LSE Ideas

RATIU FORUM

ANNUAL REVIEW 2022 2023

international regional democracy history journalism history strategy international regional democracy journalism history strategy international regional democracy journalism history strategy international regional democracy

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OPENING LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN
BI-ANNUAL REVIEW: 2022-2023

2022

Boldly intending to reconnect with the physical world again after a surfeit of Covid-induced Zoom conferences, we opened the first quarter of 2022 with our continuing **Journalism Mentoring Programme** sessions on none other than Zoom... In fact, the system lends itself extremely well for our format of one mentor interacting with 10 to 14 young journalist mentees in different parts of Romania. You will read more on the content, participation and the mechanics of the **Mentoring Programme** and our annual prize in the body of the Review.

The 2022 **Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy**, designed and inspired by the late Professor Christopher Coker, my co-Director of the Ratiu Forum, who tragically passed away on September 5th 2023, were held on June 4th and 5th at the Doubletree Hilton Hotel in Cluj.

As usual our panel discussions book-ended by highly convivial breakfasts, dinners, closing with late-night sessions for many in the Executive Lounge, were enjoyed back in Turda – with Christopher, CC as we knew him – at his witty and enlightening best. At the Dialogues themselves our keynote speaker was the well-known historian and author Professor Margaret MacMillan, on her chosen subject the 'Use and Misuse of History' – a highly topical issue with Putin's war on Ukraine, at the time already raging on the Romanian borders, 'justified' by his own evil misuse of Russian and Ukrainian history.

An exceptional array of speakers attended – details in the Review – and the **Ion Ratiu Prize for Journalism** was awarded to Mr Christan Andrei of Europa Libera for his detailed investigation into the levels and financing of Romania's political parties' propaganda.

On September 4th our next conference was held in Turda on **The Rise of Pop Pessimism**, orchestrated by Prof. Slobodan Markovic and Prof. Christopher Coker, who certainly enlightened and broadened our thinking despite potentially being so dark a subject. The conference was immediately followed on September 5th-6th by another one: **Democracy in the Age of Putin**. The challenges facing democracy – not only from autocratic imperialist expansionism but also from the enemies and doubters of democracy from within – were debated from a number of different angles with speakers from many different backgrounds. The questioning of European values, threats on our human rights, the dangers generated by corruption, nationalism and spreading populism in the region were as well analysed.

A special overseas conference entitled the **War Narratives, Global Crises, and Memory Battles: Romanian-Icelandic Perspectives** took place in Reykjavik, Iceland on October 21st 2022, organised by the Ratiu Forum in partnership with the EDDA Research Center at the University of Iceland and Babes-Bolyai University. Professor Christopher Coker and Pamela Ratiu attended for the Ratiu Forum. Further details to be found in the Review.

2023

In 2023 our **Journalism Mentoring Programme** continued successfully during the first quarter, followed by **John Lloyd's Journalism Master Class** on March 11th and 12th – see below.

The 2023 **Teaching of History Workshop** ran between February 10th-12th at the Ratiu Centre in Turda and tackled topics such as the Holocaust or the Revolution of 1989, recently introduced as optional modules in Romanian high schools. The workshop was run by John Lotherington, director of the 21st Century Trust in London, and brought together experts in education, textbook and curriculum creation, alongside high-school history teachers from across Romania, with the aim of giving the latter the confidence and tools to tackle complex historical issues in their classrooms. John Lloyd's **Journalism Master Class** and – covered in detail in this review – included a fascinating contribution from war correspondent Mircea Barbu recounting his unique experiences from the front line of the war in Ukraine. The journalists also heard from the undersigned how the largely unknown first-hand story of Cotidianul, Romania's first post-revolution independent broadsheet newspaper, was built by Ion Ratiu and launched in 1990/1991, forming part of the **History of Romanian Journalism** panel.

The Master Class was immediately followed by the much (not only by us) appreciated British Embassy supported **Business and Financial Journalism Workshop**, led by former Financial Times journalist Graham Watts, with valuable contributions again from John Lloyd, who recounted the inside story of the British coalminers' strike of the 1980s, for which his reporting won him The Journalist of the Year, Specialist Writer of the Year and The David Watt Prize. It had been a strike that brought the UK economy to its knees.

Subsequently, our 2016 Ion Ratiu Journalism Prize winner Emilia Sercan organised her Transylvanian edition of the **Plagiarism Checking Workshop** at the Ratiu Democracy Centre on March 31st-April 1st. Her work on exposing plagiarism in high governmental, military and academic circles has brought her much praise and of course criticism and threats as a result of the evidence she has proven and revealed. We were glad to be able to support her in her work.

The Ratiu Forum Democracy Dialogues for 2023 were held on June 15th-16th, very sadly the last opportunity we have had to enjoy and benefit from the guidance and contributions of Professor Christopher Coker, who will certainly be most sorely missed in future. We were treated to a stunning array of speakers on nationalism/populism, European values, media and democracy, corruption and a presentation by CIVICS on their work of cataloguing the world of NGOs in Europe. To close, we were offered a brilliant and mesmerizing intellectual ping pong exchange on Ukraine and the Return of History by a trio of Professors: Dominic Lieven, Michael Burleigh and of course, Christopher Coker himself. For all those lucky enough to be present, the event will be very long remembered.

The 2023 **Ion Ratiu Journalism Award** was presented during the Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy to Andreea Pavel, selected for her prolific journalistic activity in the local media of Constanta. Her work includes investigations into corruption, social issues, and cultural heritage. Her commitment to recruiting and training young journalists was also highlighted by the panel of judges.

As always, the **Dialogues** closed with a stunning dinner organised by Pamela Ratiu - this time in the Brewery building, with our Transylvanian with a twist menu, beautifully prepared and presented by Paul Bloomfield and his team.

Last but not least, as a result of the Ratiu Forum's association with the University of Iceland and introductions made there in 2022, the Prime Minister of Iceland, Katrin Jakobsdottir was awarded a special prize at the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj for her unique record on implementing **Gender Equality** in her parliament and nation. The Prime Minister was hosted by the Ratiu Foundation at Casa Ratiu, to the great pleasure of all attending. If only all national leaders would be so approachable, committed and warm-hearted…

With best wishes,
Nicolae Ratiu
Chairman of the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation

MESSAGE FROM LSE IDEAS

Once again, the close cooperation between LSE IDEAS CSEEP and the Ratiu Foundation has brought with it an increasingly busy and expansive period for the Ratiu Forum. Our focus has been toward (almost) exclusively in-person conferences and seminars, as well as diversifying the voices in these discussions and producing written output of our findings and discussions.

These years have witnessed a growth in our team but also for our partners and colleagues. We have welcomed Maria Branea, Andreea Scridon and Ruxandra Albescu to the London and Turda desks, re-thinking our presence on social media and integrating further with the professional services team at LSE IDEAS. Team building exercises between us and strategic planning have ensured a strong programmatic vision for the next few years. Newly on board for our Teaching History and Journalism programmes, as well as Dialogues on Democracy, are the CIVICS Innovation Hub (Sofia, Bonn, Zagreb) and the Centre for the Study of Democracy (Sofia) – bringing an increasingly inclusive regional lens and avenues of collaboration.

The Journalism Masterclass with John Lloyd has been cleverly rolled into the Journalism Mentorship Programme - devised by Dr Leon Hartwell and managed by Maria Branea. The programme has regionalised the audience, equipping them with the hard skills for journalism - including the investigative kind crucial to democracies – and foreign affairs. Our cooperation with the British Embassy in Bucharest and Graham Watts has added another key dimension to the topics, themes and challenges facing journalists in post-communist states today.
The incorporation of summer school programmes for prize-winners and participants expands the scope of experience for the young journalists in-training and connects them with formidable journalistic institutions.

The Teaching of History Programme has also grown from existing foundations, focusing this year on 'difficult histories' – inspired by the introduction into the Romanian curriculum of mandatory teaching of both the Holocaust and 1989 Revolution.
This year's workshop applied an interactive approach between the teachers, students and expert panellists, drafting key principles for teaching History for democracies – to be published as a booklet.
Discussions on the politicisation of textbooks and populist/nationalist myth-making within education are being taken further into the next year, alongside our colleagues in the Council of Europe, Euroclio, the Sofia Platform, CIVICS Innovation Hub, and Teaching in the 21st Century.

Finally, the latest Dialogues on Democracy brought us all a sense of greater understanding of Russia's brutal war on Ukraine, placing it in its historical context and forcing us to ask crucial questions about the nature of democracies and autocracies within the existing world order – or indeed, a new world order to come in our lifetimes. We must particularly thank our special guests and Senior Fellows of LSE IDEAS, Prof. Michael Burleigh and Dominic Lieven, as well as our continued cooperation with the Jagiellonian University (Kraków) and Visegrad Insight.

We have also been producing written output to follow up on our academic conferences. September 2022's joint-conference on 'The Rise of Pop Pessimism and its Implications' and 'Democracy in the Age of Putin' were covered in the blogpost: 'Survival Horror in the 21st Century: Pessimism and Democracy in the Age of Putin'. In that vein, this year's Dialogues on Democracy was summarised and expanded upon with the article: 'The Return of History: Countering the Decline of Democracy in Europe'.

A huge thanks also to our regular supporters and to all participants in the programmes for 2022/23; too many to be named here – and how fortunate we are to have so many.

Stuart Austin
Programme Manager
Central and South-East Europe Programme, LSE IDEAS

THE RATIU FORUM ADVISORY BOARD

Sandra Pralong, Ph.D.
Sandra Pralong, Ph.D., is, since September 2015, a State Advisor and member of the Cabinet of the President of Romania, responsible for relations with Romanians abroad (a 5,5 million-strong Diaspora). She held a similar position in a previous Presidential Administration when, between 1998 and 2000, she helped open up the Romanian state's relations with its citizens who had fled the Communist regime. With established credentials in public policies for diaspora engagement, values-based leadership and strategic communications, human rights advocacy, civil society development and overseas development assistance (ODA), Sandra is a former UN executive (UNDP, UNFPA), international foundation executive (Open Society Foundation) and international media executive (Director of Promotion for Newsweek in New York). In addition, she shared her expertise on several occasions as a visiting Professor at the University of Bucharest and the University of Niamey (Niger, West Africa). She is the author of several books, academic research papers and essays, and is a public speaker, a trainer and a coach. Sandra holds a Ph.D. in Political Science ('Magna cum Laude' from the Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris, France), an MA in Business Management (from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland), an MALD in International Relations (from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, USA), and an M.Phil. in Political Philosophy (from Columbia University, NY, USA) as well as a recent Master's Degree in Cognitive Sciences (from the University of Bucharest, Romania).

ProfessorAlexander Evans OBE FRHistS
Alexander Evans is a Professor in Practice in Public Policy at the LSE and a Visiting Senior Fellow at LSE IDEAS. A British diplomat, he has worked as an advisor to the Prime Minister in 10 Downing Street, Strategy Director in the Cabinet Office, and Director of Cyber in the Foreign Office. He led the UN Security Council expert mission on Daesh, Al Qaida and the Taliban and has been British Deputy and Acting High Commissioner to India and (briefly) to Pakistan. He served in the U.S. government as a senior adviser to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke. He was formerly a senior fellow at Yale, a Gwilym Gibbon fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford and Henry Kissinger Chair at the Library of Congress.

Andrew Noble is a British diplomat who has served twice in the British Embassy in Romania. As Press Attache in the communist era Embassy (1983-86), and as Ambassador (2018 to October 2023), he has developed a profound respect and affection for this country. He has travelled widely in Romania and led an active Embassy through five years of significant change in Romania. Andrew joined HM Diplomatic Service in 1982, after studying Modern and Medieval Languages at Gonville and Caius College Cambridge. In a diplomatic career of over 40 years, he also served as British Ambassador to Algeria, Deputy Ambassador in Germany and Greece, and as Head of the Political Section in the British High Commission in Pretoria/ Cape Town in Mandela's South Africa. Andrew was appointed LVO by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his involvement in the State Visit to South Africa in 1995. Andrew is thrilled to be involved in the Ratiu Forum, not least since the early years of his career were dominated by the Cold War and ever since he has dealt with democratic transition, whether in Europe or Africa. He has been closely involved throughout his career with British security policy. Andrew speaks Romanian, German and French fluently and has also learned modern Greek, Afrikaans and some Arabic. Andrew is also a Trustee of Hospice Casa Sperantei, a member of the Advisory Board of ADEPT and a member of the International Consultative Board of the New Strategy Centre in Bucharest, Romania. He is married with four children and is an active amateur musician.

John M. Florescu has had a distinguished career as media entrepreneur, television producer and businessman with broad experience in the United States and Europe. A journalist by training, Mr Florescu is the son of the distinguished historian Radu Florescu and the grandson of a prominent pre-war Romanian diplomat of the same name. Fluent in French and working Romanian, he comes from one of Romania's oldest families with roots going back more than 500 years. For 20 years, Mr Florescu served as executive producer for the late Sir David Frost. From Washington and Los Angeles, Mr Florescu has produced over 180 television specials, documentaries/ interviews for PBS, HBO, A&E Network, History Channel, Discovery-Times, Disney Channel, CBS Cable and other broadcasters in the US and overseas.

He was Co-Executive Producer of Talking with David Frost, one of the longest running news/ public affairs interview programs in PBS history. Mr Florescu has served as Executive producer for interviews with six past U.S. Presidents and also with several foreign heads of state including Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela and several Middle Eastern leaders including Benjamin Netanyahu. With all the world's living Nobel laureates present in Stockholm, he also produced for PBS 'The Great Nobel Debate' on the 90th anniversary of the award. While in Romania, Mr Florescu produced 'The King Who Tricked Hitler,' (2016) about King Michael of Romania (at the time, the only living Head of State from WW 11) and two programs on Donald Trump and Senator Clinton (2016/2017), and 'Queen Marie: Heart of Romania.' (2018). He produced 'King Michael: The Journey Home.' (2021). In 2022, the produced the 2 part 'The Mystery of Dacian Gold' (2022) and the upcoming 6-part series, 'Marcel Iures Presents Romanian Enigmas' (2023). Recipient of a number of awards, Mr Florescu's recent films have run worldwide on the HISTORY channel and on Amazon Prime. In the 1980s, Mr Florescu created and served as Executive Producer of the PBS series Great Confrontations at the Oxford Union, a 4-part public affairs debate series that brought together the world's best student debaters with world statesmen including the former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Having lived in and out of Romania for 20 years, Mr Florescu advised the late Senator Edward Kennedy on Romanian political affairs as well as many US and Western businesses entering the then-booming East European region. He contributed editorials about Eastern Europe for The Boston Globe, The Washington Post and the San Francisco Chronicle; participated in academic symposium on Romanian topics; advised on studies on Romania by the Council on Foreign Relations; served in 1991 as a US delegate with NDI during the first democratic elections. Mr Florescu holds a B.A. (Magna Cum Laude, 1976) in History from Boston College. From 1974 to 1975, he studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) at Oxford University, where he served as the first American editor of the university newspaper, The Cherwell. Mr Florescu has two boys in NYC and a daughter and son in Romania.

Dr Slobodan G. Markovich, MBE is Full Professor at the School of Political Science of the University of Belgrade where he lectures Political Anthropology, Political History of South-East Europe and Image of European Other. He is also Full Professorat the Institute for European Studies in Belgrade. He has been Research Associate at LSEE/LSE since 2012, and at LSE IDEAS since 2018. He has been the head of the Centre for British Studies at the School of Political Science in Belgrade since 2017. His published monographs include a book on Freud's pessimism: Pessimistic Anthropology of Sigmund Freud (Belgrade, 2012), on Serbian economist, politician and diplomat Chedomille Miyatovich. A Victorian among Serbs (Belgrade, 2006), and a monograph on British-(Balkan) Serbian relations: British Perceptions of Serbia and the Balkans 1903-1906 (Paris, 2000, in English). His (co-) edited collections of papers in English include: British-Serbian Relations from the 18th to the 21st Centuries (Belgrade, 2018); Problems of Identities in the Balkans (Belgrade, 2006); and Challenges to New Democracies in the Balkans (Belgrade, 2004). He has been the coordinator of annual meetings 'Psychoanalysis and Culturei' since 2016.
His research interests include: Construction of Ethnic/National and Religious Identities in the Balkans, British-Balkan Relations, psychoanalytic anthropology, and History of European Pessimism.

John Lloyd co-founded The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford in 2006, where he was Director of Journalism and a Senior Research Fellow. He is a Contributing editor at The Financial Times, and Chairman of the School of Civic Education (Russia). Lloyd was a freelance reporter in Belfast in the early 1970s. He was a reporter on LBC Radio, worked at London Weekend TV as a reporter on the London Programme and producer on Weekend World. At the Financial Times he has been Labour Editor, Labour and Industrial Editor, East Europe Editor, Moscow Bureau Chief; and founding editor of the FT Weekend Magazine. He has edited both Time Out and the New Statesman.

Richard Ralph CMG CVO is a retired professional British diplomat. He joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office after graduating from the University of Edinburgh with a degree in politics and international relations in 1969. During his career he served in the British embassies in Laos, Portugal, Zimbabwe, and Washington, before being appointed successively ambassador to Latvia, Governor of the Falkland Islands, ambassador to Romania, Moldova and Peru.

Prof. Carol Capita graduated from the University of Bucharest, Faculty of History-Philosophy, in 1988. After a brief period as a Secondary School teacher (both in rural and urban schools), he became a staff member of his alma mater since 1990. He holds a PhD in Ancient History and a PhD in Educational Sciences. His interests (in the field of Education) lie in the area of curriculum development, the use of sources in History teaching, and the initial teacher training of History teachers. He published a number of articles on the Didactics of History, as well as being co-author (with Laura Capita) of two books on the Didactics of History, various teaching materials for the initial and continuing teacher training, and several History textbooks. He worked as an independent expert with the Council of Europe for the last 16 years.

Ovidiu Vanghele started his career in 2002 at MEDIAFAX Agency. During his ten years in the press agency, he gradually became interested in more detailed subjects, closer to investigative journalism. He then joined the Pro TV news team. Less than a year later, he chose to leave mainstream media, founding the Center for Investigative Media, the entity he has been heading ever since. In the last seven years, Ovidiu published several press investigations tracing millions of euros spent pointlessly, illegally or simply stolen. His best-known investigations focused on the abuses from mental health centers, the Romanian Academy monetary frauds, the National Railway Company's contracts. Most of these also became judiciary investigations. He has spent almost the entire 2016 documenting, together with Ana Poenariu (Rise Project), the series 'Toti oamenii generalului', tracking the personal and financial development of Gabriel Oprea. In 2017, together with Vlad Stoicescu (dela0.ro), he set up a journalism platform aimed to better understand the relationship between the Churches in Romania and state institutions. Funded by its readers, the online project 'Let there be light!' is, to many, an example of how journalism can survive in these tough times. He also teaches journalism at the University of Bucharest.

Alison Mutler studied Romanian literature and language at the University of London and graduated in 1987. She first reported from Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova before communism ended, and was in Romania, working for British television station ITV during the 1989 anti-communist revolt. She moved to Romania in 1991 and joined the Associated Press which she left last year after 25 years. She has been president of the now defunct Foreign Press Association. She is now a correspondent for Romanian start-up news site, universul.net. She occasionally freelances for Coda Story and Radio Free Europe among others.

Prof. Dennis Deletant served as Visiting Ion Ratiu Professor of Romanian Studies in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, Washington DC from August 2011 to July 2020. He is Emeritus Professor of Romanian Studies at University College, London, where he taught in the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, between 1969 and 2011, and was Professorof Romanian Studies at the University of Amsterdam (on secondment from UCL) between 2003 and 2010. He was appointed to the board of the British Government's 'Know-How Fund for Central and Eastern Europe' in 1990 and was actively involved in its work in Romania and in the Republic of Moldova until 1999 when the board was disbanded. The establishment of the Fund was influenced by the desire of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that Britain should play a leading role in helping the nations of the former Soviet bloc to make the transition from communism to democracy, through the transfer of expertise, economic and political. For his work on the Fund, he was made an officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1995. He was awarded 'Ordinul pentru merit' (Order of Merit) with the rank of commander for services to Romanian democracy on 1 December 2000 by President Emil Constantinescu of Romania and 'The Star of Romania', Romania's highest civilian honour, by President Klaus Iohannis on 26 October 2016 for his activity in the promotion of Romanian history, language and culture. He is the author of several monographs and volumes of studies on the recent history of Romania, among them Ceausescu and the Securitate: Coercion and Dissent in Romania, 1965-89, London: Hurst & Co., 1995; New York: M.E. Sharpe, 1996; Communist Terror in Romania: Gheorghiu-Dej and the Police State, 1948-65, London: Hurst & Co.; New York: St Martin's Press, 1999; Hitler's Forgotten Ally. Ion Antonescu and his Regime, Romania, 1940-1944, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006; and British Clandestine Activities in Romania during the Second World War, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. His most recent study in English, Romania under Communism: Paradox and Degeneration, was published in October 2018 (Oxford; New York: Routledge).

Dr Raul Carstocea is a lecturer in Twentieth-Century European History at Maynooth University, Ireland. He has previously worked as a lecturer in Modern European History at the University of Leicester, as a lecturer in European Studies at Europa Universität Flensburg, as a senior research associate at the European Centre for Minority Issues, and as a teaching fellow at University College London. He has held research fellowships at the Imre Kértesz Kolleg Jena, the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam, and at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies. His research interests focus on antisemitism, Jewish history, nationalism, fascism, the Holocaust, and – more broadly – on state formation and nation-building processes in Central and Eastern Europe throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, with particular attention to their consequences for minority groups.

Wojciech Przybylski is the editor-in-chief of Visegrad Insight and chairman of Res Publica Foundation in Warsaw. Previously Wojciech has been the editor-in-chief of Eurozine – a magazine representing a network of European cultural journals, and – a Polish journal Res Publica Nowa. He has launched and leads the 'New Europe 100' project that is networking and bringing forward a community of successful innovators from CEE across the fields of business, research media, NGO and public administration run jointly by Res Publica, Financial Times and Google. He is a member of the advisory board of the European Forum of New Ideas. His expertise includes European and transatlantic affairs as well as policies related to innovation and culture. He has been publishing in Foreign Policy, Politico Europe, Journal of Democracy, EUobserver, VoxEurop, Hospodarskenoviny, Internazzionale, Gazeta Wyborcza, Dziennik Gazeta Prawna and several others. His new book 'Understanding Central Europe' (co-ed. with Marcin Moskalewicz) was published in 2017 by Routledge.

COLLABORATORS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

Radu-Bogdan Albu
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University of Bucharest

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Eva Marie Bulai
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Carol Capita
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Raul Carstocea
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Tania Latici
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Valentin Lazea
National Bank of Romania

Dominic Lieven
University of Cambridge

John Lloyd
Financial Times + Master Class

John Lotherington
21st Century Trust

Margaret MacMillan
University of Oxford

Balint Magyar
Central European University

Slobodan G. Markovich
University of Belgrade and LSE IDEAS

Janne Matlary
University of Oslo

Wojciech Michnik
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Alexandra Popa
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Liliana Popescu
Romanian Diplomatic Institute

Wojciech Prybylski
Visegrad Insight

Paul Radu
RISE Project

Kári Hólmar Ragnarsson
University of Iceland

Richard Ralph
Ambassador

Adam Reichardt
New Eastern Europe

Andrzej Sadecki
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Natasza Styczynska
Jagellonian University

Lidija Suica
Education for the 21st Century

Marko Suica
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Radu Vancu
University of Sibiu

Ovidiu Vanghele
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Patrick Vaughan
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Graham Watts
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Eric Beckett Weaver
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Katarzyna Zielińska
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University of Iceland

PROGRAMMES
THE RATIU FORUM TEACHING OF HISTORY PROGRAMME

The workshops follow a strategy devised by LSE IDEAS, which is based on the analysis of a pilot workshop that took place in Turda in February 2020. The first event was attended by 20 history teachers from 9 Romanian counties, requesting follow-up workshops. The programme agenda includes webinars and offline events, as well as research paper competitions for master and doctoral history students.

The Teaching of History Webinar, which took place online on 29-30 January 2022, tackled issues such as the representation of women in modern history, the history of minorities in central and eastern Europe, and the challenges posed by the national history curriculum.

The second **Teaching of History Workshop**, which took place at the Casa Ratiu in Turda on 26-27 March 2022, focused on the politicisation of history, teaching Romania's darker past, and nationalism in the curriculum.

THE HISTORY WORKSHOP 2023

The Teaching of History Workshops address the hidden history of Romania and the region and encourage teachers to engage with difficult topics, not yet approached or not comprehensively covered in the national curriculum.
The 2023 Teaching of History Workshop, which ran on 10-12 February at the Ratiu Centre in Turda, tackled topics such as the Holocaust and the revolution of 1989, recently introduced as optional modules in Romanian high schools. The workshop was run by John Lotherington, director of the 21st Century Trust in London, and brought together experts in education, textbook and curriculum creation, and the history of the Holocaust and the 1989 Romanian revolution, alongside highschool history teachers from across Romania, with the aim of giving the latter the confidence and tools to tackle such complex historical issues in their classrooms.

John Lotherington was joined by Prof. Carol Capita from the University of Bucharest, alongside the late Prof. Christopher Coker of the London School of Economics, Dr Slobodan Markovich of the University of Belgrade, Dr Raul Carstocea of Maynooth University, Louisa Slavkova of CIVICS, Lidija Suica of the NGO Education for the 21st Century and Dr Marko Suica of the University of Belgrade.

The workshop included sessions on the politicisation of history, nationalism and the curriculum, and the teaching of Romania's darker past, as well as a group drafting session on key principles of teaching history.
The overall mission of the Teaching of History Programme is to challenge uncritical thinking about the past and to improve the didactic teaching of history, allowing Romanian students to approach their past with a critical appreciation of its complexity and an understanding that events in the past continue to impact contemporary society.

The Ratiu Forum History Prize aims to raise awareness among history students about their future role as educators and also to challenge the general public to reconsider the importance of understanding and acknowledging history as part of collective memory.

THE RATIU FORUM HISTORY PRIZE 2023

By addressing sensitive topics, the Prize stimulates a critical approach in analysing not only specific national historical patterns, but also public attitudes towards minorities and extremist beliefs.

The 2023 Prize invited MA and PhD students of History to submit their research papers investigating the historical developments and experiences surrounding war and revolution in Romania's 20th century.

Submitted research papers had the option of answering one of the following questions:

1. Under the Antonescu regime, hundreds of thousands of Jews and Roma were deported and murdered within Basarabia, northern Bucovina, and Transnistria between 1941 and 1944. Meanwhile, Romanian Jews and Roma were relatively left 'protected' within Romania's legal borders. Account for this paradox.

2. What were the consequences of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939 for Romania?

3. With reference to both the cities of Timisoara and Bucharest, analyze the experiences of civilians, the Army and Securitate during the violent civil unrest of 1989.

The 2023 Ratiu Forum History Prize was awarded to Andrei-Dumitru Olteanu (PhD student, Faculty of History and Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca), for his essay 'Between Scylla and Charybdis: The Consequences of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact on Romania'.

The winner was awarded a 350 Euro grant and the essay was published on the websites of both the Ratiu Forum and LSE IDEAS. In addition, Andrei-Dumitru Olteanu was invited to receive an official diploma at The Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy, held in Cluj-Napoca between on 14-16 June.

THE RATIU FORUM JOURNALISM PROGRAMME

THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN JOURNALISM MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME 2023

The 2023 Journalism Mentorship Programme aimed to promote skills development and professional confidence among early-career journalists from Central and Eastern Europe and so to strengthen independent journalism in the region. The goal was to achieve this through one-on-one mentorship with leading journalists and through webinars on key competencies needed for professional journalism and investigative work, such as pitching, writing, and investigative skills, as well as on thematic issues of particular relevance to the CEE region.

The programme included seven mentors, with experience working for publications such as the Financial Times, BBC, New Eastern Europe Magazine, and the Associated Press, and thirteen mentees.
The mentors were Eva Marie Bulai, Alison Mutler, Diana Oncioiu, Dan Perry, Adam Reichardt, Emilia Sercan, and Ovidiu Vanghele.
The mentees were Stefania Pica, Sorina Noroc, Rafly Gilang, Olga Scripnic, Diana Cimpean, Cristian Bolotnicov, Andrei Popoviciu, Andrei Narita, Andra Muresan, Anastasia Apostu, Alexandra Luca, Alexandra Clapa, and Alex Turcu. Their backgrounds and levels of experience were varied, ranging from university students to professional journalists with up to five years of experience.
They have worked for local, national, and international outlets, doing work on print news, radio, and television.

As part of the programme, each mentee was paired up with a mentor with whom they had one-on-one sessions. The mentor-mentee pairs worked together on a piece of journalistic work, which the mentees were expected to produce during the programme, with the mentors providing guidance and advice as the young participants brainstormed, researched, and wrote their articles.

The programme also included six webinars, each run by one of the mentors, on issues and skills of particular relevance to the journalistic profession. The webinars included a session on writing about sensitive social issues run by Diana Oncioiu, a session on disinformation led by Adam Reichardt, and one on plagiarism conducted by Emilia Sercan. There was also a joint webinar led by Alison Mutler and Dan Perry on the difference between news and opinion writing, and a session on interview skills run by Eva Marie Bulai.

Mentees were also invited to attend the Journalism Master Class conducted by John Lloyd on 11-12 March 2023, as well as the Business and Financial Journalism Workshop run by Graham Watts on 14-16 March 2023, both at the Ratiu Centre for Democracy in Turda, Romania.

The Mentorship Prize

The articles submitted by the mentees as part of the programme were assessed by a panel of judges made up of the mentors and representatives of the Ratiu Forum and LSE IDEAS. The 2023 winner of the mentorship prize was Andra Muresan for her article ‘Kill for your life: Can the Romanian state protect the women who it would, in other circumstances, bury?’, on which she worked with her mentor Dan Perry. She was awarded a place on the News Associates Summer School in London, running 31 July-11 August 2023.

THE JOURNALISM MASTER CLASS 2023

The third edition of the Journalism Master Class, conducted by John Lloyd of the Financial Times, took place between 11-12 March 2023 at the Ratiu Centre for Democracy in Turda, Romania. Participants included early-career, as well as experienced Romanian journalists who explored the current situation of Romanian journalism as compared to other central European states in 2023, and focused on developing and sharing their professional expertise.

The following themes were discussed as part of the Master Class:

- Romanian journalism: how it works and how the media has changed in recent years
- Reporting of the war in Ukraine
- Corruption and how to report it
- The history of journalism in Romania
- The techniques and nature of investigative reporting
- Celebrity journalism – case study: the media storm surrounding Harry, Meghan and the British Royal Family

THE BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL JOURNALISM WORKSHOP 2023

The 2023 Business and Financial Journalism Workshop, a project supported by the British Embassy Bucharest, was aimed at Romanian journalists their professional skills in business and finance reporting, an underdeveloped area of Romanian journalism.
The three-day intensive workshop was designed by Graham Watts and took place between 14-16 March in Turda.

The following sessions were included in the workshop:

- Scope of the subject – finance, economics, business, markets – and how to think of them from an audience perspective
- Know your audience: discussion on how stories change according to the intended audience
- Types of stories: breaking/ hard news; in-depth news; news analysis; investigations
- Newsroom management: beats, bureaus and lines of authority
- Packaging stories online and in print – where stories go so audiences know where to find them
- Reporting skills: contacts, archive and other research and interpretation of data, interviewing, organising the story; briefing editors
- Editing skills: commissioning, hands-on editing, mentoring, briefing up and down the line
- Promoting finance/business stories on social media

The workshop also included a networking session, which provided participating journalists with an opportunity to meet a handful of leaders and experts from the legislative, banking and business sectors.

Moreover, a winning participant, Cristina Sbirn, was also selected to attend the month-long Summer School of the London School of Journalism in August 2023.

THE ION RATIU JOURNALISM AWARD 2023

The Ion Ratiu Prize for Journalism was this year awarded by the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation, the Ratiu Democracy Centre, and the Ratiu Forum to journalist Andreea Pavel, co-founder of Info Sud-Est.

Andreea Pavel was selected for her prolific journalistic activity in the local media of Constanta. Her work includes investigations into corruption, social issues, and cultural heritage.
Her commitment to recruiting and training young journalists was also highlighted by the panel of judges.

Among the other investigations carried out by the 2023 winner, the panel of judges was particularly impressed by her investigative series regarding the European funds accessed for the Danube Delta through the Integrated Territorial Investment mechanism. These articles were followed by a European Public Prosecutor's Office investigation into the fraud in 2022.

PLAGIARISM CHECKING WORKSHOP 2023

Plagiarism in the doctoral theses of politicians, high-ranking civil servants, magistrates and representatives of the defence and security systems represents a significant problem in Romania.

The Plagiarism Checking Workshop was therefore designed by journalist Emilia Sercan, with the support of the Ratiu Forum, in order to encourage and instruct Romanian journalists in identifying and investigating plagiarism in the academic works of high-profile individuals.
Emilia Sercan has, in the past five years, focused extensively on this topic, publishing investigations about the theses of several important public figures in Romania.

The workshop took place on 31 March – 1 April 2023 at the Ratiu Conference Centre in Turda and participation was primarily open to journalists and Journalism students from Cluj-Napoca and the Western region of Romania.

DEMOCRACY IN THE AGE OF PUTIN 2022

5-6 September 2022 I Ratiu Conference Centre, Turda

Liberal democracy was in crisis well before President Vladimir Putin's February escalation of the Russia-Ukraine war. However, the escalation has magnified the ongoing battle between democracy and authoritarianism. **Democracy in the Age of Putin** *aimed to explore the challenges to democratic values in the Central and Eastern European space.*

THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN CEE

Speakers:
Prof. Przemysław Tacik
Institute of European Studies
Jagiellonian University
Prof. Joanna Dyduch
Institute of the Middle and Far East, Jagiellonian University
Prof. Raluca Alexandrescu
Faculty of Political Science
University of Bucharest
Chairperson:
Prof. Alexander Evans
LSE AND LSE IDEAS

CORRUPTION AND THE RULE OF LAW

Speakers:
Prof. Elena Simina Tanasescu
Professor at the Law Faculty
University of Bucharest
Andrzej Sadecki
Senior Research Fellow
Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw
Prof. Paweł Laidler
Dean of Faculty of International and Political Studies of the Jagiellonian University
Chairperson:
Adam Reichardt
Editor-in-Chief, New Eastern Europe

DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND IDEAS

Speakers:
Adam Reichardt
New Eastern Europe
Dr Wojciech Michnik International Relations and Security Studies, Jagiellonian University
Prof. Adrian Pabst
University of Kent
Prof. Gabriela Ciot
Faculty of European Studies, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj
Chairperson:
Dr George Jiglau
Political Science Department
Babes-Bolyai University

HUMAN RIGHTS AT RISK

Speakers:
Prof. Katarzyna Zielińska
Institute of Sociology at Jagiellonian University
Prof. Christopher Coker
LSE IDEAS
Dr Cynthia Carmen Curt
Faculty of Political Sciences
Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj
Dr Laura Herta
Faculty of European Studies
Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj
Chairperson:
Prof. Przemysław Tacik
Institute of European Studies
Jagiellonian University

POPULISM AND NATIONALISM

Speakers:
Prof. Sergiu Miscoiu
Faculty of European Studies
Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj
Dr Fernando Herrero
University of Manchester Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies
Prof. Slobodan Markovich
Professor at the School of Political Science of the University of Belgrade
Chairperson:
Prof. Christopher Coker
LSE IDEAS

DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING

'King Michael: The Journey Home', produced by **John Florescu**

THE RISE OF POP PESSIMISM

4 September 2022 I Ratiu Conference Centre, Turda

The Rise of Pop Pessimism and its Implications *Conference is a sequel to the highly successful Rethinking Pessimism in the Covid World, which was hosted in September 2021. The conference gathered prominent experts from Europe and the U.S., who unpacked the realism and pessimism of modern European thinkers, as well as experts who discussed the tradition of melancholy in European thought.*

PESSIMISM AND DYSTOPIA IN POLITICS

Speakers:
Prof. Christopher Coker
LSE IDEAS
Prof. Alexander Evans
LSE and LSE IDEAS
Prof. Slobodan G. Markovich
University of Belgrade and
LSE IDEAS
Chairperson:
Prof. Adrian Pabst
University of Kent and National Institute of Economic and Social Research

PESSIMISM IN FILMS AND LITERATURE AND ITS MEANING

Speakers:
Dr Fernando Herrero
University of Manchester
Dr Dejan Ognjanović
Independent Researcher
Prof. Radu Vancu
University of Sibiu
Chairperson:
Prof. Slobodan Markovich
University of Belgrade and
LSE IDEAS

BETWEEN UTOPIA AND DYSTOPIA

Speakers:
Prof. Adrian Pabst
University of Kent and National Institute of Economic and Social Research
Prof. Simona Modreanu
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University Iasi
Chairperson:
Prof. Alexander Evans
LSE and LSE IDEAS

Ratiu Democracy Centre
THE RATIU FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
LSE Ideas
RATIU FORUM
31 March - 1 April 2023
Turda, Romania
PLAGIARISM CHECKING WORKSHOP WITH EMILIA ȘERCAN
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CSEEP
JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY IN KRAKOW
DEMOCRACY IN THE AGE OF PUTIN
5-6 SEPTEMBER 2022
TURDA, ROMANIA
PANELS
The State of Democracy in CEE
Corruption and the Rule of Law
Human Rights at Risk
Populism and Nationalism
MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG JOURNALISTS
JOURNALISTS MENTORS
EMILIA SERCAN - Independent journalist
ALEXANDRU NEDEA - recorder.ro
DIANA ONCIOIU - dela0.ro, Să Fie Lumină
PAUL RADU - RISE Project
OVIDIU VANGHELE - Centrul de investigații
ALISON MUTLER - universul.net
VICTOR ILIE - recorder.ro
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
HISTORY TEACHING PROGRAMME
THE RAȚIU FORUM TEACHING OF HISTORY PROGRAMME
SPRING WORKSHOP • 26-27 March 2022
TOPICS
The politicisation of history
Teaching Romania's darker past
Nationalism and the curriculum
SPEAKERS
Christopher Coker, LSE IDEAS
John Lotherington, 21st Century Trust
Eric Beckett Weaver, University of Debrecen
Slobodan G. Markovich, University of Belgrade
James Ker-Lindsay, LSE
Carol Capiță, University of Bucharest
CONFERENCE
THE RISE OF POP PESSIMISM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS
Sunday, 4th September 2022
RATIU DEMOCRACY CENTER
Conference Room
Turda, Romania
THE RATIU FORUM HISTORY PRIZE
2022 CALL FOR PAPERS
Confronting the Totalitarian Past: The History and Memory of Communism in Romania
This project is included in the Ratiu Forum Teaching of History Programme.
Deadline for submitting abstracts: 13 May 2022
Project partner: Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile
Learn more: ratiuforum.com/history-prize/
SAVE THE DATE
15-16 June 2023 | Hotel Platinia, Cluj-Napoca
THE RAȚIU DIALOGUES ON DEMOCRACY 2023
Populism and Nationalism
Media and Democracy
CIVICS Innovation Hub: Mapping Civic Education in Europe discussion
European Values
Corruption
Ukraine and the Return of History
RATIUFORUM
THERATIUFORUM
RATIUFORUM.COM
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
Central and Eastern European Journalism Mentorship Programme
THE RAȚIU FORUM JOURNALISM WORKSHOP
28 29 March 2022
RATIU CONFERENCE CENTRE TURDA
SPEAKERS
JOHN LLOYD, Financial Times (UK)
ALISON MUTLER, Universul.net (Romania)
WOJCIECH PRZYBYLSKI, Visegrad Insight (Poland)
PETER ERDELYI, 444 (Hungary)
OVIDIU VANGHELE, Center for Investigative Media (Romania)
DIANA ONCIOIU, Dela0 (Romania)
EMILIA ȘERCAN, University of Bucharest (Romania)
MIRCEA BARBU, Freelance journalist (Romania)
SAVE THE DATE
4-5 June 2022
Cluj-Napoca, Romania
THE RAȚIU DIALOGUES ON DEMOCRACY 2022
Corruption and the rule of law
Presentation of the winner of the Ion Ratiu Journalism Award
Journalism and the media in Central Europe
Challenges to European values
Populism and nationalism
The use and misuse of History
Free entry with required registration
RATIUFORUM
THERATIUFORUM
RATIUFORUM.COM
British Embassy Bucharest
BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL JOURNALISM WORKSHOP
14 - 16 March 2023
Ratiu Centre for Democracy, Turda
Designed by Graham Watts, Financial Times
Supported by the British Embassy Bucharest
Busi
THE RAȚIU FORUM TEACHING OF HISTORY PROGRAMME
2022 WEBINAR
29-30 January 2022
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
17 January 2022
TOPICS
Representation of Women in Modern History
The History of Minorities in Central and Eastern Europe
Challenges of History National Curricula
Why History Matters?
SPEAKERS
Christopher Coker, LSE IDEAS
Alexandra Ghiț, CEU
Luciana Jinga, Université d'Angers
Raul Cârstocea, Maynooth University
Louisa Slavkova, Sofia Platform Foundation
Carol Capiță, University of Bucharest
Adrian Furtună, Research Institute for Quality of Life
Dalia Bathory, PhD in International Relations and European Studies
Emanuel Grec, University of Heidelberg
Diana Oncioiu, Dela0
Patrick Vaughan, Jagiellonian University
THE RAȚIU FORUM TEACHING OF HISTORY PROGRAMME
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The politicisation of history
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Slobodan G. Markovich, University of Belgrade
James Ker-Lindsay, LSE
Carol Capiță, University of Bucharest
Raul Cârstocea, Maynooth University
Vlad Zigarov, LSE IDEAS
JOURNALISM MASTER CLASS
11-12 March 2023
Ratiu Centre for Democracy, Turda
Conducted by John Lloyd, Financial Times
Application deadline: 31 January 2023
ratiuforum.com
facebook.com/theratiuforum
twitter.com/forumratiu

THE RATIU DIALOGUES ON DEMOCRACY

The Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy is an annual staple of the Ratiu Forum's calendar. The overall purpose of the conference is to strengthen discussions on and visions of democracy within central-eastern Europe and the Balkan region. The particular focus of the Dialogues is on tackling the challenges of populism, illiberalism, and democratic backsliding.

THE RATIU DIALOGUES ON DEMOCRACY 2022

4-5 June 2022, Cluj-Napoca and Turda

CORRUPTION AND THE RULE OF LAW

Speakers:
Dr Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac
University of Zagreb
Mr Victor Constantinescu
Kinstellar
Dr Alexander Evans
LSE and LSE IDEAS
Bogdan Zawadewicz
Centre for Eastern Studies Poland
Chairperson:
Dr Leon Hartwell
Sotirov Fellow at LSE IDEAS

WINNER OF THE ION RATIU JOURNALISM AWARD 2022

Cristian Andrei
Senior Editor at Europa Liberă
Introduction by **Nicolae Ratiu**

JOURNALISM AND THE MEDIA IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Speakers:
John Lloyd
The Financial Times
Wojciech Prybylski
Visegrad Insight
Emilia Sercan
University of Bucharest

CHALLENGES TO EUROPEAN VALUES

Speakers:
Prof. Janne Matlary
University of Oslo
Prof. Christopher Coker
LSE IDEAS
Prof. Spyros Economides
LSE
Tania Latici
European External Action Service

POPULISM AND NATIONALISM

Speakers:
Dr Luke Cooper
LSE
Prof. Slobodan Markovich
University of Belgrade
Dr Natasza Styczynska
Jagellonian University

CLOSING KEYNOTE ADDRESS: THE USE AND MISUSE OF HISTORY

Speaker:
Prof. Margaret MacMillan
Emeritus Professorof International History at the University of Oxford and Engelsberg Chair of History and International Affairs, LSE IDEAS
Chairperson:
John Lotherington

THE RATIU DIALOGUES ON DEMOCRACY 2023

15-16 June 2023, Cluj-Napoca

The Dialogues provide a developing forum for professionals with diverse backgrounds, including policymakers, academics, journalists, government officials, and teachers. Every year, the event features a formal gala dinner hosted by the Ratiu Foundation and catered by chef Paul Bloomfield and his team.

POPULISM AND NATIONALISM

Speakers:
Prof. Slobodan G. Markovich
University of Belgrade and LSE IDEAS
Prof. Sumantra Bose
London School of Economics
Dr Eric Weaver
University of Debrecen
Chairperson:
Richard Ralph
CMG CVO

MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY

Speakers:
Dr Marcin Fatalski
Jagiellonian University
John Lloyd
Financial Times
Dr Mois Faion
Centre for the Study of Democracy
Chairperson:
Emilia Sercan
Pressone

CIVICS INNOVATION HUB: MAPPING CIVIC EDUCATION IN EUROPE

Speakers:
Dr Louisa Slavkova
CIVICS Innovation Hub
Maja Kurilic
CIVICS Innovation Hub
Chairperson:
Prof. Adrian-Gabriel Corpadean
Babes-Bolyai University

EUROPEAN VALUES

Speakers:
Wojciech Przybylski
Visegrad Insight
Dr Oana-Cristina Popa
European Union
Prof. Christopher Dandeker
King's College London
Chairperson:
Prof. Christopher Coker
LSE IDEAS

CORRUPTION

Speakers:
Dr Balint Magyar
Central European University
Dr Alexander Gerganov
Centre for the Study of Democracy
Dr Radu Albu Comanescu
Babes-Bolyai University
Chairperson:
John Lloyd
Financial Times

UKRAINE AND THE RETURN OF HISTORY

Speakers:
Prof. Michael Burleigh
London School of Economics
Prof. Dominic Lieven
University of Cambridge
Chairperson:
Prof. Christopher Coker
LSE IDEAS

2022 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

WAR NARRATIVES, GLOBAL CRISES, AND MEMORY BATTLES: ROMANIAN-ICELANDIC PERSPECTIVES

'War Narratives, Global Crises, and Memory Battles: Romanian-Icelandic Perspectives' was a conference organised by the Ratiu Forum in partnership with the EDDA Research Center at the University of Iceland and Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj. The conference took place in Reykjavik, Iceland on 21 October 2022.

The opening remarks were given by Valur Ingimundarson of the University of Iceland and Pamela Roussos Ratiu of Ratiu Democracy Centre, followed by the keynote lecture 'The World in Crisis: From COVID-19 to Ukraine' by Prof. Christopher Coker of the London School of Economics – and chaired by Jón Ólafsson of the University of Iceland.

The first panel 'The Ukraine War: Political and Military Implications' was chaired by Radu-Bogdan Albu (Babes-Bolyai University) and included lectures by Liliana Popescu (Romanian Diplomatic Institute), Georgian-Marius Ghincea (European University Institute), and Valur Ingimundarson (University of Iceland).

The second panel, 'The Economic Consequences of the Pandemic and the Ukraine War' was chaired by Gunnþórunn Guðmundsdóttir (University of Iceland) and included interventions by Valentin Lazea (National Bank of Romania), Alexandra Popa (Romanian Center for European Policies), Gylfi Zoega (University of Iceland). The concluding panels were on 'The Liberal Order and the Rule of Law' and 'Memory and Crisis in Politics'.
The former was chaired by Alexandra Popa (Romanian Center for European Policies) and the latter by Georgian-Marius Ghincea (European University Institute).

Adrian-Gabriel Corpadean (Babes-Bolyai University), Jón Ólafsson (University of Iceland), and Kári Hólmar Ragnarsson (University of Iceland) spoke on the third panel and Gunnþórunn Guðmundsdóttir (University of Iceland), Vera Knútsdóttir (University of Iceland), Radu-Bogdan Albu (Babes-Bolyai University) were involved in the final panel.

A followup conference was hosted in October 2023 within the same project.

The speakers list included: Gunnþórunn Guðmundsdóttir (University of Iceland), Irma Erlingsdóttir (University of Iceland), Valur Ingimundarson (University of Iceland), Marta Kozielska (London School of Economics), Sandra Pralong (Office of the President of Romania), Laura Herţa (Babes-Bolyai University), Alexandru Mocerneac (Babes-Bolyai University), Melania Gabriela Ciot (Babes-Bolyai University), Radu Albu-Comanescu (Babes-Bolyai University), Pamela Ratiu (Ratiu Democracy Centre), Alina Branda (Babes-Bolyai University).

2023 AWARD

GENDER EQUALITY IN GLOBAL POLITICS

The newly-established *Gender Equality in Global Politics Award* was presented to H.E. Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime-Minister of Iceland, by the Rector of Babes-Bolyai University, Dr Daniel David, on 22 June 2023.

Prime Minister Jakobsdottir has been an elected member of the Icelandic Parliament since 2007 and has chaired the Women World Leaders since 2020. She is one of eight women who head their governments in Europe and is seen as a world leader in promoting gender equality. Under her leadership, Iceland has topped the Transparency International's index for gender equality for the past fourteen years.

The award ceremony and the Icelandic delegation's two-day visit to Romania were organised in partnership with the Ratiu Foundation.

The award ceremony, which took place at Babes-Bolyai University, was attended by Prof. Daniel David, Rector of UBB, H.E. Ramona Chiriac, Head of the European Commission's Representation in Romania, Nicolae Ratiu, Chairman of The Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation, Dr Adrian-Gabriel Corpadean, Dean of the Faculty of European Studies.

The Icelandic delegation was then welcomed at the Ratiu Guesthouse for a celebratory dinner and the two-day visit to Romania also included a road trip around the region organised by the Ratiu Foundation.

OUR TEAM

Prof. Christopher Coker
DIRECTOR OF LSE IDEAS
DIRECTOR OF THE RATIU FORUM

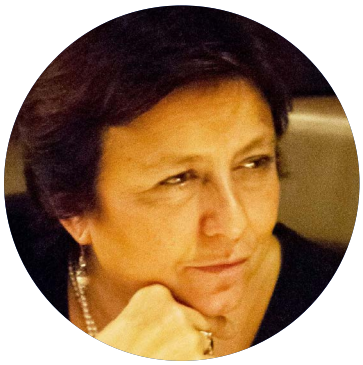
Christopher Coker was Director of LSE IDEAS, LSE's foreign policy think tank. His publications include Rebooting Clausewitz (Hurst, 2015), Men at War: what fiction has to tell us about conflict from the Iliad to Catch 22 (Hurst, 2014); The Improbable War: China, the US and the logic of Great Power War (Hurst, 2015); Future War (Polity, 2016), and The Rise of the Civilizational State (Polity, 2019). His most recent book is Why War? (2020).
He was Professor of International Relations at LSE, retiring in 2019. He was a former twice serving member of the Council of the Royal United Services Institute, a former NATO Fellow and a regular lecturer at Defence Colleges in the UK, US. Rome, Singapore, and Tokyo.
He had also been a Visiting Fellow at the National Institute for Defence Studies In Tokyo, the Rajaratnam School for International Studies Singapore, the Political Science Dept in Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and the Norwegian and Swedish Defence Colleges.

Nicolae Ratiu
CHAIRMAN OF THE RATIU FOUNDATION
DIRECTOR OF THE RATIU FORUM

Educated in the United Kingdom at Marlborough College, and the United States, New York University, with a BSc in Marine Transportation and economics. As Chairman of The Ratiu Foundation, a British registered charity (est. 1979) with headquarters in Manchester Square, London, Nicolae chairs a board of 5 Ratiu family members who award annually up to 50 grants, worth c. GBP 200,000, in various fields (study, research, projects, travel etc.) both in the UK and Romania.
A businessman and philanthropist, Nicolae is also trustee of charities in Romania and the UK: The Romanian Cultural Centre in London, Pro Patrimonio (The National Trust of Romania), ADEPT, The Relief Fund for Romania and the Ratiu Center for Democracy. In addition, through the Ratiu Foundation, Nicolae supports major cultural and educational programs in UK, Romania and US, among which are: The Ion Ratiu Chair of Romanian Studies at Georgetown University, Washington; The annual Ion Ratiu Democracy Award and Fellowship in Washington; The Ion Ratiu Award for Investigative Journalism; The Elisabeth Pilkington Ratiu Award for Advances in Mental Health.

Pamela Roussos Ratiu
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RATIU FORUM

Pamela is executive director to Romania of U.K. registered Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation and of the Ratiu Forum, a project run in partnership with the London School of Economics IDEAS Think Tank. Her expertise covers management, event concept, public relations and partnership development. Pamela has 30 years of experience in international management for both the public and private sector, actively supporting sustainable non-profit organizational development in Transylvania. Pamela joined Ratiu Democracy Centre in 2004 and has actively supported the partnership with Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in offering the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award to those fighting for democracy around the world. She has also initiated the Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy, a series of lectures that aim to strengthen discussions and visions on democracy, reuniting professionals with diverse backgrounds who share an interest in current challenges facing Balkan nations, with a particular emphasis on Romania. Throughout the years she developed a sustainability ecosystem in Turda, seat of the Ratiu family. This includes social businesses in the field of hospitality and creates local employment opportunities.



Emilia Knight
CENTRE MANAGER OF LSE IDEAS

A senior executive with a substantial record of strategic business development in international markets. Dr Knight holds a Ph.D. in linguistics and an Executive MBA. As Centre Manager of LSE IDEAS, she is in charge of the day-to-day running of the centre. She oversees all financial arrangements concerning the centre and is in overall charge of information, events and external communication. She has previously worked as Marketing Manager, Publishing for Apple UK and later joined Adobe as their Marketing Director, Europe. She went on to establish the Business Software Alliance in Europe to combat software piracy and protect intellectual property.

Stuart Austin
CSEEP PROGRAMME MANAGER

Stuart is working closely with the Ratiu Forum team. Stuart studied History BA at the University of Kent, then completed an MSc in History of International Relations at LSE – specialising in the Cold War, the Balkans, and the Rise and Fall of Communism in Europe. After working in a number of government departments, Stuart joined LSE IDEAS in early 2020, as research assistant to the Engelsberg Chair for History and International Affairs – most recently Prof. Margaret MacMillan. Following the end of the Engelsberg series in Summer 2022, he was also appointed Editor of publications.

Dana Stoica
COMMUNICATION CONSULTANT

Dana has been working with the Ratiu Foundations since 2013. She has a background in Journalism and Public Relations and a decade of experience in designing and executing comprehensive communication and event strategies for both NGOs and corporate clients. She has also coordinated a wide range of communication activities for different CSR initiatives in the fields of vocational education, digital education and environmental protection, as well as fundraising campaigns and events

Nicoleta Bucur
WEB&GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Nicoleta has an Art and Design background and a bachelor degree in Science Education, and has been working with the Ratiu foundations since 2007. Starting as a Program Manager, she focused afterwards on design, handling various projects – from concept development and branding, to graphic illustration and web design. She holds a postgraduate certificate in graphic and web design obtained in Milan, where she has also worked as an e-learning specialist and as a graphic designer for various fashion press offices.

Maria Branea
PROJECT MANAGER

Maria recently graduated with an MSc in Russian and East European Studies from the University of Oxford where she previously studied for a BA in History. Her master's research has focused on the increasing rise of illiberalism in Eastern Europe, looking particularly at the use of propaganda and disinformation in the refashioning of national identity and international relations in the region. She has volunteering experience in event management for university publications and organisations. Maria is originally from Timisoara, Romania but grew up in London where she is currently based.

Oana Bakos
PROJECT MANAGER

Oana is a BA graduate in Social Work at Babeş-Bolyai University (Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Cluj-Napoca). She was a volunteer at Raţiu Democracy Center between 2005 and 2007, then became a team member, coordinating a series of projects. In 2013, Oana represented CRD during the Building Grassroots Democracy in Minority Communities exchange program funded by the U.S. State Department, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. She believes that, during the past 13 years of promoting democracy as a way of life, she grew up and formed nicely, through a learning and self-knowing process.

Ruxandra Albescu
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Ruxandra is currently pursuing a BSc in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Ruxandra joined the Ratiu Forum in 2023 as a Communications Officer, overseeing the social media platforms, online content and collaborating with partners on joint projects. In addition to being a student and intern, she is a Common Futures Conversations Representative at Chatham House and a Correspondent covering UK & Europe for the London Globalist, LSE's student-run international affairs journal.
At age 16, Ruxandra was awarded in the 19 Under 19 campaign of Romanian magazine Decat o Revista (DoR) in recognition of the civic advocacy and social impact work carried out during her time as Project Writing Manager in the UN Youth Association of Romania, Vaslui Club. Ruxandra is originally from Vaslui, Romania and is currently based in London.

PUBLICATIONS

2022

Tena Prelec
A Remittance of Sins in Exchange for Money: Reputation Laundering's Centrality to Kleptocracy
January 3, 2022
Read here

Natasza Styczyńska
Can you have your cake and eat it too? The story of Polish populist Euroscepticism
January 20, 2022
Read here

Wojciech Michnik, Łukasz Kamieński and **Maciej Smółka**
Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: A Dramatic Game-Changer
March 3, 2022
Read here

Sarah Coolican
Is it moral to forget? Preventing the misuse of history and collective memory
February 23, 2022
Read here

Sarah Coolican
In Conversation with… Dr Robert Ondrejcsak, Slovak Ambassador to the United Kingdom
March 21, 2022
Read here

Lukas Wahden
Shelling Pandora's box: why Russia's recognition of breakaway states in eastern Ukraine will aggravate border disputes around the world
April 1, 2022
Read here

Stuart Austin
Survival Horror in the 21st Century: Pessimism and Democracy in the Age of Putin
September 30, 2022
Read here

Fernando Gómez-Herrero
More Voices are Needed for the Elucidation of this Age of Uncertainty
September 30, 2022
Read here

Andreea Scridon
Emilia Ratiu: Women, the United Kingdom, and Romania's National Emancipation
October 11, 2022
Read here

Fernando Gómez-Herrero
Thoughts on Adam Curtis's TraumaZone
November 17, 2022
Read here

2023

Andrei-Dumitru Olteanu
Between Scylla and Charybdis: The Consequences of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact on Romania
July 18, 2023
Read here

Stuart Austin
The Return of History: Countering the Decline of Democracy in Europe
August 2023
Read here

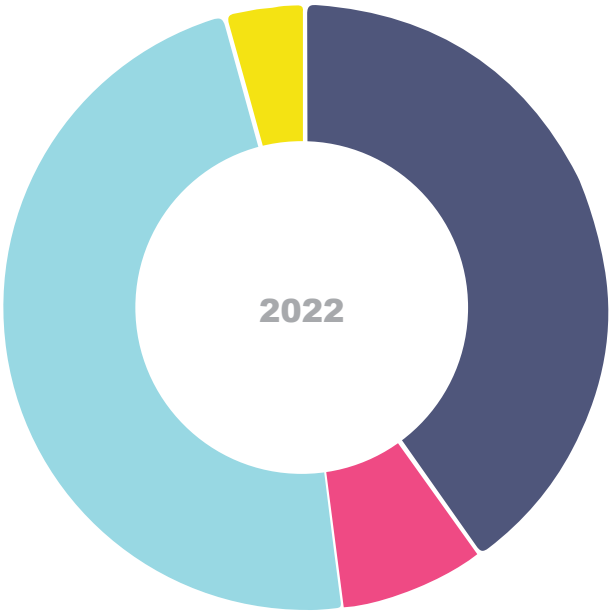
The CIVICS Innovation Hub, 'Mapping Civic Education in Europe'

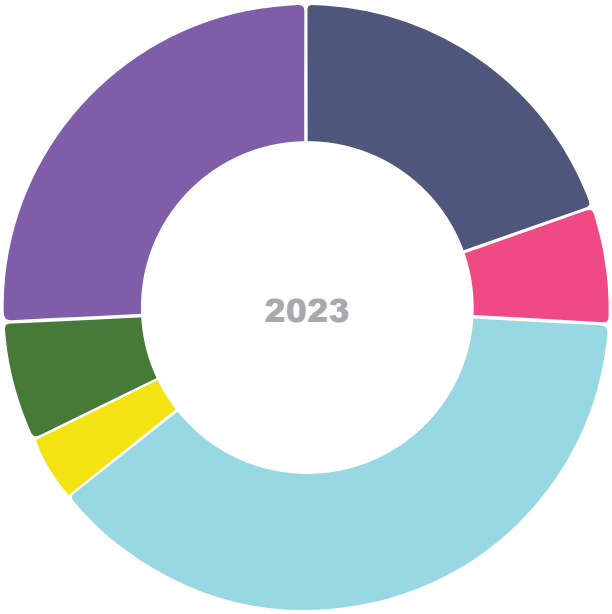
The Ratiu Democracy Centre is proud to be the Romanian partner of 'Mapping Civic Education in Europe' , a key programme of the pan-European non-profit organisation THE CIVICS Innovation Hub. Together with the other partners in the region, we contribute to identifying the main actors of civic education in 21 countries in Europe, both in non-formal and informal civic education. The project aims to reveal the topics these actors work with, which groups of society they focus on, and whether and how they cooperate with others. Finally, the purpose is also to analyse their needs in order to help inform the work of those supporting civil society in Europe. The data will be made available on an interactive map including a network analysis. A series of reports, both national and comparative, will be published on Ratiu Forum Publications also.

More details are available here.

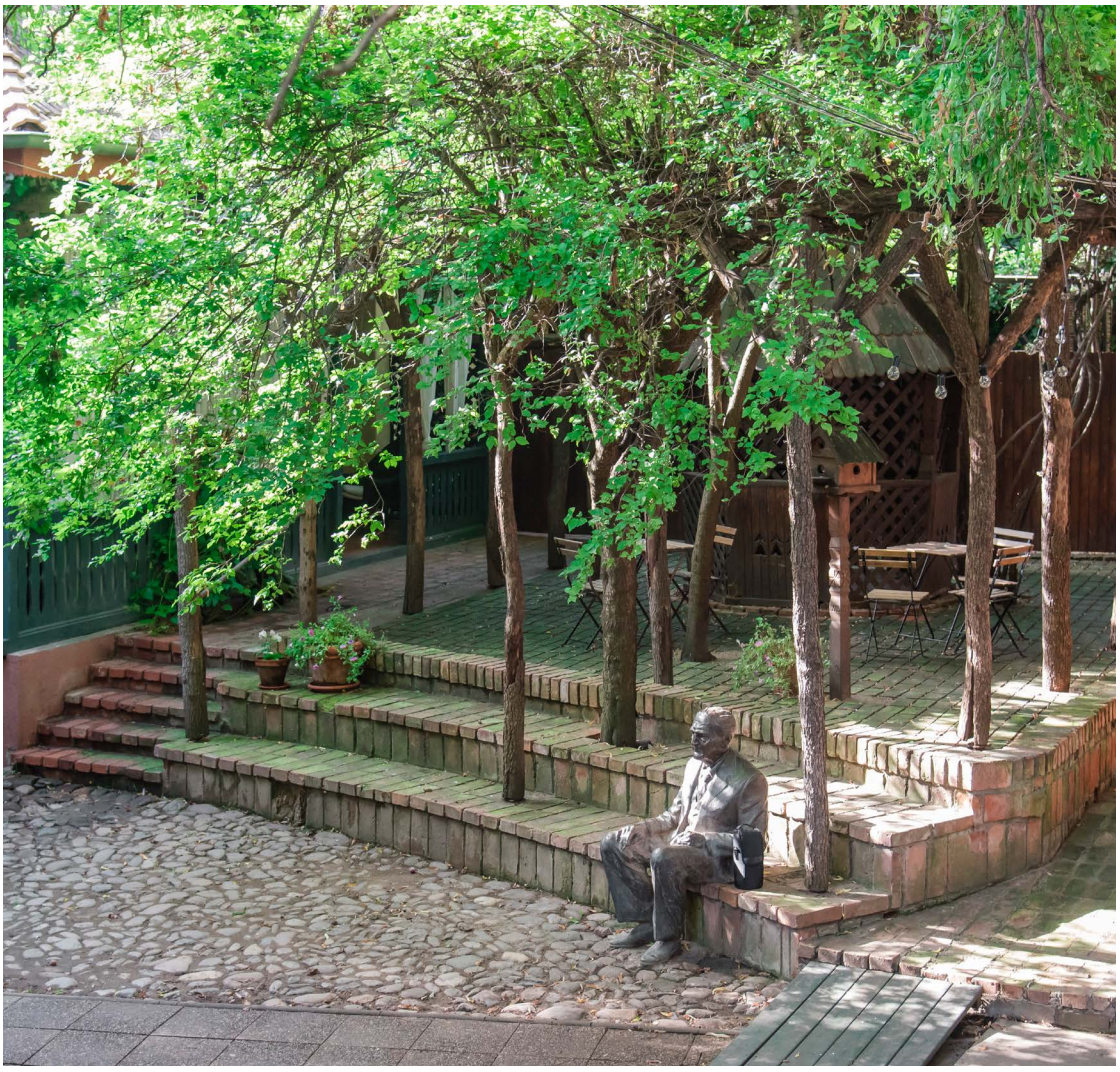
FUNDING SUMMARY

SOURCE	2022 (RON)	2023 (RON)
Sponsorship: CTP Invest Bucharest	247,400 (40.27%)	147,744 (24,39%)
Grant: UK Embassy in Bucharest		48,570 (8,02%)
Grant for trilateral project: Romanian-Icelandic Perspectives	47,766 (7,77%)	61,235 (10,11%)
Donation: Fundatia Ratiu Romania		194,392 (32,09%)
Donation: Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation	292,794 (47,76%)	122,304 (20,19%)
Other donations	26,420 (4,3%)	31,588 (5,21%)
TOTAL	**614,380**	**605,833**





MAIN SPONSOR



The Ratiu Forum is a joint initiative by the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation, the Ratiu Democracy Centre and the London School of Economics IDEAS think tank.

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