



**SPIRU HARET UNIVERSITY
THE FACULTY OF LETTERS
BUCHAREST**

MACALESTER
COLLEGE



CALL FOR PAPERS

THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Border Crossings: Rethinking “Trans-” in Literature, Language, and Media”

May 17 – 18, 2017

The Faculty of Letters

Spiru Haret University

Bucharest

Few words have been as much in the center of attention in recent years as the unassuming prefix ‘trans’: from translation to transnationalism to transsexuality, we seem to be living in the epoch of ‘trans’.

From a Latin term meaning ‘beyond’ or ‘on the other side’ – the equivalent of Greek ‘meta’ – ‘trans’ connotes any movement across a border, whether geographical (trans rhenum, ‘across the Rhine’), linguistic (‘translation’), political (‘transnational’), social or sexual (‘transsexual’), and not least in relation to diaspora, migration, and exile (refugees as transnationals).

These are just a few of the contexts in which we rely on ‘trans’ to describe phenomena that don’t fit neatly into set borders or distinctions. Closely related are the dynamics of minority cultures, which question the logic of borders from within. In this conference, participants are invited to explore any aspect of ‘trans’ in literature, language, media, or culture.

Where and how do phenomena cross borders or mix domains?

What forms of diversity do ‘trans-processes’ allow or foment?

Do ‘trans-phenomena’ transcend [!] borders? Or establish new ones?

And why is ‘trans’ so much in the public eye today?

Presentations that describe, analyze, or also critique discourses of ‘trans’ will be essential to this endeavor. By exploring the universal phenomenon of crossing borders, this conference strives to shed new light on the prevalence of ‘trans’ in today’s culture. Papers are invited from all academic disciplines, including literary studies, linguistics, philology, cultural and media studies, international studies, philosophy.

Topic Proposals:

- Translation across languages, media, sign-systems
- Multilingualism in literature, media, and in communication
- Multilingual nation states
- Cultures and processes of migration and exile
- The cultural dynamics of refugees and asylum
- Transgressive identities (sexual, cultural, national)
- Representations of deviant identities in film, media, literature
- Minority cultures
- Multimediality in film, music, theatre, literature
- Crossing borders in film and other media
- Translation and empire; *translatio imperii*
- Hybridity in language, culture, media
- Representations of transcendence
- Metaphor (Latin: *translatio*) and metonymy in language, culture, media

Plenary Sessions:

- BA-Candidate Elif San (University of Vienna)
- Prof. Christiane Frey (New York University)
- Prof. David Martyn (Macalester College)
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Antonia Enache (Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies)

Calendar:

- **1st of May, 2017: deadline** for sending the registration form to the following address:
researchletters@spiruharet.ro
- **19th of May, deadline** for sending the article *in extenso* to the following e-mail address:
researchletters@spiruharet.ro

Conference Fee:

30 Euro