

## Representations of the Danube in Literature and the Arts

**Organizer:** Dr. Monica Manolachi, University of Bucharest, [monica.manolachi@lts.unibuc.ro](mailto:monica.manolachi@lts.unibuc.ro)

From the Black Forest to the Black Sea, the Danube crosses ten countries and four capital cities, forming a site of cultural memory, both fluid because of the natural features of the river and static because of the lands it connects. From epoch to epoch, the Danube has sparked the imagination of many writers and artists that left us a rich artistic heritage, whose disparate locations invite us to travel and explore.

The river Danube is an essential element in defining and shaping the geographical, environmental, historical and political landscape of Central and Eastern Europe. Therefore, the study of the cultural phenomena of the Danube region is meant to increase our awareness of belonging to a diverse common tradition and to get inspiration from the natural relationships the river represents.

Future participants are invited to present papers that explore the artistic cultures of the Danube in verbal, visual and aural forms – such as prose, poetry, drama, graphic novels, comics, documentaries, feature films, photography, painting, sculpture, installation art, music etc. – examining the signifying systems they use, the imagery on which they draw, their audiences, their social and historical contexts, and the further discourses they bring about.

Possible topics associated with the Danube may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- literary history and cultural memory
- myths and legends, fantasy and science fiction
- translation and intercultural history
- film and dramatic adaptations
- rhythms, meter and prosody in poetry and music
- linguistic diversity and cultural hybridity
- popular culture
- relationship between genre and place
- social dimensions such as class, ethnicity, race, gender, religion, community
- political regimes and narratives of resistance or dislocation
- national, transnational, cosmopolitan and multicultural identities
- wars, conflicts and disputes
- individual and collective trauma
- urban, rural and natural landscapes
- family, kinship and domestic spaces
- boundaries, borders and mental space
- natural disasters, ecological intervention and ecocriticism
- flora and fauna
- travel writing and mobility up and down the river
- migrants, exiles, refugees, asylum seekers
- festivals, customs and traditions
- shipwreck, death and suicide
- gender and sexuality
- childhood, maturity and old age
- old and new technologies
- posthumous representations
- navigation and other means of transport
- other related topics

Authors are invited to send a **250-word abstract** and a **short bio** to the panel organizer.

## References

- Beattie, Andrew. *The Danube: A Cultural History*. Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Beronja, Vad, Stijn Vervaeke. *Post-Yugoslav Constellations: Archive, Memory and Trauma in Contemporary Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian Literature and Culture*. De Gruyter, 2016.
- Bozovic, Marijeta and Matthew D. Miller. *Watersheds: Poetics and Politics of the Danube River*. Academic Studies Press, 2016.
- Gorup, Radmila. *After Yugoslavia: The Cultural Spaces of a Vanished Land*. Stanford University Press, 2013.
- Grubacic, Andrej, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. *Don't Mourn, Balkanize! Essays After Yugoslavia*. PM Press, 2010.
- Jones, Gwen. *Chicago of the Balkans: Budapest in Hungarian Literature, 1900-1939*. Legenda, 2013.
- Kassabova, Kapka. *Border: a journey to the edge of Europe*. Graywolf, 2017.
- Kiséry, András, Zsolt Komáromy, Zsuzsanna Varga. *Worlds of Hungarian Writing: National Literature as Intercultural Exchange*. Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2016.
- Rewakowicz, Maria G. *Literature, Exile, Alterity. The New York Group of Ukrainian Poets*. Academic Studies Press, 2014.
- Romanets, Maryna. *Ukrainian Erotomaniac Fictions: First Postindependence Wave*. Routledge, 2019.
- Thorpe, Nick. *The Danube: a Journey Upriver from the Black Sea to the Black Forest*. Yale University Press, 2013.
- Todorova, Maria. *Imagining the Balkans*. Oxford University Press, 2009.
- . *Balkan Identities: Nation and Memory*. NYU Press, 2004.
- Tomic, Svetlana. *The Hidden History of New Women in Serbian Culture: Toward a New History of Literature*. Lexington Books, 2022.