

AICED-26

THE 26th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST, 29-31 May 2025

Literature and Cultural Studies Section:

*Writing in a World on Fire: Perspectives on War
and Climate Change*

	Thursday, 29 May	
Bucharest time: 9.30-10.00	MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor Formal Opening and Welcome Mugur Zlotea, Director of the Humanities Section of the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest Daria Protopopescu, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures Dragoş Ivana, Head of the English Department Alina Bottez, Coordinator of the AICED Organising Committee, Literature and Cultural Studies Section	
Bucharest time: 10.00-11.30	PANEL 1: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor Roots and Routes in Ecofiction and Ecocriticism Panel Stream (I)* Convenor: Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Esther Jiménez Rodríguez, <i>University of Lleida</i>, “Ecodisasters as Nature’s Avenging Response to Patriarchy in Ghosh’s <i>The Hungry Tide</i> and <i>Gun Island</i>” Derya Alim, <i>West University of Timișoara</i>, “Climate Change, Time, Identity and Their Connections” Alberto Baracco, <i>University of Torino</i>, “Fire, Climate Crisis, and the Comet: The Poignant Satire of <i>Don’t Look Up</i>” *Organized by the Center for American Studies	PANEL 2: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor Contemporary Ecodramaturgies Panel Stream (I)* Convenor: Diana Benea, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Diana Benea, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Staging Ecological Disaster in Recent American Theatre” Irina Costache, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “The sentiment of veracity”: Framing the Climate Crisis through the Mockumentary Mode in Abigail Thorn’s <i>Climate Grief</i> (2019)” Irina Vasile, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Contemplating Eco-Anxiety and Mortality in the Solo Performance <i>A Play for the Living in a Time of Extinction</i> by Miranda Rose Hall” *Organized by the Center for American Studies

11.30-12.00	Coffee Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)	
	Thursday, 29 May	
Bucharest time: 12.00-13.30	PANEL 3: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor <i>Literal, Metaphorical, Archetypal Fire in Literature and the Arts Panel Stream (I)</i> Convenor: Alina Bottez, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Christine d’Anca, <i>University of California, Santa Barbara</i>, “‘We can’t live this way!’: Los Angeles Burning and Octavia Butler’s 30 Year Warning” Traian-Ioan Geană, <i>University of Bucharest</i>: “On the Ambivalence of Fire in J. R. R. Tolkien’s Work (<i>The Silmarillion</i>, <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>) and in Peter Jackson’s <i>Lord of the Rings</i> Trilogy” Antony Hoyte-West, <i>Independent Scholar</i>, “A Blinding and Incandescent Ball of Light”: The Volcano and Its Eruption in Patrick Leigh Fermor’s <i>The Violins of Saint-Jacques</i>”	PANEL 4: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>Roots and Routes in Ecofiction and Ecocriticism Panel Stream (II)</i> Convenor: Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Shruti Das and Ranjit Mandal, <i>Berhampur University, Odisha</i>, “Fires of the Pyrocene: Climate Change Narratives and the Ethics of Posterity in Alan Gratz’s <i>Two Degrees</i>” Nicolae Bobaru, <i>West University of Timișoara</i>, “The Climate of Conflict: War, Ecological Collapse, and the Ethics of Survival in Posthuman Narratives” John Bessai, <i>University College of the North</i>, “Digital Flames: The National Film Board of Canada and the Storytelling of Climate Change and Reconciliation”
13.30-14.30	Lunch Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)	
Bucharest time: 14.30-16.00	MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor Keynote Speech Penelope J. Corfield, <i>Royal Holloway, University of London</i>, “The Emergence of a Global Civil Society – with a Dash of (Modified) Eco-Optimism” Introduced and chaired by Dragoș Ivana, <i>University of Bucharest</i>	

16.00-16.30	Coffee Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)	
	Thursday, 29 May	
Bucharest time: 16.30-18.30	PANEL 5: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor <i>9/11 and the War on Terror in Contemporary Literature and Culture Panel Stream (I)</i> Convenor: Oana Celia Gheorghiu, “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați Joseph Conte, University of Buffalo, “Post-9/11 Narratives: Four Modalities” Alexandru Oravițan, West University of Timișoara, “The Transnational Legacy of 9/11 Fiction: From Trauma Narratives to Global Reflections” Nóra Máthé, Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, “Representations of Pre- and Post-9/11 Urban Identity of New York City in Colum McCann’s <i>Let the Great World Spin</i> and Colson Whitehead’s <i>Colossus of New York</i>” Tomasz Kielar, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, “The War on Terror Enters the Frontline of Video Games – A Manifestation of American Political and Cultural Hegemony Illustrated Through the Post-WTC Digital Game Trend”	PANEL 6: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>War, Nature, and Agency</i> Chair: Cristian Vîjea, University of Bucharest Camelia Anghel, Hyperion University of Bucharest, “On War and Modernism as Interrelated Topics: D. H. Lawrence’s ‘With the Guns’ (1914)” Cristian Vîjea, University of Bucharest, “‘God the Clockmaker’ vs Maximus the Confessor’s Theory of Logoi: Two Unlikely Twin Visions on Nature and Human Agency” Claudia Davidson, Babeș-Bolyai University, “The Opposites of War? Peter Carey’s <i>Amnesia</i>”
18.30	Opening Cocktail (Casa Universitarilor)	

	Friday, 30 May		
Bucharest time: 9.30-11.00	PANEL 7: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor <i>Roots and Routes in Ecofiction and Ecocriticism Panel Stream (III)</i> Convenor: Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Hande Tekdemir, <i>Visiting Professor, Research Institute of the University of Bucharest</i>, “Age of Progress or Age of Coal? Ecocritical Approaches to the Victorian Novel” Monica Ruset Oancă, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “The Ecological Crisis – A Christian Perspective: The 20th-Century Need to Reconsider Human-Nature Relations” Katarzyna Więckowska, <i>Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland</i>, “A River Is a Body: Indigenous Routes Out of a World on Fire”	PANEL 8: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>Contemporary Ecodramaturgies Panel Stream (II)</i> Convenor: Diana Benea, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Bianca-Antonia Vărzaru, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “The Interpellating Power of Ecodramaturgies: Ethical Spectatorship in Dawn King’s <i>The Trials</i> (2022)” Ludmila Martanovschi, <i>Ovidius University of Constanța</i>, “Empowering Elephants in Lynn Nottage’s <i>Mlima’s Tale</i>” Işıl Şahin Gülder, <i>Firat University, Turkey</i>, “Tracing the Entanglement of Human and Radioactive Bodies in Marie Clements’s <i>Burning Vision</i>”	
11.00-11.30	Coffee Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)		
Bucharest time: 11.30-13.30	PANEL 9: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor <i>Literal, Metaphorical, Archetypal Fire in Literature and the Arts Panel Stream (II)</i> Convenor: Alina Bottez, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Iris Rusu, “<i>Lucian Blaga</i>” <i>University of Sibiu</i>, “Fire and War as Objective Correlatives for Trauma in Kazuo Ishiguro’s <i>When We Were Orphans</i> and <i>The Buried Giant</i>” Eliana Ionoaia, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Setting the World on Fire, or How <i>The Hunger Games</i> Dystopia Weaponizes Nature” Ahmed Metwally Abdalla, <i>Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Turkey</i>, “Ottoman Literature and War: Representations of Fire and Destruction in Ottoman Poetry During Ottoman-European Conflicts” Mihaela Paraschivescu, <i>Independent Scholar</i>, “Mircea Eliade on War as Terror of History”	PANEL 10: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>War, Ecology, and Healing</i> Chair: Cornelia Vlaicu, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Amelia Precup, <i>Babeş-Bolyai University</i>, “War, (Allo)History, and Environmental Memory in Alfredo Vea’s <i>Gods Go Begging</i>” Cornelia Vlaicu, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, ““Where the Herds of Bison Grew Infinite”: Of War and Healing in Conor Kerr’s <i>Prairie Edge</i>” Yousra Tahir, <i>Abou Bekr Belkaid University, Tlemcen, Algeria</i>, “Reconnecting with Nature: Psychological Healing and Ecological Awareness in Literature and Film” Corina Selejan, <i>Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu</i>, “Richard Powers’s <i>The Overstory</i> between Form and Ideas”	PANEL 11: AMERICAN STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>9/11 and the War on Terror in Contemporary Literature and Culture Panel Stream (II)</i> Convenor: Oana Celia Gheorghiu, “<i>Dunărea de Jos</i>” <i>University of Galați</i> Sini Eikonsalo, <i>Metropolitan University Prague</i>, “Why Do They Hate Us?”: The Motives Behind Terrorism in Don DeLillo’s <i>Falling Man</i> and John Updike’s <i>Terrorist</i>” Tim Gauthier, <i>University of Nevada, Las Vegas</i>, “Recent American Fiction and the Affective Heritage of 9/11” Oana Celia Gheorghiu, “<i>Dunărea de Jos</i>” <i>University of Galați</i>, “Remembering 9/11: Personal and Political Narratives in Post-Traumatic Memoirs”
13.30-14.30	Lunch Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)		

	Friday, 30 May		
Bucharest time: 14.30-16.00	MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor Keynote Speech Domnica Rădulescu, <i>Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia,</i> “Creating in a World on Fire: Tragic Optimism and Comedic Hopelessness” Introduced and chaired by Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru, <i>University of Bucharest</i>		
16.00-16.30	Coffee Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)		
Bucharest time: 16.30-18.00	PANEL 12: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor <i>War and Conflict in the Arts</i> Chair: Elena Butoescu, <i>University of Craiova</i> Alina Bottez, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Airstrike, Drone Warfare, and Fire in <i>Grounded</i> – the Play and the Opera” Elena Butoescu, <i>University of Craiova</i>, “The Poetics, Politics, and Ethics of Sound Art Installations in the Global 21st Century” Diana-Andreea Novăceanu, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Uneasy Portraits: Contemporary British Artists at War”	PANEL 13: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>Space, Decay, and Destruction</i> Chair: Gabriela Tucan, <i>West University of Timișoara</i> Asma Firdous, <i>Indian Institute of Technology</i>, Kanpur, ““The day war came, there were flowers on the windowsill...”: Disrupted Spaces and Reimagined Childhood in Contemporary War-Themed Picturebooks” Gabriela Tucan and Cristina Băniceru, <i>West University of Timișoara</i>, “Navigating Spaces and Mapping Feminine Identity in Kate Chopin’s <i>The Awakening</i>: An Ecofeminist Approach” Alianna Guerra, <i>Boston College</i>, “The Bronx is Burning, the Bronx is Rapping: Hip-Hop and Racial Capitalism in the Wake of Environmental Injustice in the South Bronx”	PANEL 14: AMERICAN STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>Gender, Mourning, and Conflict</i> Chair: Cristina Chevereșan, <i>West University of Timișoara</i> Cristina Chevereșan, <i>West University of Timișoara</i>, “The Ecstasy of Sanctimony: American Culture Wars of the 1990s in Philip Roth’s <i>The Human Stain</i>” Andreea Moise, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “(Dis)Embodying Mourning in Sigrid Nunez’s <i>What Are You Going Through</i> and Pedro Almodóvar’s <i>The Room Next Door</i> (2024)” Konstantina Kliagkona, <i>University of Portsmouth</i>, “Aloy’s Odyssey: Unraveling the Threads of War, Ecology, and Identity in <i>Horizon Zero Dawn</i> (2017) through an Ecofeminist Lens”

Bucharest time:
18.00-19.30

MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor

Round Table *in Memoriam* Dr. ANA-KARINA SCHNEIDER

The ABC of American, British and Canadian Studies

Chair: Dragoş Ivana, *University of Bucharest*

Link: <https://meet.google.com/zqh-wbgq-efn>

Elena Butoescu, *University of Craiova*, “From Motion to Emotion: Affect Theory in the Age of Sensibility”

Dragoş Ivana, *University of Bucharest*, “Jane Austen’s Fiction and the Eighteenth-Century Novelistic Tradition”

Petronia Popa-Petrar, *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca*, “When are you hoping to finish your lives?": Ethical Representation in Muriel Spark’s *A Far Cry from Kensington*”

Iris Rusu, “*Lucian Blaga*” *University of Sibiu*, “Approaching the ‘Trauma Aesthetic’ in Kazuo Ishiguro’s Novels. The Grey Zone and the Manipulation of Memory”

Corina Selejan, “*Lucian Blaga*” *University of Sibiu*, “Anglicist Women’s and Gender Studies in Romania: between Persistence and Resistance”

Evocations:

Michaela Mudure, *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca*

Merritt Moseley, *University of North Carolina at Asheville*

Eric Gilder, *Papua New Guinea University of Technology*

Anca Ignat, “*Lucian Blaga*” *University of Sibiu*

Alexandra Mitrea, “*Lucian Blaga*” *University of Sibiu*

Adriana Neagu, *Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca*

20.00

Conference Dinner (Rare Garden)

Saturday, 31 May

Bucharest time: 9.30-11.30	PANEL 15: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor <i>The Early Modern World on Fire – Writing in an Age of Turmoil</i> Convenor: Alina Bottez , <i>University of Bucharest</i> Alis Zaharia , <i>University of Bucharest</i> , “‘What will thou say to one that breaks an oath?’ Honour, Sovereignty, and Just War in <i>Edward III</i> ” Paul Paraschiv , <i>Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca</i> , “Bearing Witness to a World in Flux: Testimonial Kinship and Nonhuman Displacement in Eighteenth- Century Natural History” Cristian Vîjea , <i>University of Bucharest</i> , “War and Protoecological Views in Walter Scott’s <i>Waverley</i> and <i>Old Mortality</i> – a Case Study”	PANEL 16: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>Ignitable Gothic Conflicts: Crime, Crises, the Other, and the Weird</i> Chair: Hande Tekdemir , <i>Visiting Professor, Research Institute of the University of Bucharest</i> Hande Tekdemir , <i>Visiting Professor, Research Institute of the University of Bucharest</i> , “How Did the EcoGothic Originate? Threatening/Threatened Environments in Earlier Examples of Gothic Fiction” Eliana Ionoaia , <i>University of Bucharest</i> , “Spectres of Dickens: Crime and Detection in the Neo-Victorian Gothic Novels <i>The Last Dickens</i> (2009) by Matthew Pearl and <i>Drood</i> (2009) by Dan Simmons” Roxana Oltean , <i>University of Bucharest</i> , “The ‘Desolate’ and the ‘Terrible.’ Igniting Conflict with(in) Gothic Natures in the Writings of Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne” Raluca Andreescu , <i>University of Bucharest</i> , “‘Anyone Who is Born into this World is in Danger’: Maternal and Ecological Anxiety in Samanta Schweblin’s Ecogothic Novel <i>Fever Dream</i> ” <i>*Organized by the Reading Group on Gothic fiction, supported by a fellowship at the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest, and co-organized by the Center for American Studies</i>
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11.30-12.00	Coffee Break (Plante Room, 1st floor)
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Bucharest time: 12.00-13.30	MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor Keynote Speech Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru , <i>University of Bucharest</i> , “War, Violence and Deep Ecology in Contemporary American Ecofiction” Introduced and chaired by Alina Bottez , <i>University of Bucharest</i>
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13.30-14.30	Lunch Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)
	Saturday, 31 May

Bucharest time: 14.30-16.00	PANEL 17: MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor <i>Inflammatory Wars – Old, New, or Imagined</i> Panel Stream (I) Convenor: Adela Catană, “<i>Ferdinand I</i>” <i>Military Academy of Bucharest</i> Alina Bottez and Adela Catană (eds.), <i>Wars of Wars in Text and Context</i>, Cambridge Scholars, 2025 – book presentation (with the participation of Sabina Draga-Alexandru, Eliana Ionoaia, and Roxana Oltean) Michaela Mudure, <i>Babeş-Bolyai University</i>, “Zahra: A Reluctant Feminist and the Lebanese Civil War” Adela Catană, “<i>Ferdinand I</i>” <i>Military Academy of Bucharest</i>, “The Crystallisation of the Just War Theory and Its Contemporary Impact”	PANEL 18: AMERICAN STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>Speculative Fiction, Ethics, and the Weird</i> * Chair: Dragoş Manea, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Hawk Chang, <i>The Education University of Hong Kong</i>, “A Necessary Evil?: Children and War in Orson Scott Card’s <i>Ender’s Game</i>” Dragoş Manea, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Weirding the Natural World: On the Ethics of Revenge in Junji Ito’s <i>Uzumaki</i> and <i>Gyo</i>” Imad Adjabi, <i>University of Warsaw</i>, “Hyperobjects and Weird Essentialism: Intersecting Ecologies in the Speculative Fiction of Butler and Jemisin” *Organized by the Center for American Studies
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16.00-16.30	Coffee Break (Plante Room, 1 st floor)	
	Saturday, 31 May	
Bucharest time: 16.30-18.30	MARTIN LUTHER KING ROOM, 1st floor Round Table in Memoriam Professor ȘTEFAN STOENESCU <i>Highlights of Anglophone Literature</i> Chair: Ioana Zirra, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Dumitru Chițoran, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Link: https://meet.google.com/uob-cspp-dwk Ioana Gogeanu, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “The Corpus Christi Carol: A Brief Comparative Analysis” Angela Jianu, <i>University of Warwick</i>, “George Herbert and the Dilemmas of Faith in the Early Modern Age” Ioana Zirra, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “How the Verbal-Visual Eloquence of Altar Poems Is Communicated to ‘Vision and Prayer’ by Dylan Thomas” Anca Cristofovici, <i>University of Caen</i>, “Responsibility and Empathy in Restoring a Life: Dawn Raffel’s <i>The Strange Case of Dr Couney. How a Mysterious European Showman Saved Thousands of American Babies</i>” Evocations: Dumitru Chițoran, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Alexandra Cornilescu, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Theodor Damian, <i>The Romanian Institute of Orthodox Theology and Spirituality, New York</i> Simona-Grazia Dima, <i>Writer</i> Ioana Ieronim, <i>Writer</i> Sorin Paliga, <i>University of Bucharest</i> Mirela Roznoveanu, <i>Writer</i> Members of Ștefan Stoenescu’s family: Nicolae Iurașcu, Sebastian Stoenescu, a. o.	PANEL 21: BRITISH STUDIES ROOM, 1st floor <i>Inflammatory Wars – Old, New, or Imagined Panel Stream (II)</i> Convenor: Adela Catană, “Ferdinand I” Military Academy of Bucharest Raluca Andreescu, <i>University of Bucharest</i>, “Make America Small Again: Exploring the Ruin(s) of Petroculture in Omar El Akkad’s <i>American War</i>” Florin Andrei Vlad, <i>Ovidius University, Constanța</i>, “Burning Churches, Falling Towers: Apocalyptic Visions in Jihad and Black Metal” Nataliia Potapenko, “<i>Dunărea de Jos</i>” <i>University of Galați</i>, “Changing the Perception of Ukraine in the European Space through War Diaries”

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