

# Interdisciplinary Gendered Talks

## — Schedule —

March 10, 2023

Room 102, Gender Studies Platform,  
Panduri building, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

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### 10:00 – 10:10 Opening remarks

**Carmen Chifiriuc**, Vice-Rector University of Bucharest, Faculty of Biology, University of Bucharest

**Laura Grunberg**, Coordinator of the Gender Equality Plan Implementation, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

### 10:10 – 11:00 Keynote speaker

**Barbara J. Risman**, LAS Distinguished Professor of Sociology, University of Illinois Chicago  
Presentation: *On the status of gender studies nowadays*

### 11:00 – 11:20

**Ionela Băluță**, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest

Presentation: *(Un)Doing gender studies. Attacks on gender studies: academic and political stakes*

### 11:20 – 11:40

**Liviu P. Dinu**, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Bucharest

Presentation: *Gender in human language technology research*

### 11:40 – 12:00

**Laura Grünberg**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania;  
and **Diana Elena Neaga**, Nicolae Titulescu University, Romania

Presentation: *What is feminism. Perceptions among primary and secondary school students in Romania*

12:00 – 12:20

**Roxana Urea**, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Bucharest  
Presentation: *T-SHIRT Tools on Supporting the fight for Issues of gender Traditionality and Disparities*

12:20 – 12:40

**Ştefania Matei** and **Cosima Rughiniş**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

Presentation: *Urban gender displays and contrast structures*

12:40 – 13:00

**Claudiu Tufiş**, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest  
Presentation: *Barometrul violenţei de gen 2022*

13:00 – 13:20

**Adrian-Nicolae Dan**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest  
Presentation: *Violence against women in Roma families*

**13:20 – 14:00 Lunch break and networking**

14:00 – 14:20 Keynote speaker

**Jeff Hearn**, Hanken School of Economics, Finland; Örebro University, Sweden; University of Huddersfield, UK

Presentation (Online): *Men and Masculinities – A Necessary but Tricky Topic for Gender Equality*

14:20 – 14:40

**Radu-Mihai Dumitrescu**, (Medicover Romania, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, UB)  
**Nicolae-Adrian Dan** (Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest)

Presentation: *Grupul profesional al medicilor în România: mai multe femei, mai vârstnice și, posibil, mai stresate*

14:40 – 15:00

**Ana-Luana Stoicea-Deram**, Institut de Recherche et de Formation à l'Action sociale de l'Essonne (IRFASE), France

Presentation (Online): *The need for a feminist analysis of surrogate motherhood in connection with the social status functioning*

15:00 – 15:20

**Mihaela Frunză**, Department of Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University

Presentation: *"Clueless". Proposal for collaboration to an edited volume*

15:20 – 15:40

**Angelica Marinescu**, Faculty of Journalism and Communication Studies, University of Bucharest; Associate Researcher, Institute of Sociology, Romanian Academy

Presentation: *Francophony, media and gender studies*

15:40 – 16:00

**Dragoş Obreja**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

Presentation: *Online Gender-Swapping and the Fight Against Hegemonic Masculinity*

16:00 – 16:20

**Cristina Dragomir**, Constanta Maritime University, Romania

Presentation (Online): *The importance of Sustainable Development Goal 5 - Gender Equality in Transport*

16:20 – 17:00 Coffee break – Networking session

## Parallel sessions

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Room 101</u></b> <b><u>Panduri building</u></b> <b><u>Faculty of Sociology and Social Work</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Room 102</u></b> Panduri building Faculty of Sociology and Social Work</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Microsoft Teams meeting Join on your computer, mobile app or room device <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Meeting ID: 376 770 859 057 Passcode: GLRuvA <a href="#">Download Teams</a>   <a href="#">Join on the web</a> <a href="#">Learn More</a>   <a href="#">Meeting options</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Microsoft Teams meeting Join on your computer, mobile app or room device <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Meeting ID: 360 363 674 55 Passcode: P9imLR <a href="#">Download Teams</a>   <a href="#">Join on the web</a> <a href="#">Learn More</a>   <a href="#">Meeting options</a></p>
<p><u>17:00 – 17:15</u> <b>Fotarisman Zaluchu</b>, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia <i>Stunting and Gender In-equality, Indonesia Case Study (online)</i></p>	<p><u>17:00 – 17:15</u> <b>Theodora-Eliza Văcărescu</b>, Independent researcher, Gusti Cooperative <i>Women in Social Research in Central and Eastern Europe. Edited Book Project</i></p>
<p><u>17:15 – 17:30</u> <b>Ananya Acherjee</b>, Department of Education, Faculty of Education, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India and <b>Eswarappa Kasi</b>, Department of Tribal Studies, Art, Culture &amp; Folk Literature, Faculty of Tribal Studies, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India <i>Unheard Voices of Tribal Women: An Ethnographic Exploration from the Country side of India (online)</i></p>	<p><u>17:15 – 17:30</u> <b>Nicoleta Elena Apostol</b>, Faculty of Journalism and Communication Studies, University of Bucharest <i>Gender and work in the context of cognitive capitalism</i></p>
<p><u>17:30 – 17:45</u> <b>Riddell Alice</b>, Anthropology, University College London (UCL) <i>Digital and material culture of gendered safety practices in urban spaces (online)</i></p>	<p><u>17:30 – 17:45</u> <b>Carmen Voinea</b>, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest; Faculty of Administration and Public Management, Bucharest University of Economic Studies <i>Consumul cultural al tinerilor și tinerelor din orașele mici și mijlocii. Perspective feministe</i></p>

17:45 – 18:00

**Anca Mihai**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

*Reflections of the women who experienced (at least once) the flooding of their home in rural areas*

18:00 – 18:15

**Ana-Maria (Coltuc) Ologeanu**, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest

*Gender equality and educational policies in Romania: Case study – National Strategy for Parental Education 2018 - 2025*

17:45 – 18:00

**Valentin Maier**, Museum of the University of Bucharest

*Evoluția populației studențești feminine în învățământul superior românesc (1948-1989)*

18:00 – 18:15

**Veronica Oancea** and **Cosima Rughiniș**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

*Older women's experiences of social media use: A case study of a Romanian digital community*

18:15 – 18:30 Coffee Break

Parallel sessions

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18:30 – 18:45

**Cristina Gudin**, Faculty of History, University of Bucharest

*Elena Caragiani-Stoenescu, the first aviator woman in Romania*

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18:30 – 18:45

**Monica Manolachi**, Department of Modern Languages, University of Bucharest

*Representations of Food in Contemporary Prose by Romanian Women Writers*

18:45 – 19:00

**Diana Buhuș**, Școala Doctorală „Spațiu, Imagine, Text, Teritoriu”, University of Bucharest

*Expresii Queer în cultura asiatică. Exploring Bromance & BL*

19:00 – 19:15

**Olivia Schneider**, Social Anthropology, University of Oslo

*Hidden in Plain Sight: A gendered perspective on sex workers' access to health care in Malta (online)*

19:15 – 19:30

**Diana Buhuș**, Școala Doctorală „Spațiu, Imagine, Text, Teritoriu”, University of Bucharest

*Reprezentările gender în cultura Hallyu a Coreei de Sud*

18:45 – 19:00

**Ana-Maria Rențea**, Doctoral School of Sociology, University of Bucharest

*Election or Subjection? The Gender Issue in Cosmetic Surgery: A Female Plastic Surgeons' View*

19:00 – 19:15

**Simona-Nicoleta Vulpe**, Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies, University of Bucharest

*Doctors, monks, and Marie Curie. Gender representations in religious articles on scientific controversies*

19:15 – 19:30

**Nancy (Athanasia) Katraki**, University of Thessaly, Greece

*Self-narration in Art: Gendered Violence & Trauma*

19:30 – 19:45

**Corina Ilinca**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

*Inclusion of an intersectional disadvantage factor in quantitative research*

# Abstracts

## **Doctors, monks, and Marie Curie. Gender representations in religious articles on scientific controversies**

Simona-Nicoleta Vulpe

Phd Candidate, Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies, University of Bucharest  
Research Assistant, Center for Advanced Studies in Organizations and Complex Networks,  
University of Bucharest

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### **Abstract**

This research was focused on controversies regarding vaccination and climate change. In my presentation, I will emphasize the visual rhetoric employed in 86 images from Orthodox Christian magazines published in Romania. In these images, gender representations associate epistemic authority and credibility with male experts, while female experts are depicted as anonymous subjects

for the most part. In the religious images included in the articles, such as icons, the visual rhetoric completely excludes women. However, images from public protests against vaccination are heterogenous in regard to gender representations. The visual rhetoric strategies employed in these articles strengthen skeptical discourses on vaccination and climate change.

## **Men and Masculinities – A Necessary but Tricky Topic for Gender Equality**

Dr. Jeff Hearn

Professor Emeritus, Hanken School of Economics, Finland

Senior Professor, Human Geography, Örebro University, Sweden

Professor of Sociology, University of Huddersfield, UK

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### **Abstract**

In this short presentation I raise the question of how do men and masculinities fit, or not, into debates, policies and practices on gender equality. This includes recognising the different positive and negative motivations, and related masculinities, for men to become interested and involved in gender equality, including some of their potentials and dangers. I also discuss briefly positive actions that can be taken by men in everyday life, organisational processes, and research content.

## Unheard Voices of Tribal Women: An Ethnographic Exploration from the Country side of India

Ananya Acherjee<sup>[1]</sup> and Eswarappa Kasi<sup>[2]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Doctoral Scholar, Department of Education, Faculty of Education, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India

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<sup>[2]</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Tribal Studies, Art, Culture & Folk Literature, Faculty of Tribal Studies, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, India

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### Abstract

Women in India comprise nearly half of the total population of India. Majority of them are engaged in unorganised sector. Mostly they are from social and economically backward segments of the society. Further, majority of women either are unskilled or semi-skilled workers with little or no education. They face serious work related glitches such as sexual exploitation by the contractor, job insecurity, and wage discrimination and among others. In addition, they also face lot of problems but these are invisible due to our societal nature. Tribal women are not exceptional in these cases. Most of them are facing their day to day struggle like child marriage, becoming widow at younger age, forceful sexual relationships, and dominating behaviour of their partner and in-laws, work place sexual exploitation, social stigma, prevailing inhibition about menstrual period, and unwanted pregnancy. All these issues are visible but unheard to scholars and practitioners. It is a burning issues that how tribal women manage their day to day life with immense deplorable conditions. Our paper seeks to address how they manage their daily life in addition to raising their voice against all these problems in their vicinity. The paper is also addressed the way tribal women cope up with all these discriminatory attitudes in their society. The paper is based on both primary and secondary data sources. The primary data is collected by an ethnographic fieldwork from Bolpur (West Bengal) and Lalpur (Madhya Pradesh) areas of India. The secondary data is collected from both published and unpublished sources of relevant literature.

**Keywords:** Tribal Women, Unheard Voices, Patriarchy, Gond, Santal, Ethnography, India

### "Clueless". Proposal for collaboration to an edited volume

Professor Mihaela Frunză, Department of Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University

E-mail: [mihafrunza@gmail.com](mailto:mihafrunza@gmail.com)

### Abstract

I would like to propose a joint publication exploring the theme of youth, gender, and inter-generational relations. My starting point is the term "clueless," which, in addition to being the title of a popular movie about adolescence and coming of age (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0112697/>), accurately captures the experience of self-discovery during this period. Due to a range of factors, including biological changes, mental health challenges, social and status insecurities, and the so-called "storm of hormones," teenagers often feel uncertain about their identity, needs, and interests. However, to an external and sometimes dismissive observer, they may appear confident and self-assured, using clothing, music, and

rebellion against authority as a means of self-expression. I aim to compile empirical research, theoretical analyses, and literary works exploring the concept of "cluelessness," particularly in relation to gender and inter-generational dynamics. I believe this volume will prove invaluable to parents, educators, and even adolescents themselves, who may also feel unsure of their place in the world.

### **Stunting and Gender In-equality, Indonesia Case Study**

Dr. Fotarisman Zaluchu, S.K.M., M.P.H, Universitas Sumatera Utara

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#### **Abstract**

The problem of stunting is always seen from a nutritional perspective. Even though stunting under five is closely related to the gender status of pregnant women, mothers under five and breastfeeding mothers. As a result, the object of intervention is always women which results in widening the gender inequality gap. In Indonesia, we carry out stunting interventions involving both wives and husbands, so that stunting is not only the responsibility of the woman but also the husband. Our approach uses the church as a local channel and uses educational modules in the local language.

### **Francophony, media and gender studies**

Dr. Angelica Marinescu, Faculty of Journalism and Communication Studies, University of Bucharest; Associate Researcher, Institute of Sociology, Romanian Academy

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In the framework of the exchanges favored by A.U.F. (Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie) in partnership with the University of Bucharest, it is important to note the efforts made to introduce the gender dimension both at teaching and research level. By introducing courses connected to gender and media representations at the Masters Communication, Médias, Sociétés, at the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, and Médias, Développement, Sociétés, at the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Studies, University of Bucharest, as well as during the Francophone Colloques and Summer Schools, researchers as Pr. Emeritus Daniela Roventă-Frumușani enhanced the need to bring awareness into the relationship between gender, media representations, politics and society.

#### **Bibliography**

Roventă-Frumușani, D. 2009. Concepts fondamentaux pour les études de genre. Paris: Editions des archives contemporaines.

Roventă-Frumușani, D. 2022. Femmes, medias, societates. București, Tritonic.

Morelli, P. & A. Marinescu. 2014. Intersections. Construction des savoirs en information communication dans l'espace francophone, Second International Conference in Information and Communication Sciences, 20e Colloque Bilatéral Franco-Roumain (<http://studylibfr.com/doc/592380>)

### **Violence against women in Roma families**

Professor Adrian-Nicolae Dan

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#### **Abstract**

The article addressed the topic of violence against women in Romania. Violence against women is a matter of intense debate over the last two decades, including Romania. However, there is little research on violence in the ethnic Roma community, specifically intra-family violence in Roma families. The present article is based on research data collected in 2014-2015 and shows an increased level of violence in these families, as well as a high awareness of need for specialized services and legal instruments to address the problems of domestic violence. The study is a brief radiography on the phenomenon, and although the research data is generous, we cannot consider the study to be representative of the entire Roma population in Romania.

### **Added Value of Holistic Social Services for Survivors of intimate partner violence**

Friederike Frieler, M.A.

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Hochschule für Technik, Wirtschaft und Kultur Leipzig

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#### **Abstract**

The project looks at how different programmes in the EU and associated countries increase the chances of social participation for victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) - predominantly women and their children - and strengthen their individual skills, educational careers, employment opportunities and health. Calculations of societal costs arising from IPV suggest that social services to prevent and end IPV could generate social added values that far exceed the pure production costs of these services. In the planned project, these effects will therefore not only be observed at the individual level, but also the associated medium- to long-term potential for social and economic resilience of regions and the strengthening of local communities will be considered.

### **Consumul cultural al tinerilor și tinerelor din orașele mici și mijlocii. Perspective feministe**

Dr. Carmen Voinea

Associate Lecturer, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest; Faculty of Administration and Public Management, Bucharest University of Economic Studies

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#### **Abstract**

Orașele sunt spații gândite, proiectate și construite de către adulți, care în România deseori ratează întâlnirea cu tinerii. Plecând de la practica proiectului de cinecluburi feministe F-Sides Chapter dedicate adolescenților, obiectivul principal al cercetării a fost explorarea consumului cultural al tinerilor și tinerelor și cartografierea ofertei culturale din orașele mici și mijlocii, cu accent pe felul în care acestea le permit să exploreze teme feministe și să își formeze propriile poziții politice și cetățenești. Un obiectiv secundar al cercetării a fost formularea unor recomandări pentru factorii de decizie de la nivel local, cât și pentru operatorii culturali din sectorul nonguvernamental.

## **Gender and work in the context of cognitive capitalism**

Nicoleta Elena Apostol

PhD, Faculty of Journalism and Communication Studies, University of Bucharest

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### **Abstract**

The presentation takes as a point of departure the idea that we are shifting from industrial capitalism to cognitive capitalism, new mode of production, requiring cooperation – collective cognitive labor power – instead of a rigid division of work – i.e., the traditional separation between conceptual and executional tasks, productive of hierarchical and horizontal forms of occupational segregation. The question that arises is how this capitalism – increasingly dependent on abstract, intellectual work – is affecting the gender division of labor, which had as a point of departure the embodied/material differences between women and men. I offer insights from an in-depth interview study with software workers (n=10 women, n=10 men) based in Bucharest, Romania. The findings show that the cooperative work practices experienced by software workers contribute to degenderize the workplace system of signification, and some of its key interactions. However, as the cognitive capitalist mode of production overlaps with more traditional gender patterns, the outlets for manifesting forms of hegemonic masculinity at work do not disappear.

## **Self-narration in Art: Gendered Violence & Trauma**

Nancy (Athanasia) Katraki

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### **Abstract**

My PhD thesis examines contemporary works in visual and performing arts as enactments that seek to be transformed into public confessions of gender-based violence and of resistance. I explore how the self-narrated body in vulnerability produces cultural meanings. My interest focuses on the different kinds of knowledge that the experiences of these vulnerable and marginal subjects produce and on how the latter could turmoil the political field by foregrounding a more inclusive community and a more impartial architecture of the public and urban space. I am focusing on a multidisciplinary PhD research and my main areas of interest are Gender studies, Cultural Studies, Queer Philosophy, Political Philosophy and Aesthetics.

## **Online Gender-Swapping and the Fight Against Hegemonic Masculinity**

Dragoş Obreja

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### **Abstract**

This article examines the trajectories of gamers who repeatedly use online gender-swapping as a subversive way of protesting against one or more hegemonic values. Thus, I interviewed 104 participants who play every time, or almost every time with avatars of a different gender than

theirs. What I call purposive subversions prove to be systematically directed against male players who manifest attitudes specific to hegemonic masculinity, and who display multiple forms of toxicity when they discover players that are part of structurally disadvantaged categories. Using this critical case, this study uses hybrid masculinities and hybrid femininities in order to observe two main subversive dimensions: (1) an ideological subversion, in which the disadvantages of the participants turn into a constant militancy against a sexist, racist and homophobic patriarchy, and (2) a socio-economical subversion in which the main target of discontent is represented by male toxic players who constantly invest in games, in order to aggressively demonstrate their gamic superiority over the other categories of players. These dimensions show that the masculinities framework manifests itself complexly in the virtual environment, depending on the main values that structurally disadvantaged players want to acquire through online gender-swapping. Eventually, such an approach may prove useful in understanding video games as racialized, sexualized and homophobic institutions.

### **Hidden in Plain Sight: A gendered perspective on sex workers' access to health care in Malta**

Olivia Schneider

MA student, Social Anthropology, University of Oslo

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#### **Abstract:**

Sex work has historically been a highly gendered area of discourse with women being perceived as the passive and abused while men seem to be framed solely as perpetrators. Focusing on Malta as a locality, I will talk about the intersections of gender and health in the context of sex work against the backdrop of a highly politicised discourse and a culture heavily influenced by traditional cultural and religious values. Addressing the challenges that sex workers face through an intersectional lens, I aim to gain a nuanced understanding of the interplay of factors that shape their experiences, including gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic status.

### **Reprezentările gender în cultura Hallyu a Coreei de Sud**

Diana Buhuș

PhD Candidate in Cultural Studies, Școala Doctorală „Spațiu, Imagine, Text, Teritoriu”, University of Bucharest

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#### **Abstract**

When we are looking at a Hallyu artist, the very first thing that we notice is how they look and how they are presenting themselves in public as an image. In my study, I will show how the gender identity of Hallyu culture is represented in a different manner, outside the paradigms of Western cultural representations. This difference can often lead to confusion over the proper interpretation or reception of these representations' particularities, such as the flower boys' apparent more feminine portrayal of men or some South Korean celebrities' apparent queer conduct (queer from the perspective of Western society). Soft masculinity, gender depictions that occasionally straddle the boundary between masculine and feminine, and cosmetic surgery are a few of the topics up for dispute in relation to one's K-artist image. These so-called controversies are addressed by voices

that have often applied ideological filters from Western culture that are not valid when we refer to Asian cultures, more specifically, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thai, and others that are close to those. It is important to recognize that a distinct gender representation is contextual and not discriminatory. However, due to these different representations and their association with the LGBTQ+ image, the latter began to gain more visibility and, why not, perhaps tolerance.

Keywords: flower boy, soft masculinity, gender ambiguity, Queer, Fan service, Skinship, Bromance, BL (boys' love).

### **Expresii Queer în cultura asiatică. Exploring Bromance & BL**

Diana Buhuș

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#### **Abstract**

In recent years, various Asian productions have begun to gain popularity both in Asia and beyond. In an American-dominated Western society, Asia is finally starting to emerge, and not just through the well-known Japanese animations. This may be attributed to the rising visibility of trends such as Hallyu culture (K-Pop music and K-Drama television series) of South Korea, Chinese historical dramas, or BL (boys' love) television series from Thailand and Taiwan. But what seems unusual is the increasing use of queer expressions, a fresh element that could be considered the unexpected unifying factor of these Asian trends. Three distinct models of these queer expressions—those in South Korea, Thailand, and China—are the focus of my research. On the one hand, Thailand has a BL series production business that is free to explore a wide range of issues related to the love between two men. On the other hand, there is China, which, despite censorship, uses cinematic techniques to defy it and depict relationships of a queer nature. And last but not least, we have a culture like South Korea, which, although conservative in many respects, slowly gains "courage" in addressing gay themes, quietly expanding the bromance area previously established for years in both music and television series.

Keywords: Queer, LGBTQ+, Bromance, BL, Fan service, Queer(baiting) vs. Queer(coding), CP/SHIP (character pairing)

### **Inclusion of an intersectional disadvantage factor in quantitative research**

Dr. Corina Ilinca

Lecturer, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

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#### **Abstract**

Creating an index of intersectional disadvantage or using structural equation modeling for accounting at the same time for multiple disadvantages is an interesting approach for measuring to what extent more disadvantaged positions may exist simultaneously for groups of people and to what extent the compound coexists with other characteristics. Gender, age, social status, ethnicity,

among others, may be considered together for measuring intersectional disadvantage, that in turn can be connected to other features.

### **Digital and material culture of gendered safety practices in urban spaces**

Riddell Alice

PhD candidate, Anthropology, University College London (UCL)

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#### **Abstract**

‘I don’t have my taser with me but I’ve got My Kitty.’ Marisol

In times of insecurity and uncertainty in urban spaces, my research in Brooklyn has found women and non-binary folks turning to non-lethal weaponization in the form of safety gadgets; self-defence weapons, such as tasers, pepper sprays, alarms and kubotans. These tools are frequently advertised directly to women and appeared gendered as such, from pink spikey cat ears attached to key rings, to cute mushroom-shaped tasers. This presentation will address the complex relationship between safety-gadgets and their user's perception of safety in the city. This presentation will explore how this connects to the digitization of safety, as these gadgets are often advertised and purchased via TikTok. My interlocutors also use TikTok to watch and post videos about their experiences of gender-based violence in the city, such as harassment, stalking and assault, posted as a means of empowerment, to warn others, and to engage in community conversation.

### **Representations of Food in Contemporary Prose by Romanian Women Writers**

Monica Manolachi, PhD

University of Bucharest

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This presentation refers to two of my previously published articles that tackle the relationship between literature and the meaning of food in novels and memoirs by contemporary women writers born in Romania and living in the country or abroad. For research purposes, the representations are grouped in four categories: ritual and sacrifice; space and boundaries; food production, trade and consumption; writing, translation and publishing as forms of spiritual food production and trade. The paper aims at showing some of the structural transformations of these representations, which reflects a definitely gendered thematic approach to writing and the transition from a centralized socio-economic system to democracy and market economy. It also maps some of the ways in which these transformations influence the aesthetics of the literary text, either fictional or autobiographical.

“‘You’ll Even Eat Fire’: Food in Contemporary Prose by Romanian Women Writers”, *Journal of Philology and Intercultural Communication*, vol. 1:1, January 2017, Bucharest, Military Technical Academy Publishing House, p. 17-31.

“‘Food Is Always a Sign of Life’: The Role of Food in Contemporary Prose by Romanian Women Writers”, in *Food Cultures across Time: Flavours and Endeavours*, Anca-Luminița Iancu, Alexandra Mitrea (eds). Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2021, 87-106.

### **Election or Subjection? The Gender Issue in Cosmetic Surgery: A Female Plastic Surgeons’ View**

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#### **Abstract**

The presentation aims to discuss the interplay between gender and cosmetic surgery – a prominent gendered practice – from a sociological perspective, as derived from the Romanian female plastic surgeons’ discourse concerning their male counterparts and the female patients. For the present study, I conducted ten interviews with female plastic surgeons and I spent four-months in a private plastic surgery hospital from Bucharest while doing participant observation. The analysis showed that during their daily work with women, female plastic surgeons regard their own medical expertise as being limited and inferior to that of the male plastic surgeons, who are thought to have a greater authority due to their traditional domination over women and the medical profession. However, the female plastic surgeons counterbalance this perceived lack of legitimation by using several strategies: 1. the employment of their personal experience with the cosmetic procedures, so as to support women in choosing and recovering after cosmetic surgery; 2. the creation of an intimate and empathetic relation with the female patients, through chatter and confession; 3. taking up the role of the “psychotherapist” for other women. By mobilizing these gender-specific strategies, the female plastic surgeons thus regain their “lost” scientific authority, but also change it, both in a positive manner (partnership/friendship/“sisterhood” and women empowerment) and a negative one (the perpetuation of the idea that women need to take care of their beauty or adjust the “flawed” maternal body). This results in an ambiguous and dual stance from the female plastic surgeons’ part on other women, whom they downgrade to a passive subject (or even object), but invest them with agency (or even independence) at the same time.

### **Grupul profesional al medicilor în România: mai multe femei, mai vârstnice și, posibil, mai stresate**

Dr. Radu-Mihai Dumitrescu, MD, PhD (Medicover Romania, Universitatea Bucuresti, Facultatea de Sociologie si Asistenta Sociala)

Conf. Univ. Dr. Nicolae-Adrian Dan (Universitatea Bucuresti, Facultatea de Sociologie si Asistenta Sociala)

#### **Abstract**

Cercetarea „*Dimensiuni ale malpraxisului în România. Analiza și diagnoza prevalenței epuizării profesionale în rândul medicilor și a tendințelor de migrație*”, ordonată de Colegiul Medicilor din România, va aduce primul Raport național care va descrie grupul profesional al medicilor în raport cu o serie întreagă de indicatori socio-demografici. Cercetarea se află în stadiul de prelucrare a

datelor; un număr de 8121 de medici, dintr-un efectiv național de aproximativ 52000, au răspuns unui chestionar auto-administrat.

Datele preliminare ne oferă deja o imagine generală: 69,43% din populația de medici la nivel național este reprezentată de femei. Distribuția regională nu este una uniformă, observându-se un procent mai mare în regiunea Nord-Est (73,03%) și regiunea Sud-Vest Oltenia (71,88%); explicațiile pot cuprinde nu doar aspecte profesionale ci și unele generale, precum includerea acestei populații în circuitele de migrație și tendințele diferite în legătură cu genul. Profesia de medic, la fel ca toate celelalte legate de îngrijire, a urmat în ultimii 40 de ani un traseu al „feminizării”. Cu toate acestea, o serie întregă de factori locali au condus la o proporție mai mare a femeilor în efectivul de medici autohtoni. Mediile EU27 au urmărit o creștere însă, procentul femeilor medic s-a menținut în jurul valorii de 50%<sup>[1]</sup> (2017 – 49,80%, 2018 – 50,39%, 2019 – 51,01%, 2020 – 51,54%). Rapoartele AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) din Statele Unite ale Americii identifică aceleași tendințe crescătoare în privința procentului de femei la nivelul forței de muncă reprezentată de medici; cu toate acestea, procentul de femei raportat în anul 2021 a fost de 37,1%. În cazul anumitor specialități medicale procentul ajunge la valori apropiate celor europene (în cazul Pediatriei a fost raportat un procent de femei de 65,0%<sup>[2]</sup>).

Pentru România, repartitia de gen în cadrul specialităților medicale, conduce la identificarea zonelor de activitate profesională medicală reprezentate aproape exclusiv prin femei precum și cele care rămân apanajul bărbaților. Specialitățile medicale din grupa medicinei interne sunt cele în care femeile domină efectivul de profesioniști (Reumatologie 93,65%, Genetică Medicală 93,33%, Neurologie 87,83%, Hematologie 87,83%). Similar altor sisteme de sănătate, specialitățile care presupun îngrijirea copiilor sunt puternic feminizate: Neonatologie 93,79%, Pediatrie 94,23%. Specialitățile chirurgicale sunt cele în care proporția poate să fie modificată în favoarea bărbaților. Specialitățile în care femeile sunt cel mai puțin reprezentate sunt: Urologia 10,75%, Ortopedie-Traumatologie 13,71%. Tendințele globale sunt în direcția accesării de cât mai multe femei a unor specialități chirurgicale care, în urma cu doar câteva decenii, erau strict apanajul genului masculin. Întâlnim din ce în ce mai frecvent femei în rândul chirurșilor vasculari (38,46%) sau în rândul neurochirurșilor (17,85%). Cazul specialității Obstetrică-Ginecologie poate reprezenta un caz special. Pentru îngrijirea sănătății femeii și pentru supravegherea nașterii există mai multe profesii; profesia de moașă este una tradițional reprezentată de femei în timp ce medicul obstetrician aparține genului masculin. Astăzi, obstetricienii sunt în proporție de 67,50% femei.

Analiza finală a tuturor datelor va putea contura o imagine mult mai clară privind reprezentarea femeilor în rândul principalei profesii legate de îngrijirea sănătății oamenilor.

<sup>[1]</sup> [Indicator: Physicians by sex and age | Gender Statistics Database | European Institute for Gender Equality \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&plugin=1&code=sdg-10-10-1&plugin=1)

<sup>[2]</sup> [2022 Physician Specialty Data Report Executive Summary | AAMC](https://www.aamc.org/data-reports-and-publications/2022-physician-specialty-data-report)

## **Women in Social Research in Central and Eastern Europe. Edited Book Project**

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### **Abstract**

Last year Zoltán Rostás and I edited a book about the development and elimination of social sciences and sociology in CEE between the two world wars (Mărire și decădere. Sociologia gustiană în context central-est-european după Marele Război [Rise and Fall. Gustian Sociology in Central and Eastern European Context after the Great War], Bucharest: Eikon, 2022). In this edited volume, we included chapters on Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Russia. Almost all country studies mentioned – briefly or more extensively – the contribution of women social researchers and women's/feminist academic journals in the field. I believe it is high time to work on a regional project about women in the social sciences, since all the countries had tens or hundreds of women's/feminist organizations and, moreover, in some cases women researchers were included in larger social research programs. Women in sciences is an understudied field – internationally and especially in the region. Such an endeavor would be a great addition and expansion to women's history and the history of sciences in general.

## **Elena Caragiani-Stoenescu, the first aviator woman in Romania**

Associate Professor Cristina Gudin, Faculty of History, University of Bucharest

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### **Abstract**

Prezentarea va fi despre parcursul profesional al Elenei Caragiani-Stoenescu și la provocările ridicate de optiunea de a activa într-un domeniu exclusiv masculin. Prezentarea urmărește să atragă atenția asupra rolului femeilor în societatea modernă, indicând prejudecățile existente în secolul XIX și la începutul secolului următor în legătură cu acestea.

## **Urban gender displays and contrast structures**

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### **Abstract**

We present our ongoing research on urban gender displays (Goffman, 1976) in advertising billboards and commemorative statues. We find that gender essentialism is both reproduced and disrupted through the play of contrasts and similarities between representations of femininity and of masculinity. We rely on Dorothy Smith's (1978) concept of "contrast structures" and we propose a typology of contrast structures in gender displays, to better understand how they structure and restructure gendered characters, in the present day cities.

## **Older women's experiences of social media use: A case study of a Romanian digital community**

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### **Abstract**

I will present a qualitative case study of social media use by senior Romanian women, in a Facebook community with a dominantly elderly membership. Previous studies have shown that senior people encounter specific challenges when using digital technologies in general and social media in particular, and they develop coping tactics for pursuing their goals in a rapidly changing and unfamiliar technological context. I propose an exploratory typology of women users of social media, identifying several possible factors that shape technology use, related to women's personal histories, education, and professional background. I also discuss some observed differences between women's and men's patterns of use. A deeper understanding of senior women's experiences with social media might inform the design of better technological platforms, adapted to the cultural specificities of senior users.

## **Gender equality and educational policies in Romania: Case study – National Strategy for Parental Education 2018 - 2025**

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### **Abstract**

The article explores the way and form in which international regulations on gender equality in the field of education are present in Romanian legislation, and are known, understood, and accepted by society.

Thus, the paper aims to analyze the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee for Romania, the document of the National Parental Education Strategy 2018 - 2025, as well as the reactions that appeared on the level of society with the publication of the strategy. Therefore, will be presented a) a review of the main legislative acts on gender equality carried out at the international level and ratified by Romania, b) a brief analysis of public policies and national strategies in the field of education with specific references to the National Parental Education Strategy, and c) the analysis of the public discourse generated by the publication of the National Parental Education Strategy 2018 - 2025.

## **(Un)Doing gender studies. Attacks on gender studies: academic and political stakes**

Professor Ionela Băluță, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest

### **Abstract**

On June 16, 2020, the Romanian Parliament passed a law amending the National Education Law to prohibit the teaching of gender identity in any educational or training process. Gender studies

training was already in a rather vulnerable situation, characterized by: unfinished and fragile institutionalization, precarious professionalization, long-standing ideological and political opposition, consolidation of anti-gender positions. The debates occasioned by this attempt to ban gender represent a heuristic terrain for reflecting on the new obstacles and oppositions to gender and gender studies. Who are the actors attacking gender studies? With what kind of arguments? What are challenges and the consequences for the future of gender studies? I argue that thinking about the institutionalization and professionalization of gender (Zaidman 2001; Griffin 2002; Zimmerman 2008, Lapeyre 2014) must be related to analyses of gender equality opposition and anti-gender campaigns (Verloo 2018, Kuhar & Paternotte 2017, Bereni & Trachman 2014). The attacks on gender studies mobilize diverse actors and go beyond the issues of introducing a new and critical theoretical approach. Banning gender amounts to political control over knowledge production and paves the way for de-democratization (Paternotte & Verloo 2021).

### **Reflections of the women who experienced (at least once) the flooding of their home in rural areas**

Dr. Anca Mihai, Lecturer in Social Work, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest

#### **Abstract**

My presentation focuses on the reflections of women who experienced (at least once) the flooding of their home in the rural areas: how they perceive losses, respond to the hazard and participate in the recovery, as well as social support. It explores the perception of vulnerability and resilience in disasters.

### **Evoluția populației studențești feminine în învățământul superior românesc (1948-1989)**

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#### **Abstract**

După 1948 învățământul superior românesc a trecut prin mai multe transformări radicale, unele pozitive, altele negative. A fost dezvoltată rețeaua de centre universitare și diversificată rețeaua instituțiilor de învățământ superior și a crescut și numărul studenților. Dacă au existat unele tipuri de învățământ care au fost limitate pentru studente, precum învățământul de mine sau petrol și gaze, totuși per ansamblu se poate constata o creștere a numărului de studente, chiar și în învățământul ingineresc. La fel cum au fost și unele tipuri de învățământ cu o proporție importantă de studente, ca în cazul învățământului de medicină și farmacie. În comunicare vor fi prezentate rezultatele reconstituirii statistice a numărului de studente din învățământul superior românesc din perioada 1948-1989, cu diferite specificități pe tipuri de învățământ și centre universitare, dar și câteva scurte studii de caz pentru anumite specializări din învățământul superior.

## What is feminism. Perceptions among primary and secondary school students in Romania

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### Abstract

In view of befriending young pupils in Romania with feminism, we considered necessary to investigate first their level of information, awareness and perceptions about feminism: what do they know about it, wherefrom, what are the main connotations linked with the concept, could they name feminists in Romania, etc. Based on the findings from this explorative research based on semi-structured questionnaires (<https://ongen.ro/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Ce-Este-Feminismul-Raport.pdf>) a series of publications and trainings have been developed. The research is part of the project "EGALIS. Egalitate de gen prin schimbare socială și educație"(Active Citizens Fund Romania, SEE Grants 2014-2021, coordinated by the Romanian Coalition for Gender Equality, <https://ongen.ro/egalis/>).