

FULL NAME	STEFANIA-ADELINA MIHALACHE	FIELDS OF INTEREST, RESEARCH AREAS, FIELDWORK	
YEAR OF BIRTH	1978	Literary criticism and theory	
POSITION, TITLE	M.A., Associate teacher	Cultural anthropology	
DISCIPLINE	English Literature	Cultural Studies	
INSTITUTION OF EMPLOYMENT	Transilvania University, Department of English Literature	Representations of Eastern-Western stereotypes in literary discourse in the postsocialist context Anthropology of the Balkans-June 2002-participation at the conference on Balkan Masculinities –University College of London	

RECENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interests are unfolding in three main directions; all have to do with my efforts to bring the literary theory into the postsocialist analytical context. I am drawing primarily on cultural studies.

- In my B.A. diploma, I analysed the literature of the Proletkult focusing on the mechanisms that had altered the collective imagination in such a way that it accepted, and formed a “cult” of political power and adoration ritual. Within the so-called “erotic” poetry, the propagandistic tinge is demonstrated at the level of displaying the “body”; what should have been a poetry of the human couple and their intimacy was turned into a rhetoric suggesting a collective body whose erotic impulses are redirected towards the realm of proletarianism and socialist ideology. My conclusion was that eroticism was suppressed in this literary production mainly because it represented the innermost “other”, alien to a monologue socio-political space/realm; therefore, power relations translated into biological ones, e.g. the father/Communist party; son/the mass of working people; etc. I focused on the mechanisms repressing the eroticism in this imagery that sought to actually destroy the very idea of individuation.
- Another project of mine dealt with representations of the Balkans in the so-called “travel literature” of the early 20th century. I analysed the concept of “imagined colonization” in Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* focusing on the “exoticising the other”. The project of my M.A. dissertation at the Central European University, Budapest sought to disentangle the stereotypes in the perception of the Balkans not only in the “travel literature” proper, but also in the literary criticism pertaining to this literature. The novel, *Dracula*, I found to contain more of those patterns that connect the Western “self” with the Balkan “other” than patterns of separation between the two. The main sites of this connection are the representations of masculinity that, both in its Western and Balkan variant, prove to be indebted to the ancient Greek ideal of heroism, and to the codes of chivalry which coagulated the Balkans and the idea of the West into a concept of “Europeanness”. Based on this analysis, I also suggested that in order to dissipate such stereotypical perceptions, a new reading of literary criticism should be accomplished.
- The purpose of my current project is to deal with the concept of postmodernism in the Romanian literary theories of the past decades, within a broader comparative context of Eastern European and Western (European and American) literary production and criticism. This research looks at postmodernism as being more than just an artistic avant-garde trend based on self-reflective games (which are the common place of reception of postmodernism). Rather, I view it as a concept which problematises and epitomizes the cultural, political, philosophical, sociological and epistemological frames in order to define and express the (still many) different sets of claims in the two comparative contexts. This argument appears more clearly in the light of the fact that since the sixties (in the West), and the eighties (in the East), the term postmodernism has been connected in various ways to issues like reality, utopia, idealism, socialism, communism, the liberal/liberated human subject, the market, transition ...etc. It is the aim of this research to analyse the way in which all these issues and realms are displayed within the literary theory. Postmodernism is often understood to mean a concept that frames an implicit and slightly polemic dialogue between the two “binaries”, the East and the West, in the intricate interplay of the blurred boundaries of concepts such as “identity”, “creativity”, the “other”, “plurality”, “liberal democracy”, “text”, “discourse”. Ultimately, I suspect that the actual issue behind these different stories is the anxiety of the “real”. And, at the same time, an anxiety concerning the (political and cultural) power of representation.

COURSES TAUGHT		RECENT TEACHING EXPERIENCE, PRACTICE, METHODS
1.	Reason and Morality in the 18 th century British novel	My main responsibility is to compile reading packages for students on various topics connected to English literary periods. These packages consist of a combination of history of literature with some works on literary theory that characterize the periods in focus. In this way the students get both the background knowledge of a given literary trend, and the emphasis on its specific features. I chose this combination because, from my experience, students find it very difficult to contextualise literary works with their historic and social background, especially due to a lack of understanding of the inner logic and interdependence between chronologically explained literary trends and the way these form a culturally recognizable continuum. Often, students do not know of the cultural and especially social issues of the time as represented in literary works, or in the elaboration of a given literary theory. My main concern is to make them understand these links and familiarise them with this perspective in their academic work, as this is necessary in order to obtain critical insight. Otherwise, the teaching process runs the danger of isolating the literature from the cultural background and context and to make it into a reified organism. My main concern is to fight this tendency, and to bring in a lot of information from cultural studies.
2.	“Realism” and “Poetry” in the Victorian novel	
3.	Aspects of Romanticism in English Literature	
4.	Aspects of Modernity in English Literature	
5.	The Gypsies-between Mythical freedom and Cultural Stereotypes-optional course	

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS IN LAST FIVE YEARS

1. Essays on literary criticism, book reviews in literary and cultural magazines such as Vatra, Interval, Paralela 45,etc.
2. To be published: Poezia Erotica Proletcultista, Ed. Dacia, Cluj (The Erotic Poetry of the Proletcult)

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS, FORUMS ETC.

1. Gender Romania