

Research grant *Simion Mehedinți*, PN-IV-P2-2.1-BSM-2024-0013, 16.04.2025-28.02.2026

Contract nr. 1BSM/16.04.2025

**Exposée:** The present project aims to implement the results obtained during the 18-month scholarship funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, where I have been active since March 2019 as a habilitated professor. The submitted project has the title *Colonial and Maritime Discourses in German Literature and Culture from the 19th Century to the Present*. It focused on colonial maritime travels in German-speaking literature from the 19th century to the present. The aim was to examine the connections between colonialism and navigation in the history and literature of the time, as well as the literary representation of these phenomena as aesthetic experiences in lesser-known texts by canonical authors such as E.T.A. Hoffmann, Joseph von Eichendorff, Wilhelm Raabe, Alfred Döblin, Gerhart Hauptmann, Alfred Andersch, Peter Weiss, and up to the present.

In order to implement it at the University of Bucharest, I consider the following directions and outcomes: 1. Implementation of new courses and seminars 2. Extracurricular activities: founding of the scientific student circle of the department 3. Building of a research team 4. Continuation of collaboration with the University of Flensburg: workshops, academic exchanges, research internships, conferences; 5. Participation at international congresses and conferences.

## **Outcomes April 2025-february 2026**

### **1. Implementation of new courses and seminars**

- 1.1. CIVIS-Kurs *Refugees, Migrants and Exiles in German and Comparative Literature*<sup>1</sup>
- 1.2. Literature and intercultural mediality (B.A. 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 2025/26)
- 1.3. Introduction in the postcolonial studies (M.A., 2025/26)

### **2. Cultural and academic Dissemination, cooperation with NGOs and stakeholders**

**Founding of an (inter)cultural, general audience soirée/student circle *Germanisten Café*** in cooperation between University of Bucharest and Goethe Institute<sup>2</sup>, with open public access and participation.

Topics and guests of the four editions: *Colonialism in the German literature and culture* (April, with Prof. dr. Stephan Wolting, Berlin/Poznan); *Feminism at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century* (May, with Laurence Liedke, Leipzig); *Similarity as theoretical frame today* (June, with prof. dr. Dorothee Kimmich, Tübingen); *Emancipation of roma in the Romanian press between the two world wars* (October, with Cristina Pătrașcu, Flensburg); *Let's talk identity - Intercultural identity & images of femininity in dialogue* (Feb. 2026. with Smaranda Vasiliu)<sup>3</sup>.

### **3. Promoting and enlarging academic and institutional international cooperation**

- 3.1. Consolidation of the co-founded consortium *European Doctoral Network* (Augsburg, Bucharest, Limerick, Nancy, Santiago de Compostela, Verona), expanding academic and institutional cooperation and Participation at:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://civis.eu/en/learn/civis-courses/refugees-migrants-and-exiles-in-german-and-comparative-literature-3>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.goethe.de/ins/ro/de/ver.cfm?event\\_id=26534235](https://www.goethe.de/ins/ro/de/ver.cfm?event_id=26534235),  
[https://www.goethe.de/ins/ro/ro/ver.cfm?event\\_id=26666198](https://www.goethe.de/ins/ro/ro/ver.cfm?event_id=26666198),  
[https://www.goethe.de/ins/ro/ro/ver.cfm?event\\_id=27081235](https://www.goethe.de/ins/ro/ro/ver.cfm?event_id=27081235)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.goethe.de/ins/ro/ro/ver.cfm?event\\_id=27223138](https://www.goethe.de/ins/ro/ro/ver.cfm?event_id=27223138)

- The summer symposium 2025 *Connection.Points.Intertwined and interconnected*<sup>4</sup>, Augsburg 15-18.07.25 (together with my PhD students)
- conference (together with PhD students from the UB) *Old and new forms of commitment: cultural and artistic practices in Europe and around the world*<sup>5</sup>, 3-5.11.2025 (Nancy, France).

3.2. New project, starting from feb. 2026-feb. 2028 with the University of Mainz-Germersheim (prof. dr. Eva Wiegmann) (Germany), financed by DAAD (German Academic Exchange Office). Project title: *Interculturality in research and teaching*.

#### **4. Academic and scientific cooperation with the Humboldt host-university Flensburg, dissemination of research results**

- 4.1. May 2025: guest speaker at the Flensburger *Chicago Summer School*<sup>6</sup> with a lecture on *Jenseits des Mittelmeeres: Migration und Kolonialismus in Adalbert Stifters Novelle Abdias*, also book presentation of my monograph *Gescheiterter Kolumbus. Koloniale Seefahrten in der deutschsprachigen Literatur vom 19. bis zum 21. Jahrhundert* (420 p., Winter Verlag Heidelberg)<sup>7</sup>
- 4.2. Organization of a conference 13-14.11.2025, *European borders and its poetics* in Bucharest<sup>8</sup>
- 4.3. Research member in the project *Antiziganismus und Ambivalenz in Europa* (Univ. Flensburg)<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.uni-augsburg.de/de/forschung/foerderung/graduiertenprogramme/ggs/aktuelles/summer-symposium-2025-connectionpoints-intertwined-and-interconnected/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://lis.univ-lorraine.fr/agenda/old-and-new-forms-commitment-cultural-and-artistic-practices-europe-and-around-world>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.uni-flensburg.de/germanistik/kalender/event/chicago-summer-school>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.winter-verlag.de/en/detail/978-3-8253-9609-1/Radulescu\\_Gescheiterter\\_Kolumbus/](https://www.winter-verlag.de/en/detail/978-3-8253-9609-1/Radulescu_Gescheiterter_Kolumbus/)

<sup>8</sup> <https://germanice.ils.unibuc.ro/2025/europas-grenzen-und-poetisches-denken-13-14-november-2025/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.uni-flensburg.de/fogr-antiziganismus>

## 5. Dissemination of research results. Participation at international congresses and conferences

- 5.1. July 20-26<sup>th</sup> 2025, *IVG-Kongress Graz*, Romantische koloniale Irrfahrten auf hoher See, [https://static.uni-graz.at/fileadmin/ files/ event sites/ ivg-kongress-2025/Dokumente/IVG2025\\_Programm\\_03\\_Detail\\_16.07.2025.pdf](https://static.uni-graz.at/fileadmin/ files/ event sites/ ivg-kongress-2025/Dokumente/IVG2025_Programm_03_Detail_16.07.2025.pdf)
- 5.2. September 25-26<sup>th</sup> 2025, *Expressionism and colonialism*, Primitivistischer Expressionismus in Kasimir Edschmids Novellen (1915–1916) und die koloniale Falle, London, <https://sites.gold.ac.uk/comparative-literature/expressionism-and-colonialism/>
- 5.3. October 24-25<sup>th</sup> 2025, *Reflexionen zur deutschsprachigen Gegenwartsliteratur*, Back to nature. Transbiologische Poetiken in der deutschsprachigen Gegenwartsliteratur, Ljubljana, <https://ebooks.uni-lj.si/ZalozbaUL/catalog/book/811>
- 5.4. Organization in November 2025 of the conference *European borders and their poetics*, Europa und das Meer. Überlegungen zu einer Poetik der Osmose, Bucharest, <https://germanice.ils.unibuc.ro/2025/europas-grenzen-und-poetisches-denken-13-14-november-2025/>
6. Short research stay at the University of London, Goldsmith College, 23-29<sup>th</sup> sept. 2025
7. Membership in the board of the book series *Expressionism und Kulturgeschichte*, De Gruyter/Brill<sup>10</sup> (nov. 2025)
8. Research stay at the University of Tübingen and Institut für donauschwäbische Geschichte und Landeskunde Tübingen, 1-13<sup>th</sup> feb. 2026.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.degruyterbrill.com/serial/uniepkg-b/html>