

East & West

Picturing Spiritual and Sacred Traditions.
Representations in Art, Literature, and Folklore

International Conference
Sinaia, 9-10 October 2025



East and West: Picturing Spiritual and Sacred Traditions. Representations in Art, Literature, and Folklore

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Scientific Committee:

Sanda Golopenția (Brown University)
Ana Cristina Sousa (University of Porto)
Ioana Zirra (University of Bucharest)
Ioana-Ruxandra Fruntelată (University of Bucharest)
Paula Almeida Mendes (University of Porto)
Luiza Maria Dumitru Oancea (University of Bucharest)

Organizing Committee:

Silvia Marin Barutcieff (University of Bucharest, Faculty of Letters)
Ileana Benga (The Folklore Archive of the Romanian Academy, Cluj Napoca)
Florența Popescu Simion („C. Brăiloiu” Institute of Ethnography and Folklore)

Conference hosted by University of Bucharest in partnership with University of Porto.

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 8TH OCTOBER 2025

13.00–18.30 Arrival of the participants

18.30–20.00 Welcome dinner

THURSDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2025

10.00–10.30 Institutional greetings and introduction

Silvia Marin Barutcieff
Carmen Chifiriuc, Vice-Rector for Research, University of Bucharest
Oana Fotache Dubălaru, Dean of the Faculty of Letters
Florența Popescu Simion

10.30–11.30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER LECTURE

Ana Cristina Sousa (University of Porto), *Crossing Territories and Oceans: Materialities and Cultural Practices in Honour of the «Divine Holy Spirit»*

11.30–12.00 Coffee break

12.00–13.00 PANEL 1

INQUIRING ARTEFACTS: TRANSMISSION, PROVENANCE, REVIVAL

Chair: Silvia Marin Barutcieff

12.00–12.30 **Clarisse Prêtre** (CNRS, Paris), *Tradition or Reactivation? The Transfer of Ancient Rituals to Modern Italy*

12.30–13.00 **Anita Paolicchi** (University of Pisa), *Cope or Cape? The History of St Guido's Cloak between Reality and Popular Devotion*

13.00–14.30 Lunch

14.30–16.00 PANEL 2

TREASURED OBJECTS AND DEVOTIONAL IMAGES

Chair: Anita Paolicchi

14.30–15.00 **Felipe Serrano Estrella** (University of Jaén), **Néstor Prieto Jiménez** (Jaén Cathedral), *The Veronicas of Jaén and Rome: Proximity and Distance between Two Relics*

15.00–15.30 **Cláudia Costa Pires** (University of Porto), *Sumptuary Liturgical and Devotional Objects in 16th Century Portugal. Voyage and Significance of Materials, Forms and Images*

15.30–16.00 **Vita Santoro** (University of Basilicata, Matera), *Devotional Objects, Sacred Representations, Cultural Creativity. An Ethnographic Experience among Craftspeople in a Southern Italian Area*

16.00–16.30 Coffee break

16.30–18.00 PANEL 3

TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE WITHIN RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

Chair: Florența Popescu Simion

16.30–17.00 **Ileana Benga** (Folklore Archive of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca), *A Romanian Notebook of Prayer among Multiple Books of Folklore. Notes on an Unpublished Private Collection*

17.00–17.30 **Jean-Michel Butel** (INALCO, Paris), *Long-Lasting Forms, Variable Functions: What the Votive Tablet (Ema) in Japan Has to Say about the Centrality of Materiality in Religious Practices*

17.30–18.00 **Irina Grigore** (University of Tokyo), *Oshirasama Worship: Women and Ritual Representation in Aomori, Japan*

19.00–20.30 Dinner

FRIDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2025

10.00–11.00 **KEYNOTE SPEAKER LECTURE**

Ioana-Ruxandra Fruntelată (University of Bucharest), *Myth, Magic and Religious Experience: Midways to the Sacred*

11.00–12.30 PANEL 4

ONE PROTAGONIST, MANY STORIES: PICTURING MARIANIC DEVOTION

Chair: Ana Cristina Sousa

11.00–11.30 **Ángel Justo-Estebanz** (University of Seville), *Quito Virgins in the Habit of the Mercedarian Order*

11.30–12.00 **Katharina Januschewski** (Brandenburg Cathedral Museum), *Picturing the 'Life of Ecclesia' in Gothic France: Byzantine Iconography in the Sculptural Childhood of Mary Cycle at Auxerre Cathedral*

12.00–12.30 **Silvia Marin Barutcieff** (University of Bucharest), *How to Drape Your Mary: Meanings and Functions of Background Textiles in the Eighteenth Century Transylvanian Iconography of Annunciation*

13.00–14.30 Lunch

14.30–16.00 PANEL 5

SACRED LANDSCAPES, SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

Chair: Ileana Benga

14.30–15.00 **Paula Almeida Mendes** (University of Porto), *Devotional Practices in Portugal in 16th-18th Centuries: Texts, Contexts and Objects*

15.00–15.30 **Florența Popescu Simion** (Constantin Brăiloiu Institute of Ethnography and Folklore, Bucharest), *Tiptoeing on the Verge – The Midsummer Feast and the Challenges of (Vernacular) Religion*

15.30–16.00 **Tünde Komáromi** (Károli Gáspár University, Budapest), *Communal Anointing of the Sick: The Post-Socialist Transformation of An Orthodox Christian Ritual*

16.00–16.30 Coffee break

16.30–17.30 PANEL 6

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES: THEIR CONTEXTS AND NARRATIVES

Chair: Ioana-Ruxandra Fruntelată

16.30–17.00 **Inga Kuźma** (University of Łódź), *The Sacred Nature – Exploring Contemporary Environmental-Based Healing Practices*

17.00–17.30 **Bogdan Neagota** (Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca), *Romanian Folk Mariology: Narrative and Ritual Thematisations*

17.30–18.00 **Closing remarks**

Ana Cristina Sousa and Ioana-Ruxandra Fruntelată

19.00–20.30 Dinner