

BABEŞ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY



Claudiu Turcuş

Associate Professor

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Email: claudiu.turcus@ubbcluj.ro
- Mobile Phone: 0040743102039
- Institutional address: 4 Mihail Kogalniceanu St. 400084, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5935-0687>

2. RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Romanian Film and Literary culture
- Intellectual History of Eastern Europe
- Aesthetic Ideologies
- Political Economy and the Arts
- Critical Theory
- Intermediality

3. EDUCATION

2018 Habilitation Certificate; PhD Coordinator in the field of Cinematography and Media within Theatre and Film Doctoral School, Babeş-Bolyai University

2015 Postdoctoral Program, Romanian Academy, Romanian Philology

2012 PhD Philology (Criticism and Intellectual History), Babeş-Bolyai University

2006 MA Romanian Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University

2005 BA Romanian and English Language and Literature, Babeş-Bolyai University

4. ACADEMIC POSITIONS & EMPLOYMENT

from 2024 Dean, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, BBU

2020-2024 Vice Dean of Research and Academic Infrastructure, BBU

from 2019 Associate Professor, Babeş-Bolyai University

2016-2020 Research Programs Administrator and *Erasmus+* Coordinator

2012-2016 Assistant Professor, Babeş-Bolyai University

2010 June-September PhD Fellow Bard College-Columbia University, New York

2010 – 2011 Researcher, Romanian Academy, Institute of Literary History

2008 – 2011 Lecturer, Babeş-Bolyai University, Babeş-Bolyai

5. PUBLICATIONS

5.1. Books

Pârvulescu, Constantin and Turcuş, Claudiu. *Romanian Capitalism on Film. Microhistories of Anxiety, Hope and Adaptation*. Edinburgh University Press, 2025 [English, open access]. ISBN 9781399540186.

Turcuş, Claudiu. *Norman Manea. Aesthetics as East Ethics*. Frankfurt-New York: Peter Lang, 2016. ISBN 978-3631669129 / DOI: [10.3726/978-3-653-07045-3](https://doi.org/10.3726/978-3-653-07045-3) / SCOPUS, EID: [2-s2.0-85014225014](https://scopus.com/record/display?id=2-s2.0-85014225014) [English].

Turcuş, Claudiu. *Împotriva memoriei. De la estetismul socialist la noul cinema românesc [Against Memory. From Socialist Aestheticism to New Romanian Cinema]*, Bucharest: Eikon, 2017 ISBN 978606711636 [Romanian].

5.2. Peer-review articles and anthology contributions

Borza, Cosmin and Turcuş, Claudiu (2025). "Therapy for the shock: 19th-century storytelling and post-communist emigration". *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17449855.2025.2530185>

Borza, Cosmin and Turcuş, Claudiu. "Westalgia as the infantilization of the East: narrating communist childhood in post-1989 Romania and the administration of the recent past." *Studies in Eastern European Thought* (2024). DOI <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11212-024-09679-6> [English]

Turcuş, Claudiu and Țăranu, Ana. "Exceptionally Dysfunctional: The Reception of American Literary and Political Imagery in the Interwar Romanian Press". Alex Goldiș, Ștefan Baghiu (Eds.) *Translations and Semi-Peripheral Cultures. Worlding the Romanian Novel in the Modern Literary System*, Frankfurt – New-York: Peter Lang, 2022 pp. 131-148. ISBN 9783631888766, DOI [10.3726/b2014010.3726/b20140](https://doi.org/10.3726/b2014010.3726/b20140) [English].

Stan, Adriana and Turcuş, Claudiu. "Geographies of Capitalism in Romanian Postcommunist Literature and Film: Villages, Cities, Markets", *Transilvania*, 5 (2022): 90-94. [English].

Pârvulescu, Constantin; Claudiu Turcuş. "Afterlives of Romanian socialist-era historical film: reruns, story universes, reception". *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, Volume 63.1-2 (2021), *The Commemorative Legacies of State Socialism*, pp. 50-71. DOI: [10.1080/00085006.2021.1915527](https://doi.org/10.1080/00085006.2021.1915527) [English].

Turcuş, Claudiu and Gârdan, Daiana. "An Ideological Distant Reading of the American Novel Translated in Romanian Literary System (1853-1989)". *Transylvanian Review*, XXXI, Supplement No. 1, 2022, pp. 237-249. [English].

Turcuş, Claudiu, "The Haunting Ghost and the Invisible Hand: Film Industry and Book Publishing Between State Socialism and Market-oriented Cultural Production", *Studia Politica: Romanian Political Science Review*, 20(3), pp. 353-363.

Pârvulescu, Constantin and Turcuş, Claudiu. "Specters of Europe and Anti-communist Visual Rhetoric in the Romanian Film of the Early 1990s". Aga Skrodzka, Xiaoning Lu, and Katarzyna Marciniak (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Communist Visual Cultures*, Oxford University Press, 2019. DOI: [10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190885533.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190885533.001.0001) [English].

Turcuş, Claudiu; Parvulescu Constantin. "Devices of Europeanisation". *Studies in Eastern European Cinema*. 9.1 (2018) : pp. 4-21. DOI: [10.1080/2040350X.2017.1421739](https://doi.org/10.1080/2040350X.2017.1421739) [English].

--- "Restructuring a Cinema That Didn't Exist. The Romanian Film Industry of the 1990s. *Illuminace*, Vol. 29.3 (2017). ISSN: 0862-397X / SCOPUS: [2-s2.0-85041424313](https://scopus.com/record/display?id=2-s2.0-85041424313) [English].

---“Paradigms of Rememoration in Romanian Postcommunist Cinema and Culture”. Andrea Virginás, ed. *Spaces, Bodies, Traumas in Eastern European Cinema*, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Publishing Scholars, 2016. ISBN 978-1-4438-0059-4 [English].

--- “Receptarea Noului Cinema Românesc și *Aurora* lui Cristi Puiu” [The Reception of New Romanian Cinema and Cristi Puiu’s *Aurora*]. *Politicile filmului. Contribuții la interpretarea cinemaului românesc contemporan* [The Politics of Film – Contributions at the Interpretation of Contemporary Romanian Cinema]. Eds. Andrei Gorzo, Andrei State. Cluj-Napoca: Tact, 2014: 281-298. ISBN. 9786068437507 [Romanian].

--- “Recycling and Confronting Ostalgie under the Romanian Transition. I’m an Old Communist Hag – an Unfaithful Adaptation”. *Ekphrasis – Images, Cinema, Theory, Media* 10.2 (2013): 71-88. [WOS:000441885200006](https://www.wos-id.org/000441885200006) [English].

5.3. Edited Issues and Books

- Pârvulescu, Constantin; Turcuș, Claudiu, Eds. “Europeanization in East-Central European Fiction Film (1980-2000)”. Special Issue of *Studies in Eastern European Cinema*, 9.1 (2018). Francis & Taylor, Routledge. DOI: [10.1080/2040350X.2018.1421740](https://doi.org/10.1080/2040350X.2018.1421740) [English].
- Gog Sorin; Braniște, Nicoleta; Turcuș, Claudiu. *Critica socială și artictică a capitalismului românesc*, ISBN: 978-606-37-1028-5, Presa Universitară Clujană, 2021, 300 p. [Romanian].

5.4. Other publications

Approximately 70 essays, and book reviews in different prestigious Romanian literary and cultural journals such as *Cultura*, *Observator Cultural*, 22, *Dilema veche*, *Vatra* 2008-2020 [Romanian]

6. GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

6.1. Research Grants

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| 2023-2026 | Member of the Research Project: <i>PHILSE Philosophy in Late Socialist Europe in the Face of Polycrisis</i> , PNRR I8, CF104/15.11.2022, Project Leader: Dr. Siyaves Azeri, 1.500.000 €. |
| 2022-2024 | Member of the Research Project: <i>SCREENING SOCIAL Screening Romanian Social Transformations, 1990-2021</i> , PN-III-P4-PCE-2021-0141, Project leader: Professor Constantin Parvulescu. Budget 224.000 €. |
| 2022-2024 | Member of the Research Project: <i>Translations and Semi-Peripheral Cultures Worlding the Romanian Novel in the Modern Literary System</i> , PN -III-P1-1.1.TE-2019-0946. Budget 100.000 €. |
| 2018-2020 | Member of the Research Project: <i>ROMIMAG The Encyclopedia of Romanian Imaginaries. Historical Heritage, linguistic and cultural identities</i> PCCDI-2017-0326, Contract: 49PCCDI/2018. Project Leader: Professor Corin Braga. Financed by UEFISCDI – Romanian Ministry of Research. Budget: 1.800.000 € |
| 2018-2020 | Project Leader of the Research Grant: <i>COMEMORY – Mapping Anticommunism. Cultural Policies and Community Memory in Historical Narratives of Romanian Film and Literature</i> |

(1990-2006) TE-2016-0541, Contract: 140/2018. Financed by UEFISCDI – Romanian Ministry of Research. Budget: 100.000 €.

2014-2015 Postdoctoral Research Grant, Romanian Academy. *Literary Studies and Romanian Culture* Contract: POSDRU/159/1.5/S/136077. Budget 18.000 €.

2013-2014 Principal Investigator of Research Grant for Young Scholars, Babeş-Bolyai University, *Literary and Film Studies* 5000 €.

6.2. Teaching and Academic Infrastructure Grants

2022-2023 Member of the Research Infrastructure Project *Promoting and supporting Open Science Practices and excellence in research within BBU*, FDI-CNFIS , 2022-0179.

2021-2024 *Coordinator of Arts and Humanities Academic School* of BBU, PFE-550, contract no. 21PFE/30.12. 2021, creation of a STAR-UBB Academic Research Network of Excellence (six centres coordinating and linking the RDI activities and laboratories/units, anchored in the BBU strategic infrastructure).

2019-2021 *Manager of ROSE Teaching Grant* – 6 Summer Schools (courses and training in Film, Media and Cultural Studies). Target group: 150 students. Tasks: writing the application, elaborating the design of the courses, implementation and management of the program, writing intermedial and final reports. Program financed by World Bank and managed by Romanian Ministry of Education. Contract AG139/SGU/PV2/2019. Budget 120.000 €.

2019-2021 *Manager of REMARTS Teaching Grant* – 4 semesters of remedial courses and tutoring. Target group: students at risk of dropping out. Tasks: writing the application, elaborating the design of the courses, implementation and management of the program, writing intermedial and final reports. General objective: reducing the percentage of school dropouts from 15% to 8% in the 1st year of BA studies. Program financed by Romanian Ministry of Education. Contract AG250/SGU/NC2/2019. Budget 40.000 €.

6.3. Other Grants and Fellowships

2019 Research Mobility Grant, University of Iceland, Contract MC2019-2043. Financed by UEFISCDI. 5000 €

2018 Research Mobility Grant, University of Basque Country Contract MC2018-0282. Financed by UEFISCDI. 4500 €

2016 – 2018 Teaching mobility, Linnaeus University, Vaxjo (Sweden), Girona University (Spain), University of Theatre and Film Arts (Budapest) Erasmus+ Program. Financed by European Commission. 3400 €

2015 Research Mobility, Autonomous University of Barcelona and Central European University – Open Society Archive, Budapest. Financed by Romanian Academy (see above Postdoctoral RG). 3900 €

2014 Travel Grant, International Conference: *Adaptation and Multiplicities* (Flagler College, FL). Financed by Association for Adaptation Studies. 400 £

2014 Travel Grant, Lecture & Workshop (Hunter College, CUNY). Financed by Romanian Cultural Institute in New York. 4200 \$

2010 Research Fellowship, PhD Program, Bard College, New York. Financed by Bard College. 8100 \$

6.4. Awards

2019 *Seal of Excellence Certificate* delivered by the European Commission for the proposal 841696 submitted under the Horizon 2020's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (Standard Fellowship) by Claudiu Turcuş and Linnaeus University (mentor: Professor Lars Elleström). This certificate was issued following evaluation by an international panel of independent experts. The project was scored as a high quality project proposal in a highly competitive evaluation process. The evaluation score is 85 points from 100.

2018 *Cultural Observer Special Prize for Academic Essay* for the book *Against Memory. Socialist Aestheticism and New Romanian Cinema*.

2017 *Excellence Prize in Scientific Research*, awarded by StarUBB Institute at Babeş-Bolyai University.

2013 *Debut Prize*, awarded by Writers' Union of Romania for the book *Norman Manea – Aesthetics as East Ethics* [Romanian editio princeps].

7. CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

7.1. Invited Talks

2023 *Romanian Economic Migration and the American Dream: Farewell my homeland (Radu Pavel Gheo, 2003) and Lemonade (Ioana Uricariu, 2018)*, lecture and debate with Professor Monica Filimon and her students, Kingsborough College, State University of New York (US)

2022 *The Phantasm of Europe and The Nightmare of Bucharest. On double exile*, invited lecture at Pisa University (IT)

2017 *The biopics about Norman Manea. Between His Testimony, Romanian Culture and World Literature*; invited lecture at Harriman Institute, Columbia University (USA).

2015 *The Novels of the Romanian Transition*, lecture and panel on Romanian Literature and Culture with professors Enrique Nogueras and Ioana Gruia and BA students in Comparative Literature and Romanian Studies, University of Granada, Faculty of Philosophy and Letters (SP).

2014 *Cristi Puiu and the context of Romanian New Wave Cinema*; lecture and panel debate with professors Ivone Margulies and Gustavo Mercado and MA and PhD students in Cultural and Film Studies, City University of New York (USA).

2014 *After the Past. Images of Transition in Recent Romanian Film*; invited workshop organized by Romanian Cultural Institute in New York (US).

2014 *Recycling Communist Ostalgie*, lecture & dialogue with Romanian writer Dan Lungu; screening of *I'm an Old Communist Hag* (directed by Stere Gulea, 2013) organized by Romanian Cultural Institute, Cinema Biografen Sture, Stockholm (SWE).

2010 *Literature in a Closed and Open Society. The Romanian Case*, dialogue with writer and professor Norman Manea organised by Institute for International Liberal

Education, Bard College, New York (US).

7.2. Conference Organized

2023-2025 Organizer *Janovics Center for Film and Performing Arts Studies Awards Colloquium*

2024 Organizer *Historical Materialism Cluj Conference*

2020 *Small Cinemas - Political Imaginaries of Small Cinemas & Culture*

2019 *Mapping Romanian Anticommunism. Collective Memory, Cultural Production*, International Experts Workshop # Babeş-Bolyai University.

2017 *Copy-Past. Revaluating History, Memory and Archive in Cinema, Performing Arts and Visual Culture*, international conference # Babeş-Bolyai University.

2016 *Cinema and Visual Culture in Postcommunist Europe. From Crisis to Euphoria and Back Again*, international conference # Babeş-Bolyai University.

7.3. Papers Presented in International Conferences

2025 *Constructing Collective Memory in Romania: Post-Communist Populism Across Media*, Memoey Studies Association Conference, Prague (CZ)

2023 *Westalgia and the Orphanage of Communism in Post-1989 Romanian Fictional narratives* "Post/Socialist Memory Cultures in Transition". Tallinn University. (ES)

2019 *Private Performances of Cold War Europeanization. Specters of Radio Free Europe*. "CBEES Annual Conference – Eastern Europe 1989-2019: Orders and Freedoms", Södertörn University, Stockholm (SWE)

2018 *Law, Symbols and Politics. Subversive Aesthetics of Romanian Novels of the 70s*, International Conference, University of Pisa. "Subversion and Censorship. The relation between the artist and the state". (IT)

2017 *A Morraly Correct Gaze. Anticommunist Representations in Romanian Culture of the 90s*. "Diversity in Glocal Cinemas: Language, Culture, Identity". University of Basque Country, Bilbao. (SP)

2015 *Revolution as Mythology, Confusion and Cliché: Three Novels and Films from 2006*; Annual Conference of Society for Romanian Studies: "Linking Past, Present and Future: The 25th Anniversary of Regime Change in Romania, 1989", University of Bucharest (RO).

2014 *Intermediality, Subversion and Detabooization in the Recent Romanian Literature and Cinema. Two Case Studies*, "Figuration of Intermediality", Sapientia University, Cluj (RO).

2014 *Screening the Banality of Evil. Adaptation as Testimonial Pact in Lajos Koltai's Fateless*, "Adaptation and Multiplicities", Flagler College, Florida (US).

- 2014 *New Romanian Cinema and the Rise of Self-Referential Realism*, “Thinking Reality and Time through Film”, University of Lisbon (PT).
- 2013 *On Socialist Eroticism. Subversion and Propaganda in Romanian Socialist Culture*, University of Birmingham (UK).
- 2010 *Literary Exile as Vitalist Rapture and Refusal of Depersonification*, “Romanian Literary Exile before and after 1989”, Comenius University, Bratislava (SK).

8. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

8.1. Teaching and Supervision

- 2006 Tutoring BA students in Romanian Studies (1 semester/14 h)
- 2012-2020 Tutoring and supervising 15 BA students and 8 MA students in writing their final dissertation.
- 2019 -2020 Coordinator of 4 PhD students; Vice-coordinator of 3 PhD students; Mentoring 1 Postdoctoral Fellow at Babeş-Bolyai University.

8.2. Courses delivered during Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility at Linnaeus University, Växjö (Sweden); University of Girona (Spain); University of Theatre and Film Arts (Budapest), Charles University (Prague), University of Basque Country (Bilbao).

- 2016-2019 *Eastern European Film* (BA III, Comparative literature. 8 h/Erasmus+ mobility)
- 2018 -2022 *Intermediality* (MA Cultural Studies, 8 h/Erasmus Mobility)

8.3. Academic Courses at Babeş-Bolyai University

- from 2019 *Academic Writing* (1st year, PhD Students, Cultural Studies and Film. Autumn Semester: 28 h/semester; 1 h course/week and 1 h academic tutoring and individual feed-back).
- Contemporary Critical Paradigms* (MA I, Comparative Literature/ Performative Studies/Documentary Filmmaking Program. Autumn Semester: 42 h/semester; 1 h and 2 h seminar/week). [English]
- 2012-2017 *Film and Literary Criticism* (BA II, Cultural Studies. Autumn Semester: 28 h/semester; 2 h course and practical tutoring/week).
- Adaptation Studies* (BA III, Film Studies. Autumn Semester: 56 h/semester; 2 h course and 2 h seminar/week).
- 2010-2013 *Theory of Literature* (BA III, Romanian Studies. Spring Semester, 28 h/semester; 2 h seminar/week). [Romanian]

9. THESIS AND DISSERTATION SUPERVISION

- 2019-2025 PhD Supervision: 6 PhD Thesis, Cinema and Media; 2 PhD Thesis, Interdisciplinary Film and Media, Sociology and Media Policy in co-tutelle with University of Warwick.

10. SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2018-2025 Peer-reviewer: *Studies of East-european Thought*, edited by Springer; *Studies in Eastern European Cinea* and *International Journal of Heritage Studies* both edited by Francis and Taylor; *World Literature Studies* edited by Comenius University, Bratislava; *Law Culture and the Humanities* edited by Sage Journals.
- 2012-2020 Member of the Advisory Board of the peer-reviewed journal *Ekphrasis – Images, Cinema, Theory, Media* (www.ekphrasisjournal.ro) – indexed in ESCI Clarivate, Scopus, and Erih+
- 2020-2024 member of CNATDCU, National Council for Attestation of Higher Education and PhD Degrees and Certificates.
- 2024 - Member of ARACIS, Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education.
- 2014-2020 Independent Expert for Editorial and Cultural Programs financed by Romanian Government (AFCN – Ministry of Culture);

10.1. Memberships in professional associations

Member of the Association for Adaptation Studies (De Montfort University, Leicester, UK).
Member of the Society for Romanian Studies (St. Francis Xavier University, Canada).
Member of GUILD SSAH Deans Consortium.