

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

### DISCURSIVE FORMS. MEMORY AND IDENTITY



**Bacău, Romania: 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

This conference is organized by the **Interstud** and **Cetal** research centres, at the **Faculty of Letters, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău, Romania, in collaboration with:**

University of Lorraine, Research centre for mediations (France)  
Faculty of Letters, Languages, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli (France)  
University of Messina (Italy)  
Atatürk University, Erzurum (Turkey)  
University of Bordeaux 3 (France)  
Moldova State University (The Republic of Moldova)  
HELMO/ESAS, École supérieure d'action sociale (Belgium)  
The Francophone University Agency  
The Association for the Development of Francophone Studies, Bacău (Romania)

The concept of identity has always been a very difficult one to define. Its ambiguity, vagueness, versatility and pervasiveness do not, however, cancel its indispensability in a

world increasingly marked by the need to draw clear boundaries of selves and communities. Philosophical, logical, psychological or linguistic research, particularly in its modern and postmodern incarnations, has never ceased to underline that identity cannot be conceived in the absence of alterity. It is indeed in the continuous struggle between sameness and otherness that the elements necessary for the constitution of identity can be found. Such struggles periodically produce the so-called “identity crises” (Erikson, 1968) that are necessary steps for the evolution of an individual or of a group of individuals. Crises become important factors in the continuous formation of identities, as they are based on the confrontation between the old and the new, between past and present, between conventionalized structures and emerging paradigms that challenge those structures.

The construction of identities in today’s world is profoundly conditioned by specific cultural and technological evolutions. The advent of the digital age has made possible an explosion of forms of self-expression, but this multiplication of possibilities has been accompanied by disturbing and rather chaotic social phenomena. More than at any other time in human history, we need to assume the task of reconfiguring identities that are augmented, multiplied and ceaselessly threatened by the spectrum of dissolution. Contemporary practices and modes of existence predispose identities to a high degree of instability and ephemerality, resulting from the accelerated change of roles, jobs and functions. This leads to a kind of anxiety that can be only provisionally appeased.

The acceleration of processes at all levels in our society (especially in technology, family and education) renders difficult any analytical and predictive endeavours in this respect. Understanding identity as “an individual’s or a group’s sense of self” (Huntington, 2005) stresses the role of psychological factors involved in the definition of selves. If nations and, more generally, societies can be seen as “imagined communities” (Anderson, 1983), that is a result of a number of shared projections and interpretations of events, objects or territories coagulated into meaningful wholes through specific memory techniques. The investigation of the modes of preservation, transmission and alteration of identities is also an investigation of how the subjective blends with the objective, through numerous discursive manifestations, building up various and generally volatile intersubjective identities. We are, after all, but sums of discourses competing for supremacy in cultures evolving in indestructible and omnipresent language contexts, and “the limits of our languages are the limits of our world” (Wittgenstein, 1921).

The relation between individual and collective identities can never be sufficiently underlined, as it is by reference to a system of socially shared and transmitted values that one’s image of oneself is formed. In such formations, discursive forms play a crucial role. Identity has become an ever shifting and heterogeneous mosaic that includes multiple identifications with images provided from competing external systems. Thus, “the ascription of identity is the consequence of a choice among the criteria of identity” (Wieseltier, 1996). Choices of identity criteria are conditioned by predominant ideologies, expressed through discourses of power that create hierarchies of values subtending the vision of man adopted by a certain historical age. Our present world, despite its generous offer of various discursive forms, can render the task of identity very difficult. The lack of any clearly outlined body of ethical principles and values, the viral communication of false information posing as ‘true’, and the speed with which identities are constructed, deconstructed and reconstructed – all

these factors create a cultural relativism eventually leading to frustration, unrest and disorientation.

One move against those negative phenomena would be to find ways of preservation of achievements, epistemes and values which could constitute solid premises for the building of perennial identities, at both individual and group levels. The interrogation of the modes in which our culture seeks authenticity and truth is essentially intertwined with the types of discourses that could be used to preserve our memory, to justify our choices and to form consistent and dependable identities.

We invite specialists in such fields as linguistics, discursive analysis, literature, communication studies, cultural studies, sociology, arts, philosophy, epistemology, logic, journalism, digital humanities, etc. to contribute papers addressing problems related to the issues presented above. The following topics are suggested, but by no means should they be considered exhaustive:

- Patrimony and patrimonialization
- Minorities, media and new media: problems, realities and perspectives
- New forms and modes of self-expression in literary and non-literary discourse
- Memorial discourse and subjective literature
- Fiction and collective memory
- Identity constructions and forms of communication

Paper proposals may be written in English or French and will be peer-reviewed. A selection of the papers will be published in *Interstudies*, an academic journal indexed in the EBSCO, CEEOL, INDEX COPERNICUS databases.

Please fill in and send a .doc or .docx registration form, by email, to [formesdiscursives2020@ub.ro](mailto:formesdiscursives2020@ub.ro), by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. The registration form must include:

**1) Author information**

- Name and surname:
- Academic title:
- Affiliation:
- Personal research areas:
- Representative publications (max. 3) :
- Email address:
- Telephone:
- Regular/mail address:

**2) Submission proposal**

- Title:
- Language of presentation:
- Language of publication:
- Topic (the conference topic in which the proposal could be included) :
- Five key-words:
- Abstract (250 words):
- Necessary equipment (if applicable):

**Scientific committee**

Audrey Alves, Crem, University of Lorraine – France

Brîndușa-Mariana Amălâncei, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania

Veronica-Loredana Balan, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania  
 Ahmet Beşe, Atatürk University, Erzurum –Turkey  
 Iulian Boldea, Petru Maior University, Târgu Mureş – Romania  
 Elena Bonta, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania  
 Dumitru Borţun, National School of Political and Administrative Sciences, Bucharest – Romania  
 Cristina Cîrţiţă-Buzoianu, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania  
 Elena Ciobanu, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania  
 Jean-François Diana, Crem, University of Lorraine – France  
 Mircea Diaconu, Ştefan cel Mare University of Suceava – Romania  
 Luminiţa Drugă, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania  
 Felicia Dumas, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iaşi – Romania  
 Béatrice Fleury, Crem, University of Lorraine – France  
 Mihaela Gheorghe, Transilvania University, Braşov – Romania  
 Ion Guţu, University of Moldova – The Republic of Moldova  
 Pierre Humbert, Crem, University of Lorraine – France  
 Simina Mastacan, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania  
 Nadia-Nicoleta Morăraşu, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania  
 Pierre Morelli, Crem, University of Lorraine – France  
 Emilia Munteanu, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania  
 Sergio Piraro, University of Messina – Italy  
 Jean-Christophe Pitavy, Jean Monnet University, Saint-Étienne – France  
 Carmen-Nicoleta Popa, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania  
 Alina Elena Romascu, Lisa Laboratory - UMR 6240, University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli – France  
 Adriana-Gertruda Romedea, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania  
 Luminiţa Roşca, University of Bucharest – Romania  
 Petronela Savin, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania  
 Justine Simon, Elliadd, University of Franche-Comté – France  
 Vasile Spiridon, Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacău – Romania  
 Nolwenn Tréhondart, Crem, University of Lorraine – France  
 Marie Michèle Venturini, Lisa Laboratory - UMR 6240, University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli – France  
 Jacques Walter, Crem, University of Lorraine - France  
 Mükremin Yaman, Atatürk University, Erzurum –Turkey

### **Deadlines**

First call for papers <sup>1</sup>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b>
Proposal submission	<b>15<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>
Confirmation of proposal	<b>15<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b>
The conference fee – 60 € (or the equivalent in lei)– covers conference materials, lunch, festive dinner, coffee break refreshments.	<b>20<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b>
Conference programme dissemination	<b>10<sup>th</sup> April 2021</b>
Conference	<b>15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> April</b>
Paper publication	<b>October 2021</b>

<sup>1</sup> Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the conference has been re-scheduled in April 2021, so that participants from abroad should be able to come to Romania.