

# "THE LIGHT COMES FROM THE WEST!"

The Politics of Eastern European  
Migration during the Cold War



**BUCHAREST**

10-12 OCTOBER 2023

## **DAY 1**      **10 October 2023 (Tuesday)**

**Venue:**      **Multifunctional Hall**, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) (Bulevardul Expoziției 30A, București 012244)

### **15:30–16:00**      **CONFERENCE OPENING**

### **16:00–17:45**      **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION** **'Iron' or 'Nylon' Curtain? The Role of Émigré Actors in Cold War Interactions**

**Anneli Ute-Gabanyi** (Emeritus International Scholar, Historian & Political Scientist)

**Anna Mazurkiewicz** (University of Gdansk, Poland)

**György Péteri** (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway)

**Dariusz Stola** (Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland)

Moderator: **Alina Bârgăoanu** (Dean of the College of Communication and Public Relations, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania)

### **17:45–18:00**      **COFFEE BREAK**

### **18:00–19:30**      **PANEL ONE** **Diffusion of Ideas, Cultural and Economic Goods During the Cold War**

**Jonathan Lahey Dronsfield**

(Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czechia)

*Transnational migration of ideas and their space:  
clandestine universities in Eastern Europe*

**Alexandru-Cristian Voicu**

(National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania)

*Members of the Iron Guard exiled in Spain and expressions of  
propaganda through philately; a case study: 'Cinderella stamps' in exile*

**Alexandra Bardan** (University of Bucharest, Romania)

*Mediators of transnational solidarity aid in Romania during the 1980s*

Moderator: **Gábor Danyi** (European Network Remembrance and Solidarity, Warsaw, Poland)

## DAY 2 11 October 23 (Wednesday)

**Venue:** Ion Heliade Rădulescu Amphitheatre, Library of the Romanian Academy  
(Calea Victoriei 125, Bucharest 010071)

### 9:00–10:45 **PANEL TWO** **Cold War Migration: Theoretical and Methodological Questions**

**Péter Bencsik** (University of Szeged, Hungary)

*Migration policies of the East-Central European communist regimes compared*

**Ioana Macrea-Toma** (Vera & Donald Blinken Open Society Archives, Budapest, Hungary)

*'Fleeing' or not: the complexities of a tactical game between the dissidents and the Securitate*

**Corina Doboş**

(National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania)  
*Producing emigration and immigration data during the 1950s and 1960s: between secrecy and policy in communist Romania*

**Bianca-Florentina Cheregi & Florenţa Toader & Mălina Ciocea**

(National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania)  
*Transnational social fields and the politics of belonging in diasporic and national communities then and now: a comparative approach*

Moderator: **Mihail E. Ionescu** (National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania)

### 10:45–11:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

### 11:00–12:45 **PANEL THREE** **Strategies in East-Central European Cold War Migration**

**Tomasz Korban** (Pedagogical University of Krakow, Poland)

*LOT Polish Airline: landet oft in Tempelhof; aircraft hijacking in the Polish People's Republic*

**Dragoş Petrescu** (University of Bucharest, Romania)

*Avenues of escape: tourism as a strategy to exit communist Romania (1967–69)*

**Camelia Runceanu** (independent scholar, Bucharest)

*Romanian intellectuals in the West: refuge, exile and mobility*

**Florin Zyberaj & Brisejda Lala** (Institute for the Studies of the Communist Crimes and Consequences, Tirana, Albania)

*The establishment of communism and the escape of political opponents from Albania (1944–47)*

Moderator: **Cosmin Budeancă** (Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of Romanian Exile, Bucharest, Romania)

**12:45–13:45 LUNCH** (Swedish buffet at conference venue)

**13:50–15:50 PANEL FOUR**  
**Actors, Institutions and Networks  
in East-Central European Cold War Migration**

**Lucian Vasile** (Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile, Bucharest, Romania)

*The missing team: the curious case of the Pascal group's double agents (1953–1955)*

**Benedetta Fabrucci** (University of Trieste, Italy)

*Refugees from the East: foreigners at the Italian northeastern border in the 1950s and 1960s*

**Mioara Anton** (National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania)

*The impossible escape: the Ceaușescu regime and the emigration tax (November 1982)*

**Andrei-Dumitru Olteanu** (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

*Memories without borders: Romanian migration during the Ceaușescu regime and its connections to exile diasporas in France and Great Britain*

Moderator: **Ioan M. Ioniță** (editor-in-chief of *Historia* and *Foreign Policy*)

**16:00–17:45 A visit to the House of Ceaușescu Museum**

Guided tour in English (only for conference speakers)

(Bulevardul Primăverii 50, Bucharest 011975)

## DAY 3 12 October 2023 (Thursday)

**Venue:** Ion Heliade Rădulescu Amphitheatre, Library of the Romanian Academy  
(Calea Victoriei 125, Bucharest 010071)

### 09:00-10:30 **PANEL FIVE** **The Role of Migrants in the Fight for Human Rights**

**Ana Maria Cătănuș & Dan Cătănuș** (National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania)

*Turning émigrés into human rights activists: Romanian military exile in France during the 1970s and 1980s*

**Cristina Petrescu** (University of Bucharest, Romania)

*Human rights as a toolkit for migration: the Goma movement of 1977 in Romania and its aftermath*

**Beáta Katrebová Blehová** (Nation's Memory Institute, Bratislava, Slovakia)

*The Slovak World Congress (1971) and human rights*

Moderator: **Andrei Florin Sora** (University of Bucharest, Romania)

### 10:30-10:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

### 10:50-12:50 **PANEL SIX** **Cold War Perceptions and Dynamics of Soft Power**

**Adrian Pop** (National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania)

*American perceptions of the Romanian exile circles in France at the beginning of the 1950s*

**Erzsébet Árvay** (Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary)

*Shaping the diasporans' perception of the home country: the State Office for Church Affairs within the Hungarian community during the Cold War*

**Luke Dodds** (KADOC Documentation and Research Centre on Religion Culture and Society at KU Leuven, Belgium)

*God as a guiding force: Belgian Catholics' interactions with 'old' and 'new' Polish émigrés in the 1970s and 1980s*

**Constantin Buchet** (National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania)

*Romanian military exile in the West and military diplomacy against the communist regime*

Moderator: **Florin Abraham** (National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania / ENRS)

### 12:50-13:00 **CLOSING REMARKS**



Organisers



National University of Political Studies and Public Administration  
Faculty of Communication and Public Relations

ENRS is funded by



Ministry of Culture and National Heritage  
Republic of Poland



Minister of State  
for Culture and the Media



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR



MINISTRY  
OF CULTURE  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



MINISTRY OF CULTURE



**FIND OUT MORE**

<https://cutt.ly/lightcomesfromwest>