

# ICES Gender & Society International Conference June 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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## Book of Abstracts



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# ICES Gender & Society International Conference

## June 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Overview

Despite the undeniable progress that has been made in the past few decades, gender inequality remains embedded in the very fabric of our society. While women constitute roughly half of our population, they still face challenges, obstacles, and burdens unmatched by the challenges, obstacles, and burdens that the other half of the population is confronted with. The difference stems from the fact that almost every human society sustains and preserves a pattern of unequal opportunities at all levels of society, and almost everywhere in the world.

The driving principle of our conference is that gender, and the ways gender representations and society interact, are of defining importance for the growth and development of our world. We believe that understanding the relationship between gender and society historically and cross-culturally, and the changes in the roles of women and men in different social and cultural contexts, will provide better ways to advance gender equality. The conference explores multidisciplinary topics such as social construction and the role of gender within various societies, the meanings of gender and sex in past and modern societies, women's contemporary and historical experiences, and cultural practices that shape social identities and uphold structural inequalities. We also feature presentations that shed light on women's contributions to, experiences of, and participation in various social, political, cultural, scientific, and economic fields, highlighting their valuable insights and perspectives.

This year's presentations critically engage with diverse topics, including (but not limited to) the relationships among gender, politics, economy, law, education, health, nature, intersectionality, and gender-based violence. The conference also features presentations on topics such as gender in the digital age, historical perspectives on gender, literary and artistic representations of gender, and contemporary feminist perspectives. The conference brings together specialists from various academic fields who focus their research on these topics, and we are proud to include contributions from many young researchers in our program.

Each year, our conference features a guest symposium on a specific topic. This year, we host the 8th edition of the **National Scientific Symposium *The Paradigm of Consciousness – Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Approaches***, focused on “*Gender and Mental Health*”, aiming to explore the complex ways in which gender shapes mental health, illness, well-being, and access to care within psychological, social, cultural, and ethical contexts. Moving beyond purely biological explanations, the symposium brings together scholars and practitioners from the social sciences, humanities, medicine, and public health to examine gendered experiences of



## ICES Gender & Society International Conference June 17th to 19th, 2026

physical and mental health, health-related behaviors, healthcare inequalities, and policy implications. Through interdisciplinary dialogue, this year's symposium seeks to advance a nuanced understanding of health as a gendered human experience and to promote more inclusive and equitable approaches to research, clinical practice, and health policy.

Starting in 2026, the **ICES Gender & Society International Conference** will be honored to provide an international forum for multi- and interdisciplinary dialogue, generating transformative knowledge that has the potential to inform policy, practice, and social change.

# **ICES Gender & Society International Conference**

## **June 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

### **ORGANIZER**

**Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research (ICES),  
Romanian Academy, Iași Branch**

### **PARTNERS**

**IFSGen. The Romanian Network for Women's and Gender History**

**The Center for the Study of Equal Opportunity Policies (CPES), University of Bucharest.**

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**Center for Counseling, Career Guidance and Social Inclusion, Gheorghe Asachi Technical  
University of Iași**

**Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași**

**Department of Philosophy and Department of Sociology and Social Work, Faculty of Philosophy  
and Social-Political Sciences, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași**

**Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, “Lucian Blaga” University  
of Sibiu**

**Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Hyperion University, Bucharest**

**Petre Andrei University of Iași**

**Library of the Romanian Academy, Iași Branch**

**The “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Press**

**Rural Development Research Platform, Iași, Romania**

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Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

**Dr. Alina Rusu**

8 Doctoral School *Education, Reflection, Development*, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, Babeș-Bolyai University, and *The Human-Animal Interaction Lab* at USAMV, Cluj-Napoca

**Dr. Marinela Rusu**

Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch

**Dr. Mirela Ștefănescu**

“George Enescu” National University of Arts, Iași

## PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 17.06 Library of the Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, Bd. Carol I, 8, Iași (in Romanian)  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82760603342?pwd=Wa0yZtUidUMFIMuLaB6gDNPx7PZ4ha.1>

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09:00 – 09:30 Opening of the Conference

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09:30 – 10:00 *Anatomy of Women: A Performative Conference*

Performers: Andreea Nechita, Matei Bantaș, Cezar Doboș, Carla Botez, Maria Tănase, Mihaela Tăcuțanu, Vasilica Bălăiță, "George Enescu" National University of Arts, Iași

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10:00 – 12:15 Inspiring Women (I)

*Co-chairs: Cătălina Răducu & Cristina Maria Tofan*

Eugenia Bogatu, State University of Moldova

*Metamorphoses of Feminine Consciousness: A Phenomenological Interpretation*

.....

Răzvan Lucian Andronic, "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy Brașov

*Gender Issues in Military Organizations*

.....

Ecaterina Heghea, Anatolii Rojco, Tatiana Colesnicova, Mihail Ciobanu, National Institute for Economic Research of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

*Socioeconomic Profiles of the Population at Risk of Poverty in the Context of Income Inequality in the Republic of Moldova from a Gender Perspective*

.....

Vicențiu Gabor, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

Ciprian Iftimoaei, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Petre Andrei University of Iași

Alexandru Ungureanu, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

*Spatial Patterns and Territorial Disparities of Mental Health Vulnerability in the European Union: Depression and Anxiety*

.....

Mirela Ștefănescu, "George Enescu" National University of Arts, Iași

Mircea Ștefănescu, "George Enescu" National University of Arts, Iași

*Exploring the Creative Potential through Interdisciplinary Approaches*

.....

**Marinela Rusu**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

*The Specificity of Feminine Ethics*

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12:15 – 12:30 Coffee break

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12:30 – 13:10 Keynote presentation – Gender & Mental Health Symposium

**Daniela Șoitu**, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

*Working Life and Digitalised Ageing – Gender Inequalities and Wellbeing*

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13:10 – 14:00 Lunch and Art Exhibition by Marinela Rusu, visual artist

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14:00 – 15:00 *The Woman in the Wallpaper*, after Charlotte Perkins Gilman

By **Dumitriana Condurache**, "George Enescu" National University of Arts, Iași

With **Roxana Durneac**

Director: **Dumitriana Condurache**

Sound and video: **Andrei Alecsandru**

Scenic movement: **Georgiana Dimitrescu**

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15:00 – 17:00 Inspiring Women (II)

*Co-chairs: Aurora Hrițuleac & Bogdan Olaru*

**Nadejda Chironda**, State University of Moldova

*Interpretation of Female Suffering: Architecture of a Fractured Self*

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**Ana Ilinca**, The National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives

**Marius Bejenaru**, The National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives

*Aspects of Mental Illness and Deviance in the Interpretation of Clinical and Forensic Psychiatry in the Soviet Union and Socialist Romania*

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**Aurora Hrițuleac**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

*Eve and Sophia. Two Feminine Archetypes and Their Influence on Women's Social Status*

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**Marius Dumitrescu**, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

*The Transition from Matriarchy to Patriarchy from the Perspective of Anthropology of Gender Difference within the Mediterranean Neolithic Civilizations*

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.....  
**Georgiana Corcaci**, Petre Andrei University of Iași  
*Identity in the Digital Age: A Psychosocial Analysis of the Digital Self and Gender Differences*  
.....

**Oana Maria Nicuță Nae**, "George Enescu" National University of Arts, Iași  
*Between Idealization and Intimacy: The Construction of the Feminine Image in Early Modern Romanian Painting (1859–1880)*  
.....

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17:00 – 17:15 Coffee break

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17:15 – 19:15 Inspiring Women (III)  
*Co-chairs: Laura Mocanu & Astrid Cambose*

**Astrid Cambose**, Alexandru Philippide Institute of Romanian Philology, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch  
*The Long Life of Gender Stereotypes in Traditional Romanian Society*  
.....

**Daniela Butnaru**, Alexandru Philippide Institute of Romanian Philology, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch  
*Where Are the Women? Gender Asymmetry in Romanian Toponymy*  
.....

**Cătălina Mihalache**, A.D. Xenopol Institute of History, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch  
*Headmistress: One of the First Forms of Public Empowerment of Women (19th–20th centuries)*  
.....

**Cătălin Botoșineanu**, National Archives of Romania, Iași  
*A Constitutional Dilemma. Women Professors at the University of Iași between the Two World Wars*  
.....

**Daniela Matei**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch  
*The Geometry of Resilience: The Art of Inscribing Identity – Women in the Rural World, between Tradition and Economic Autonomy*  
.....

**Alina Hurubean**, Petre Andrei University of Iași  
*Je suis une femme de l'Est (I Am a Woman from the East). Autoethnographies in Transition*  
.....

DAY 2: 18.06.2026 (online)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82760603342?pwd=Wa0yZtUidUMFIMuLaB6gDNPx7PZ4ha.1>

09:00 – 11:20 Gender, Culture & History (in Romanian)

*Co-chairs: Cătălina Mihalache & Elena Bărbulescu*

Petronel Zahariuc, A.D. Xenopol Institute of History, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

*A Right Page in the History of Romanian Monasticism: Nun Elisaveta (Safta) Safta Brâncoveanu*

Lilia Zabolotnaia, National Museum of History of Moldova

*A Dialogue on the Meaning of Life in an Unpublished Manuscript by Constantin Stere (1891):  
Historical, Literary, and Philosophical Perspectives*

Elena Bărbulescu, The Folklore Archive of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca

*A Woman Has to Work All Day, As She Wants! Women's Work in the Rural Transylvania*

Daniela Patraș, Valahia University, Târgoviște

*Women's Participation in the Romanian Red Cross: Humanitarian Care, Public Service, and  
Gendered Roles, 1939–1944*

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Sergiu Cogut, Institute of Romanian Philology "B.P. Hasdeu", State University of Moldova

*Two Exceptional Female Personalities in the History of Ancient Thought*

Oxana Gherman, Institute of Romanian Philology "B. P. Hasdeu", State University of Moldova

*Representations of Paternity in (Post)Soviet Childhood Novels*

Ioana-Iulia Olaru, "George Enescu" National University of Arts, Iași

*Ancient Cycladic Painting at Akrotiri: Case Studies*

11:25 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:15 Gender, Society & Philosophy (I) (in English)

*Co-chairs: Codruța Cuceu & Ionuț Bîrliba*

Codruța Cuceu, "George Barițiu" History Institute, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch

*Femininity as a Symbolic Experience: Françoise Dolto's Contribution to the Understanding of  
Women's Mental Health*

Horia Costin Chiriac, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

*The Moral Power of Public Speaking: The Case of Emmeline Pankhurst*

Arthur Mihăilă, "Babeş-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca

*Defining the Concept of "Woman" in Contemporary Debates: Between Sex and Gender Identity*

Olivia Niţiş, Institute of Art History "G. Oprescu" of the Romanian Academy

*Gender Disruption, Norm and Patriarchal Validation: Sofia Nădejde (1856–1946) and Sonja Nădejde (1876–1947) at the Intersection between the 19th and 20th Century*

Iunis-Ştefana Minculete, Universitatea „Lucian Blaga”, Sibiu

*The Status of Women Writers in the Communist and Post-Communist Periods: Narrowing the Gap in the Reception of Texts Written by Women and Men*

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13:15 – 13:30 Coffee Break

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13:30 – 14:45 Flash presentations (in English)

*Co-chairs: Irina Frasin & Cătălina Răducu*

Narcisa Cozea, "George Bariţiu" History Institute, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch

*Gendered Normativity in Algorithmic Creativity: Legal Perspectives on Bias and Responsibility*

Nicoleta Vasilcovschi, Ştefan cel Mare University Suceava

*Rethinking Economic Diplomacy through Gender and Business Communication*

Mihail Ciobanu, National Institute for Economic Research of Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

*Gender Dimensions of Social Protection for Children in Difficulty: Theoretical Foundations and Contemporary Challenges*

Floreanţa Lozinsky, "George Bariţiu" History Institute, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch

*Feminine Poses: from Stereotypes to Contemporary Realities. Case Study "Dilema Veche"*

Livia Marginean, State University of Moldova

*Interinstitutional Communication in Child Protection Systems: A Gender-Sensitive Perspective*

Liana-Georgiana Stoian, State University of Moldova

*Gendered Vulnerabilities and the Limits of Neutrality in Juvenile Criminal Justice*

Cristina Maria Tofan, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iaşi Branch

*When AI Speaks Gender: How Chatbots Reproduce Social Norms and Inequality*

.....  
**Irina Frasin**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

*Cat Ladies and Gender Non-conformity*

.....

**Cătălina Răducu**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

*Gender as Kintsugi: Mental Health Effects of Patriarchal Gender Norms*

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14:45 – 15:00 Coffee break

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15:00 – 18:15 Gender & Mental Health Symposium (I) (in English)

*Chair: Cristina Maria Tofan*

15:00 – 15:40 Keynote presentation

**Martina Rašticová**, Mendel University in Brno, Faculty of Business and Economics, Czech Republic

*Who Struggles More with Digital Work? Gender and Age Inequalities in Technostress*

.....

15:40 – 18:15 Theoretical and Applied Inquiries Regarding Gender and Mental Health

14 **Adina-Brîndușa Baciu**, "Francisc I. Rainer" Institute of Anthropology, Romanian Academy  
*Digital Addiction – A Gender Neutral Disorder*

.....

**Oxana Isac**, State University of Moldova

*Gender-Sensitive Mental Health Policies*

.....

**Aurora Hrițuleac**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

*How to 'Domesticate' a Woman Case Study: William Shakespeare's 'The Taming of the Shrew'*

.....

**Alexandra Ruscanu**, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

*Intimacy, Constraint, and Psychological Dissonance. A Reading of the Character Lenora Hallipa from the Perspective of the Mad Woman Trope*

.....

**Savcenco Silvia**, National Institute for Economic Research, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

*Gender, Culture and Mental Health: A Multidisciplinary Analysis*

.....

**Suzana Turcu**, "Francisc I. Rainer" Institute of Anthropology, Romanian Academy

*Gender as a Determinant of Mental Health, Illness and Wellbeing: A Life-Course Perspective*

.....

**Ionuț-Adrian Măgurianu**, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

**Cristina Maria Tofan**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

**Liviu-Adrian Măgurianu**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

*The Invisible Gender in the Neurobiology of Yoga*

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**Mihaela Dragomir**, State University of Moldova

*Stretching Masculinity: Socio-Cultural Barriers to Yoga and Men's Mental Health*

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18:15 – 18:30 Coffee break

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18:30 – 20:30 Gender, Society & Philosophy (II) (in English)

*Co-chairs: Ana Maria Hojbotă & Bogdan Olaru*

**Ana Maria Hojbotă**, Honorary Consulate of Romania to Connecticut, USA

*From Feminism to "Femininity", Back to One's True Self: The Recurring Narrative Template of Political Conversion Testimonies from Early Antifeminist Writings to Contemporary Tradwife and Red Pill Digital Subcultures*

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**Kayleigh Timmer**, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

*Towards a Solidary Fatigue*

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**Moreno Paulon**, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa FCSH - CHAM Centro de Humanidades, Portugal

*Symptom, Sign, Meaning. Dora, Embodiment and the Semiology of Behaviours*

---

**Andrei Preda**, Umeå University, Sweden

*From 'Domestic Incident' to Femicide: Framing Gendered Violence in Romanian Mainstream Media and Feminist Counter-narratives*

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**Fatma R. Yilmaz**, The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Bucharest

*Negotiating Agency: Muslim Women in Europe Between Secular Political Morality and Islamic Moral Frameworks*

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**Daniel Clinci**, Ovidius University of Constanța

*Queer Cyborgs: Bodies at the End of the World*

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DAY 3: 19.06.2026 (online)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82760603342?pwd=Wa0yZtUidUMFIMuLaB6gDNPx7PZ4ha.1>

09:00 – 12:15 Parallel sessions

*Gender, Institutions & Work (I+II) and Gender & Mental Health Symposium (II)*

09:00 – 10:45 Gender, Institutions & Work (I) (in Romanian)

*Co-chairs: Daniela Matei & Nicoleta Mihăilă*

Rodica Ciobanu, State University of Moldova, Academy of Sciences of Moldova  
*Professional Security in Research: The Gender Dimension and Institutional Vulnerabilities*

.....

Nicoleta Mihăilă, Center for Financial and Monetary Research "Victor Slăvescu",  
Romanian Academy  
*Trends and Perspectives Regarding Gender Equality in the Labor Market in the European Union*

.....

Inga Chistruga-Sînchevici, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova  
*Family Policies and Gender Inequality: Between Formal Support and Social Realities in the Republic of Moldova*

.....

Rodica Popa, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova  
*Process-Oriented Management and the Mental Well-Being of SME Administrators: Effects on Cognitive Load, Decision-Making and Gender Differences*

.....

Ionel Ciprian Alecu, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research,  
Romanian Academy, Iași Branch  
*Issues of Economic Resilience and Gender Equality in Eastern European Countries*

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10:45 – 12:15 Gender, Institutions & Work (II) (in Romanian)

*Co-chairs: Samira Cîrlig & Vasile Pleșca*

Samira Cîrlig, The European Centre for Ethnic Studies, Romanian Academy  
*The Statistical Representation of Women in the Romanian Parliament*

.....

Petre Lăcrămioara, "Francisc I. Rainer" Institute of Anthropology, Romanian Academy  
Turcu Suzana, "Francisc I. Rainer" Institute of Anthropology, Romanian Academy  
*Gender Differences in HIV Prevalence and Incidence Worldwide*

.....

**Carmen Palaghia**, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași  
*Profile of the Female Recruiter in Human Trafficking*

.....

**Anca Iorga**, Spiru Haret University  
*Women in the World of Sports*

.....

**Alexandra Reta Iacobini**, Spiru Haret University, Bucharest  
**Anca Iorga**, Spiru Haret University, Bucharest  
*Gender, Society, and Female Participation in Sports: Structural, Psychological, and Socio-Cultural Determinants in Team and Individual Sports*

09:00 – 12:15 Gender & Mental Health Symposium (II) – Empirical Research Regarding Gender and Mental Health (in Romanian)  
*Chair: Liviu-Adrian Măgurianu*

**Ecaterina Țărnă**, "Ion Creangă" State Pedagogical University of Chisinau  
*Optimism and Non-Conflictual Attitude as Mental Health Resources in Shaping Reflective Consciousness Regarding Gender Stereotypes*

.....

**Silvia Briceag**, "Alecru Russo" State University of Bălți, Moldova

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**Bianca Peltea**, "Spiru Haret" University, Bucharest  
*Moderating Effects of Gender on Irrational Beliefs and Self-undermining in Organizational Psychology*

.....

**Elena Bîrsan**, "Ion Creangă" State Pedagogical University of Chișinău  
*Assertiveness as a Mediating Factor Between Gender Stereotypes and Mental Health in the University Teaching Career*

.....

**Traian Hoidrag**, "Ion Creangă" State Pedagogical University of Chișinău  
*Women's Involvement in Psychotherapy and Psychological Counseling: Roles, Experiences, and Performance*

.....

**Felicia Cordoneanu**, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați  
*The Myth of the Resilient Woman. Mental Health, Overburdening, and the Individual Responsibilization of Suffering*

.....

**Cristina Karabulut**, "Ion Creangă" State Pedagogical University of Chişinău  
*Emotional Literacy in Primary Education: Pedagogical Landmarks for Supporting Mental Health from a Gender Perspective*

.....

**Tudor Stanciu**, Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iasi  
**Liviu-Adrian Măgurianu**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch

**Ruxandra Curcă**, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi  
**Cristina Maria Tofan**, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi  
*The Functionality of the Family and Anxiety in Young Adults: The Role of Perceived Emotional Regulation Strategies at the Family and Personal Level*

.....

**Răzvan-Vasile Todoran**, Alba County Center for Educational Resources and Assistance  
*Between Identity and Becoming: Psycho-Pedagogical Counseling in the Dynamics of Mental Health and Gender*

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12:15 – 12:30 Coffee break

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12:30 – 14:30 Gender, Institutions & Work (in English)  
*Co-chairs: Alina Haller & Alina Georgeta Ailincă*

**Mihaela Man**, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu  
**Gabriela-Maria Man**, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu  
**Cristina Maria Tofan**, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch  
*Discrimination in the Academic Setting*

.....

**Alina Georgeta Ailincă**, Centre for Financial and Monetary Research "Victor Slăvescu", Romanian Academy  
**Gabriela Cornelia Piciu**, Centre for Financial and Monetary Research "Victor Slăvescu", Romanian Academy  
*Woman's Images in Sustainable Development Targets – A Literature Review*

.....

**Padmini Ram**, Shreya Sajeev, Tanya Toshali, Simran Bhattarai, Urban Ethnographers, India  
*Beyond Skill Acquisition: Institutional and Relational Mediators in Women's Labour Market Entry in Bengaluru and Hosur*

.....

Merve Ertok Onurlu, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Türkiye  
*Does Gender Inequality Affect Female Life Expectancy at Birth? Panel Data Evidence from Selected Balkan Countries*

Helena Boškajová, Ivana Butoracová Šindleryová, University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Slovakia  
*Gender Equality in the Public Sector: Representation of Women in Management Positions in Public Administration in the Slovak Republic*

Russel Clint C. Caoeng, Hanna Marice M. Dolores, Alyssa Jade J. Barangay, Leanne F. Martos, Amanda Jia Maira P. Ollero, Basic and Inclusive Education Schools, LORMA Colleges, San Juan, Philippines  
*HEALOT: Senior Citizens' Lived Experiences of Hilot in Luna, La Union*

Rossella Marisi, Conservatorio "L. D'Annunzio", Pescara, Italy  
*Gender-Based Marginalization and Professional Devaluation: Some Reflections on Éliane Radigue and Delia Derbyshire*

14:30 – 14:45 Coffee break

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14:45 – 16:45 Gender, Education & Learning Spaces (in Romanian)  
*Co-chairs: Felicia Ceauşu & Silvia Popovici*

Mariana Goraş, Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova  
*The Challenges of Beginning Teachers in Promoting Gender Equality in the School Environment*

Silvia Popovici, Mihai Eminescu Central University Library, Iaşi  
*Gendered Spaces of Knowledge: University Libraries as Sites of Well-Being, Socialization, and Academic Performance*

Lilia Țurcan, "Ion Creangă" State Pedagogical University of Chişinău  
*The Role of Tolerance Education in Anticipating Aggressive Behavior Among Students from a Gender Perspective*

Simoiu Daniela, "Ion Creangă" State Pedagogical University of Chişinău  
*Gender Studies and STEM Sciences: An In-Depth Transdisciplinary Approach*

Irina Scutariu, "George Enescu" National University of Arts, Iaşi  
*The Gender Paradigm: Substitution in Form and Style*

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Felicia Ceaușu, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch

*Exploring the Relationships between Gender Differences and Digital Media Use: A Systematic Literature Review*

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16:45 – 17:00 Coffee break

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17:00 – 19:00 Gender, Society & Philosophy (III) (in Romanian)

Co-chairs: *Cristina Maria Tofan & Cătălina Răducu*

Felicia Cordoneanu, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați

*Equality under Conditions of Difference. Gender Stereotypes, Discursive Confusions, and the Artificial Antagonization of Masculinity and Femininity in the Contemporary Public Sphere*

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Corina Pantelimon Bistriceanu, The European Centre for Ethnic Studies, Romanian Academy

*Gender Equality and Family Deconstruction*

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Anca Jianu, Spiru Haret University

*Woman between Biology and Culture: A Humanistic Perspective on Gender Differences*

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Ecaterina Dmitric, State University of Moldova

*A Phenomenological Interpretation of the Concept of Feminine Authenticity*

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Marius Popescu, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

*Gender Perspective and the Symbol as a Spiritual Expression of Life*

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Adrian Lucian Dinu, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

Claudia Elena Dinu, "Grigore T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Iași

*Woman and Feminism Today: A Christian Orthodox Perspective*

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19:00 – 19:30 Closing of the Conference

## ICES Gender & Society International Conference 2026

### Abstracts

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#### Alina Georgeta AILINĂ, Gabriela Cornelia PICIU

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Centre for Financial and Monetary Research „Victor Slăvescu”, „Costin C. Kirişescu” National Institute for Economic Research, Romanian Academy, Bucharest

#### Woman's Images in Sustainable Development Targets – A Literature Review

**Abstract:** Despite the unofficial role recognized by women in society from antiquity to the present, women remain not only a source of mystery to humanity, through the power of femininity and motherhood, but also an undeniable subject of contradictory actions, discrimination, and even violence. Although attitudes towards women have improved, especially in democratic societies, statistical and empirical monitoring of progress is not so well reflected in the literature. Although SDG5 predominantly addresses the issue of gender equality through specific indicators, such as: reduction of discrimination, violence and other harmful practices against girls and women, as well as leadership opportunities, adequate remuneration and participation at all decision-making levels for women, gender related issues are nevertheless addressed transversally by a multitude of Sustainable Development Goals (e.g. SDGs 3, 4, 6, 8 and 13). The presentation aims to address the relevance of women's involvement in social life from the perspective of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The results of the study highlight progress made in public, private, and societal policies, while also highlighting numerous gaps in adequately capturing the importance of women in the world through the lens of the SDGs.

**Keywords:** sustainability, women in society, gender equality

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#### Ionel Ciprian ALECU

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Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iaşi Branch

#### Issues of Economic Resilience and Gender Equality in Eastern European Countries

**Abstract:** Gender equality is a European Union objective addressed as a priority across various policies and strategies. The challenges generated by the health, economic, and political crises of recent years have systematically led to increasingly pragmatic discussions regarding the need for resilience within every state, regardless of its geographic location or geopolitical alignment. Each of these concepts is typically approached separately, most often viewed as independent, complex constructs in specific analyses. The purpose of this article is to examine the necessity of linking these conceptual constructs and integrating them into the same analytical framework underpinning national development. Thus, we bring into discussion the primary dimensions

used to evaluate economic resilience and gender equality, respectively, for countries in Eastern Europe, and how they have evolved in recent times. We aim to outline a framework of qualitative associations and correspondences between these dimensions in order to build a comprehensive picture of how vital the connection between these two concepts is for future analyses.

**Keywords:** gender equality index, economic resilience index, development strategies

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### Răzvan Lucian ANDRONIC

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“Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy Braşov

#### Gender Issues in Military Organizations

**Abstract:** Military organizations worldwide continue to grapple with deep-seated gender inequalities rooted in historic institutional cultures. Despite decades of reforms — including the removal of combat exclusion policies, the implementation of gender mainstreaming models, and the introduction of participation targets — Western militaries remain heavily male-dominated organizations, and a growing scholarly consensus suggests that progress toward gender equality has stalled (Williams et al., 2024). Women in military contexts are generally expected to conform to masculine organizational norms, including demonstrations of physical strength, authority, and dominance (Diacone et.al., 2025), which generates significant pressures on female personnel across all career stages. Persistent sexism and gendered stereotypes regarding physical ability and leadership potential remain salient barriers that limit opportunities for evaluation, mentorship, and promotion (Tait-Signal, Febbraro, 2024). Military organizations have often been found to be highly gendered due to their bureaucratic, hierarchical nature, their traditional view of merit, and their resistance to norms of gender equality. As women’s entry into the military increases alongside political and societal demands for inclusion, resistance to these ‘new’ norms is also intensifying (Holmberg, Alvinus, 2024). Military institutions are shaped by and sustain patriarchal structures and hegemonic masculinities. Within these institutions, traditional gender norms and power influence informal practices and rules that constrain efforts to advance gender-responsiveness, inclusion, and equality. Gender Advisors (GENADs) have played a key role in worldwide military efforts to integrate gender perspectives and drive cultural change within defense and security contexts; however, military organizations continue to face challenges in diversity and inclusion, including limited representation of women and other marginalized groups (Gordon, Lee-Koo, 2025). In Romania, this type of approach has been present since 2024, with the adoption of a specific order of the Ministry of National Defense (2024). This paper examines the structural, cultural, and policy dimensions of gender related issues in military organizations, drawing on recent empirical and theoretical scholarship. It argues that meaningful progress requires not only policy reform but a fundamental transformation of organizational culture, leadership practices, and institutional norms.

**Keywords:** gender equality, military organizations, hegemonic masculinity, women in the military, organizational culture, gender mainstreaming

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Vasilica BĂLĂIȚĂ

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“George Enescu” University of Arts, Iași

**Anatomy of Women**

**Theater as a Critical Practice in 2036: From Apparatus to Anti-Apparatus**

**Abstract:** At an international conference exploring the relationship between feminism, humanity, and the human-machine society, an actress is invited to deliver a presentation on theater as a critical practice. Drawing on the concepts of the apparatus (Foucault, Agamben), habitus (Bourdieu), and embodiment (Michel Henry), she argues that experimental theater can function as an anti-apparatus: a space that suspends the logic of efficiency, control, and performance, restoring to the body the experience of presence and lived time. As the academic discourse unfolds, the lecture is gradually overtaken by biography and memory. On her birthday, the actress reflects on her youth, motherhood, the passage of time, and the approach of menopause. She recalls the births of her children, the scent of fertility, and the transformations of the female body. A critical inner voice constantly confronts her with her fears: aging, bodily decay, failure, lack of visibility, and the abandonment of dreams. In opposition to this voice, the woman asserts her desire to continue living, creating, and fulfilling her aspirations. In a moment of reflection, she recites excerpts from Euripides' *Medea*, connecting the experience of the contemporary woman with the fate and condition of women in the ancient tragedy. Thus, the past and the present converge in a meditation on sacrifice, motherhood, and the power dynamics between women and men. Toward the end, the actress reaches a form of reconciliation with herself. She embraces her age, her body, her experience, and her artistic identity, asserting that she has earned her own time and her own freedom. Despite her inner struggles, she reaffirms her status as an actress and her power to return to the stage. The conference symbolically concludes with the awarding of an honorary title for her contribution to restoring the human element in the relationship between man and machine, through the creation of theatrical anti-apparatuses and the promotion of interdisciplinary cultural education. At the last moment, a phone call from her mother brings the character back to everyday life, suggesting that the big questions about identity, love, and humanity remain inseparable from daily life. Essentially, the text aims to transform an academic discourse into a performative experience in which the theory of the anti-apparatus is demonstrated through the very life of a woman who refuses to be reduced to efficiency, age, or social role. The performance piece analyzed in this research, “Anatomy of a Woman”, was created in collaboration with Carolina Pizarro (Denmark) as part of an Erasmus artistic research project. The performance was presented in an initial work-in-progress form at the National Festival of Theater Schools, organized by the “George Enescu” National University of Arts in Iași, and forms the basis for the development of the concept of the anti-theatrical apparatus discussed in this paper.

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**Keywords:** experimental theater, theatrical anti-apparatus, UNAGE artistic research, Carolina Pizarro, corporeality

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**Elena BĂRBULESCU**

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The Folklore Archive of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca

**“A Woman Has to Work All Day, As She Wants!” Women’s Work in the Rural Transylvania**

**Abstract:** This presentation focuses on key aspects of women’s work in rural areas: the types of work women engage in and the extent of their involvement. The material used in the analysis results from many sessions of field research conducted by the author in several Transylvanian villages over the past thirty years. The presentation also highlights a range of intergenerationally differentiated reflections from the women interviewed, both within their gender and in relation to the opposite gender.

**Keywords:** women, work, village, generations

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**Corina Pantelimon BISTRICEANU**

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The European Centre for Ethnic Studies, Romanian Academy

**Gender Equality and Family Deconstruction**

**Abstract:** Based on social justice theories, studies on equal opportunities have extended to communities and small groups, including the family area. Interactionism, along with conflictualism, redefine the family as a flexible, process-based entity, in which the roles and patterns of interaction are – or need to be – continually redesigned, depending on the interests, circumstances, and abilities of each member. This perspective challenges the common definition of family as a stable structure or system with its own functionality, whose roles are divided according to gender and generation, capable of self-reproduction and of generating culture. The paper examines how the perspectives opened up by the current discourse on gender equality have deconstructive consequences for the family structure, its functional division, its cultural specificity, and its capacity for self-perpetuation. To this end, the main types of relationships in which the gender dimension plays a role are discussed: marital relationships, kinship, and the ties derived from them. The hypothesis that equality and democratization within family relationships increase solidarity and cohesion is refuted by the breakdown of the bonds of organic solidarity resulting from the specialization of roles.

**Keywords:** gender, role, equality, family, deconstruction

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**Eugenia BOGATU**

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State University of Moldova

**Metamorphoses of Feminine Consciousness: A Phenomenological Interpretation**

**Abstract:** This study analyzes the experiences women undergo during the process of forming their feminine identity. Feminine consciousness is constructed by drawing upon a series of experiences lived both through the awareness of one’s own corporeality and within the contexts of personal, social, and professional life. The roles that women inhabit in these settings contribute to the dynamic formation of feminine consciousness. From a phenomenological perspective, feminine consciousness is understood as intentionality, that is, openness toward the world and toward meaning. Intentionality means that the experiences women live through are dynamic and vivid. The flow of these experiences generates a series

of meanings within a woman's consciousness. This research highlights that feminine identity should not be reduced to a fixed structure but must be understood multidimensionally as corporeal, affective, and relational identity. The woman's body plays a fundamental role in the constitution of meaning, bringing together a range of daily, social, and existential experiences. The metamorphoses of feminine consciousness reflect the dynamics of processes related both to what is stable and to factors in a permanent state of becoming. Inner and outer worlds play a role in the development of feminine consciousness to an equal extent, while the relationship between the self and alterity represents the key connection that configures the constitution of feminine consciousness.

**Keywords:** feminine consciousness, feminine identity, intentionality, corporeality, meaning

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**Helena BOŠKAJOVÁ, Ivana BUTORACOVÁ ŠINDLEROVÁ**

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University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Slovakia

**Gender Equality in the Public Sector: Representation of Women in Management Positions in Public Administration in the Slovak Republic**

**Abstract:** Gender equality is one of the important principles of democratic governance and modern public policies. Despite gradual progress, however, women in many countries still do not achieve adequate representation in decision-making positions in the public sector. Public administration plays an important role in the creation and implementation of public policies, and the composition of its management positions is a relevant aspect of the functioning of decision-making processes in the public sector. This presentation focuses on gender diversity in decision-making positions in public administration in Slovakia, paying attention to the representation of women in management positions and the broader context of gender equality in the public sector. Methodologically, the paper is based on an analysis of available statistical data and relevant political and strategic documents aimed at promoting gender equality. The analysis also takes into account the broader European context, which highlights the importance of gender equality in the management of public institutions. The presentation contributes to the professional discussion on the position of women in public administration and on gender diversity in decision-making positions in the public sector.

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**Keywords:** gender equality, public administration, women in management positions, Slovak Republic

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**Cătălin BOTOȘINEANU**

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National Archives of Romania, Iași

**A Constitutional Dilemma. Women Professors at the University of Iași between the Two World Wars**

**Abstract:** With the law decree of November 14, 1918, on electoral reform, the vote became a universal male one, women being excluded from the exercise of political rights. The status of women between the two World Wars actually prolonged their downgrading, enshrined in the previous legislation. The Civil Code of 1865 and the Constitution of 1866 established inequality between men and women. The married woman had the same status as the minors or the mentally disabled, being practically devoid of juridical personality (the married woman could not manage her wealth, could not initiate a process without the

consent of her husband, any inquiry into the paternity of the child was forbidden, etc.). Although the 1923 constitution provided for full gender equality in Article 6, the civil emancipation of women remained a mere desideratum until the implementation of the law regarding the cancellation of the civil incapacity of married women in April 1932. Viewed from this background, one can say that the University of Iași took a rather illegal position. In 1920, a Romanian woman was able to vote for the first time in the election for the Romanian Senate. Vera Myller, who became a tenured professor at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Iași in November 1918, cast her vote together with the members of the university college. She and the next professor, Elena Densusianu-Puscariu, who was appointed in March 1922, voted in all interwar elections. The case of the two teachers remained singular compared with other Romanian universities, which refused to appoint women either as aggregate or tenured teachers.

**Keywords:** Iași University, electoral system, Vera Myller, Elena Pușcariu, political rights for women

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### Daniela BUTNARU

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Alexandru Philippide Institute of Romanian Philology, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

#### Where Are the Women? Gender Asymmetry in Romanian Toponymy

**Abstract:** Drawing on examples of place names from Iași – both past and present – this presentation explores the presence of women in Romanian public space and analyzes the glaring gender asymmetry in the naming of streets, squares, and institutions. A place name is not merely a geographical marker but, often, an ideologically charged linguistic act. Although the 20th and 21st centuries witnessed significant progress in women's emancipation, the linguistic landscape has remained a conservative palimpsest. This intervention advocates for a reevaluation of urban naming policies, which is essential for the correct reflection of the social value of women in Romanian history and culture.

**Keywords:** toponymy, gender asymmetry, female anthroponyms, hodonymy, social invisibility, urban space

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### Astrid CAMBOSE

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Alexandru Philippide Institute of Romanian Philology, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

#### The Long Life of Gender Stereotypes in Traditional Romanian Society

**Abstract:** My presentation approaches Romanian popular cultural representations and stereotypes about women, as they emerge from versified materials collected between 1897 and 1900 by the folklorists coordinated by the historian-philologist Gr. Tocilescu. My analysis refers to *Materialuri folkloristice, vol. I, Poesia poporană*, parts one and two. From the more than 4000 folklore pieces included in the massive collection, several anthropological categories stand out through a vision nurtured by a male-centered religious society. Women are generally assigned negative roles. The texts contain reflections of some conceptions dating from the pre-modern Romanian world, according to which women are associated with the devil, as the instrument of temptation, deception, and curses. The presentation proposes a breakdown of the categories that make up the stereotypical image of women at the end of the 19th century, including the maiden, the old spinster, the public woman, the good wife, the unhappy fiancée or wife, the good daughter, the perverted mother, and the unfaithful wife. The plasticity with which the examples render

the underlying traditional gender stereotypes is extraordinary. In the light of such synthesis and from an anthropological perspective, we may ask ourselves how much of these prejudices are still active today.

**Keywords:** gender stereotypes, traditional society, Romanian folklore, popular 19th and 20th century representations

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**Russel Clint C. CAOENG, Hanna Marice M. DOLORES, Alyssa Jade J. BARANGAY,  
Leanne F. MARTOS, Amanda Jia Maira P. OLLERO**

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Basic and Inclusive Education Schools, LORMA Colleges, San Juan, Philippines

### **HEALOT: Senior Citizens' Lived Experiences of Hilot in Luna, La Union**

**Abstract:** In the quiet communities of rural Philippines, the gentle hands of hilot continue to soothe the aches and pains of senior citizens. Hilot, a traditional Filipino healing massage therapy, is a trusted remedy, yet its experiential and cultural significance remains underexplored. This study sought to explore the lived experiences of senior citizens who receive hilot in Luna, La Union. Employing a qualitative phenomenological approach, five participants aged 60–70 years were engaged in face-to-face, semi-structured interviews, and the data gathered were analyzed through thematic analysis. Findings reveal that the use of hilot is deeply rooted in cultural heritage, reinforced by family and community traditions, and guided by considerations of accessibility, affordability, and prior positive outcomes. Participants often turn to hilot as an immediate response to minor ailments while reserving formal medical care for more serious conditions, reflecting a nuanced balance between tradition and modernity. These insights underscore hilot as not only a practical healing practice but also a vessel of cultural continuity, emphasizing the importance of integrating traditional wisdom into healthcare strategies that honor cultural beliefs while safeguarding the health and well-being of senior citizens in rural settings.

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**Keywords:** hilot, traditional healing method, senior citizens, lived experiences, rural communities

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### **Felicia CEAUȘU**

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Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

### **Exploring the Relationships between Gender Differences and Digital Media Use: A Systematic Literature Review**

**Abstract:** A systematic, qualitative literature review was performed to determine the extent and scope of scientific, peer-reviewed literature on gender differences and digital media use among adolescents. The research design consisted in four steps: (1) searching and identifying relevant literature; (2) reading abstracts; (3) analysing and categorising full papers; and (4) synthesising the findings. This review was conducted according to the articles preferred for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA) (Page and colab., 2021). The data were retrieved in April 2026 with the Boolean search "and". In this review, I included primary empirical studies investigating gender differences in digital media use. I used the following keywords (or a combination of keywords) in searching articles published between 2015 and 2025: digital media use, gender differences, and adolescents. My eligibility criteria for inclusion were: a) primary empirical studies published in peer-reviewed journals in English with full texts available; b) publication period between 2015 and 2025; c) focused on gender differences in media digital use among adolescents. Therefore, the following records were excluded from our review: conference abstracts, book

chapters, commentaries, editorials, academic letters, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, literature reviews, and all other types of non-empirical studies. According to the results, there are gender differences in digital media use, meaning that more male adolescents than female adolescents are using digital media technology. Conclusions: To date, more male than female adolescents use digital media in different contexts, so that computer literacy among females should be studied more carefully.

**Keywords:** gender differences, digital media use, adolescents

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### Horia Costin CHIRIAC

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

#### **The Moral Power of Public Speaking: The Case of Emmeline Pankhurst**

**Abstract:** The activity of Emmeline Pankhurst as a British political activist can be considered emblematic as far as the civic rights of women are concerned around the globe. Given that her struggles helped women to win the right to vote in Great Britain and Ireland in 1918, and given that her country represented an important example for other countries around the world due to its political influence, such public activity remains relevant up to the present. This presentation underlines the main aspects that characterize her point of view regarding the role of women in contemporary society by analyzing some of the most important discourses delivered by her in some of the most difficult political contexts.

**Keywords:** Emmeline Pankhurst, public speaking, civic rights, women, moral power

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### Nadejda CHIRONDA

State University of Moldova

#### **Interpretation of Female Suffering: Architecture of a Fractured Self**

**Abstract:** Experiencing gender-based violence induces a profound fracture within a person's ontological architecture. Recent insights from trauma phenomenology, alongside Susan J. Brison's scholarly contributions, demonstrate how prolonged abuse dismantles a victim's identity cohesion. Within this landscape of vulnerability, perpetrators frequently utilize psychological invalidation tactics, a mechanism theorized by Kate Abramson as an intentional destruction of an individual's capacity to know and trust personal reality. This manipulative strategy seeks to discredit women through persistent imposition of labels like irrationality or mental instability. Such discourse undermines a victim's credibility before society and herself, manifesting a form of epistemic injustice defined by Miranda Fricker. To transcend such alienation, philosophical counseling functions as an identity reconstruction practice utilizing applied critical thinking. Counseling environments provide a space of reflexive safety, grounded in care ethics and empathetic validation. Through Socratic dialogue, individuals analyze false premises and deconstruct distorted narratives imposed from external sources. Validating personal truth facilitates cognitive authority recovery and gradually restores coherence to a fractured self. This philosophical approach interprets suffering as a profoundly valid existential response to an oppressive reality.

**Keywords:** gender-based violence, epistemic injustice, philosophical counselling, identity reconstruction

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Inga CHISTRUGA-SÎNCHEVICI

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Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

**Family Policies and Gender Inequality: Between Formal Support and Social Realities in the Republic of Moldova**

**Abstract:** This paper examines the relationship between family policies and the persistence of gender inequalities in the Republic of Moldova, highlighting the gap between the existing normative framework and social realities. The conceptual analysis is grounded in a social constructionist perspective on gender, according to which gender roles are produced and reproduced through social institutions, including family policies. In this context, the study explores the mechanisms through which instruments such as parental leave, social transfers, and access to care services contribute to the institutionalization of an asymmetric division of family responsibilities. The paper is based on the hypothesis that family policies, although seemingly gender-neutral, may indirectly reinforce traditional gender roles, particularly by disproportionately assigning caregiving responsibilities to women. The analysis draws on national statistical data, public policy documents, and recent studies, complemented by a sociological interpretation of gender norms and practices. The findings suggest that, despite the existence of a relatively supportive legislative framework, women's participation in the labor market is negatively affected by the extended duration of childcare leave, limited access to early childhood care services, and the persistence of gender stereotypes. At the same time, the low uptake of parental leave by fathers reflects both institutional constraints and deeply embedded cultural norms. In conclusion, the study underscores the need to reconfigure family policies through a gender-sensitive lens that promotes a more equitable distribution of family responsibilities and supports the equal participation of women and men in economic and social life. The findings highlight that the effectiveness of family policies depends not only on their existence but also on their design and implementation, calling for a shift toward measures capable of generating substantive changes in social behaviors and opportunity structures. The paper contributes to ongoing debates on the role of public policies in advancing gender equality in contemporary societies.

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**Keywords:** Family policies, parental leave, childcare services, labor market participation

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Mihail CIOBANU

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National Institute for Economic Research of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

**Gender Dimensions of Social Protection for Children in Difficulty: Theoretical Foundations and Contemporary Challenges**

**Abstract:** The social protection of children in difficulty constitutes one of the most complex intersections of welfare state theory, rights-based frameworks, and gender analysis. This paper undertakes a systematic theoretical review of the major conceptual frameworks that have shaped scholarly and policy understanding of gender dimensions in child social protection. Drawing on welfare regime theory (Esping-Andersen), feminist critiques of social citizenship (Orloff), the redistribution-recognition paradigm (Fraser), feminist economics and care economy perspectives (Elson), and the historical sociology of childhood (Therborn), an integrated analytical framework is constructed for understanding how gender operates simultaneously as a structural determinant of children's vulnerability, as a characteristic of the adult caregivers upon whom children depend, and as a lens through which social protection systems evaluate and respond to need. The analysis further incorporates contemporary challenges arising from the

digital transformation of social protection delivery, examining both the risks – including algorithmic bias and digital exclusion – and the opportunities that technology presents for more gender-responsive child welfare systems. Concluding, we propose a multi-dimensional theoretical model that integrates the gendered dimensions of child vulnerability, caregiver capacity, institutional design, and digital infrastructure, offering a foundation for evidence-based policy development in transitional and accession-country contexts.

**Keywords:** children in difficulty, gender perspective, social protection, welfare state theory, care economy, feminist social policy, digitalization, child welfare

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## Rodica CIOBANU

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State University of Moldova, Academy of Sciences of Moldova

### Professional Security in Research: The Gender Dimension and Institutional Vulnerabilities

**Abstract:** The proposed contribution to the ICES *Gender & Society Conference* on professional security in research examines recent transformations in the research ecosystem of the Republic of Moldova and their implications for the stability of scientific careers, with particular attention to institutional vulnerabilities and gender inequalities. Overall, the paper seeks to underscore the importance of public policies in the research sector that establish sustainable and gender-sensitive organisational and funding mechanisms capable of ensuring professional security and fostering the long-term development of the scientific community. In support of this perspective, the paper analyses recent reforms in the research sector, marked by institutional reconfiguration and the integration of research institutes into the national university system. While these measures were justified by the need to streamline and consolidate academic resources, as well as to strengthen mechanisms for the implementation and transfer of research outputs, their consequences have been ambiguous. In particular, the reforms have generated concerns regarding the erosion of established research traditions, the weakening of scientific autonomy, and growing uncertainty surrounding the professional status and career security of researchers. Therefore, it is essential to address the growing issue of workplace insecurity in the research sector, which contributes to professional demotivation, the brain drain of highly qualified specialists, and the declining attractiveness of academic careers among younger generations. In this context, a key concern is the need for a stable and predictable research funding framework. The current reliance on competitive project-based funding as the primary means of securing financial resources for research teams generates multiple forms of professional insecurity. Moreover, this dependency undermines the continuity of research activities and constrains the long-term development of fundamental scientific fields. Furthermore, the consequences of these reforms are particularly significant from a gender perspective, as professional insecurity affects women and men in different ways. Notable disparities have been identified in access to resources, research projects, and leadership positions, alongside a heightened vulnerability of women in contexts marked by institutional instability and uncertainty.

**Keywords:** professional security, employment relations, research, reform, vulnerabilities

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**Samira CÎRLIG**

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The European Centre for Ethnic Studies, Romanian Academy

**The Statistical Representation of Women in the Romanian Parliament**

**Abstract:** This paper focuses on the presence of women in politics, specifically in the Romanian Parliament, during the legislative sessions from 2004 to 2024. The study emphasizes how this presence has fluctuated over the course of approximately 20 years. From a theoretical perspective, the central concepts are feminism, femininity, politics, Parliament, and gender equality, among others. The aim is to demonstrate that although women are underrepresented in this field, significant progress has been made over time. To the extent possible, the study compares the situation in Romania with data from other countries to identify any divergent or convergent points. Methodologically, the focus is on the analysis of statistical data, as well as a secondary analysis of the press. The conclusions of this paper validate the idea that women are paying increasing attention to this field – which for a long time was associated primarily with men – and are actively engaging in this area.

**Keywords:** women, Parliament, politics, equality, inclusion

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**Daniel CLINCI**

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Ovidius University of Constanța

**Queer Cyborgs: Bodies at the End of the World**

**Abstract:** This presentation tries to construct a theoretical and practical argument against identities, mainly through a posthumanist and radical feminist re-reading of Donna J. Haraway’s “political myth” of the cyborg. At the same time, I am going to argue that body and gender politics must be understood in an intersectional framework that includes not only questions of race and class but also liberal-humanist-capitalist constructions of identity as justifications for diverse forms of oppression and exploitation that stem from the Western historical divide between nature and society/culture (recuperating some essential works of 1970s ecofeminism). Fundamentally, Haraway’s cyborg is a queer concept, defying gender identities (and more) and creating a posthuman anti-identitarian politics. I will argue, alongside thinkers such as Deleuze, Guattari, Preciado, and others, that bodies are rhizomatic, transversal “somatheques” that are best described as queer. From this point of view, queer cyborgs are deeply intertwined with queer natures and produce a queer ecosophy that fights against arborescent humanist-capitalist systems of power. Whereas liberal feminism looks like a domesticated form of liberal humanism, radical intersectional feminism (and radical critical posthumanist theory) pursues systemic change. In what feels more and more like the end of the world (accelerated climate change, extreme global inequalities, imperialism, genocide, and the threat of nuclear annihilation are just a few examples), the survival of bodies/somatheques can only be as queer cyborgs.

**Keywords:** critical posthumanism, ecofeminism, cyborg theory, queer ecology

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Sergiu COGUT

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Institute of Romanian Philology “Bogdan Petriceicu-Hasdeu”, State University of Moldova

**Two Exceptional Female Personalities in the History of Ancient Thought**

**Abstract:** When we refer to the spiritual and artistic heritage of classical antiquity, usually only the illustrious men are mentioned, each of them with his considerable contribution to its configuration and enrichment, especially if the field of Greek and Roman philosophy is taken into account. At the same time, however, certain prominent female figures, very few of them, have also attracted attention during their lifetime, such as Aspasia and Hypatia, whose activity hundreds of years apart has ensured them a special place among the luminaries of ancient philosophical thought; in the case of the latter it is also necessary to emphasize her important contribution to the development of science in the last century of that period. Aspasia, although a foreigner originally from Miletus, acquired and consolidated her fame and influence in Athens, becoming a truly remarkable personality in the history of ancient philosophy and political thought, as she enjoyed great authority as an exceptional teacher of rhetoric, among those who were her disciples being the emblematic ancient thinker Socrates. At the same time, she was the one who composed the speeches of the renowned statesman, orator, and Athenian general Pericles, whose hetaira, but de facto second wife, she was for almost 20 years. She was also one of the first to emphasize the need for gender equality, arguing that the status of women must be changed, as they were not as such inferior to men. The other female figure we are referring to was the daughter of the mathematician Theon of Alexandria, Hypatia. She lived and worked like her father in the second cultural and scientific metropolis of the ancient world and gained an extraordinary reputation as a scientist, especially in the fields of mathematics and astronomy, but also as a prominent representative of ancient Neoplatonism, although none of her philosophical works have been preserved. Her importance as a philosopher is testified too by the letters of her disciple Synesius of Cyrene, who also reached a highly prestigious position as a Christian bishop, although Hypatia was and remained a pagan until the end of her life. In fact, the special importance she has as an ancient thinker that has survived to this day and even the mythologizing of her personality are due to the terrible event of her murder in 415 by a mob of fanatics, thus becoming one of the first martyrs in the history of philosophy.

**Keywords:** ancient society, woman, status, Greek philosophy, rhetoric teacher, martyr's death

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Georgiana CORCACI

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Petre Andrei University of Iași

**Identity in the Digital Age: A Psychosocial Analysis of the Digital Self and Gender Differences**

**Abstract:** Over the past two decades, the rapid development of digital technologies and the expansion of social media networks have profoundly transformed the way individuals construct and express their identities. The online environment provides a space for self-presentation, social interaction, and symbolic validation, in which personal identity is constantly negotiated and reconstructed. From the perspective of social psychology, these processes can be understood through concepts such as social identity, self-presentation, and social influence. The present article proposes a theoretical analysis of identity in the digital environment, focusing on the concept of the digital self and on the ways in which gender differences influence strategies of online self-presentation. The analysis highlights that the digital environment is not merely a communication tool but also a symbolic space in which identity is shaped by social norms, processes of social comparison, and mechanisms of interpersonal validation.

**Keywords:** digital identity, digital self, social psychology, social networks, gender differences

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Felicia CORDONEANU

“Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați

**Equality under Conditions of Difference. Gender Stereotypes, Discursive Confusions, and the Artificial Antagonization of Masculinity and Femininity in the Contemporary Public Sphere**

**Abstract:** As a current sociological issue, gender equality reveals the tensions through which the contemporary public sphere interprets difference, authority, and social recognition. Debates on gender do not merely express attitudes toward women and men, but also the ways in which society assigns value, legitimacy, and power to traits considered masculine or feminine. The paper proposes a sociological analysis of the discursive confusions that arise when distinct levels – biological, social, moral, legal, religious, and political – are overlapped in debates on gender equality. This overlap favours the construction of rigid oppositions between values such as family and autonomy, care and freedom, responsibility and individual dignity. In such contexts, sexual difference is often converted into social destiny, while complementarity becomes an argument for unequal distributions of authority and recognition. A central place is occupied by the analysis of stereotypes through which masculinity is associated with rationality, firmness, and decision-making, while femininity is associated with care, sensitivity, and relational availability. These associations are not problematic by their mere existence, but by the fact that they produce symbolic hierarchies: certain traits are invested with prestige and authority, while others are morally valued but socially subordinated. Through this approach, the paper argues that equality under conditions of difference does not imply the abolition of differences, but the refusal to transform them into criteria of superiority, inferiorization, or domination. The aim of the research is the sociological clarification of the relationship between difference, stereotype, and symbolic power in the contemporary public sphere.

**Keywords:** gender equality, gender stereotypes, symbolic power, public discourse

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Narcisa COZEA

“George Barițiu” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch

**Gendered Normativity in Algorithmic Creativity: Legal Perspectives on Bias and Responsibility**

**Abstract:** The rapid expansion of generative artificial intelligence has transformed the conditions under which creativity is produced, distributed, and evaluated. While these technologies are often perceived as neutral tools, emerging evidence suggests that algorithmic systems reproduce and amplify pre-existing social biases, including those related to gender. This paper examines the process of juridification of digital creativity through the lens of gender, arguing that contemporary legal frameworks inadequately address the structural inequalities embedded in algorithmic production. Building on an interdisciplinary approach at the intersection of law, ethics, and technology, the study explores how algorithmic outputs – trained on historically biased datasets – can perpetuate gendered representations, visibility gaps, and asymmetries in recognition and authorship. The analysis focuses on the European regulatory context, particularly the interplay between copyright law and the emerging framework established by the AI Act, highlighting their

limitations in addressing indirect discrimination and epistemic bias. The central argument is that the law, traditionally oriented toward the protection of human authorship and originality, must evolve into a reflexive normative system capable of identifying and mitigating gendered distortions within algorithmic creativity. This requires a shift from a purely protective function towards a corrective and anticipatory role, integrating principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability. By conceptualizing gender not as an external variable but as an intrinsic dimension of norm formation in the digital environment, the paper contributes to a more nuanced understanding of how legal systems can respond to the ethical and social challenges posed by artificial intelligence. Ultimately, it argues for a reconfiguration of legal responsibility that remains anchored in human agency while acknowledging the transformative impact of automated systems on creative processes.

**Keywords:** algorithmic creativity, gender bias, juridification, AI regulation, legal responsibility

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### Codruța CUCEU

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“George Barițiu” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch

#### **Femininity as a Symbolic Experience: Françoise Dolto’s Contribution to the Understanding of Women’s Mental Health**

**Abstract:** In the context of contemporary debates on the relationship between gender and mental health, my presentation proposes a critical reading of Françoise Dolto’s theory of femininity as a symbolic experience, relevant to understanding the specific psychic organization of the feminine subject. Beyond reductive biological explanations of gender differences, Dolto conceptualizes the female libido as a particular form of organizing desire, structured through language, relationality, and symbolic internalization. Starting from the distinction between sexuality and libido, Dolto highlights that feminine identity is formed early in relation to the Other, and that women’s mental health depends on the ability to symbolize desire, motherhood, sexuality, and sexual difference. Symbolic blockages resulting from restrictive education, shame, taboos, or structural (social) inequalities can generate forms of psychological suffering such as frigidity, depression, anxiety, or psychosomatic disorders. In my presentation, I will analyze how Dolto’s theory provides an interdisciplinary framework for understanding women’s mental health by articulating psychoanalytic, social, and cultural dimensions. In this sense, femininity is not defined as some kind of “lack” nor as a form of “passivity”, but as a specific mode of symbolic organization of desire, vulnerable to distortions in contexts of gender inequality. By reassessing Dolto’s contribution, I propose a perspective that situates women’s mental health at the intersection of the unconscious, language, and the social construction of gender, and argues for clinical and social approaches attuned to the symbolic difference of femininity.

**Keywords:** Françoise Dolto, psychoanalysis, desire, symbolization, language, unconscious

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**Adrian Lucian DINU, Claudia Elena DINU**

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Faculty of Orthodox Theology, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași; “Grigore T. Popa” University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Iași

**Woman and Feminism Today: A Christian Orthodox Perspective**

**Abstract:** This study draws on anthropological notions taken from the Bible, from patristic thought, and from the spirituality, called Eastern, of the Orthodox Church.

Such a topic involves broad communication, beyond prejudices, historical postulates, simple gender identities, etc. It is known that such a subject has immediately sparked and continues to spark reactions, but these should be in unison, with feelings of communion and understanding of everyday realities. The common history of humanity, that is, religious life and experience, should be the common denominator. Contemporary Orthodox theology, concerning the above-mentioned topic, in its advanced points, is called to work from within the human being, to clarify aspects that seem to be controversial, and to illustrate the positive outcomes of scientific research. Of course, Tradition, ecclesial integration, and biblical truth can be maintained concerning women and the crucial role they play in society. Moreover, there is a need for an integration of this and a clarification for each person about the richness of meaning and life that women and their priorities (rights, sic!) offer us. This study aims to define, in a world that seems to be essentially masculine, what a woman is, what her status in society and in the Church is, starting precisely from the biblical Revelation that presents her as the person (being!) destined for the encounter between God and man.

**Keywords:** anthropology, feminism, communication, theology

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**Ecaterina DMITRIC**

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State University of Moldova

**A Phenomenological Interpretation of the Concept of Feminine Authenticity**

**Abstract:** This paper defines the concept of feminine authenticity through a woman’s capacity to perceive, become aware of, and assume her own interiority, both in relation to the self and to the normative structures of the socio-cultural reality in which she is situated. From the perspective of existential phenomenology, this entails a complex process of integrating affective, cognitive, and existential experiences, thus configuring a coherent and non-alienated mode of being. In this sense, feminine authenticity manifests as a form of reflective and lucid presence, in which the female subject does not merely receive external influences but critically filters them, re-signifying them in accordance with her own axiological horizon. This presupposes the overcoming of prescribed roles and cultural stereotypes, orienting the subject toward self-affirmation that is not defensive, but ontologically grounded. The phenomenological approach reveals that the integrity of the self reduces alienation and existential anxiety; consequently, an authentic attitude fosters well-being. Misogynistic norms in society affect self-esteem and may generate self-devaluation stress. In this context, feminine authenticity offers the possibility of liberation from imposed roles, functioning as a protective factor for women’s mental health. Accordingly, feminine authenticity represents a dynamic process of becoming, within which identity is not a fixed given, but a continuous construction sustained by the exercise of self-awareness, inner freedom, and existential responsibility. Thus, a higher level of personal authenticity contributes significantly to an individual’s mental health by strengthening psychological resilience.

**Keywords:** feminine authenticity, existence, phenomenology, gender identity, subjectivity

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**Marius DUMITRESCU**

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania

**The Transition from Matriarchy to Patriarchy from the Perspective of Anthropology of Gender Difference within the Mediterranean Neolithic Civilizations**

**Abstract:** In this paper, we aim to show how the late matriarchy in the Mediterranean basin presented itself on the border of the transition to patriarchal organizational structures. We will focus our research on the sacred islands of the Neolithic in the Mediterranean Sea, where the Great Goddess of nature was still worshipped. A first aspect analyzed will be the Neolithic temples of Malta, where entering the dark sanctuary was equivalent to entering the bowels of the Earth, identified with the matrix of the chthonian Goddess who patronized the temple. It is a procession that implies a return to the origins, to the beginnings of humanity. Just as in Malta, Crete is the homeland of the sacred caves, the origin of which, as places of worship, is lost in the mists of time. In the imagery of the Cretan temples, women were everywhere; the Cretan world was actually a projection of the male mind; it was what men wanted to see and adore. However, to reach the Queen Mother, you had to go through the labyrinth. It was a kind of entrance to the primordial womb; the labyrinth is the womb of Gaea, the patron goddess of the sacred island. Finally, we will try to capture the dilution of the matriarchal paradigm in Minoan Crete, the place where the religious cult of the Mother Goddess entered its decline, determined by contact with the Mycenaean civilization, which came from the North and brought with it a new patriarchal culture.

**Keywords:** archaic man, matriarchy, epiphany, ritual, sacred violence

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**Merve ERTOK ONURLU**

Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Çanakkale, Türkiye

**Does Gender Inequality Affect Female Life Expectancy at Birth? Panel Data Evidence from Selected Balkan Countries**

**Abstract:** Gender inequality is considered an indicator of gender-based inequalities of rights in health, the labor market, or politics. One of the prominent results of gender inequality could be observed on quality of life of an individual, which could be measured by indicators such as life expectancy at birth, mortality, self-reported health status, access to education or health services. This study examines the association between the Gender Inequality Index (GII) and life expectancy of women among selected Balkan countries via panel data analysis. Life expectancy at birth is defined as the number of years a newborn is expected to live at the time of its birth if exposed to current mortality risks. Therefore, it could be assumed to be an important measure of woman's quality of life in her lifespan. Female life expectancy at birth, obtained from the World Development Indicators database, is treated as the dependent variable in the model. The primary explanatory variable is the Gender Inequality Index (GII) collected from the United Nations Development Program-Human Development Reports database. The GII is an aggregate metric of gender inequality indicating inequalities in three aspects: a) labor market, b) reproductive health, and c) empowerment. It is assumed that the higher the GII value, the higher the inequality between women and men. The empirical

findings of the study highlight that higher values of the GII is associated with lower years of female life expectancy at birth in selected Balkan countries. This means increases in gender-based inequalities are more likely to intensify structural disadvantages for women in areas such as access to healthcare, education, reproductive health or labor market participation. As a result, females are less likely to experience longer years of life expectancy at birth compared to males.

**Keywords:** gender inequality index, female life expectancy at birth, quality of life, panel data analysis, Balkan countries

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### Irina FRASIN

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Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch

#### Cat Ladies and Gender Non-Conformity

**Abstract:** Cats have occupied persistent and multifaceted roles in human societies, appearing as companions, muses, symbols, and metaphors across cultures and historical periods. This presentation is a reading of the intricate and long-lasting relationship between cats, women, creativity, freedom and resistance, arguing that feline behaviour, aesthetics, and symbolism have contributed meaningfully to them becoming metaphors of autonomy, subversion, rebellion, and, more broadly, resistance to control. Analyzing some behavioural traits, historical treatment, and cultural representations, it is argued that cats embody a quiet but persistent challenge to systems of domination, hierarchy, and discipline. In this context, cats' persistent and long-lasting bond with women gets to be re-interpreted as empowering and liberating. Situating cats within broader contexts and creative practices, this paper aims to show that the fascination with cats is neither incidental nor trivial, but deeply connected to how humans conceptualize independence, ambiguity, and sensory awareness.

**Keywords:** cats, women, rebellion, ambiguity, non-conformity

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### Oxana GHERMAN

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Institute of Romanian Philology "Bogdan Petriceicu-Hasdeu", State University of Moldova

#### Representations of Paternity in (Post)Soviet Childhood Novels

**Abstract:** In (post)Soviet childhood novels, we discover positive and negative masculine patterns, depicting a rich gallery of images of the father from the perspective of the child (son or daughter). The autofictions signed by Mihail Vakulovski, Lorina Bălteanu, the memoiristic prose of Nicolae Negru outline images of an ideal/-ized father, engaged in a functional marriage, treated by his own children with fear/respect and admiration, a strong and authoritarian type (ideal of the patriarchal world), whose physical strength manifests itself accordingly, brutality and violence being understood as forms of expression of the will or masculine character. Other works demystify the imposing figure of the father: Emilian Galaicu-Păun's novel outlines the image of a despotic father, morally and identity-deviant, and Dumitru Crudu's prose – of a father defeated in sociopolitical circumstances, forced to submit and humiliated, a loser in an unjust struggle, whose dignity will be rehabilitated after the collapse of the USSR. A father overcome by problems, who avoids relating to his own children (although he loves them, he cannot externalize his emotions), is hypostasized in Alexandru Popescu's prose. Constantin Cheianu, on the contrary, fictionalizes a dysfunctional bond between child and parents, the father being an abrutized, degraded person, reminiscent

of the type of diabolical father from Vladimir Beşleagă's tragic poem. The novels by Liliana Corobca, Saşa Zare, Valentina Şcerbani, and Emanuela Iurkin profile the type of impassive or absent father, who leaves a huge inner void in the interiority of his children. The deviations of the paternal function, highlighted in the epic fictions signed by Dumitru Crudu, Alexandru Popescu, as well as the absence of this figure in the lives of the characters in the works of Liliana Corobca, Emanuela Iurkin, Valentina Şcerbani, illustrate the phenomenon of the decline of the masculine principle (cultivated in the patriarchal society) in the post-war period. Only exceptional characters, such as those represented in the prose of M. Vakulovski, N. Negru, L. Bălţeanu, could respond to the changes and socio-political problems that required strategic thinking, moderation, wisdom, verticality, strength, resistance, etc. In his vulnerable position, the man is either rejected/substituted or tolerated as long as the transfer of authority allows. The crisis of masculinity provokes compensatory reactions and behaviors in women (the myth of the "strong woman" appears, who devalues her partner, assuming responsibilities that exceed her). The feeling of failure, helplessness, and damaged dignity of the father, as well as the feeling of total sacrifice and failure of the mother, negatively affect the child's development. In the context of dysfunctions, in the case of the father's "psychotic breakdown" (characters in the novels of C. Cheianu, O. Serebrian, S. Zare), the child will look for that "system of similarities" in other relationships through which he can build his self-image. At the other extreme, an authoritarian father who denies or depreciates the maternal function transforms from an ordering and protective force of the family into an abusive, despotic, persecuting father (the character of Em. Galaicu-Păun), or into a diabolical and destructive father (the tragic poem of Vladimir Beşleagă), whom the son does not accept as a human model and axiological resource, this rejection causing him serious inner schisms and duplications, identity crises, anxieties, psychoses, under the influence of unconscious patricidal impulses.

**Keywords:** paternity, masculinity, Soviet childhood, novel

### Mariana GORAŞ

Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova

#### The Challenges of Beginning Teachers in Promoting Gender Equality in the School Environment

**Abstract:** This article analyzes the challenges faced by beginning teachers in promoting gender equality in the school environment. In the context of social transformations and the need to develop a fair and inclusive society, teachers have an essential role in shaping students' competences, attitudes, and values. At the same time, the transition period in the school environment involves an ongoing process of professional adaptation for newly qualified teachers to changing social and professional demands. Teachers at the beginning of their teaching career face difficulties such as lack of pedagogical experience, the influence of cultural and institutional norms, their own beliefs, and insufficient training in the field of gender equality. The study also highlights the barriers related to limited educational resources and emphasizes the importance of developing professional skills and institutional support for the implementation of effective educational interventions. In this context, teaching strategies aimed at supporting the promotion of gender equality are analyzed, such as the use of inclusive practices, the development of critical thinking and collaboration with the family and community. Also, the congruence between personal values and professional practices is highlighted as an essential factor in the professional adaptation of newly qualified teachers. In conclusion, the beginning teacher is configured as an important

actor in promoting democratic values and gender equality in the school environment, contributing to social transformation through education.

**Keywords:** beginning teachers, gender equality, professional adaptation, congruence, school environment

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**Ecaterina HEGHEA, Anatolii ROJCO, Tatiana COLESNICOVA, Mihail CIOBANU**

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National Institute for Economic Research of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

**Socioeconomic Profiles of the Population at Risk of Poverty in the Context of Income Inequality in the Republic of Moldova from a Gender Perspective**

**Abstract:** Reducing poverty and income inequality represents essential objectives of social and economic policies, particularly in the context of socioeconomic transformations in the Republic of Moldova. The analysis of income distribution provides a relevant framework for assessing differences among various population groups and for identifying the determinants of economic vulnerability. The research aims to analyse the socioeconomic profiles of the population at risk of poverty in the context of income inequality, with emphasis on highlighting the existing particularities from a gender perspective. The study is based on the analysis of official statistical data on income distribution and living standards, with the purpose of identifying socioeconomic disparities and vulnerable population groups. The analysis includes the main socioeconomic characteristics of the population, such as place of residence, employment status and level of education, with emphasis on the differences existing between women and men in income distribution and the degree of economic vulnerability. The results highlight the existence of distinct profiles of the population at risk of poverty, characterized by low-income levels and limited access to economic resources. The conclusions summarize the main characteristics of vulnerable population groups and provide useful reference points for understanding the relationship between income inequality and economic vulnerability.

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**Keywords:** income inequality, poverty risk, socioeconomic profiles, gender perspective, Republic of Moldova

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**Ana Maria HOJBOTA**

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Honorary Consulate of Romania to Connecticut, USA

**From Feminism to „Femininity”, Back to One's True Self: The Recurring Narrative Template of Political Conversion Testimonies from Early Antifeminist Writings to Contemporary Tradwife and Red Pill Digital Subcultures**

**Abstract:** This presentation takes a look at political conversion testimonies as a form of persuasion used by tradwife influencers and other female-led antifeminist online accounts. While such narratives typically follow a left-to-right ideological trajectory and have become prominent in contemporary culture wars (Waisanen, 2018) and have grown increasingly popular in digital spaces, they are far from novel. Drawing on historical antifeminist discourse and contemporary social media practices, we analyze how personal testimonies of “breaking the ranks” or “recovering from” feminism are recurring rhetorical devices that reframe antifeminist resistance as the pathway to an authentic, happy life for women. Demonizing feminism as a source of profound psychological distress, relational difficulty, and moral disorientation,

converts advertise the contrasting “discovery” of traditional or essentialized femininity as emancipatory, healing, and promising to restore a sense of purpose and authenticity. Positioning the speaker as a credible insider-turned-whistleblower, conversion is expected to mobilize through its promise of change and attached emotional intensity, while simultaneously locking the convert into a newly (re)discovered, stabilized identity. Yet despite being advertised as a triumph of self-transformation, conversion operates in fact as a mechanism of closure: it provides not only a fixed, axiomatic ideological framework, but also a script for selfhood that becomes petrified in the post-conversion identity and resists further revision. Thus, it implicitly rejects an open-ended and provisional process of self-constitution: ambivalence, multiplicity, hybridity, and dialogical subjectivities are delegitimized, reduced to symptoms of confusion or moral decay. We situate the contemporary developments within a longer genealogy of antifeminist backlash (starting from the writings of Gina Lombroso, continuing with later commentators like Phyllis Schlafly, or Midge Decter), highlighting the continuities with earlier tropes that pathologized feminist allegiances while appropriating its emancipatory language. We analyze how contemporary influencers expand this template by integrating wellness, spiritual, and therapeutic vocabularies to legitimize antifeminist positions and expand their appeal and mainstream radical ideologies (Leidig, 2023). Ending with a comparative lens, the presentation considers the limited uptake of such conversion narratives in post-communist contexts, where entrenched conservative norms, statist feminist histories, and a general skepticism towards stories of radical personal change complicate their reception. Ultimately, the paper argues that conversion narratives act as affective and epistemic shortcuts that displace argumentation, normalize extremist positions, and subtly continue to spread and reinforce associations between feminism and moral confusion, psychopathology, and societal decline.

**Keywords:** ideological conversion narratives, antifeminism, tradwife influencers

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### Aurora HRIȚULEAC

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Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

#### **Eve and Sophia: Two Feminine Archetypes and Their Influence on Women's Social Status**

**Abstract:** The archetypal framework of femininity is intricate, shaped by historical epochs, societal structures, cultural distinctions, power relations, and social dynamic hierarchies. These archetypes have exerted a subtle yet enduring influence on women's social status. In certain instances, they have contributed to the perpetuation of negative stereotypes, discriminatory behaviors, and problematic mindsets. This critical multidisciplinary analysis focuses on two prominent archetypes: the biblical figure of Eve and the gnostic archetype of Sophia. Both have significantly impacted, over centuries, not only the perception of womanhood but also broader societal attitudes toward women.

**Keywords:** gender, womanhood, archetype, multidisciplinary, consciousness

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Alina HURUBEAN

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Petre Andrei University of Iași

*Je suis une femme de l'Est (I Am a Woman from the East)*

*Autoethnographies in Transition*

**Abstract:** The paper presents a work in progress that focuses on the lived experience of women from three generations, their transitions throughout their lives, viewed in the context of the macrosocial transition from communism (40-50 years) to post-communism (36 years: 1990-2026). More specifically, three categories of female subjects / three generations of women tell their story: a) the category of grandmothers who lived under communism until they were 40-50 years old, who are currently between 76 and 86 years old. b) the category of mothers who lived under communism until they were 20-30 years old, who are currently between 56 and 66 years old. c) the category of daughters, respectively granddaughters, who were born in post-communism and are between 20 and 36 years old (as adults). Starting from several topics of interest for research, such as the social construction of gender, the identity revolution, and narrative reflection in postcommunism, we remain open to exploring emerging themes and questions. The primary data collection methodology is qualitative, based on autoethnography and life story interviews. The data collection methods, as well as those of analysis and interpretation, configure a narrative research design, used in the investigation of life transitions contextualized socially and historically. The research interest is to understand how these women experienced their career-life transitions in a society in transition, how they managed uncertainties, radical changes, how they reconfigured or reinvented themselves as women and citizens between the pressures of patriarchal cultural models and the freedom of choice that opened up.

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**Keywords:** autoethnography, narrative research, career-life transitions, socio-cultural construction of gender, the woman subject, structuralist identity, non-structuralist identity

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Alexandra Reta IACOBINI, Anca IORGA

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Spiru Haret University, Bucharest

**Gender, Society, and Female Participation in Sport: Structural, Psychological, and Socio-Cultural Determinants in Team and Individual Sports**

**Abstract:** Female participation in sports has grown considerably over recent decades, reflecting advances in gender equality, institutional support, and broader access to organized physical activity. However, participation patterns differ between team and individual sports, which present distinct structural, psychological, and socio-cultural environments. This narrative literature review synthesizes evidence from sports science, psychology, and sociology to examine trends, barriers, and facilitators of female engagement and retention. Findings indicate that individual sports foster autonomy, intrinsic motivation, and sustained participation, whereas team sports provide social interaction, collective identity, and cooperative experiences, yet are often constrained by organizational, structural, and socio-cultural barriers. Persistent gender norms and inequalities in access continue to influence participation across contexts. A comparative understanding of these determinants is essential for developing targeted strategies that promote equitable

female participation, enhance empowerment, and support lifelong engagement in sport, contributing to both physical and mental well-being.

**Keywords:** female participation, team sports, individual sports, gender stereotypes, intrinsic motivation, sport engagement, gender equality

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## Anca IORGA

Spiru Haret University, Bucharest

### Women in the World of Sports

**Abstract:** From a sociological perspective, the presence of women in the world of sports has been characterized by a complex evolution, marked by a transition from the total exclusion of women to an active, albeit at times unequal, participation influenced by gender norms, power structures, and processes of socialization. The contemporary reality of the sports domain is that both women's and men's elite competitions have emerged in nearly all sports disciplines. Differences between male and female sporting events are largely related to the physiological and anatomical characteristics of the two sexes, as well as to societal conventions. Although most sports are practiced at a performance level by both women and men, there are still certain disciplines, particularly within the category of expressive sports, that have traditionally been more strongly associated with women. Statistical evidence and sociological research indicate that, despite the remarkable achievements of women in sports, gender equality remains an ongoing process of negotiation. Consequently, the development of strategies aimed at eliminating stereotypes and ensuring equal access to resources and opportunities remains essential.

**Keywords:** women's sports, gender equality, athletic performance, expressive sports

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## Anca JIANU

Spiru Haret University, Bucharest

### Woman between Biology and Culture: A Humanistic Perspective on Gender Differences

**Abstract:** Differences between women and men have been explained throughout history both through biological determinism and through the lens of social and cultural constructions. Between these two perspectives, an essential space for reflection emerges, in which female identity is shaped simultaneously by biological realities and by social frameworks constructed and transmitted over time. The present paper aims to explore the relationship between nature and culture from a humanistic, interdisciplinary perspective, starting from the recognition of real biological differences between women and men – of an anatomical, hormonal, and functional nature – without transforming them into justifications for social hierarchies. At the same time, the study investigates the mechanisms through which societies, in different cultural contexts, construct and perpetuate gender roles, amplifying or reinterpreting these differences. Society does not merely reflect gender difference, but actively shapes it, while education, language, traditions, and power structures contribute to the definition of female identity. Recognizing the interdependence between biology and culture, without reducing female identity to either of these dimensions, may contribute to the development of more nuanced and equitable social models, as well as to a deeper understanding of the role of women in contemporary society.

**Keywords:** gender differences, biology, culture, female identity, social construction, humanistic perspective

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### Florența LOZINSKY

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“George Barițiu” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch

#### **Feminine Poses: from Stereotypes to Contemporary Realities. Case Study *Dilema Veche***

**Abstract:** The study on female hypostases in *Dilema Veche* emphasizes the transition from archetypal representations to a diversity of contemporary, often paradoxical realities. The choice of the weekly magazine is due to its multidisciplinary approach to themes. The magazine is, among other things, a space for deconstructing traditional stereotypes. Our research focused on the online archive of the magazine, focusing on articles generated by the search for the concept of woman, which reveals the complexity of gender hypostases – male and professional women; woman – the happiness of the Romanian people; women’s bodies, image and time; women, men and attitudes; about gender, cabbage rolls and traditions; assumed women; domestic violence; houses, women, generations; the moral order of the world; friendship between women; women's empowerment and contemporary orthodoxy, among others – analyzing the impact of the totalitarian regime, modern misogyny, and the evolution of gender roles. Thus, the *Dilema Veche* illustrates how the woman in contemporary Romania lives at the intersection of patriarchal heritage and aspiration for equality, struggling with old labels in a new world.

**Keywords:** woman, stereotypes, feminine poses, contemporary reality, „the role of women in society”

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### Mihaela MAN, Gabriela-Maria MAN, Cristina Maria TOFAN

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Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu; Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch; Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iași

#### **Discrimination in the Academic Setting**

**Abstract:** Drawing on the attribution theory, the role congruity theory, the stereotype content model, and status characteristics theory, which explain how age and gender may change the choices and decisions, this study investigated the effect of manipulating the age and gender of a candidate on the résumé evaluation and estimated performance at the end of the semester in an academic setting. An experiment was conducted using a résumé and a vignette for an associate professor candidate. 145 students assessed one of the five versions of the vignette and résumé, and estimated the candidate’s performance at the end of the semester, and provided the motivations for the assessments. Results revealed that older candidates are discriminated against in both résumé evaluation and performance estimations, whereas men’s résumés are discriminated against, but there were no gender differences in terms of performance estimations at the end of the semester. The research also explored the motivations underlying students’ judgments for both assessments previously mentioned.

**Keywords:** age, gender, discrimination, innovative courses, evaluation

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Livia MARGINEAN

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State University of Moldova; CCF Moldova NGO

### Interinstitutional Communication in Child Protection Systems: A Gender-Sensitive Perspective

**Abstract:** Child institutionalization is increasingly recognized as an outdated practice that fails to ensure children's rights and long-term well-being, while global child protection policies promote family-based care, social inclusion, and community support services. In this context, effective interinstitutional communication has become a critical factor in advancing deinstitutionalization reforms. This article examines interinstitutional communication in child protection systems from a gender-sensitive perspective, focusing on how communication gaps differently affect women and men, influence vulnerable mothers' access to services, and reinforce gender stereotypes in professional decision-making processes. Drawing on the case of the Republic of Moldova, the research combines policy analysis, review of normative and procedural frameworks, and empirical insights derived from professional practice and institutional collaboration. The findings indicate that insufficient coordination and fragmented communication between institutions disproportionately impact mothers, who remain primary caregivers and primary interlocutors with social services. Gendered assumptions embedded in professional practices often place responsibility for child reintegration and care predominantly on women, while limiting fathers' engagement. The study argues that completing deinstitutionalization reforms requires a shift toward strategic, rights-based communication functioning as a coherent systemic mechanism. Such communication should enable deeper understanding of target groups, promote coordinated institutional responses, and support behavioral and attitudinal change aligned with family-based care models. The analysis highlights the protective and preventive functions of communication in addressing social risks and child vulnerability, emphasizing the importance of standardized documentation, confidentiality safeguards, and coordinated service delivery. By situating the findings within Moldova's commitments under international frameworks, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Guidelines for Alternative Care, the paper proposes practical measures to strengthen interinstitutional collaboration and institutional capacities. Ultimately, the research demonstrates that gender-sensitive communication is essential for sustainable child protection reform and for ensuring the successful transition away from institutional care toward inclusive, family-centered systems.

**Keywords:** inter-institutional communication, institutional communication, child protection, deinstitutionalization, public policies

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Rossella MARISI

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Conservatorio „L. D'Annunzio”, Pescara, Italy

### Gender-Based Marginalization and Professional Devaluation: Some Reflections on Éliane Radigue and Delia Derbyshire

**Abstract:** Work occupies a central position in an individual's life, serving as a fundamental activity for achieving well-being and fulfilling human needs. It is both a site of social exchange and a crucial space for identity development. Conversely, an organization's employees are considered its primary pillar, as they are the agents through which planned goals are realized. However, the workplace can also be a site of hostile behavior, where supervisors or colleagues may systematically undermine a worker's competence

and disqualify their professional standing. Subjected to such identity-based marginalization – manifesting as both professional non-recognition and economic exploitation – the individual frequently experiences the somatization of chronic stress, leading to significant systemic health issues. Adopting a qualitative approach based on the analysis of professional trajectories, this study applies contemporary findings in work psychology to the experiences of Éliane Radigue (born 1932) and Delia Derbyshire (1937 – 2001). As pioneering composers of electroacoustic music, they serve as paradigmatic case studies of how gender-based discrimination manifests as professional devaluation. By bridging historical biographical data with modern psychological frameworks, this article demonstrates how these hostile environments functioned not as isolated incidents but as systemic barriers to professional recognition, providing a broader framework for understanding the long-term impact of gendered marginalization across all professional sectors.

**Keywords:** occupational psychosocial factors, workplace moral harassment, gender-based marginalization, professional devaluation, electronic music history

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### Daniela MATEI

Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

#### **The Geometry of Resilience: The Art of Inscribing Identity – Women in the Rural World, Between Tradition and Economic Autonomy**

**Abstract:** This presentation analyzes the fundamental role of women as vectors of continuity and adaptation within rural communities, using the work and life of artist Lucia Condrea from Moldovița (Suceava County) as a case study. Beyond the aesthetic dimension, the female presence in the rural space is approached as an ontological structure that ensures the balance between the preservation of sacred and secular demands of modernity. The investigation traces the evolution of women's economic role in rural areas, proposing a dichotomy between traditional household management (the conservation of internal resources) and the new model of cultural entrepreneurship represented by Lucia Condrea. She transcends the status of an artisan, becoming a strategic economic actor who converts the symbolic capital of the Hutsul minority into community sustainability. Through technical innovation and the establishment of the International Museum of Painted Eggs, Lucia Condrea exemplifies the excellence of the rural world, proving women's unique capacity to safeguard fragile ethnic identities. The study's conclusions emphasize the need to re-evaluate women's contribution to European intangible heritage, proving that the adaptability of the female soul represents, in fact, the most stable resource for resilience in the face of contemporary cultural dissolution.

**Keywords:** women's role in rural communities, intangible cultural heritage, rural cultural entrepreneurship

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### Arthur MIHĂILĂ

„Babeș-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca

#### **Defining the Concept of “Woman” in Contemporary Debates: Between Sex and Gender Identity**

**Abstract:** This presentation aims to analyze one of the most sensitive controversies in contemporary debates on gender, namely the tension between certain claims advanced by sex-based feminism and recognition policies grounded in gender identity. The author explores the theoretical and social divide that has emerged between feminism based on material reality (biological sex) and the contemporary paradigm of gender self-

identification, examining the implications of this conflict for the concept of “woman.” The presentation proceeds from the premise that the dispute over the definition of “woman” is not merely semantic, but has concrete legal, cultural, and social effects. We examine how this tension produces tangible consequences in areas such as women’s sport, where demands for inclusion sometimes come into conflict with the principle of competitive fairness. We argue that the polarization of this debate also has important consequences for mental health, affecting both trans persons, who are frequently confronted with stigmatization and exclusion, and women who perceive a weakening of the normative framework intended to protect their legal rights. The conclusions underline the need for an evidence-based dialogue capable of reconciling respect for gender minorities with the preservation of sex-specific rights for women, without compromising scientific rigor or social fairness.

**Keywords:** definition of woman, sex-based feminism, gender identity, women’s rights, mental health

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### Nicoleta MIHĂILĂ

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Centre for Financial and Monetary Research “Victor Slăvescu”, Romanian Academy

#### **Trends and Perspectives Regarding Gender Equality in the Labor Market in the European Union**

**Abstract:** The presentation aims to conduct a comparative analysis of gender inequalities in Romanian labor market and the EU member states in the post-pandemic period, focusing on employment rate of women and men in the labor market, wage gaps, the identification of challenges that hinder progress in gender equality and equity, as well as the perspectives pursued by the EU states to reduce these gaps. Both descriptive and empirical methodologies are used, based on relevant literature and statistical data provided by Eurostat and the European Institute for Gender Equality.

**Keywords:** labor market, gender employment gap, gender pay gap, social measures

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### Cătălina MIHALACHE

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A.D. Xenopol Institute of History, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

#### **Headmistress: One of the First Forms of Public Empowerment of Women (19th–20th Centuries)**

**Abstract:** We intend to develop a three-level historical investigation. First, we aim to figure the legal framework that promoted the emergence and the proliferation of the headmistresses in the Romanian society. Second, we will try to explain the nature of the power conferred to women along with this position and how its various aspects evolved in time. A third level of the presentation will deal with the public (mis)perceptions “nourished” by this public office. Our approach advances an interpretative framework for the history of women’s education, on one hand, and for the shaping of social roles of our modern society, on the other hand. It is, of course, a far too ambitious aim and it cannot produce a comprehensive analysis. Still, our presentation will identify significant turning points and samples, along with a few prosopographical drafts.

**Keywords:** educational system, public office, school micro-policies, educating women

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Iunis-Ștefana MINCULETE

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“Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu

**The Status of Women Writers in the Communist and Post-Communist Periods: Narrowing the Gap in the Reception of Texts Written by Women and Men**

**Abstract:** With the emergence of gender studies within the Romanian academic field, the reassessment of women writers' visibility has become a central yet contested topic in literary scholarship. The persistence of a predominantly male literary canon further underscores the enduring imbalance in the reception and legitimisation of literary production authored by women. This presentation explores how the political sphere has shaped and mediated the status of women writers, particularly during the communist and post-communist Romania. We analyse the discursive frameworks and stereotypes through which women's literary production has been consistently interpreted, classified, and evaluated. Additionally, the presentation will investigate the measures undertaken within the literary field to reclaim and reaffirm the significance of women's writing in Romanian literary discourse in recent years.

**Keywords:** gender studies, literary canon, women writers, reception of women's writing, communist and post-communist Romania

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Oana Maria NICUȚĂ NAE

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“George Enescu” National University of Arts, Iași

**Between Idealization and Intimacy: The Construction of the Feminine Image in Early Modern Romanian Painting (1859–1880)**

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**Abstract:** This presentation analyzes the aesthetic and conceptual criteria that underpinned the shaping of the image of women in Romanian painting at the beginning of artistic modernity (1859–1880). Using case studies from the collection of the Iași Museum of Art — focusing on works by Gheorghe Panaiteanu-Bardasare, Emanoil Bardasare, and Theodor Aman — we explore the transition from the rigid and moralizing canons of neoclassicism to the more fluid expressions of romanticism and early realism. The analysis highlights how Western aesthetic principles were adapted to the local social context to construct a specific „feminine ideal.” Several key stages of this visual construction are investigated: the academic ideal, orientalist fantasy, and the shift from book to realism. We argue that these transformations of artistic representation reflect deeper changes in the perception of gender roles and the status of women in 19th-century Romanian society, marking the firm transition towards a modern artistic language.

**Keywords:** femininity, modern art, Romanian art, romanticism, emancipation

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Olivia NIȚIȘ

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G. Oprescu Institute of Art History, Romanian Academy

**Gender Disruption, Norm, and Patriarchal Validation: Sofia Nădejde (1856–1946) and Sonja Nădejde (1876–1947) at the Intersection Between the 19th and 20th Century**

**Abstract:** Mother and daughter, Sofia Nădejde and Sonja Nădejde are two personalities with their individual contributions to culture and society, both of them subject to varying degrees of visibility or invisibility,

depending on the historical and contextual time of reference. The erasure of women from cultural history is a deep systemic issue. This presentation examines the cases of Sofia and Sonja Nădejde in the light of my current research and discoveries on Romanian erased women artists from the 19th century to the first half of the 20th century. The research is focused on restoring women's identities and uncovering their educational and professional struggles in their pursuit of visibility, status, and autonomy. While we are more familiar with the socialist-feminist Sofia Nădejde—although she still occupies a marginal position in our cultural memory (literature, journalism, activism)—her daughter, painter Sonja Nădejde, has remained largely unknown. Following extensive research based on multiple sources (including newspapers, journals, institutional archives, museum collections, genealogies, and family descendants), our research reveals that Sonja, born Sofia Nădejde in 1876 in Iași, was highly visible in the Bavarian artistic environment of the 1900s while studying and working in Munich, embodying the standards of beauty that would make her a muse for the established and influential German painter Franz von Lenbach. She became invisible after the Second World War, while her mother retained a slightly more visible position in the aftermath of her fight for women's rights, at a time when communist ideology should have allowed for better and more significant recognition of a Marxist thinker. Analyzing the systemic exclusion of women from grand narratives, we address intergenerational struggles for women's public visibility by building a case study on two generations of women, two personalities never approached side by side. Key aspects in our presentation build upon notions such as *historiographic violence*, visibility and invisibility as social and political mechanisms of power, based on inclusion and exclusion, as well as on disrupting gender hierarchies and performing social disobedience or conformity. We address women's emancipation challenges and questions of class, ideological tensions, beauty, and privilege, together with mechanisms of erasure within cultural history and art history. The impact of these women on cultural memory is an indicator that recognition within the patriarchal system is a predictor of erasure within the same system. Drawing on Maria Todorova's theorization of *discursive hierarchies* and *regional identities*, we explore how regimes of visibility simultaneously enable and subordinate women, determining patterns of inclusion and exclusion, as well as a double marginalization within the European framework that has internalized the East–West cultural hierarchy.

**Keywords:** gender studies, art history, cultural history, erasure, marginalization

### Ioana-Iulia OLARU

“George Enescu” National University of Arts, Iași

#### Ancient Cycladic Painting at Akrotiri: Case Studies

**Abstract:** This material is a case study in itself, focusing on the frescoes from the Akrotiri site (on the island of Thera). The ensemble of paintings from Building B—located in a room that was likely part of the building's sanctuary—preserves some of the most famous examples of Cycladic mural scenes. While the influence of Cretan painting is visible, equally apparent are the vigour and talent with which the Theran frescoes of horned animals were executed. Other notable features include the Boxing Boys, the cynocephalic monkeys, and the originality of the Spring Fresco—a distinctive Theran subject considered the oldest independent landscape in European painting and a precursor to the future rendering of space through linear perspective. Frescoes have also been preserved in other architectural structures. Interestingly, those in a building named Xeste depict women from the highest social class, the ensemble being unique for presenting ceremonies involving only women. The West House is distinguished by the celebrated Flotilla Fresco, an exceptional document of the culture of the time.

**Keywords:** sanctuary, cynocephalic, adyton, Xeste, adorant

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### Carmen PALAGHIA

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Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

#### Profile of the Female Recruiter in Human Trafficking

**Abstract:** Human trafficking is a serious criminal activity, extremely complex and well-organized, which violates the right to freedom, security, and the right to life of human beings. It involves psychological, emotional, as well as physical and financial coercion of victims. Recruitment is carried out either by a person who may act by herself or by a company for the placement of labor abroad, or by a so-called artistic management, etc. This is the decisive moment, in which a person who appears to be well-intentioned becomes the first link in the trafficking chain. In this stage, victims are made false but extremely attractive promises. Recruiters are considered to be “skillful persons, with a sense of observation, who exploit the vulnerabilities of those they recruit”; they can be both men and women, persons whose role is to gain the trust of victims and, often, of their family members. The presentation aims to outline the profile of female recruiters, starting from the recent research. Statistical data show that there is an increase in women who carry out either independent activities or activities within the networks to which they belong. Sometimes, they engage in this activity because they are attracted by the earnings obtained, but other times, they are also constrained by traffickers in exchange for their release. Research shows that most female recruiters who have been convicted were well acquainted with the phenomenon before they themselves became trafficked. This type of criminal offense does not take place based on mistakes or being drawn into committing such acts by other persons, but rather represents “a rational choice, a calculated risk”, “a forced choice between good and evil.”

**Keywords:** human trafficking, female recruiter, victims

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### Moreno PAULON

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Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, FCSH – CHAM Centro de Humanidades, Portugal

#### Symptom, Sign, Meaning. Dora, Embodiment and the Semiology of Behaviours

**Abstract:** On the basis of medical anthropological literature and the feminist critique around Freudian theory of hysteria, this presentation considers the concepts of embodiment, agency, and crisis of presence as guiding principles for a context-sensitive understanding of dysfunctional behaviours as means of communication within the study of symbolic systems. With an interdisciplinary and comparative approach, the Dora case is represented next to an ethnographic case where mass hysteria was medically diagnosed over spirit possession seizures in Malay Western factories. We explore the status of dysfunctional behaviours as bodily signs, invested with cultural meanings representing social distress, gender inequality and structural violence. The ideas of Mary Douglas and Thomas Csordas, Jacques Lacan, Thomas Szasz and Ludwig Binswanger are here combined to outline a semiology of behaviours able to account for the phenomenological reality, inside and outside of the clinic, of a social body enacting as living metaphor.

**Keywords:** medical anthropology, embodiment, psychology, epistemology, gender studies, philosophy of medicine

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Daniela PATRAȘ

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Valahia University Târgoviște, Romania

**Women's Participation in the Romanian Red Cross: Humanitarian Care, Public Service, and Gendered Roles, 1939–1944**

**Abstract:** This paper investigates women's participation in the Romanian Red Cross between 1939 and 1944, a period marked by war, displacement, and humanitarian emergency. Drawing on archival materials, press clippings, and contemporary texts produced by women's organizations, it examines volunteer nurse training, auxiliary sanitary work, relief activities, and public representations of women involved in humanitarian action. The study argues that the Romanian Red Cross offered women an ambivalent institutional space: one that expanded their public visibility while simultaneously anchoring their participation in culturally sanctioned ideals of feminine care, devotion, and sacrifice. Within this framework, women contributed not only through caregiving but also through organization, mediation, and concrete forms of humanitarian intervention. Their work reveals competence, initiative, discipline, and moral responsibility, which made female participation socially significant in a time of crisis. The paper contributes to the historical study of gender roles by showing how wartime humanitarian institutions both enabled and constrained women's agency, offering a concrete case study in the social construction of femininity under conditions of crisis.

**Keywords:** Romanian Red Cross, women's participation, humanitarian work, gender roles, Second World War, volunteer nurses

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Lăcrămioara PETRE, Suzana TURCU

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“Francisc I. Rainer” Institute of Anthropology, Romanian Academy

**Gender Differences in HIV Prevalence and Incidence Worldwide**

**Abstract:** The global HIV epidemic reveals persistent and context-dependent gender disparities, driven by a complex interaction of biological susceptibility and socio-behavioral mechanisms. In generalized epidemics, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, women and adolescent girls account for a disproportionate share of new infections. This pattern reflects not only biological vulnerability but also structural and relational dynamics, including age-disparate partnerships, unequal power in sexual negotiation, and exposure to gender-based violence. In contrast, in concentrated epidemics such as those in North America, Europe, and Australia, HIV predominantly affects men, especially men who have sex with men (MSM), who account for the majority of both prevalence and incidence. Here, transmission dynamics are shaped by sexual network structures, behavioral patterns, and community-level factors. At the same time, gender norms influence health-seeking behaviors, with men less likely to access testing and adhere to treatment, contributing to poorer clinical outcomes despite lower overall exposure in certain contexts. Across settings, gender operates as a key determinant of exposure, vulnerability, and engagement in care, mediated by social roles, stigma, and access to resources. Educational interventions and gender-sensitive prevention strategies remain essential components in addressing these disparities. This overview aims to highlight gender-based differences in HIV incidence and prevalence and to examine the socio-behavioral mechanisms that underpin these patterns across diverse epidemiological contexts.

**Keywords:** HIV/ AIDS epidemiology, gender disparities, global health, care engagement

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## Rodica POPA

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Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

### Process-Oriented Management and the Mental Well-Being of SME Administrators: Effects on Cognitive Load, Decision-Making and Gender Differences

**Abstract:** This paper explores the link between enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, business process organization, and the mental well-being of small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) administrators. In today's complex business environment, the lack of clear and structured processes often leads to high cognitive load, uncertainty, and stress in decision-making. The aim of this study is to show how process-oriented management, supported by ERP systems, can reduce cognitive load and help managers make better decisions. By improving transparency, control, and predictability, well-organized processes can make daily work easier and reduce psychological pressure. In addition, the research looks at possible gender differences in how managers perceive stress, cognitive load, and decision-making, helping to better understand how men and women experience and manage business complexity and digital tools. The study shows that ERP systems and structured processes can improve both company performance and the mental well-being of managers, while also highlighting differences in how these effects are experienced by men and women.

**Keywords:** ERP systems, business process management, cognitive load, decision-making, mental well-being, SME administrators, digitalization, gender differences

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## Marius POPESCU

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Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

### Gender Perspective and the Symbol as a Spiritual Expression of Life

**Abstract:** The appearance of subjectivity in the philosophical and scientific framework is an answer to classical metaphysics, where reality is revealed to us in a univocal way. If by reaching for the absolute answer offered by the scholastic theology, numerous riddles about the meaning of creation and the value of science for the development of humankind are resolved, once skepticism evolved in everyday life, the subject, with its gender perspective, becomes the master of the creative sources. Furthermore, it is considered that reason can have cultural value, by processing synthetically mythology, religion, art, and scientific knowledge for progress. The unexpected consists of the appearance of the *intermediary* space that forms at the crossroad of humanistic knowledge areas. Like any *interval*, this gives way to the rise of inconstancy and reveals how unpredictable the movements are that are able to provide solutions for the most terrifying diseases, but also for distinctive revolutions. We intend to prove that this *intermediary-synthetic* space, frequently objectified in symbolic structures, the root of many works of art and scientific breakthroughs, has a complex, unfulfilled process of development, partially depending on gender perspective, and thus we can highlight essential new features of creativity.

**Keywords:** symbol, mythology, philosophy of science, subjectivity, spirit, culture, gender perspective, creativity

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Silvia POPOVICI

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Mihai Eminescu Central University Library, Iași

### Gendered Spaces of Knowledge: University Libraries as Sites of Well-Being, Socialization, and Academic Performance

**Abstract:** The study examines how gender shapes the experience of the university library as a space of well-being, socialization, and academic performance. Moving beyond the traditional view of libraries as neutral and purely functional environments, this paper conceptualizes the library as a socially produced and affective space in which identities, norms, and power relations are continuously negotiated (Lefebvre, 1991; Butler, 1990). The analysis is grounded in the paradigm of consciousness, emphasizing how students' perceptions, emotions, and internalized expectations mediate their interaction with the library environment. An intersectional framework is employed to explore how gender intersects with other axes of identity, such as socio-economic background and academic status, shaping differentiated experiences of belonging, safety, and engagement (Crenshaw, 1989). The empirical research is based on qualitative data collected during 7 focus groups with 86 student users of the Mihai Eminescu Central University Library, enabling in-depth exploration of shared meanings and contrasting perspectives. Findings reveal that the library functions as both a supportive and constraining environment. While many students experience it as a space of concentration, emotional regulation, and academic productivity, others report feelings of pressure, surveillance, and exclusion. Gendered patterns emerge in relation to spatial use, visibility, and help-seeking behaviors, reflecting broader processes of socialization and internalized norms. These dynamics are further intricated by intersectional factors, which influence students' confidence, comfort, and access to resources. The study highlights the role of the library as an affective infrastructure that not only facilitates learning but also shapes mental well-being and social interaction. By integrating gender, intersectionality, and consciousness paradigms, the paper contributes to a more nuanced understanding of academic spaces. It also offers practical implications for the design and management of inclusive library environments that support students' needs.

**Keywords:** gender, university library, well-being, socialization, academic performance, intersectionality, consciousness

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Andrei PREDA

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Umeå University, Sweden

### From 'Domestic Incident' to Femicide: Framing Gendered Violence in Romanian Mainstream Media and Feminist Counter-Narratives

**Abstract:** Recent surges in intimate-partner killings in Romania have ignited significant public outrage and feminist mobilisation. This paper examines the discursive strategies employed by mainstream media and feminist advocacy groups, specifically the NGO FILIA, to construct narratives around these femicides. Drawing on a qualitative discourse analysis of 2025 media reports and feminist statements, the study analyses fundamental differences in lexical choices and thematic framing. The findings indicate that news outlets frequently utilise neutral or passive linguistic constructions, such as 'a person was killed', which serve to depoliticise the crime and obscure gendered motives. By often leaving perpetrators unnamed or characterising their relationships through a lens of individual tragedy, media narratives dissociate lethal violence from broader patriarchal power structures. In contrast, feminist discourse explicitly categorises

these cases as femicide, framing them as systemic consequences of gender inequality, family oppression, and state inaction. Drawing on Andermann's (2010) framework regarding the social construction of gender and its impact on mental health, this analysis argues that treating femicides as isolated 'domestic incidents' may inadvertently contribute to social silence and heightened anxiety among women. Conversely, the counter-frames provided by feminist actors aim to break this silence by invoking state responsibility and highlighting the structural nature of gendered fear. Ultimately, this study demonstrates that the naming of violence is not a neutral descriptive act but a political intervention that either reinforces or challenges existing gender norms and institutional responses.

**Keywords:** femicide, media framing, discourse analysis, feminist counter-narratives, gender-based violence

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### Cătălina RĂDUCU

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Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch

#### Gender as Kintsugi: Mental Health Effects of Patriarchal Gender Norms

**Abstract:** This presentation serves as a reminder that social inequalities and hierarchies are still with and within us, despite modern societies' persistent efforts to mitigate them. Gender inequality is especially potent because of its centrality to identity and personal life. Although gender systems are shaped by culture and context, they are also consistently and universally underpinned by expectations placed on women and men in terms of personality, aptitudes, interests, responsibilities, rights, and value. All of us – the privileged as well as the disadvantaged – are participating in systems and practices that sustain these inequalities. This presentation builds on an extensive body of literature showing that social inequalities, especially gender, are sustained and hidden by systems of belief that are woven into the fabric of society and tolerated as part of everyday life. My main aim is to argue that the ideology and the relational processes that sustain gender inequality have far-reaching psychological implications and take a toll on both women's and men's mental health. The delicate Japanese art of Kintsugi conveys the powerful image of deep cracks from societal pressures and invisible burdens, and a call to embrace past traumas and mistakes as integral parts of our personal and societal history. I will highlight the effects of the patriarchal ideology on our mental health, with two goals in mind: firstly, to argue for the need to prevent shattering, not just "fixing" the break; and secondly, to argue for a genuine gender partnership in which we use the lessons learned from our hardships to grow, heal, and get stronger both as individuals and as a society.

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**Keywords:** gender inequality, mental health, gender norms, patriarchal ideology

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### Padmini RAM, Shreya SAJEEV, Tanya TOSHALI, Simran BHATTARAI

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Urban Ethnographers, Bengaluru, India

#### Beyond Skill Acquisition: Institutional and Relational Mediators in Women's Labour Market Entry in Bengaluru and Hosur

**Abstract:** This paper employs an analytically rigorous, ethnographically oriented methodology to investigate the multi-layered transition of women from vocational training to paid employment in southern India. Anchored in midline data from a three-year tracer study, the research integrates three focus group discussions and thirty in-depth interviews with women aged 18–40, drawn from trades including beauty therapy, tailoring, data entry, and manufacturing, across the contrasting urban and

industrial contexts of Bengaluru and Hosur. Purposeful sampling ensured representation of both local residents and internal migrants, with particular attention to migration trajectories and their impact on adaptation, social support, and employment outcomes in both locations. A distinguishing feature of the study is its commitment to linguistic and cultural accessibility: all interviews and group discussions were conducted in the participants' regional languages, Kannada, Tamil, and Malayalam, facilitating nuanced, candid disclosure and enabling methodological inclusivity. The ethnographic orientation foregrounded the lived realities of women's labour market transitions, emphasising narrative accounts of negotiation, adaptation, and constraint. Analytical rigour was upheld through inductive thematic analysis, iteratively coding transcripts to surface patterns at the intersection of gender norms, household dynamics, peer networks, and institutional arrangements. In Bengaluru, employment transitions were closely embedded in local social networks and household negotiations, with family members acting as gatekeepers to women's mobility and work choices. Here, peer support and shared commuting strategies were vital to building confidence and securing familial approval. By contrast, Hosur's industrial setting exposed many women, particularly interstate migrants, to new environments, dietary and linguistic adjustments, and structured workplace regimes. Migration compounded adaptation challenges but also encouraged reliance on institutional supports such as company transport, hostels, and buddy systems, which proved critical for workforce retention and social belonging. In both settings, the research underscores that empowerment is a negotiated, relational process rather than a linear outcome of skilling, shaped by complex interactions among language, social identity, and institutional design.

**Keywords:** vocational training, women's employment, ethnography, migration, southern India, regional languages, labour market transition, gender norms, qualitative methodology, institutional support

## Marinela RUSU

Gheorghe Zane Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch

### The Specificity of Feminine Ethics

**Abstract:** The feminist movement that started two centuries ago brought up new issues related to women's rights in society, but also new elements of philosophy, psychology and ethics, specific to women. We could talk about the existence of several female „ethics,” due to the different roles that women fulfill in society and in the family. The present paper highlights these various elements of feminine ethics, analyzing in turn: the ethics of care, the ethics of rights, sexual ethics, maternal ethics, and gynocentric ethics. In all these approaches, women's attitude is different, special, without necessarily being fully understood or respected. Centuries of androcentrism, patriarchy and phallocracy destroyed the freedom of expression, the right to develop the personality of women. As a result, today, a correction of the inadequately addressed status of women is sought. Although there are many achievements, the contemporary world is still not free of unjust actions against women (we mention here, domestic violence, rape, minor girls trafficking, the right to abortion, etc.).

**Keywords:** female ethics, androcentrism, women's rights, feminist movement

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Irina SCUTARIU

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“George Enescu” National University of Arts, Iași

**The Gender Paradigm: Substitution in Form and Style**

**Abstract:** This presentation provides an opportunity to explore the principles of contemporary femininity, which is currently characterized by uncertainty regarding its future. The study focuses on perceptions of femininity both today and in the past, and explains the immediate sources of frustration among young people (arising from friendships, family, and peer relationships), as revealed by themselves through open teacher-student dialogue. The study of this phenomenon began by first identifying the frustrations inherent in the creative stages necessary for understanding the interpretation of a dramatic role. The research stemmed from a professional necessity. The analysis belongs more to psychology and only to a small extent to pedagogy. The field of art possesses the necessary tools to encourage such a necessary dialogue. The purpose of this presentation is to examine, critique, and transform the perception of young people and the confusion between appearance and the true bearer of gender. In contemporary society, the distinction between appearance and gender identity is becoming increasingly fluid.

**Keywords:** pedagogy, femininity, expression, psychology, frustration

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Daniela SIMOIU

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“Ion Creangă” State Pedagogical University on Chișinău, Republic of Moldova

**Gender Studies and STEM Sciences: An In-Depth Transdisciplinary Approach**

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**Abstract:** This presentation examines the integration of gender studies into STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), highlighting their role in transforming scientific culture and reducing participation inequalities. Starting from a critique of the traditional idea of epistemic neutrality in science, this study argues that knowledge production is influenced by social, institutional, and cultural factors that shape access to research and the distribution of academic opportunities. From a theoretical perspective, the paper discusses the contributions of feminist epistemology, particularly the concepts of *standpoint theory* and *situated knowledge*, which propose a reconceptualization of scientific objectivity through the inclusion of multiple perspectives. This approach supports the idea of “reflexive objectivity” or “strong objectivity,” where researchers critically examine their own epistemic positions. The analysis also highlights the role of institutional STEM culture in reproducing gender inequalities, emphasizing structural barriers such as the “glass ceiling,” the unequal distribution of academic responsibilities, and subtle mechanisms of exclusion. From an intersectional perspective, these inequalities may be intensified by factors such as ethnic background or socioeconomic status. Methodologically, the paper proposes a transdisciplinary research design combining quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze women’s participation and experiences in STEM. In the educational dimension, it argues for the development of a transdisciplinary pedagogy that integrates ethical reflection, the analysis of the social impact of technologies, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Finally, the study presents examples of public policies and European best practices aimed at promoting gender equality in research and education. The main conclusion is that integrating the gender dimension in STEM contributes not only to social equity but also to improving the quality of research, strengthening scientific objectivity, and fostering responsible innovation.

**Keywords:** feminist epistemology, STEM, transdisciplinarity, intersectionality, reflexive objectivity, educational policies

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**Mirela ȘTEFĂNESCU, Mircea ȘTEFĂNESCU**

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“George Enescu” National University of Arts, Iași

**Exploring the Creative Potential through Interdisciplinary Approaches**

**Abstract:** In this era, when technological changes are occurring at an unprecedented pace and new forms of expression are transforming the way we think, feel, and create, a series of questions arise – questions to which we are constantly seeking answers: What is creativity, and how can it be stimulated? What is neuroplasticity, and how does it help us in the creative process? What are the neural mechanisms that underpin artistic and cognitive innovation? How does creativity support mental health? How does technology influence brain plasticity, and, in turn, how does technology shape the brain? In this article, we propose an interdisciplinary approach to exploring creative potential and its enhancement through neuroplasticity, analyzing the brain processes behind an innovative idea or within the artist’s mind during the creative process, highlighting the impact of creativity at the individual level. Thus, research shows that creative expression plays a fundamental role on several levels: *it improves mental health* – reducing anxiety, boosting self-confidence, and helping to process difficult emotions; *personal growth* – we learn a foreign language or play an instrument, keep a journal, draw, or invent games with our children; *self-discovery* – creativity helps us get to know ourselves better and discover parts of ourselves that we wouldn’t otherwise express, it boosts self-esteem, being, last but not least, reflected in our *professional lives*. Starting from these directions of our research, we will illustrate, in this paper, how Frida Kahlo transformed gender differences, physical suffering, and emotional trauma into central themes of her work, analyzing how the artist succeeded in transposing her own vulnerability into an aesthetic dialogue about the human condition, thus becoming a universal symbol of resilience.

**Keywords:** neuroplasticity, creative process, emotion, aesthetic dialogue

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**Liana-Georgiana STOIAN**

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**Gendered Vulnerabilities and the Limits of Neutrality in Juvenile Criminal Justice**

**Abstract:** This paper analyzes the gendered dimensions of juvenile justice, focusing on female minors and the structural inequalities shaping their interaction with the law. It argues that formally gender-neutral frameworks may obscure substantive inequalities and produce indirect discrimination. Drawing on feminist legal theory, human rights law, and criminology, it shows that female delinquency is often linked to victimization, socio-economic marginalization, and mental health vulnerabilities, advocating gender-responsive and trauma-informed approaches. Although juvenile justice systems emphasize equality before the law and the best interests of the child, these principles are often applied through formal neutrality, assuming identical treatment ensures fairness. This is problematic for girls, whose pathways to offending are shaped by victimization, exclusion, and limited support, challenging gender-neutral responses (Lind 2013). Gender as a social construct reveals how girls are judged against norms of femininity, leading to “double deviance” and compounded stigma (MacKinnon 1989; Chesney-Lind and Pasko 2013).

Vulnerability, increasingly seen as universal but unevenly distributed, is heightened among female offenders due to violence, poverty, and family instability, with strong links between victimization and offending (Fineman 2008; Widom and Maxfield 2001). Mental health issues, including trauma-related disorders, are prevalent and insufficiently addressed, underscoring the need for trauma-informed justice (Zahn et al. 2010; Ford and Blaustein 2013). Formal equality overlooks structural disparities, while substantive equality requires contextual analysis. Neutral rules may thus produce indirect discrimination, especially when criminalizing survival behaviors, and judicial discretion may reinforce stereotypes (Fredman 2011; Sherman 2005; Belknap 2014). A gender-responsive approach – integrating mental health, tailored rehabilitation, and restorative justice – is essential for equitable outcomes and advancing substantive equality and human rights (Kaly 2002).

**Keywords:** juvenile justice, gender, female minors, feminist legal theory, trauma-informed justice, structural inequality

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#### Towards a Solidary Fatigue

**Abstract:** This paper explores the socio-political potential of fatigue as a solidary emotion, uniting individuals who experience a co-feeling of fatigue in a common goal towards the eradication of the structures that cause this fatigue. The paper explores this through a consideration of women's fatigue as arising from a lived experience of oppression under patriarchal structures and as posing the potential to facilitate solidarity amongst women against patriarchal structures and inequalities, such as gender-based violence. It is first argued, influenced by Emmanuel Levinas's analysis of fatigue in *Existence and Existents* and Kaja Jenssen Rathe's interpretation of Levinasian fatigue and affective labour, that women's fatigue constitutes an exhaustion with and refusal of a particular mode of existence, namely one characterised by inequality, injustices, and the necessity of negotiating with hostile structures. Second, it is argued that this fatigue has the potential to constitute a Schelerian feeling-with-one-another (*Miteinanderfühlen*), which, following Max Scheler, it is argued is necessary for solidarity to arise. This co-feeling of fatigue, if recognised as shared and its source identified, can develop into what Peter Handke calls a we-tiredness, a tiredness of togetherness. Fatigue, as a refusal of an oppressive mode of existence, can push one to a point at which, as Levinas puts it, one wishes to drop everything, a tipping point at which that mode of existence is too much to bear. It is argued that if fatigue is recognised as a shared emotion and thus comes to constitute a feeling-with-one-another, a we-tiredness, amongst women, this refusal can also be shared and channelled into socio-political praxis against the patriarchal structures which give rise to such a mode of experience. This, however, requires that women's fatigue be named, problematised, and communicated, rather than hidden behind the normalisation of women's affective labour and a social orientation towards positivity and resilience. Finally, while the paper analyses only one specific case in which fatigue can come to be a solidary emotion which can lead towards socio-political praxis, it is argued that shared fatigue, as arising from a lived experience of oppression or injustice, can in other cases be a solidary fatigue pushing individuals towards collective socio-political praxis.

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**Keywords:** fatigue, solidarity, Scheler, feminism, praxis

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**Cristina Maria TOFAN**

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**When AI Speaks Gender: How Chatbots Reproduce Social Norms and Inequality**

**Abstract:** Gender bias in artificial intelligence (AI), particularly in chatbots and conversational agents, has been increasingly discussed as a multi-layered issue with potential social implications. In this review, I synthesize interdisciplinary research to examine how gender bias may emerge across the AI lifecycle, including training data, model development, design choices, user interaction, and deployment contexts. Proposed mechanisms include the reproduction of gendered patterns from large-scale datasets and the gender signaling of agents through voice and persona design (Bolukbasi et al., 2016; Caliskan et al., 2017; Stanczak & Augenstein, 2021; Sun et al., 2019). Across domains such as education, healthcare, and customer service, existing studies suggest that chatbots can reflect stereotypical associations (e.g., women as caregivers, men as authority figures), which may influence user expectations, trust, and engagement (Følstad et al., 2021; Xue et al., 2023). The use of feminized AI personas has been noted as a potential factor in shaping perceptions of social roles, though findings remain context-dependent (UNESCO, 2019; Noble, 2018). In sensitive applications, such as mental health support, questions have also been raised about possible implications for perceived care and equity. This review outlines a set of potential consequences related to user experience, representation, and accountability, while also highlighting variability in findings across contexts. I discuss a range of proposed mitigation strategies, including data-level interventions, design alternatives, and governance approaches (Følstad et al., 2021; Xue et al., 2023). Overall, the literature points to the importance of continued empirical and interdisciplinary work to better understand and address gender bias in conversational AI (Costanza-Chock, 2020; West et al., 2019).

**Keywords:** AI, gender, chatbots, social norms, bias

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**Lilia ȚURCAN**

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**The Role of Tolerance Education in Anticipating Aggressive Behavior Among Students from a Gender Perspective**

**Abstract:** This study examines the role of tolerance education in preventing aggressive behavior among students, with a focus on gender differences. The theoretical framework is based on the premise that school aggression is a multidimensional behavioral construct influenced by socio-educational factors and individual variables, including gender. Aggressive manifestations may exhibit gender-specific characteristics, both in the form of direct aggression and relational aggression, which necessitate differentiated educational interventions. Education for tolerance is approached as a formative mechanism with a preventive and anticipatory function, aimed at developing socio-emotional skills, behavioral self-regulation, and acceptance of interindividual differences. The analysis highlights the importance of systematically integrating tolerance-focused educational strategies into the school environment, with the aim of early identification of aggressive tendencies and their reduction through coherent educational interventions.

**Keywords:** education for tolerance, school aggression, students

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Nicoleta VASILCOVSKI

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**Rethinking Economic Diplomacy through Gender and Business Communication**

**Abstract:** In a globalized world, business communication and economic diplomacy have become increasingly important instruments for shaping international cooperation, institutional credibility, and sustainable development. At the same time, contemporary society has brought greater attention to the role of gender in communication practices, leadership structures, negotiation processes, and economic representation. The goal of this paper is to explore the intersection between business communication, gender dynamics, and economic diplomacy, emphasizing how communication strategies are influenced by social expectations, institutional cultures, and power relations. This research examines the ways in which gender-sensitive communication contributes to more inclusive economic dialogue, more effective negotiation practices, and stronger cross-cultural cooperation in diplomatic and corporate environments. It also highlights the role of women's participation and representation in economic diplomacy, with particular attention to the symbolic and practical impact of communication styles in international partnerships, policy discourse, and business leadership. By combining perspectives from communication studies, gender studies, and international economic relations, the paper argues that effective business communication is not merely a technical or managerial skill, but also a social and cultural practice shaped by values of equity, inclusion, and representation. Based on this, economic diplomacy can be understood not only as a mechanism of state and market interaction, but also as a communicative space in which gendered identities, institutional narratives, and social legitimacy are constantly negotiated. The paper contributes to current debates on gender and society by proposing a multidisciplinary approach to the communicative dimensions of economic and diplomatic interaction in our contemporary world.

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**Keywords:** business communication, economic diplomacy, gender, society, leadership

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**Negotiating Agency: Muslim Women in Europe Between Secular Political Morality and Islamic Moral Frameworks**

**Abstract:** This paper examines the status of Muslim women in contemporary Europe at the intersection of secular political morality and Islamic ethical frameworks, advancing a secular Islamic feminist perspective grounded in both critical theory and situated knowledge. It interrogates how Muslim women's identities are constructed, regulated, and politicized within European socio-political contexts shaped by secular governance, migration regimes, and intensifying cultural polarization. In doing so, it foregrounds the epistemic necessity of an insider perspective that centers the lived experiences and self-articulations of Muslim women as political subjects rather than objects of policy and discourse. Drawing on feminist theory, intersectionality, and Islamic feminist thought, the paper critically engages with dominant discursive formations that position Muslim women either as passive victims of religious patriarchy or as symbolic figures mobilized in debates on integration, security, and national identity. Against these reductive framings, it proposes a reconceptualization of agency as a culturally embedded and politically mediated construct. In particular, it mobilizes a notion of agency attentive to its articulation within Islamic moral and social frameworks, where ethical self-formation, piety, and normativity may function as modes

of subjectivation rather than markers of subordination. Through a critical analysis of public discourse, legal regimes, and selected case studies, including controversies surrounding the hijab, gender norms, and civic participation, the paper reveals how secular-liberal governance frameworks both constrain and produce specific forms of visibility, legitimacy, and participation for Muslim women. It further argues that a secular Islamic feminist approach provides a critical lens for interrogating these power structures, while resisting both universalist feminist assumptions and culturally essentialist readings of Islam. Ultimately, the paper contributes to political and feminist debates on governance, citizenship, and gender by advancing an intersectional and pluralist framework for understanding Muslim women's status in Europe, one that challenges hegemonic narratives, rethinks the relationship between secularism and religion, and reclaims agency as a site of both constraint and political possibility.

**Keywords:** Muslim women, agency, gender, Islamic feminism, political morality

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### Lilia ZABOLOTNAIA

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#### **A Dialogue on the Meaning of Life in an Unpublished Manuscript by Constantin Stere (1891): Historical, Literary, and Philosophical Perspectives**

**Abstract:** The paper proposes an interdisciplinary analysis of a letter with previously unknown content signed by C. Stere and dated 1891. The document represents a manuscript of exceptional documentary value, addressed to a young lady, in which the author develops a narrative with a pronounced philosophical character concerning the meaning of life, entitled "On a Virtuous Young Woman and an Old Man." The manuscript undoubtedly requires an interdisciplinary approach, as it constitutes a particularly valuable source from historical, literary, and philosophical perspectives. The text reflects the intellectual concerns of the author as well as certain aspects of the mentalities and sensibilities characteristic of the period. A particularly relevant feature is the narrative structure of the text, centered on a dialogue between two characters: an old man and a young lady. This construction grants the manuscript a special significance for research dedicated to women's history, gender studies, and cultural anthropology, as it allows us to capture representations of femininity, social roles, and the relationship between generations within the historical context of the time. The manuscript reflects a profound philosophical meditation presented in the form of a dialogue with a young woman who, in a state of deep despair, intends to end her life. In this context, the character of the old man develops a broader reflection on the meaning and value of human existence, attempting to address fundamental questions concerning the reasons, ways, and ultimate purpose of life – why, how, and for what one should live.

**Keywords:** C. Stere, unpublished manuscript (1891), intellectual history, women's history, meaning of life discourse

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### Petronel ZAHARIUC

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#### **A Right Page in the History of Romanian Monasticism: Nun Elisaveta (Safta) Brâncoveanu**

**Abstract:** This paper builds on previous research, in which I presented the history of female monasticism in Moldova from the beginnings to St. Paisius Velicicovschi and Metropolitan Venimian Costachi (*Social*

*history, cultural histories: a topical dialogue*, November 2024). The present paper discusses aspects of the history of the Varatic monastery, with a focus on the life of nun Safta (Elisaveta/ Elisabeta) Brâncoveanu (born Balș), who embraced monasticism and spent the last part of her life in this spiritual sanctuary.

**Keywords:** female monasticism, philanthropy, Varatic Monastery