and Reconciliation”</p>
13.30-14.30	Lunch Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)	
Bucharest time: 14.30-16.00	<p>MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p>Keynote Speech</p> <p>Penelope J. Corfield, <i>Royal Holloway, University of London</i>, “The Emergence of a Global Civil Society – with a Dash of (Modified) Eco-Optimism” Introduced and chaired by Dragoș Ivana, <i>University of Bucharest</i></p>	

16.00-16.30	Coffee Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)	
	Thursday, 29 May	
Bucharest time: 16.30-18.30	<p>PANEL 5: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>9/11 and the War on Terror in Contemporary Literature and Culture Panel Stream (I)</i></p> <p>Convenor: Oana Celia Gheorghiu, <i>“Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați</i> Joseph Conte, <i>University of Buffalo</i>, “Post-9/11 Narratives: Four Modalities” Alexandru Oravițan, <i>West University of Timișoara</i>, “The Transnational Legacy of 9/11 Fiction: From Trauma Narratives to Global Reflections” Nóra Máthé, <i>Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania</i>, “Representations of Pre- and Post-9/11 Urban Identity of New York City in Colum McCann’s <i>Let the Great World Spin</i> and Colson Whitehead’s <i>Colossus of New York</i>” Tomasz Kielar, <i>Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań</i>, “The War on Terror Enters the Frontline of Video Games – A Manifestation of American Political and Cultural Hegemony Illustrated Through the Post-WTC Digital Game Trend”</p>	<p>PANEL 6: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>War, Nature, and Agency</i></p> <p>Chair: Cristian Vîjea, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Camelia Anghel, <i>Hyperion University of Bucharest</i>, “On War and Modernism as Interrelated Topics: D. H. Lawrence’s ‘With the Guns’ (1914)” Cristian Vîjea, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “‘God the Clockmaker’ vs Maximus the Confessor’s Theory of Logoi: Two Unlikely Twin Visions on Nature and Human Agency” Claudia Davidson-Novosivschei, <i>Babeș-Bolyai University</i>, “The Opposites of War? Peter Carey’s <i>Amnesia</i>”</p>
18.30	Opening Cocktail (Casa Universitarilor)	

Friday, 30 May			
Bucharest time: 9.30-11.00	PANEL 7: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor <i>Roots and Routes in Ecofiction and Ecocriticism</i> Panel Stream (III) Convenor: Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru , <i>University of Bucharest</i> Hande Tekdemir , <i>Visiting Professor, Research Institute of the University of Bucharest</i> , “Age of Progress or Age of Coal? Ecocritical Approaches to the Victorian Novel” Monica Ruset Oancă , <i>University of Bucharest</i> , “The Ecological Crisis – A Christian Perspective: The 20 th -Century Need to Reconsider Human-Nature Relations” Katarzyna Więckowska , <i>Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland</i> , “A River Is a Body: Indigenous Routes Out of a World on Fire”		PANEL 8: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>Contemporary Ecodramaturgies</i> Panel Stream (II) Convenor: Diana Benea , <i>University of Bucharest</i> Bianca-Antonia Vărzaru , <i>University of Bucharest</i> , “The Interpellating Power of Ecodramaturgies: Ethical Spectatorship in Dawn King’s <i>The Trials</i> (2022)” Ludmila Martanovschi , <i>Ovidius University of Constanța</i> , “Empowering Elephants in Lynn Nottage’s <i>Mlima’s Tale</i> ”
	11.00-11.30		
Coffee Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)			
Bucharest time: 11.30-13.30	PANEL 9: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor <i>Literal, Metaphorical, Archetypal Fire in Literature and the Arts</i> Panel Stream (II) Convenor: Alina Bottez , <i>University of Bucharest</i> Iris Rusu , “ <i>Lucian Blaga</i> ” <i>University of Sibiu</i> , “Fire and War as Objective Correlatives for Trauma in Kazuo Ishiguro’s <i>When We Were Orphans</i> and <i>The Buried Giant</i> ” Eliana Ionoaia , <i>University of Bucharest</i> , “Setting the World on Fire, or How <i>The Hunger Games</i> Dystopia Weaponizes Nature” Mihaela Paraschivescu , <i>Independent Scholar</i> , “Mircea Eliade on War as Terror of History”	PANEL 10: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>War, Ecology, and Healing</i> Chair: Cornelia Vlaicu , <i>University of Bucharest</i> Amelia Precup , <i>Babeş-Bolyai University</i> , “War, (Allo)History, and Environmental Memory in Alfredo Vea’s <i>Gods Go Begging</i> ” Cornelia Vlaicu , <i>University of Bucharest</i> , “‘Where the Herds of Bison Grew Infinite’: Of War and Healing in Conor Kerr’s <i>Prairie Edge</i> ”	PANEL 11: AMERICAN STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>9/11 and the War on Terror in Contemporary Literature and Culture</i> Panel Stream (II) Convenor: Oana Celia Gheorghiu , “ <i>Dunărea de Jos</i> ” <i>University of Galați</i> Sini Eikonsalo , <i>Metropolitan University Prague</i> , “Why Do They Hate Us?”: The Motives Behind Terrorism in Don DeLillo’s <i>Falling Man</i> and John Updike’s <i>Terrorist</i> ” Tim Gauthier , <i>University of Nevada, Las Vegas</i> , “Recent American Fiction and the Affective Heritage of 9/11” Oana Celia Gheorghiu , “ <i>Dunărea de Jos</i> ” <i>University of Galați</i> , “Remembering 9/11: Personal and Political Narratives in Post-Traumatic Memoirs”
	13.30-14.30		
Lunch Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)			

	Friday, 30 May		
<p>Bucharest time: 14.30-16.00</p>	<p>MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p>Keynote Speech</p> <p>Domnica Rădulescu, <i>Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia</i>, “Creating in a World on Fire: Tragic Optimism and Comedic Hopelessness” Introduced and chaired by Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru, <i>University of Bucharest</i></p>		
16.00-16.30	Coffee Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)		
<p>Bucharest time: 16.30-18.00</p>	<p>PANEL 12: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>War and Conflict in the Arts</i></p> <p>Chair: Elena Butoescu, <i>University of Craiova</i> Alina Bottez, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Airstrike, Drone Warfare, and Fire in <i>Grounded</i> – the Play and the Opera” Elena Butoescu, <i>University of Craiova</i>, “The Poetics, Politics, and Ethics of Sound Art Installations in the Global 21st Century” Diana-Andreea Novăceanu, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Uneasy Portraits: Contemporary British Artists at War”</p>	<p>PANEL 13: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>Space, Decay, and Destruction</i></p> <p>Chair: Gabriela Tucan, <i>West University of Timișoara</i> Asma Firdous, <i>Indian Institute of Technology</i>, Kanpur, “‘The day war came, there were flowers on the windowsill...’: Disrupted Spaces and Reimagined Childhood in Contemporary War-Themed Picturebooks” Gabriela Tucan and Cristina Băniceru, <i>West University of Timișoara</i>, “Navigating Spaces and Mapping Feminine Identity in Kate Chopin’s <i>The Awakening</i>: An Ecofeminist Approach”</p>	<p>PANEL 14: AMERICAN STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>Gender, Mourning, and Conflict</i></p> <p>Chair: Cristina Chevereșan, <i>West University of Timișoara</i> Cristina Chevereșan, <i>West University of Timișoara</i>, “The Ecstasy of Sanctimony: American Culture Wars of the 1990s in Philip Roth’s <i>The Human Stain</i>” Andreea Moise, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “(Dis)Embodying Mourning in Sigrid Nunez’s <i>What Are You Going Through</i> and Pedro Almodóvar’s <i>The Room Next Door</i> (2024)” Konstantina Kliagkona, <i>University of Portsmouth</i>, “Aloy’s Odyssey: Unraveling the Threads of War, Ecology, and Identity in <i>Horizon Zero Dawn</i> (2017) through an Ecofeminist Lens”</p>

Bucharest time:
18.00-19.30

MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor

Round Table *in Memoriam* Dr. ANA-KARINA SCHNEIDER

The ABC of American, British and Canadian Studies

Chair: Dragoş Ivana, University of Bucharest

Link: <https://meet.google.com/zqh-wbgq-efn>

Elena Butoescu, University of Craiova, “From Motion to Emotion: Affect Theory in the Age of Sensibility”

Dragoş Ivana, University of Bucharest, “Jane Austen’s Fiction and the Eighteenth-Century Novelistic Tradition”

Petronia Popa-Petrar, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, “When are you hoping to finish your lives?”: Ethical Representation in Muriel Spark’s *A Far Cry from Kensington*”

Iris Rusu, “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, “Approaching the ‘Trauma Aesthetic’ in Kazuo Ishiguro’s Novels. The Grey Zone and the Manipulation of Memory”

Evocations:

Michaela Mudure, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

Merritt Moseley, University of North Carolina at Asheville

Eric Gilder, Papua New Guinea University of Technology

Alexandra Mitrea, “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu

Adriana Neagu, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

20.00

Conference Dinner (Rare Garden)

Saturday, 31 May		
<p>Bucharest time: 9.30-11.30</p>	<p>PANEL 15: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>The Early Modern World on Fire – Writing in an Age of Turmoil</i></p> <p>Convenor: Alina Bottez, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Alis Zaharia, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “‘What will thou say to one that breaks an oath?’ Honour, Sovereignty, and Just War in <i>Edward III</i>” Paul Paraschiv, <i>Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca</i>, “Bearing Witness to a World in Flux: Testimonial Kinship and Nonhuman Displacement in Eighteenth-Century Natural History” Cristian Vîjea, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “War and Protoecological Views in Walter Scott’s <i>Waverley</i> and <i>Old Mortality</i> – a Case Study”</p>	<p>PANEL 16: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>Ignitable Gothic Conflicts: Crime, Crises, the Other, and the Weird</i></p> <p>Chair: Hande Tekdemir, <i>Visiting Professor, Research Institute of the University of Bucharest</i> Hande Tekdemir, <i>Visiting Professor, Research Institute of the University of Bucharest</i>, “How Did the EcoGothic Originate? Threatening/Threatened Environments in Earlier Examples of Gothic Fiction” Eliana Ionoaia, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Spectres of Dickens: Crime and Detection in the Neo-Victorian Gothic Novels <i>The Last Dickens</i> (2009) by Matthew Pearl and <i>Drood</i> (2009) by Dan Simmons” Roxana Oltean, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “The ‘Desolate’ and the ‘Terrible.’ Igniting Conflict with(in) Gothic Natures in the Writings of Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne” Raluca Andreescu, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “‘Anyone Who is Born into this World is in Danger’: Maternal and Ecological Anxiety in Samanta Schweblin’s Ecogothic Novel <i>Fever Dream</i>”</p> <p>*Organized by the Reading Group on Gothic fiction, supported by a fellowship at the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest, and co-organized by the Center for American Studies</p>
<p>11.30-12.00</p>	<p>Coffee Break (Plante Room, 1st floor)</p>	
<p>Bucharest time: 12.00-13.30</p>	<p>MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p>Keynote Speech</p> <p>Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “War, Violence and Deep Ecology in Contemporary American Ecofiction” Introduced and chaired by Alina Bottez, <i>University of Bucharest</i></p>	
<p>13.30-14.30</p>	<p>Lunch Break (Plante Room, 1st floor)</p>	

Saturday, 31 May		
Bucharest time: 14.30-16.00	<p>PANEL 17: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>Inflammatory Wars – Old, New, or Imagined</i> Panel Stream (I)</p> <p>Convenor: Adela Catană, “<i>Ferdinand I</i>” Military Academy of Bucharest Alina Bottez and Adela Catană (eds.), <i>Wars of Wars in Text and Context</i>, Cambridge Scholars, 2025 – book presentation (with the participation of Sabina Draga-Alexandru, Eliana Ionoaia, and Roxana Oltean)</p> <p>Michaela Mudure, <i>Babeş-Bolyai University</i>, “Zahra: A Reluctant Feminist and the Lebanese Civil War”</p> <p>Adela Catană, “<i>Ferdinand I</i>” Military Academy of Bucharest, “The Crystallisation of the Just War Theory and Its Contemporary Impact”</p>	<p>PANEL 18: AMERICAN STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>Speculative Fiction, Ethics, and the Weird</i> *</p> <p>Chair: Dragoş Manea, <i>University of Bucharest</i></p> <p>Hawk Chang, <i>The Education University of Hong Kong</i>, “A Necessary Evil?: Children and War in Orson Scott Card’s <i>Ender's Game</i>”</p> <p>Dragoş Manea, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Weirding the Natural World: On the Ethics of Revenge in Junji Ito’s <i>Uzumaki</i> and <i>Gyo</i>”</p> <p>*Organized by the Center for American Studies</p>
16.00-16.30	Coffee Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)	

Saturday, 31 May		
<p>Bucharest time: 16.30-18.30</p>	<p>MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p>Round Table in Memoriam Professor ȘTEFAN STOENESCU</p> <p><i>Highlights of Anglophone Literature</i></p> <p>Chair: Ioana Zirra, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Dumitru Chițoran, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Link: https://meet.google.com/uob-cspp-dwk</p> <p>Ioana Gogeanu, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “The Corpus Christi Carol: A Brief Comparative Analysis” Ioana Zirra, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “How the Verbal-Visual Eloquence of Altar Poems Is Communicated to ‘Vision and Prayer’ by Dylan Thomas” Anca Cristofovici, <i>University of Caen</i>, “Responsibility and Empathy in Restoring a Life: Dawn Raffel’s <i>The Strange Case of Dr Couney. How a Mysterious European Showman Saved Thousands of American Babies</i>”</p> <p>Evocations: Dumitru Chițoran, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Alexandra Cornilescu, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Simona-Grazia Dima, <i>Writer</i> Mirela Roznoveanu, <i>Writer</i> Niculae Iurașcu, <i>Engineer</i></p>	<p>PANEL 21: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor</p> <p><i>Inflammatory Wars – Old, New, or Imagined Panel Stream (II)</i></p> <p>Convenor: Adela Catană, “Ferdinand I” Military Academy of Bucharest Raluca Andreescu, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Make America Small Again: Exploring the Ruin(s) of Petroculture in Omar El Akkad’s <i>American War</i>” Florin Andrei Vlad, <i>Ovidius University, Constanța</i>, “Burning Churches, Falling Towers: Apocalyptic Visions in Jihad and Black Metal” Nataliia Potapenko, “<i>Dunărea de Jos</i>” <i>University of Galați</i>, “Changing the Perception of Ukraine in the European Space through War Diaries”</p>

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