

# AICED-27

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

<b>Stream: Crime and Criminality in the Early Modern World I (MLK)</b> Convenor: Alina Bottez	<b>Criminal Afterlives: Framing and Reframing the Victorians in the Neo-Victorian Imagination (BCS)</b> Chair: Eliana Ionoaia	<b>Narrating Crime (Room 4)</b> 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>Babeș-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 Galați</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 (MLK)</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                  Link: <a href="https://meet.google.com/rre-qygf-qxt">https://meet.google.com/rre-qygf-qxt</a>                  Host: Dragoș Manea, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, dragos.manea@iis.unibuc.ro</p>	<p><b>The Classics of Sleuthing (BCS)</b>                  Chair: Cristian Vișea</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>Elena Bîră</b>, <i>University of Bucharest</i>  <b>Alina Bottez</b>, <i>University of Bucharest</i>  <b>Ligia Doina Constantinescu</b>, "<i>Alexandru Ioan Cuza</i>" <i>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>  <b>Lidia Vianu</b>, <i>University of Bucharest</i></p>	<p><b>Edit Erzsébet Gál</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 Gheorghita 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 Vișea</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 (BCS)</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 Iași</i>                  Sylvia Plath's Search for a False Murderer in "Lady Lazarus", "Daddy", and "The Colossus"</p>
<p><b>Timothy Dwight Williams</b>  <i>Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań</i>                  "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>  <i>National University of Music, Bucharest</i>                  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>  <i>University of Bucharest</i>                  Gothic Salem and the American Nineteenth-Century Criminal Imagination</p>	<p><b>Alina Bottez</b>  <i>University of Bucharest</i>                  School Shooting Meets Opera: Kaija Saariaho's <i>Innocence</i></p>	<p><b>Iris Rusu</b>  <i>"Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, University of Bucharest</i>                  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@lts.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 Iași*

**Valentin Bottez**, *University of Bucharest* (Faculty of History)

**Dumitru Chițoran**, *University of Bucharest*

**Adina Ciugureanu**, *"Ovidius" University of Constanța*

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

**Ligia Doina Constantinescu**, *"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași*

**Horațiu Decuble**, *University of Bucharest*

**Maria-Sabina Draga-Alexandru**, *University of Bucharest*

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

**Dragoș 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-Frumușani**, *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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