

# AICED-27

THE 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST  
5–6 June 2026  
7-13 Pitar Moş Street

## Literature and Cultural Studies Section: Representations of Crime in Literature and the Arts

### FRIDAY, 5 JUNE 2026

#### 9:30–10:00 Formal Welcoming and Reception (MLK)

**Mugur Zlotea**, Director of the Humanities Section of the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest,  
Vice-Rector 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

**Alina Tigău**, Coordinator of the AICED Organising Committee, Theoretical and Applied Linguistics Section

#### 10:00–11:30 OPENING KEYNOTE SPEECH (MLK)

### Shaul Bassi

*Ca' Foscari University of Venice*

**“Murder Cannot Be Hid Long”: Blood, Law, and Justice in Shakespeare’s Venice**

Chair: Alina Bottez, *University of Bucharest*

#### 11:30–11:45 Coffee Break

#### 11:45–13:15 · Parallel Sessions I

Stream: Crime and Criminality in the Early Modern World I Convenor: Alina Bottez (MLK)	Criminal Afterlives: Framing and Reframing the Victorians in the Neo-Victorian Imagination (BCS) Chair: Eliana Ionoaia	Narrating Crime (Room 4) Chair: Nadina Carmen Nicolici
<b>Joanna Rozanska</b> <i>The Polish Shakespeare Association, Dubai, UAE</i> From Revenge Tragedy to Dramatized True Crime: Generic Parallels between <i>Hamlet</i> and Contemporary Crime Narratives	<b>Claudia Davidson-Novosivschei</b> <i>Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca</i> The Criminal Mind in Peter Carey’s <i>Jack Maggs</i>	<b>Fabian Ivanovici</b> <i>Independent scholar</i> Semiosis in Motion: Disentangling Crime in Peter Ackroyd’s <i>Hawksmoor</i>
<b>Liudmyla Fedoriaka</b> <i>Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University</i> Thomas Nashe’s View on Punishments in His Novel <i>The Unfortunate Traveller</i>	<b>Teodora Narcisa Giurgiu</b> <i>University of Bucharest</i> From Hell to the Screens: Neo-Victorian Visual Renderings of Jack the Ripper’s Murders	<b>Nataliia Potapenko</b> <i>“Dunărea de Jos” University of Galaţi</i> War-Interrupted Narratives: Gender, Memory, and Justice in <i>Looking at Women, Looking at War</i>
<b>Madalina Nicolaescu</b> <i>University of Bucharest</i> Macbeth’s Crime – Alternative Perspectives	<b>Eliana Ionoaia</b> <i>University of Bucharest</i> Staging the Criminal Afterlife: Performative Crime, Deferred Meaning, and Neo-Victorian Reframing in Peter Ackroyd’s <i>Dan Leno and the Limehouse Golem</i>	<b>Nadina Carmen Nicolici</b> <i>“Lorin Sălăgean” Technical High School, Drobeta-Turnu Severin</i> The Screenshot as Evidence: Narrative Justice and Crime Fiction Structures on Social Media

#### 13:15–14:15 Lunch Break

14:15–15:45 · Parallel Sessions II

<p><b>Stream: Crime and the Gothic Imagination I (Room 4)</b>                  Convenors: Roxana Oltean and Hande Tekdemir</p>	<p><b>Stream: White-Coat Stories: Medicine, Criminality, and Murder II (BCS)</b>                  Convenors: Monica Manolachi and Lorena Mihăeș</p>	<p><b>Stream: Representations of Crime in Postcolonial and Ethnic-American Fiction and Film (Room 4)</b>                  Convenor: Maria-Sabina Draga-Alexandru</p>
<p><b>Feride Ertural</b>  <i>Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz</i>                  The Afterlife as the Inversion of the Justice System: M. R. James's "A View From a Hill"</p>	<p><b>Laura Ioana Leon</b>  <i>"Grigore T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy</i>                  Therapeutic Violence: Medical Power and the Fragility of the Body in Ioana Nicolaie's <i>Autoimun</i> and Marius Chivu's <i>Vântureasa de plastic</i></p>	<p><b>Cornelia Vlaicu</b>  <i>University of Bucharest</i>                  "Activity that knows no rest": Crime, Haunting, and Healing in Nick Medina's <i>Indian Burial Ground</i></p>
<p><b>Lidia Mihaela Necula</b>  <i>"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați</i>                  Framing Crime in the Gothic Imagination of Victorian Culture: From the Illustrated Murder Scene to Crimes without Blood</p>	<p><b>Maria-Cristina Popoiu</b>  <i>"Ovidius" University of Constanța</i>                  Divided Cities and Contagious Crime: Real and Symbolic Boundaries in Chloe Gong's <i>These Violent Delights</i></p>	<p><b>Cristian Nicolae Molea</b>  <i>University of Bucharest</i>                  The Hidden Cost of Civilization. The Investigation of Slow Violence in Anthropocene Fictions</p>
<p><b>Elena Mocanu-Paraschiv</b>  <i>"Ovidius" University of Constanța</i>                  An Outline of Crime Fiction Before the Golden Age: Significant Figures and Critical Landmarks</p>	<p><b>Lorena Mihăeș</b>  <i>University of Bucharest</i>                  The Doctor Did It: The Unreliable Narrator in Agatha Christie's <i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i></p>	<p><b>Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru</b>  <i>University of Bucharest</i>                  Detective Monument Valley: Navajo Spirituality, the Environment, and Police Action in <i>Dark Winds</i></p>

15:45–16:00 Coffee Break

16:00–17:30 · Parallel Sessions III

<p><b>Stream: Crime and Criminality in the Early Modern World II (MLK)</b>                  Convenor: Alina Bottez</p>	<p><b>Crime and Emotion (BCS)</b>                  Chair: Petronia Popa Petrar</p>	<p><b>Stream: Old and New Myths of Deviousness and Murder in Literature, the Arts, and Media (Room 4)</b>                  Convenor: Dana Bădulescu</p>
<p><b>Vichi Eugenia Ciocani</b>  <i>University of Bucharest</i>                  Deadly Speech: Riddles, Incest, and Performative Language in <i>Historia Apollonii</i> and <i>Pericles, Prince of Tyre</i></p>	<p><b>Iulia Andreea Milică</b>  <i>"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași</i>                  Crime and Redemption in Nineteenth-Century Melodrama: Dion Boucicault's <i>The Poor of New York</i> (1857)</p>	<p><b>Florina Năstase</b>  <i>"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași</i>                  "The black unicorn is unrelenting": African Gods and Mythical Creatures in Audre Lorde's <i>The Black Unicorn</i></p>
<p><b>Xenia Georgopoulou</b>  <i>National and Kapodistrian University of Athens</i>                  Art, Sin, and Crime in English Renaissance Drama</p>	<p><b>Ramon Guevara</b>  <i>Independent scholar</i>                  Bodies of Waste and the Breakdown of Detective Fiction: Representing Systemic Violence in 2666</p>	<p><b>Daniel Nedelcu</b>  <i>"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași</i>                  Heroics as Gender Performativity: Achilles as the Site of Negotiation for Masculinity in the <i>Iliad</i> and Two Contemporary Retellings</p>
<p><b>Alis Zaharia</b>  <i>University of Bucharest</i>                  "Speak, hands, for me!": Murdering Caesar on the Romanian Stage</p>	<p><b>Petronia Popa Petrar</b>  <i>Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca</i>                  Plotting Blackmail and Other Crimes: Muriel Spark's Experiences of Cognitive Failure</p>	<p><b>Dana Bădulescu</b>  <i>"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași</i>                  Back to the Greeks for a Murder Story: Colm Tóibín's <i>House of Names</i></p>

17:30–17:45 Coffee Break

17:45–19:15 · Parallel Sessions IV

<p><b>Round table in memoriam Professors Ana Cartianu and Leon Levițchi (MLK)</b>                  Chair: Dumitru Chițoran</p> <p>Link: <a href="https://meet.google.com/rre-gygf-gxt">https://meet.google.com/rre-gygf-gxt</a>                  Host: Dragoș Manea, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, dragos.manea@lls.unibuc.ro</p>	<p><b>The Classics of Sleuthing (BCS)</b>                  Chair: Cristian Vîjea</p>	<p><b>Stream: Representations of Crime in Postcolonial and Ethnic-American Fiction and Film (Room 4)</b>                  Convenor: Maria-Sabina Draga-Alexandru</p>
<p><b>Alina Bottez</b>, <i>University of Bucharest</i>  <b>Ligia Doina Constantinescu</b>, <i>"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași</i>  <b>Alexandra Cornilescu</b>, <i>University of Bucharest</i>  <b>Rodica Mihăilă</b>, <i>University of Bucharest</i>  <b>Monica Pillat Săulescu</b>, <i>University of Bucharest</i></p>	<p><b>Edit Erzsébet Gálla</b>  <i>Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary</i>                  Humour as a Means of Detection in Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes Stories</p>	<p><b>Luiza Caraivan</b>  <i>West University of Timișoara</i>                  Representations of Female Detectives in South African Crime Fiction: A Case Study of Margie Orford's and Lauren Beukes' Novels</p>
<p><b>Commemorative moment for Professor emerita Gheorghiuța Dumitriu:</b>  <b>Ioana Chițoran</b>, <i>Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle, CNRS, Université Paris Cité</i>  <b>Ioana Gogeanu</b>, <i>University of Bucharest</i>  <b>Ion Bolma</b>, <i>Engineer</i>  <b>Michel Dupont</b>, <i>Magistrate</i></p>	<p><b>Ecaterina Fabian</b>  <i>"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați</i>                  The Psychology of the Criminal Mind as Reflected in <i>Unnatural Death</i> by Dorothy Sayers and <i>A Murder Is Announced</i> by Agatha Christie</p>	<p><b>Mattia Mantellato</b>  <i>University of Enna "Kore"</i>                  From Structural Violence to Partnership Futures: Reframing Crime in Alexis Wright's <i>The Swan Book</i></p>
	<p><b>Cristian Vîjea</b>  <i>University of Bucharest</i>                  The Fool as the Most Effective Sleuth in Scott's <i>Guy Mannering</i>, <i>Redgauntlet</i>, and <i>Rob Roy</i></p>	<p><b>Camelia Anghel</b>  <i>Hyperion University, Bucharest</i>                  Defining Murder as Reality in a Modernist Context: Katherine Mansfield's <i>The Woman at the Store</i></p>

19:30–22:00 Cocktail, [Casa Oamenilor de Știință](#)

# SATURDAY, 6 JUNE 2026

## 09:00–11:00 · Parallel Sessions V

<p><b>Stream: Visualizing Crime: Perpetration in American Popular Culture I (MLK)</b> Convenor: Dragoş Manea</p>	<p><b>Stream: White-Coat Stories: Medicine, Criminality, and Murder II (BCS)</b> Convenors: Monica Manolachi and Lorena Mihăeş</p>	<p><b>Stream: Crime and the Gothic Imagination I (Room 4)</b> Convenors: Roxana Oltean and Hande Tekdemir</p>
<p><b>Simina-Ioana Anton (Botoşan)</b> <i>“Ştefan cel Mare” University of Suceava</i> Monstrous Women: The Female Antihero in <i>Gone Girl</i> by Gillian Flynn and <i>Animal</i> by Lisa Taddeo</p>	<p><b>Aaron Rom O. Moralina</b> <i>Independent scholar</i> The White Coat from a Symbol of Healing to a Shield for Malfeasance: Four Criminal Cases in the Philippines of the Late 1920s</p>	<p><b>Charlie Kleinschmidt</b> <i>Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz</i> The Reader as Voyeur: The Spectacle of Unholy Justice in <i>The Monk</i></p>
<p><b>Mihaela Costache</b> <i>University of Bucharest</i> Breaking the Cycle: Revenge Crime, Player Complicity, and Ludonarrative Alignment in <i>The Last of Us Part II</i></p>	<p><b>Angela Brintlinger</b> <i>The Ohio State University</i> Vulnerability and Violation: Home Invasion as Metaphor in Two Novels Set in Medical Institutions</p>	<p><b>Eliana Ionoaia</b> <i>University of Bucharest</i> Shadows of the Mind: Gothic Atmosphere, Psychological Horror, and Criminal Profiling in <i>The Alienist</i></p>
<p><b>Dragoş Manea</b> <i>University of Bucharest</i> From <i>Beowulf</i> to <i>Biowulf</i>: On Adaptation and Criminal Transgression</p>	<p><b>Konstantina Kliagkona</b> <i>Independent scholar</i> Why Be Juliet to Romeo When You Can Be Bonnie to Clyde? The Psychological Roots of Hybristophilia in 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Media</p>	<p><b>Diana-Noella Sava</b> <i>“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iaşi</i> Gendered Criminality in Marc Cherry’s <i>Why Women Kill</i> Series</p>
	<p><b>Monica Manolachi</b> <i>University of Bucharest</i> When Healing Fails: Medical Ethics, Professional Responsibility, and the Shadow of Crime in Literature and Film</p>	<p><b>Mihaela Nestor-Penoy</b> <i>University of Bucharest</i> Marked Bodies and Visible Criminality in Dickens’s <i>Great Expectations</i></p>

### 11:00–11:15 Coffee Break

## 11:15–12:45 · Parallel Sessions VI

<p><b>Stream: Visualizing Crime: Perpetration in American Popular Culture II (MLK)</b> Convenor: Dragoş Manea</p>	<p><b>Crime and History in Literature and Film (BCS)</b> Chair: Jana Wild</p>	<p><b>Stream: Crime and the Gothic Imagination II (Room 4)</b> Convenors: Roxana Oltean and Hande Tekdemir</p>
<p><b>Mihaela Precup</b> <i>University of Bucharest</i> Representing Crime in Far-right Comics</p>	<p><b>Gintarė Bidlauskienė</b> <i>Independent scholar</i> “He Is Wanted”: Counterculture as Crime in Late Soviet Underground Film</p>	<p><b>Irina Costache</b> <i>University of Bucharest</i> Murder in the University Halls: The Gothic Element in Dark Academia Novels</p>
<p><b>Mihaela Paraschivescu</b> <i>Independent scholar</i> Reading the Mind-Reader. Patrick Jane’s Allure in <i>The Mentalist</i></p>	<p><b>Başak Demirhan</b> <i>Istanbul Bilgi University</i> Celebrity Criminals of the 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Criminal Biographies</p>	<p><b>Iuliana-Elena Asoltanei</b> <i>“Ştefan cel Mare” University of Suceava</i> The Aestheticization of Violence: Framing Crime through the Performance of Identity in <i>The Secret History</i> and <i>If We Were Villains</i></p>
<p><b>Andreea Moise</b> <i>University of Bucharest</i> Reassembling Queer Histories: The Monstrous Bride in <i>Frankenhooker</i> (1990)</p>	<p><b>Jana Wild</b> <i>Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava</i> Haunted by Socialist Memory: James Bond.sk</p>	<p><b>Hande Tekdemir</b> <i>Research Institute of the University of Bucharest (ICUB)</i> Edgar Allan Poe’s Detective Dupin and Gothic Ambivalence in Early Crime Fiction</p>

### 12:45–13:45 Lunch Break

## 13:45–15:15 KEYNOTE SPEECH (MLK)

### Felicity Hand

*Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*  
The Grey Zones in Indian and South African Crime Writing  
Chair: Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru, *University of Bucharest*

### 15:15–15:30 Coffee Break

## 15:30–17:00 · Parallel Sessions VII

<p><b>Stream: Crime and the Gothic Imagination III (MLK)</b> Convenors: Roxana Oltean and Hande Tekdemir</p>	<p><b>Criminality Represented on the Opera and Ballet Stage (MLK)</b> Chair: Alina Bottez</p>	<p><b>Crime and Childhood Trauma (Room 4)</b> Chair: Iris Rusu</p>
<p><b>Nicoleta Bleiu</b> <i>University of Bucharest</i> Institutionalised Violence and Gothic Secrecy in Rebecca Yarros’ <i>Empyrean</i> Novels</p>	<p><b>David Maziashvili</b> <i>Tbilisi State University</i> Medea’s Resolution to Commit a Crime on the Contemporary Georgian Ballet Stage</p>	<p><b>Ana-Maria Brustureanu</b> <i>“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iaşi</i> Sylvia Plath’s Search for a False Murderer in “Lady Lazarus”, “Daddy”, and “The Colossus”</p>

<p><b>Timothy Dwight Williams</b>  Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań  “It was indeed hard to live.” Late Paranoid Gothic, Class, and Xenophobia in Patricia Highsmith’s <i>A Dog’s Ransom</i></p>	<p><b>Carmen Dominte</b>  National University of Music, Bucharest  Melodic Expansion in the Crime Narratives of Giuseppe Verdi’s Melodramas</p>	<p><b>Elizabeth Stewart</b>  Yeshiva University, New York  The Figure of the Child: Pedagogy and Collective Crimes Against Children in 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-Century German Culture and Society</p>
<p><b>Roxana Oltean</b>  University of Bucharest  Gothic Salem and the American Nineteenth-Century Criminal Imagination</p>	<p><b>Alina Bottez</b>  University of Bucharest  School Shooting Meets Opera: Kaija Saariaho’s <i>Innocence</i></p>	<p><b>Iris Rusu</b>  “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu  The Maintenance of Public Secrets: Moral Geographies and Implicated Subjects in Kazuo Ishiguro’s <i>Never Let Me Go</i> and <i>When We Were Orphans</i></p>

17:00–17:15 Coffee Break

17:15–19:30

Round table *in memoriam* Professor emerita Monica Bottez — Plenary

Chair: Alina Bottez (MLK)

Link: <https://meet.google.com/kam-cuhg-aia>

Host: Andrei Nae, University of Bucharest, andrei.nae@lls.unibuc.ro

Adela Catană, “Ferdinand I” Military Academy, Bucharest: “The Impact of *Infinite Horizons*: Monica Bottez and the Configuration of Canadian Studies in Romania”

Alexandra Cornilescu, University of Bucharest: “Monica Bottez and the Eminence of Research”

Michaela Mudure, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca: “Monica Bottez and the Craft of Translation”

Rodica Albu, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iaşi

Valentin Bottez, University of Bucharest (Faculty of History)

Dumitru Chiţoran, University of Bucharest

Adina Ciugureanu, “Ovidius” University of Constanţa

Ligia Doina Constantinescu, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iaşi

Iolanda Costide, Architect, Trustee & UK Secretary of The Paul Neagu Estate (UK); member of the PNL Senate (National Liberal Party, Romania)

Horaţiu Decuble, University of Bucharest

Maria-Sabina Draga-Alexandru, University of Bucharest

Konrad Gross, University of Kiel, Central European Association for Canadian Studies

Dragoş Ivana, University of Bucharest, Director of the English Department (FLLS)

Rodica Mihăilă, University of Bucharest

Octavian More, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, President of the Central European Association for Canadian Studies

Monica Pillat Săulescu, University of Bucharest

Domnica Rădulescu, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia

Daniela Roventa-Frumuşani, University of Bucharest (Faculty of Journalism and Communication)

Nicolas Tredell, Writer, University of Sussex

Ioana Zirra, University of Bucharest

20:00–23:00 Conference Dinner, Rare Garden

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