



**WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA  
DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES  
FACULTY OF LETTERS, HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY**

**The Conference of Doctoral Students in Humanities**  
*Beyond and After Humanism –  
The Transition from the Fourth to the Fifth Industrial Revolution*

**Conference Programme**

**Online, November 21-22, 2024**



## **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

Assoc. prof. **Daniel Lemeni**, PhD, West University of Timișoara

Prof. **Claudiu Mesaroș**, PhD, West University of Timișoara

Prof. **Dana Percec**, PhD, West University of Timișoara

Prof. **Loredana Pungă**, PhD, West University of Timișoara

Prof. **Dumitru Tucan**, PhD, West University of Timișoara

Assoc. prof. **Mihaela Vlăsceanu**, PhD, West University of Timișoara

### **PhD students:**

Maria Bica

Oana Gogoșeanu

Robert Orgovan

Alina Rădoi

Amelia Toth

## **ORGANISER**

Doctoral School of Humanities,  
West University of Timișoara

## **WORKING LANGUAGES**

Romanian & English

## Conference Programme

### Thursday, November 21

#### 18:00 – 19:30 Opening address

Prof. Alin Sava, PhD, Head of the Council for Doctoral Studies,  
West University of Timișoara

Prof. Dana Percec, PhD, Dean, Faculty of Letters, History, Philosophy and Theology

Prof. Loredana Pungă, PhD, Head of the Doctoral School of Humanities

#### Plenary lecture

**Pr. Răzvan Ionescu**, PhD, "Dumitru Stăniloae" Orthodox Studies and Research  
Center, Paris

*Despre creștinism ca împlinire vs transumanism ca depășire tehnologică a  
umanului. Repere antropologice*

Moderator: Assoc. prof. Daniel Lemeni, PhD

### Friday, November 22

12:00 – 14:00/14.15 Paper presentations

14:00/14.15 – 15:00 Lunch break

15:00 – 17:00 Paper presentations

17:00/17.15 – 17:30 Coffee break

#### 17:30 – 18:30 Q&A Session

**Diana Mistreanu**, PhD, University of Passau

*Un parcurs academic: drumul unui cercetător din România spre Europa și  
dincolo de ea*

Moderator: Prof. Loredana Pungă, PhD

18:45 – 19:00 Closing address

#### Links

Opening and plenary lecture: [meet.google.com/ccw-ocei-gzn](https://meet.google.com/ccw-ocei-gzn)

Host: Prof. Loredana Pungă, PhD

Q&A session: [meet.google.com/ccw-ocei-gzn](https://meet.google.com/ccw-ocei-gzn)

Host: Prof. Loredana Pungă, PhD

**Friday, November 22, 12:00 - 14:00**

LITERATURE AND CULTURAL STUDIES I	LITERATURE AND CULTURAL STUDIES II	LINGUISTICS AND TRANSLATION STUDIES I	LINGUISTICS AND TRANSLATION STUDIES II	THEOLOGY	HISTORY
<p><i>Coordination:</i> <b>Prof. Dumitru Tucan</b> <i>IT Support:</i> <b>Oana Gogoșeanu</b> <i>Link:</i> <a href="https://meet.google.com/abf-nhnk-cyh">meet.google.com/abf-nhnk-cyh</a></p>	<p><i>Coordination:</i> <b>Ass. prof. Luiza Caraivan</b> <i>IT Support:</i> <b>Maria Bica</b> <i>Link:</i> <a href="https://meet.google.com/msu-iihk-qnc">meet.google.com/msu-iihk-qnc</a></p>	<p><i>Coordination:</i> <b>Prof. Titela Vilceanu</b> <i>IT Support:</i> <b>Claudia Costantea</b> <i>Link:</i> <a href="https://meet.google.com/osw-nskm-ypq">meet.google.com/osw-nskm-ypq</a></p>	<p><i>Coordination:</i> <b>Prof. Loredana Pungă</b> <i>IT Support:</i> <b>Alina Rădoi</b> <i>Link:</i> <a href="https://meet.google.com/oid-pjlv-uam">meet.google.com/oid-pjlv-uam</a></p>	<p><i>Coordination:</i> <b>Ass. prof. Daniel Lemeni</b> <i>IT Support:</i> <b>Ass. prof. Daniel Lemeni</b> <i>Link:</i> <a href="https://meet.google.com/fci-rqzp-rbp">meet.google.com/fci-rqzp-rbp</a></p>	<p><i>Coordination:</i> <b>Ass. prof. Mihaela Vlăsceanu</b> <i>IT Support:</i> <b>Amelia Toth</b> <i>Link:</i> <a href="https://meet.google.com/sqp-nfba-txm">meet.google.com/sqp-nfba-txm</a></p>
<p><b>12:00-12:15</b> <b>Alla Apopei</b> <i>Nicolae Dabija's Poetry – The Capital of Hope in the Transhumanist Era</i></p>	<p><b>12:00-12:15</b> <b>Maria Bica</b> <i>Generative Literature: From Queneau's <b>One Hundred Million Poems</b> to ChatGPT</i></p>	<p><b>12:00-12:15</b> <b>Claudia Costantea</b> <i>AI – the 21st Century Subtitled?</i></p>	<p><b>12:00-12:15</b> <b>Nicoleta-Corina Drăgoi (Braloștițianu)</b> <i>Contexting in War Speech Translation</i></p>	<p><b>12:00-12:15</b> <b>Adriana Anca Boghiu</b> <i>The Technological Dimension and Data Protection in the Romanian Orthodox Church: Theological Perspectives on Technological Desirability and Transhumanism</i></p>	<p><b>12:00-12:15</b> <b>Adrian Deheleanu</b> <i>The Influence of Politics on Plastic Arts in Communist Romania. January 23, 1978 Moment</i></p>
<p><b>12:15-12:30</b> <b>Daniela Fercea</b> <i>The Status of Children's Literature in the English Textbooks. The Case of Romanian Middle Schools</i></p>	<p><b>12:15-12:30</b> <b>Bianca Crișan</b> <i>Assembling the Posthuman: Deconstructing Anthropocentrism in Ahmed Saadawi's <b>Frankenstein in Baghdad</b></i></p>	<p><b>12:15-12:30</b> <b>Mihaela Marieta Damian</b> <i>Reconceptualizing Cognitive Metaphors in WWII Narratives: Translation and the Impact of Technological Transformation</i></p>	<p><b>12:15-12:30</b> <b>Teodora Florică (Dragotă)</b> <i>English - lingua franca or Bridge Language? Empirical Perspectives on the EU Discourse</i></p>	<p><b>12:15-12:30</b> <b>Ioan Botezan</b> <i>The Nyptic Revival of Man in a Technological World: Problems and Solutions According to the Teachings of the Reverends Ephraim of Katounakia and Joseph of Vatopedi</i></p>	<p><b>12:15-12:30</b> <b>Darius-Aurelian Dragomir-Cozma</b> <i>Gheorghe Pompilian. The Formulation of Modernity between Goya and Géricault</i></p>
<p><b>12:30-12:45</b> <b>Anamaria Groza (Grigoriu)</b> <i>The Impact of the Virtual on Literary Creation: A Case Study of Andrei Codrescu</i></p>	<p><b>12:30-12:45</b> <b>Edit Fazakas</b> <i>Oppression and Identity in Adichie's <b>Purple Hibiscus</b>: A Parallel with the Transhumanist Discourse</i></p>	<p><b>12:30-12:45</b> <b>Sanda-Gabriela Guina</b> <i>Language, Identity and Technology: Linguistic Shifts in the Era of the 5th Industrial Revolution</i></p>	<p><b>12:30-12:45</b> <b>Sabina Mihai</b> <i>Analysis of the Spanish and Romanian Translation of Diaries and Propaganda Material about Nurses during World War I (1919-1939)</i></p>	<p><b>12:30-12:45</b> <b>Damian Buchiu</b> <i>Technological Theosis? An Eastern Orthodox Perspective of Religious Transhumanism</i></p>	<p><b>12:30-12:45</b> <b>Andreea Laura Martinescu</b> <i>History and High-Tech: Restoration of Historic Buildings through the Visions of John Ruskin and Eugène Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc and the Power of Artificial Intelligence</i></p>
<p><b>12:45-13:00</b> <b>Teodora Iurusiuc</b> <i>Humanism under the Sign of Postmodernism</i></p>	<p><b>12:45-13:00</b> <b>Bogdan Imbri</b> <i>Trauma. Fall and Sublimation in Batman</i></p>	<p><b>12:45-13:00</b> <b>Andra-Simona Diaconu</b> <i>Polysemy within the Framework of Legal</i></p>	<p><b>12:45-13:00</b> <b>Andrei Mohanu</b> <i>The Impact of AI on Translation and Gender</i></p>	<p><b>12:45-13:00</b> <b>Ciprian Chiorean</b> <i>The Divine Beauty of Humanity. An Interreligious</i></p>	<p><b>12:45-13:00</b> <b>Larisa Lozeanu</b> <i>The Church of the Franciscan Convent from Caransebeș</i></p>

		<i>Terminology</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Vision in the Context of Judaism, Christianity and Islam</i>	
<b>13:00-13:15</b> <b>Irina Nechifor</b> <i>Ethics Challenges in Ion Băieșu's Theatre</i>	<b>13:00-13:15</b> <b>Sarah Malekshahian</b> <i>Neo-narrativity and Hybridization of the Arts in the 21st Century</i>	<b>13:00-13:15</b> <b>Adriana Dragomir (Barbu)</b> <i>Pragmatic Interpretive Tools and Strategies in Literary Translation</i>	<b>13:00-13:15</b> <b>Ioana-Mădălina-Dana Lambrache (Radu)</b> <i>Towards an Integrated Framework of Traditional and Innovative Approaches to Specialized Translation</i>	<b>13:00-13:15</b> <b>Valentin Cocan</b> <i>The Human Journey through Emotions towards Self-discovery</i>	<b>13:00-14:00: Q&amp;A</b>
<b>13:15-14:00: Q&amp;A</b>	<b>13:15-13:30:</b> <b>Andrea Putnoky</b> <i>Human Enhancement in Anime: Questions and Concerns</i>	<b>13:15-13:30:</b> <b>Oana-Denisa Dragomir</b> <i>Hallmarks of the Ionașcu Discourse. Masculine, Feminine and Everything in Between</i>	<b>13:15-13:30:</b> <b>Radu-Ștefan-Bogdan Stănescu</b> <i>Digital Politeness: How Technology Transforms Communication and Courtesy</i>	<b>13:15-13:30</b> <b>Mina Ivanov</b> <i>The Eternal Relationship between Body and Soul in the Vision of Saint Mark Eugenicus</i>	
	<b>13:30-14:00: Q&amp;A</b>	<b>13:30-14:00: Q&amp;A</b>	<b>13:30-14:00: Q&amp;A</b>	<b>13.30-13.45</b> <b>Vicențiu Dragoș Bășa</b> <i>The Discernment Dimension of St. Basil the Great in Understanding the Relationship between Science and Religion</i>	
				<b>13:45-14:15: Q&amp;A</b>	

**Friday, November 22, 15:00 - 17:00**

LITERATURE AND CULTURAL STUDIES III	LINGUISTICS AND TRANSLATION STUDIES III	PHILOSOPHY	THEOLOGY	HISTORY
<p><i>Coordination:</i> <b>Prof. Dumitru Tucan</b> <i>IT Support:</i> <b>Oana Gogoșeanu</b> <i>Link:</i> <a href="https://meet.google.com/abf-nhmk-cyh">meet.google.com/abf-nhmk-cyh</a></p>	<p><i>Coordination:</i> <b>Prof. Codruța Goșa</b> <i>IT Support:</i> <b>Alina Rădoi</b> <i>Link:</i> <a href="https://meet.google.com/oid-pjhw-uam">meet.google.com/oid-pjhw-uam</a></p>	<p><i>Coordination:</i> <b>Prof. Claudiu Mesaroș</b> <i>IT Support:</i> <b>Robert-Daniel Orgovan</b> <i>Link:</i> <a href="https://meet.google.com/gga-hoqh-ewu">meet.google.com/gga-hoqh-ewu</a></p>	<p><i>Coordination:</i> <b>Ass. prof. Alin Scridon</b> <i>IT Support:</i> <b>Ass. prof. Alin Scridon</b> <i>Link:</i> <a href="https://meet.google.com/nbj-zczs-jmi">meet.google.com/nbj-zczs-jmi</a></p>	<p><i>Coordination:</i> <b>Ass. prof. Mihaela Vlăsceanu</b> <i>IT Support:</i> <b>Amelia Toth</b> <i>Link:</i> <a href="https://meet.google.com/sqp-nfba-txm">meet.google.com/sqp-nfba-txm</a></p>
<p><b>15:00-15:15</b> <b>Bogdan Andrei</b> <i>Simulacra, Hyperreality and the Ethics of AI: Missiological Reflections on Contemporary Literature and Media</i></p>	<p><b>15:00-15:15</b> <b>Irina-Marinela Deftu</b> <i>Artificial Intelligence in Teaching Romanian as a Foreign Language. ChatGPT as a Support and Intelligent Aid Tool in Language Education</i></p>	<p><b>15:00-15:15</b> <b>Veronica Bâtcă</b> <i>The Sage: A Much Needed Job in the World of Now</i></p>	<p><b>15:00-15:15</b> <b>Nicolae Magda</b> <i>On the Path of Faith: Between the Wisdom of Religion and Scientific Discoveries</i></p>	<p><b>15:00-15:15</b> <b>Andrei-Dumitru Olteanu</b> <i>A Royal November. The Visits of the Ceaușescu Couple to the Nordic Countries (1980)</i></p>
<p><b>15:15-15:30</b> <b>Narcis Apostu</b> <i>Transgressing Humanity: The Vitruvian Android in Cyberpunk Science Fiction</i></p>	<p><b>15:15-15:30</b> <b>Adela Chindriș</b> <i>Optimizing the 8th Grade Romanian Language and Literature Exam: A Technological Approach to Readability and Real-World Language Skills</i></p>	<p><b>15:15-15:30</b> <b>Alexandru-Ioan Cânda</b> <i>Postmodern Virtual Space. Between the Anguishing Misunderstood and the Assumed Possible</i></p>	<p><b>15:15-15:30</b> <b>Cosmin-Paul Niergeș</b> <i>Transhumanism and Orthodox Soteriology. Improvement or Healing of the Human Nature</i></p>	<p><b>15:15-15:30</b> <b>Adrian-Tiberiu Racoveanu</b> <i>Contemporary Challenges of Humanities – Lessons from the Past, Retrospective on the Communist Situation</i></p>
<p><b>15:30-15:45</b> <b>Oana Condurache</b> <i>Is American Studies Obsolete?</i></p>	<p><b>15:30-15:45</b> <b>Anamaria Caramangiu</b> <i>Fighting Windmills: Defending the Role of Literature in Language Learning with Modern Weapons</i></p>	<p><b>15:30-15:45</b> <b>Marius Golea</b> <i>Rhetorics in the Reflexive Religious Philosophy of Dumitru Stăniloae. A Linguistic-Philosophical Interdisciplinary Perspective.</i></p>	<p><b>15:30-15:45</b> <b>Pr. Dumitru Mazilu</b> <i>Artificial Intelligence: A Social Challenge Regarding Ecclesiastical and Legal Regulations and the Possible Canonical Response of the Romanian Orthodox Church</i></p>	<p><b>15:30-15:45</b> <b>Amelia Toth</b> <i>Legislative and Administrative Integration of Banat into the Kingdom of Romania: A Historical and Transhumanist Perspective</i></p>
<p><b>15:45-16:00</b> <b>Claudiu Gherasim</b> <i>The New Eden: Navigating the Virtual and the Divine in Les</i></p>	<p><b>15:45-16:00</b> <b>Lucia Horea</b> <i>From Policy to Practice: Methodological Approaches to</i></p>	<p><b>15:45-16:00</b> <b>Sergiu-Gabriel Szollosi</b> <i>Humanity between God and Idol: The Constancy of the Image of</i></p>	<p><b>15:45-16:00</b> <b>Pr. Andrei Oprea</b> <i>The Vision of Martyr Bishop Andrei Magieru on the Future</i></p>	<p><b>15:45-16:00</b> <b>Mihaela Livia Popa</b> <i>Art History in the Times of Industrial Revolution 5.0: Architecture beyond Facades</i></p>

<i>Liens Artificiels</i> by Nathan Devers	<i>Understanding Family Language Choices</i>	<i>God and the Identity Crisis in Jean-Luc Marion's Philosophy</i>	<i>and the Fate of the Orthodox Church</i>	
<b>16:00-16:15</b> <b>Florentina Camelia Ștefan</b> <i>Intersectionality in Girl, Woman, Other</i>	<b>16:00-16:15</b> <b>Alina-Ioana Morar</b> <i>Redefining Education: The Future of Learning in the Age of Transhumanism</i>	<b>16:00-16:15</b> <b>Alexandra Florentina Ștefi</b> <i>Transhuman Narratives in Video Games: Exploring a New Humanism</i>	<b>16:00-16:15</b> <b>Pr. Adrian Ioan Roman</b> <i>The Spiritual Life of Modern Man under the Influence of Digital Technology: Adverse Effects of Electronic Screens from the Perspective of Eastern Spirituality</i>	<b>16:00-17:00: Q&amp;A</b>
<b>16:15-17:00: Q&amp;A</b>	<b>16:15-16:30</b> <b>Anna Chiara Mezzasalma</b> <i>Elf and AI in Academic Settings: A Gramscian Perspective for Epistemic Diversity</i>	<b>16:15-16:30</b> <b>Mesfin Yikunoamlak</b> <i>Pragmatic Ethics in Defense of Transhumanism</i>	<b>16:15-16:30</b> <b>Nicu Purcel</b> <i>Resurrection of the Dead and the Habitation of the Cosmos? An Old Project of Russian Cosmism</i>	
	<b>16:30-17:00: Q&amp;A</b>	<b>16:30-17:00: Q&amp;A</b>	<b>16:30-16:45</b> <b>Iulian-Constantin Vrabie</b> <i>Personal Development and Spiritual Improvement: The Current Techno-spiritualism Model vs. Divine Grace</i>	
			<b>16:45-17:15: Q&amp;A</b>	

## ABSTRACTS

### LITERATURE AND CULTURAL STUDIES

#### **Andrei Bogdan**

*Simulacra, Hyperreality and the Ethics of AI: Missiological Reflections on Contemporary Literature and Media*

First, the paper examines the interplay between simulacra, hyperreality, and the ethical issues of artificial intelligence (AI) by a missiological approach since focusing on modern literature and media. Hyperreality - a technique for scrutinizing AI influence on attitudes, acquaintances, and spiritual principles - is born in the world dominated by digital experiences where the real becomes unreal. Next, the investigation of the source of simulacra as a general human experience, particularly through the use of technological mediation in human experience, is launched with the analysis of the most popular literary and media texts that present simulacra as the main element in the construction of identity and meaning. Based on this analysis, it is concluded that along with the ideas of mimesis the book projects the idea of the authority of AI in a world in which human beings become the servants of machines and lose their role as moral agents. Besides, the missiological perspective is an ethical factor that includes the manufactured and the purchased in dealing with such a connection point between the metaphysical and the social out of technology. Transhumanism and posthumanism are major themes in the contemporary culture in which the critique of the culture and the narratives, that the culture uses to communicate humanity, faith, and ethical engagement, arises. Further, it is stated that simulacra, hyperreality, and AI, lying in a cluster, require the intensification of ethical concerns within the humanities drawing the attention of these disciplines to the need for mutual understanding between faith and technology during crisis in the new digital age.

#### **Apopei Alla**

*Nicolae Dabija's Poetry – The Capital of Hope in the Transhumanist Era*

Literature is a form of resistance, a refuge for humanity in an increasingly digitalized age. It is the lantern that guides us toward light in an era marked by the confrontation between humanism and transhumanism. Just as Clara, Josie's AF (Artificial Friend) from Kazuo Ishiguro's novel, needed the sunlight to function, so do people, sensitive beings, animated by anima (soul/heart), require literature, inhabited by poetry, the most sensitive form of expressing feelings, as well as existential crises across all eras. To illustrate how poetry connects humans with the world and with themselves in an era exposed to the onslaught of technology, maintaining the balance between inner and outer worlds, I refer, in my paper, to the recent speech by Ana Blandiana at the Princess of Asturias Award for Literature 2024 ceremony in Spain, to Nicolae Dabija's poetics, and to the analysis of a case study measuring the impact of the writer's literary works from beyond the Prut on 500 young people.

#### **Apostu Narcis**

*Transgressing Humanity: The Vitruvian Android in Cyberpunk Science Fiction*

Are you a human? Prove that you are not a robot. This presentation analyses the intersection of Posthumanism and Science Fiction, with a focus on the fluid nature of humanity in technologically saturated societies. By examining "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" by Philip K. Dick and Asimov's depiction of robotics, it delves into how speculative fiction critiques and reshapes the human-machine dichotomy. Posthumanism, as a continuation of Postmodernism, dismantles anthropocentrism and embraces alterities, highlighting how literature reflects and interrogates the evolving definitions of humanity. Androids, as portrayed by Dick, become symbolic of the blurred boundaries between human and machine, inviting readers to question the status quo of what it means to be human in an era of advanced technology. Through this lens, the presentation reexamines how literature anticipates posthuman futures, probing our ontological assumptions in a world where the line between human and machine becomes increasingly indistinct.



### **Bica Maria-Simona**

*Generative Literature: From Queneau's One Hundred Million Million Poems to ChatGPT*

Recent discussions in the Humanities are raising questions about the implications of artificial intelligence (AI) for the future of literary creation and analysis. As generative digital tools become more advanced, the writing process is evolving, prompting further examination of how these tools affect literary production. This research project seeks to explore the historical development of generative literature and to argue that AI's role in contemporary literature can be seen as an experimental enhancement rather than a purely negative influence. The paper begins with an analysis of Raymond Queneau's *One Hundred Million Million Poems* (1961) as a precursor to digital generative literature, tracing its evolution up to today's AI-driven works. Findings from this study suggest that while generative literature is often viewed skeptically, especially in digital formats, it remains an experimental category that complements rather than threatens traditional writing, which continues to be preferred by professional writers. This study also provides an innovative idea regarding the usage of AI when it comes to generative literature in scriptotherapy, highlighting the beneficial role of technology in various literary fields, including Trauma Studies.

### **Condurache Oana**

*Is American Studies Obsolete?*

In the 1960s, American Studies abroad was primarily equated with American literature, focusing largely on canonical works by white male authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Edgar Allan Poe, and William Faulkner. Over time, this expanded slightly to include a few prominent white female authors like Carson McCullers, Eudora Welty, and Willa Cather, along with a handful of Jewish-American male writers such as Bernard Malamud, Saul Bellow, and Philip Roth, suggesting a minimal acknowledgment of gender and cultural diversity. This approach, centered on literary aesthetics, largely overlooked social, political, and economic dimensions of American culture. Interestingly, the reimagining of American Studies that began in the United States in the 1970s coincided with a growing sense of frustration among some U.S. organizations supporting American Studies programs abroad. Before the Civil Rights Movement, when the field of American Studies was mostly concentrated on the curricula designed by Modern Language Association and the American Historical Association, many American Studies scholars contributed to the training of Peace Corps volunteers. Regardless of their roles, volunteers received an American Studies course as part of their preparation. This training covered not only the positive aspects of American society but also addressed its failures and strains within it. Globalization is closely associated with the Clinton and Bush administrations, indirectly facilitating multinational corporations in their encroachment upon indigenous industries and agriculture. This expansion often undermined local knowledge and limited the ability of communities and sovereign nations. With such an exacerbated amount of information pouring throughout the internet, where are the American Studies scholars to place themselves as contributors? This presentation focuses on the role of American Studies in a post-postmodern context.

### **Crişan Bianca**

*Assembling the Posthuman: Deconstructing Anthropocentrism in Ahmed Saadawi's Frankenstein in Baghdad*

This paper examines how *Frankenstein in Baghdad* challenges anthropocentric discourse by presenting a posthuman entity born of Iraq's collective suffering. Hadi, the protagonist, sews together body parts of bombing victims to create the "Whatsitsname," a creature animated by vengeance for those it embodies. This creature symbolises a critique of identity and morality in fragmented societies, embodying Saadawi's posthuman lens on individual agency and collective trauma. Analysed through the frameworks of transhumanism and posthumanism, this paper situates the novel within contemporary cultural discourses, highlighting its thematic resonance with the societal dehumanisation effects of modern warfare.

### **Fazakas Edit**

#### *Oppression and Identity in Adichie's Purple Hibiscus: A Parallel with the Transhumanist Discourse*

This paper explores the complex interplay between oppression and identity in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus* and its parallels with the evolving notions of self in transhumanist futures. By focusing on the characters of Kambili, Jaja, and Beatrice, the paper examines how personal and cultural identities are shaped and reshaped under oppressive forces, both within familial structures and broader societal contexts. Kambili and Jaja's subdued rebellion against their tyrannical father serves as a framework for examining the repercussions of oppression and the subtle resistance that promotes self-discovery. In transhumanist discourse, the potential for augmented human powers via technology engenders a new type of oppression that interrogates and reconstitutes human identity. The paper draws parallels between Kambili and Jaja's struggle for autonomy and the potential for rebellion against the pressures of technological conformity in a transhumanist future. By comparing Adichie's depiction of rebellion in a repressive environment with the ethical and philosophical dilemmas posed by transhumanism, this study interrogates how identity can be reclaimed and redefined in the face of both personal and systemic control. Ultimately, the paper argues that the quest for identity, whether under the weight of autocracy or the pressures of technological enhancement, reveals the abiding tension between autonomy and oppression. *Purple Hibiscus* offers a narrative that resonates with contemporary discussions in transhumanism, making it a crucial text for understanding the ongoing redefinition of humanity in both current and future contexts.

### **Fercea Daniela**

#### *The Status of Children's Literature in the English Textbooks. The Case of Romanian Middle Schools*

Our purpose in this study is to highlight children's literature as an available resource to both teachers and students that will aid them in studying various aspects of a foreign language, in this case English. However, the emphasis falls most heavily on knowing and understanding the Romanian educational system, the case of middle schools, concerning the publishing of English textbooks. The study that I intend to conduct argues for integrating children's literature and literary theory-based discussions within the English classes in Romanian middle schools, and not only, in order to enhance knowledge, creativity, motivation to learn, open-mindedness and understanding of other cultures and civilizations. In this perspective, I examined a representative collection of English textbooks published for the Romanian Middle School system, in order to detect differences and similarities of a certain teaching approach, mainly based on learning about language through children's literature. I concentrated my analysis on how different literature excerpts are being integrated in these textbooks as a method of enhancing appreciation and understanding of language beyond concern for proper usage.

### **Gherasim Claudiu**

#### *The New Eden: Navigating the Virtual and the Divine in **Les Liens Artificiels** by Nathan Devers*

Nathan Devers' *Les Liens artificiels* (2020) offers a thought-provoking examination of human identity in the context of emerging technologies, addressing both transhumanism and posthumanism while drawing on subtle biblical intertextuality. The novel explores the disconnection between the human subject and the artificial world, embodied by Julien's virtual existence in the highly immersive metaverse Antimonde. This hyperreal world, driven by technological augmentation, critiques the transhumanist idea of enhancing human experience through digital means. Instead, Devers presents a cautionary tale of alienation, where technology fails to improve humanity and instead leads to a loss of self. Biblical references, especially allusions to the Fall and the search for redemption, frame this critique, positioning the virtual as a new Eden that leads to existential isolation. This communication will explore how *Les Liens artificiels* uses biblical intertextuality to interrogate the ethical and existential consequences of transhumanism and posthumanism, particularly in the context of digital immersion and identity.

## **Groza (Grigoriu) Anamaria**

### *The Impact of the Virtual on Literary Creation: A Case Study of Andrei Codrescu*

The experience in the virtual environment has had an extremely productive impact on Andrei Codrescu, due to its various dimensions: collaborations, the dissemination of literary texts, inspiration for creation, as well as subjects for essays and novels. Andrei Codrescu has a complex relationship with the virtual environment, in which he explores and reflects on the impact of technology on creation and communication. He embraces digital tools as a possible extension of human thought, but at the same time, he expresses concerns about the superficiality and alienation they can bring. Codrescu uses the internet as a platform to share his ideas, but remains aware of the challenges the virtual environment poses in relation to authenticity and human interconnectedness. Codrescu's relationship with the virtual environment can be approached from two distinct angles. First, it is seen as a space for interaction with other authors, as well as a platform that provides readers access to literary works online. Second, we can examine his connection with readers within social media networks, also exploring Codrescu's perspective on communication in the digital environment and the influence that the internet has on his creative process. The internet has been a determining factor in the realization of two of Codrescu's works: ""Miracle and Catastrophe,"" which is a collection of email correspondence with Robert Lazu, and ""The Forgiven Submarine,"" a collaboration with Ruxandra Cesereanu.

## **Imbri Bogdan**

### *Trauma. Fall and Sublimation in **Batman***

Bruce Wayne saw his parents murdered in front of him when he was a little boy. But he became Batman to save and protect those who do not deserve to go through similar tragedies. The villains whom he has to face as Gotham's vigilante have gone through similar traumas at some point in their lives but, instead of sublimating the pain, like Batman, they have been crushed and poisoned by it. Uncomforted and embittered, they have turned the pain against the world, whom they consider responsible for their personal misfortune, and hope to heal it by inflicting it on others. In a postindustrial and supposedly pre-apocalyptic world in which the individual is plagued with trauma, loneliness, and psychological challenges, the characters in *Batman* offer these two ways of dealing with the precariousness of the humanity in us: becoming a villain or a hero through it.

## **Iuriusciuc Teodora**

### *Humanism under the Sign of Postmodernism*

The postmodern era emerges as an expression of a post-totalitarian ideology that advocates for cooperation. This context provides an ideal environment for shaping a new humanism and a reimagined understanding of the human condition. This study seeks to examine the transformations humanism has undergone during the postmodern period in Romanian literature of the late 20th century - a time when literature begins to focus on the figure of the ordinary individual, engaged in the trivialities of daily life and rooted in personal, everyday reality. In the literature of recent decades, an interest in the person behind the work emerges alongside a new anthropocentrism that advocates for a rehumanization of literature, ultimately crystallizing into a globalizing humanism. Through this lens, poets develop a sensory poetry grounded in events drawn from their own lives.

## **Malekshahian Sarah**

### *Neo-narrativity and Hybridization of the Arts in the 21st Century*

The concept of "total work of art" that Wagner attributed to Greek tragedy is being revalued in contemporary times with the emergence of various audiovisual art forms and proposals. In recent years, the urban music scene has contributed with numerous artistic projects where different means of expression converge: musical composition, poetry, image, dance, plastic art, etc. An example of this artistic plurality can be seen in Spanish singer Rosalía's conceptual album: *El Mal Querer*. The harmonization of traditional concepts with modern and contemporary themes and techniques results in a revolutionary way of not only creating, but also presenting an artistic product. Therefore, analyzing the musical work from an inter-artistic perspective

proves to be an excellent proposal to observe and understand the way in which the arts come together in the same interdisciplinary project: literature, music, audiovisuals, even choreography and staging, a set of arts reinterpreted to present current themes such as jealousy or the reclaiming of feminine power.

### **Nechifor Irina**

*Ethics Challenges in Ion Băieșu's Theatre*

This article-reflection focuses on the definition of the meaning of morality recovered through stage literature in the work of a playwright affiliated with the communist censorship. A first line of research will consider the challenges of ethics abolished for partisan reasons, in which the degeneration of lies and indiscretion creates direct and collateral victims. Diegesis proposes existential alternatives: building a time accelerator, escaping into a phantasmagorical space, globe-trotting as a definitive experience, forgetting as a hypostasis of pathological indifference. Similarly, the hermeneutic approach will define the author's stubborn persistence in offering survival options in the world and in his theater: the elimination of negative characters but their rehabilitation in other plays, the use of a *deus ex machina* to resolve the conflict, the revelation, though not acceptance, of the mechanisms of the social. Thus, Ion Băieșu's dramatic literature has the power to disavow, to keep alive the receiver's interest in the truth of his world, the writer fully understanding his role as a trailblazer, the voice of a nation crushed under the heel of totalitarianism.

### **Putnoky Andrea**

*Human Enhancement in Anime: Questions and Concerns*

Media is on the one hand a reflection of concerns within current society, and, on the other hand, responsible for further influencing opinions and spreading ideas. This paper focuses on a restrained corpus consisting of anime which aired throughout three decades. In identifying recurring themes, it may be possible to determine the general stance and views the artists have on issues pertaining to technology and human enhancement, such as artificial intelligence and cyborgs. Certain types of media also encourage audiences to ask questions and further consider the topic at hand, in this case the morality and potential dangers of technological advancement. The negative outcomes presented in anime may serve as cautionary tales, allowing society to avoid the speculated shortcomings by using media as a simulation, and instead wield potential improvements in a responsible manner.

### **Ștefan Florentina-Camelia**

*Intersectionality in *Girl, Woman, Other**

The presentation I have envisaged aims at discussing the novel *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo, through the lens of intersectionality. The term coined by Kimberlè Crenshaw reflects the interconnectedness of factors such as race, gender, socioeconomic situation, education and ability in creating prejudice or privilege. I shall apply this frame to reveal the elements of intersectional feminism in the novel and to investigate the narrative technique as well as the characters' journey. The fusion of twelve narratives explores the ways that love intersects with racial and ethnic identity in the process of becoming an adult woman. More particularly, I intend to analyze the Black British feminist perspective proposed by this author with a focus on the concept of otherness. Black women in postcolonial Britain have been othered and this is reflected in the mother-daughter relationships, biased family roles, community relations, societal norms and culture. The solution suggested by Bernardine Evaristo through the stories of the 12 characters is self-love and empathy as resources for resilience and growth.

## LINGUISTICS AND TRANSLATION STUDIES

### **Caramangiu Anamaria**

#### *Fighting Windmills: Defending the Role of Literature in Language Learning with Modern Weapons*

Teaching Romanian as a foreign language can often be challenging, mainly because of the reduced world-wide availability of materials in comparison to other more widely spoken languages, such as English or Spanish. However, this gap is being slowly, but surely filled thanks to online libraries and internet repositories devoted to literature, language and education. While the presence of literary texts in language classes has been a fixture in the traditional paradigm, they do seem to be turning into a discartable element in newer language teaching tendencies and technology-dominated formats and learning tools. This seems to echo the current world-wide cultural and educational crisis, in which there appears to be a conflict between the established values and the concrete (and rather limited) competences, gained through applied approaches, demanded by the labour market, quite visible in fields such as translation and interpreting. We aim to report on two recent projects, born in the context of the forced digitalisation brought about by the pandemic, whose endeavour is to bring Romanian literature closer to the foreign public, in terms of their potential as teaching tools and our experience using them at the University of Alicante, with Translation and Interpreting students.

### **Chindriş Adela**

#### *Optimizing the 8th Grade Romanian Language and Literature Exam: A Technological Approach to Readability and Real-World Language Skills*

This study examines the challenges Romanian 8th-grade students face in the Romanian Language and Literature National Assessment (RLLNA) and emphasizes the role of educational technology in addressing these issues. The exam's complex texts and theoretical grammar tasks often hinder comprehension and accessibility, as revealed by performance data from 2021 to 2024. To support students, this paper advocates integrating digital tools—such as LEMI, Microsoft Word's grammar checker, Google Forms, Kahoot and Quizizz—to provide real-time feedback, personalized learning, and continuous progress tracking. These technologies facilitate more engaging, student-centered learning experiences, helping students build language skills effectively. Key recommendations include (a) simplifying reading tasks' linguistic complexity, (b) focusing on grammar tasks that reflect real-world language use, and (c) embedding formative assessment tools to support gradual skill development. Modernizing the RLLNA through technology and aligning it with international standards like PISA can create a more accessible, relevant and equitable assessment.

### **Constantea Claudia**

#### *AI – the 21st Century Subtitler?*

In a world surrounded by audio-visual content at every turn, subtitling has become an essential tool for global exchange of information. This paper explores the evolution of the subtitling industry, tracing its journey from the manual processes to the AI-driven tools. While AI seems to have revolutionised the subtitling industry by increasing speed and reducing costs, it has yet to achieve a qualitative translation that captures the linguistic and cultural nuances of the source language. Despite these technological advances, human expertise in subtitling is imperative. The translator has to adhere to the technical regulations of subtitling as well as be aware not to break the “contract of illusion” (created by Romero Fresco in 2011). This “document” states that subtitling should be so seamless that the audience forgets it is actually a translation. Is AI able to achieve this? It is to conclude that only a collaboration between AI and translators ensures qualitative subtitling, and a revamped viewing experience.

### **Damian Mihaela-Marieta**

#### *Reconceptualizing Cognitive Metaphors in WWII Narratives: Translation and the Impact of Technological Transformation*

This paper explores the role of metaphorical language, particularly the concept of "light," in WWII narratives and its translation across languages. Using the Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT), the study

investigates how metaphors of light, typically associated with knowledge, enlightenment, and spirituality, are re-conceptualized in the context of war literature. By examining *All the Light We Cannot See* (Doerr 2014) and *The Book Thief* (Zusak 2005) through a trilingual parallel corpus (English, Romanian, and Spanish), the study highlights how light metaphors are translated and transformed in response to ideological, cultural, and emotional shifts. Furthermore, the study addresses broader questions regarding the commodification of human experience through technological transformations and their effects on language, translation, and professional practice in the face of AI advancements. Corpus-derived frequency lists and concordances show how these conceptual metaphors manifest in Romanian and Spanish translations, providing valuable data for understanding the nuances of metaphorical equivalence across languages.

### **Deftu Irina-Marinela**

*Artificial Intelligence in Teaching Romanian as a Foreign Language. ChatGPT as a Support and Intelligent Aid Tool in Language Education*

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies is transforming the landscape of language education, offering new opportunities for personalized and efficient learning experiences. This paper explores the integration of AI, with a particular focus on ChatGPT, in the teaching of Romanian as a foreign language (RFL). By analyzing the capabilities of AI-driven tools like ChatGPT, I investigate how they can act as intelligent assistants, supporting both teachers and learners in mastering Romanian. The paper examines the potential of ChatGPT to offer real-time feedback, enhance linguistic accuracy, and simulate conversational practice, thus creating an interactive and adaptive learning environment.

I also address the benefits of AI in addressing individual learner needs, from vocabulary building to complex syntactic structures, while fostering engagement through culturally relevant content. Furthermore, the ethical and pedagogical implications of incorporating AI in language education will be discussed, emphasizing the balance between technology and human-centered instruction. Through case studies and examples, this paper highlights how ChatGPT can be leveraged as a supplemental tool to enhance traditional teaching methods and improve the overall effectiveness of Romanian language acquisition for non-native speakers.

In conclusion, the paper advocates for the thoughtful integration of AI in the humanities, demonstrating that tools like ChatGPT can not only enhance language proficiency but also adapt to diverse learning styles, making Romanian more accessible to a global audience.

### **Diaconu Andra-Simona**

*Polysemy within the Framework of Legal Terminology*

Polysemy, perhaps as much as synonymy, can be considered endemic to legal language, being a particularly complex phenomenon. In legal language, precision and clarity are essential to avoid ambiguities that could affect interpretation and enforcement of the law. Nevertheless, legal terms often accumulate various meanings over time due to evolving jurisprudence, societal changes and specific uses in different legal subfields. With particular reference to EU law, the paper focuses on polysemy at both monolingual and bilingual levels. Polysemy in EU law presents unique challenges, given the EU's commitment to multilingualism and legal uniformity. This creates complex issues around polysemous terms, as a single term may carry multiple meanings within one language and differing interpretations across languages. Additionally, the paper aims to demonstrate how different legal frameworks and the associated legal cultures have unique meanings that might not be consistent across languages because of socio-pragmatic constraints and various semantic developments.

### **Dragomir (Barbu) Adriana**

*Pragmatic Interpretive Tools and Strategies in Literary Translation*

The paper discusses the importance of literary pragmatics as a subdiscipline, starting from the assumption that when examining linguistic mechanisms in literary translation, pragmatic approaches offer valuable insights into how translators balance literal meaning, cultural nuances and contextual intent. Rendering the author's unique voice requires understanding of pragmatic mechanisms, and translators should consider both lexical equivalence and stylistic choices that resonate with the target language. Hence, literary pragmatics

intersects translation while delving into the socio-cultural context of the source text to appreciate its nuances, especially when the text references historical events, cultural practices, or idiomatic expressions; at the same time literary pragmatics enables translators to evaluate how these contextual elements function in the target culture. This underscores the idea of translation as an act of re-creation rather than mere replication. The paper also sets out to investigate the translation of Salman Rushdie's "Midnight's Children" into Romanian as a case study.

### **Dragomir Oana-Denisa**

*Hallmarks of the Ionașcu Discourse. Masculine, Feminine and Everything in Between*

The linguistic challenges our contemporary world faces roughly every single day are reflected into the way people speak. As a result, influencers are arguably bound to adapt their speech so as to make it befitting for their careers. As a result, it could be argued that influencers' discourse both mirrors and deviates from today's speech. This study is going to analyse the discourse of two Romanian influencers, Cezar Ionașcu and his wife, Oksana Ionașcu, as it appears in some of their posts on social media. By doing so, this study aims to identify the hallmarks of the two influencers' speech and assess if their discourse could be considered an alternative of the anthropocentric discourse.

### **Drăgoi (Braloștiianu) Nicoleta-Corina**

*Contexting in War Speech Translation*

War speeches, including a variety of types such as declarations, calls to arms, commemorative addresses, peace negotiations, etc., are typically designed to rally, persuade, or evoke a strong emotional response. Translating these speeches requires capturing the literal meanings as well as the intended impact, cultural resonances and persuasive elements. The entextualisation and (re-)contextualisation of war speeches can be placed within the political translation, an emerging sub-type of institutional translation, interfacing literary translation, journalistic translation and media translation. Translating war speech demands linguistic precision, cultural sensitivity, emotional attunement and ethical judgment; by carefully adapting rhetorical devices, honoring cultural symbols, and retaining intended ambiguities, political translators can effectively convey the meaning and impact of war speeches across languages. Admittedly, the paper proposes the investigation of the speeches of political leading figures in relation to the Ukrainian war, starting from the renderings of loaded keywords such as "war" and its equivalents.

### **Florică (Dragotă) Teodora**

*English - lingua franca or Bridge Language? Empirical Perspectives on the EU Discourse*

From an empirical perspective, examining English as the *lingua franca* of the EU discourse, with a particular focus on the field of education, reveals both the practical benefits and challenges of its dominant role in EU communication. Despite Brexit and the existence of 24 official languages within the EU, English remains the primary working language, facilitating interactions among representatives from diverse linguistic backgrounds. Even when participants have shared knowledge of other languages, English tends to be the default choice, becoming a bridge language. We have to admit, however, that the benefit of increased efficiency in communication does not eliminate the risk of Anglophone perspectives in policy framing, as demonstrated by cognitive linguistics. Recent research findings indicate that terms often coined in English carry associations specific to English-speaking cultural contexts, potentially influencing how policies are understood and implemented – the paper exemplifies by terms belonging to the EU Discourse on education.

### **Guină Sanda-Gabriela**

*Language, Identity and Technology: Linguistic Shifts in the Era of the 5th Industrial Revolution*

As we transition from the 4th to the 5th Industrial Revolution, language becomes a powerful lens through which we can examine not only technological progress but also shifts in human identity within post-human and trans-human contexts. This talk, "Language, Identity and Technology: Linguistic Shifts in the Era of the

*5th Industrial Revolution*”, explores how digital environments foster new ‘digital dialects’ that reshape communication norms. Alongside these linguistic changes, evolving pronoun usage and identity expressions reflect a fluid, decentralized self - a concept aligned with post-humanist ideas as multiple, adaptable, and technologically mediated. Furthermore, the hybridization of language and visual elements in digital discourse presents a unique form of multimodal expression that extends human linguistic capacity, aligning with trans-humanist aspirations to expand human abilities through technology. Together, these shifts invite us to reconsider the boundaries of language and self, highlighting the ethical challenge around linguistic diversity, inclusion, and AI’s role in reshaping human expression. Through these linguistic lenses, this talk addresses how technology not only influences language, but also drives the evolution of human identity in digital age.

### **Horea Lucia**

*From Policy to Practice: Methodological Approaches to Understanding Family Language Choices*

This presentation will aim at discussing different methodological approaches commonly applied in studies on family language policy (FLP) and, more specifically, the nature of the connections between top-level language policies, including governmental and educational language policies, and family practices affecting bilingualism, language shift and heritage language maintenance. The study examines three main research approaches in FLP: quantitative, qualitative/interpretive, and sociolinguistic ethnographic. For instance, quantitative studies such as De Houwer’s (2007) synthesis of research into bilingual families and multilingual families show patterns of parental language input as one aspect of family life in bilingual/multilingual families, whereas qualitative studies such as interviews provide ways of investigating the real-life experiences of multilingual families. Sociolinguistic ethnography is informative about the dynamics of interaction and management of languages in everyday family life. This applied sociolinguistic study also shows that language ideologies and sociopolitical factors (the climate within which families live) play a part in dictating family language choices, indicating that language choice is not only influenced by social factors, but also by power relations. Accordingly, the results of the analysis confirm the relevance of FLP as a field of study on cultures, identity, and the preservation of minority languages.

### **Lambrache (Radu) Ioana-Mădălina-Dana**

*Towards an Integrated Framework of Traditional and Innovative Approaches to Specialized Translation*

Translation Studies encompass a range of established traditions as well as alternative approaches that have emerged over time. In our opinion, integrating the various approaches creates a complex framework for understanding how translation operates across different genres and domains of knowledge. With specific reference to specialized translation, the discussion of well-established traditions envisages the linguistic approach (in search for optimal equivalents/efficient management of terminology and featuring of the specialized language in question), Skopos theory (understood as fitness for purpose and reader-oriented target text production) and descriptive perspectives (normativity of translation from a sociological standpoint). As alternative traditions, we shall outline postcolonial studies (calling for more inclusive representations of knowledge to reflect a broader worldview), Cognitive Translation Studies (translating specialized discourse requires addressing specific challenges, such as ambiguities and lexical gaps), Translator-centred studies (which underpins the dynamic notion of “translatorship”) and Post-Human Approaches (the integration of automated tools in specialized discourse).

### **Mezzasalma Anna Chiara**

*Elf and AI in Academic Settings: A Gramscian Perspective for Epistemic Diversity*

Structural adjustment is taking place in numerous fields, the field of knowledge production included. Here, we experience an asymmetrical uptake in the circulation of science. The historical and molecular erosion of peripheral-made knowledge, mostly through violence, cultural imperialism since colonial modernity, is currently expanding in academic settings through an allegedly neutral knowledge and technology: a phenomenon including the corporatization of university. The centralization and peripheral-making of knowledge is conducted through a normative sift that, according to a “publish or perish” culture based on a



peculiar publication and language policy, brings hegemonic epistemic tradition to the fore, while sifting away other epistemologies.

Thus, epistemic diversity is facing a double challenge: one is the dominant role of global English as the lingua franca in which researchers must read, publish, and express themselves; the other is an overwhelming dominance of English in training AI-models, increasingly used for academic work. How does the use of a single language affect peripheral knowledge systems? Does this have a greater effect through the deployment of AI for academic texts and translation? These are the main questions that this presentation seeks to answer.

### **Mihai Sabina**

*Analysis of the Spanish and Romanian translation of diaries and propaganda material about nurses during World War I (1919-1939)*

This presentation will focus on nurses' testimonies and how they managed to reveal the harsh reality and painful episodes they had to endure. The society of that time was unaware of these issues due to the propaganda to which they were exposed. I will briefly explain the difference between propagandistic images and the experiences that frontline nurses and ambulance drivers conveyed in their writings, using two of the most relevant books: *The Backwash of War* (1916) by Ellen N. La Motte and *Not So Quiet...* (1930) by Helen Zenna Smith. These two women helped change society's view of what being a frontline nurse truly involved. Furthermore, *Not So Quiet...* addresses the experience of a female ambulance driver. Serving as a female ambulance driver was seen as unconventional, as it was not considered a duty women could undertake. To conclude my presentation, I will share some of my personal conclusions.

### **Mohanu Andrei**

*The Impact of AI on Translation and Gender Management*

Artificial Intelligence (AI), with its expanding capabilities, will enable new approaches to established activities and professions. The advent of the 5th industrial revolution is engendering significant technological challenges that are transforming industries, society and human life at large. The impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on translation studies, particularly in connection with gender studies, is a dynamic and evolving topic. AI has the potential to enhance the accuracy and sensitivity of translations in gender-related texts. While AI offers significant advantages in making translations more inclusive, gender-neutral and sensitive, it also presents challenges, more particularly, in terms of biases and ethical concerns. In the context of translating advertisements, a balance between AI's capabilities and human agency remains essential to ensure that translations serve not just linguistic accuracy and stylistic adequacy, but also the social and political goals of gender equity and inclusivity.

### **Morar Alina-Ioana**

*Redefining Education: The Future of Learning in the Age of Transhumanism*

Considering the transhumanist impact on education, particularly in light of the Artificial Intelligence technologies, this study investigates the concept of "exponential thinking" as a cognitive approach that incorporates digital skills to improve human learning abilities. In relation with the principles of transhumanism and human enhancement technologies, the paper examines the ways in which pedagogy must adapt in response to these developments; the scholars outline the development of AI as a potential successor to humanity. This paper also explores the growing importance of exponential learning and evolving technologies are reshaping the way we acquire knowledge. It also looks at how the curriculum design must shift in response, with teachers not only sharing knowledge through traditional teaching, but guiding students through a world where digital tools and AI are becoming central to learning. Adaptability is essential for successful education; therefore, teachers must encourage students to develop skills such as emotional intelligence and resilience, as well as acknowledging both emotional and psychological aspects of learning.

### **Stănescu Radu-Ștefan-Bogdan**

Since the Industrial Revolution, advancing technology has continuously reshaped the media discourse, influencing language, communication styles and norms of politeness. Early media focused on terms such as “efficiency” and “progress”, reflecting the direct and practical communication valued in the industrial age. As technology advanced, the language of the media grew to include concepts such as “innovation” and “automation,” with an emphasis on respectful global collaboration and diplomacy. In the digital era, social media introduced new standards for politeness, where quick, interactive exchanges demand awareness of tone and phrasing. Terms such as “viral” and “algorithm” shape verbal exchanges, influencing how people connect, and often encouraging a balance of brevity and courtesy in public spaces. This shift toward real-time, shared communication has resulted in a type of digital politeness that blends directness with social awareness. Overall, media language mirrors society’s evolving relationship with technology, showing how linguistic norms, including politeness, adjust to each era's communication needs.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

### **Bătcă Veronica**

*The Sage: A Much Needed Job in the World of Now*

The last four decades have seen the rise of philosophical counselling as a standalone occupation that focuses on practice. Meanwhile, the sage, who is a pillar of philosophical practice, is almost entirely missing from the picture. I argue that the philosophical counsellor expands on the sage’s key trait: being conscious, aware and present in the “now”. Based on that, the sage’s place is to be available for the interlocutors in a way in which helps them acknowledge their own present, giving them the possibility to find their path towards their purposes. It’s only after this awareness has been raised that the mechanisms of critical thinking can be applied and the most important questions can be asked. And possibly answered.

### **Cânda Alexandru-Ioan**

*Postmodern Virtual Space. Between the Anguishing Misunderstood and the Assumed Possible*

Gaining momentum with COVID-19 pandemic, the use of the virtual environment was imposed out of a need to compensate for a communication blockage imposed under restrictions. Beyond this exceptional period, today's society has continued to diversify more and more rapidly, thus bringing the necessity of an increased new level of virtual exposure. If for this new reality innovation has become a given of postmodernism, for contemporary man this interaction with the ambiguity and polymorphism of the new has led to a pregnant feeling of anguish. However, forced to adapt, man positioned himself in an expectation of a meaning by which to integrate the new realities, transforming the conjunctural imposition into a projection of a fulfilling future achieved by assuming this possibility as a relationships redefinition. The new reality of communication is no longer something foreign to us, but becomes an opening towards perspectives of fulfillment also through the virtual.

### **Golea Marius**

*Rhetorics in the Reflexive Religious Philosophy of Dumitru Stăniloae. A Linguistic-Philosophical Interdisciplinary Perspective*

Dumitru Stăniloae extensively and intensively used the means of the rhetoric in order to express his very complex philosophical ideas. Stăniloae pushed the boundaries of the Romanian language and manifested a very innovative genius in coining even new words, because he felt that the already existing vocabulary wasn’t enough for wording his theological intuitions, especially those concerning the cataphatic-negative theology and the apophatic theology. And not so rarely, Stăniloae even reached the realm of the poetry in his reflexive religious philosophy. In our research we have come across an abundance of tropes of broad diversity of types, but the limited dimensions of this paper won't allow us to treat this aspect exhaustively. The purpose of this paper is that of exploring the rare rhetorical genius Stăniloae had in order to hint at the

extent which the rhetoric contributed to his work. The research method adopted by us as support for our research on the theme, it has been the qualitative method as formulated by the worldview of the postpositivism. We think that we have succeeded in offering the reader at least a starting point in contouring the stature of Dumitru Stăniloae as an accomplished rhetorician.

### **Szolloși Sergiu-Gabriel**

*Humanity between God and Idol: The Constancy of the Image of God and the Identity Crisis in Jean-Luc Marion's Philosophy*

Neither more nor less, human freedom appears in the (post)modern era as the most honorable thing that must be destroyed at any cost. It is not a sign of pessimism to admit that humanity is entering frameworks that doom human nature to a major, even irremediable, failure. Human nature, whether we speak from a philosophical or theological standpoint, has the capacity to be in motion; it is a nature of fluidity, moving between something and something else, caught between an origin - where do I come from? - and a destination - where am I going? - from which it cannot deviate without subjecting itself to an extensive process of dehumanization. If indeed this process of dehumanization is taking place - and there are already signs that it is happening - then the legitimate question arises: what can still save us? To such a question, which seems to be one of the most difficult questions, a clarifying answer is required. In response to an illusory freedom characterized by the absence of limits in today's society, theology can still offer the frameworks for a correct and concrete understanding of the dignity of freedom. What is man, and what connection remains between him and God? If God is excluded from society, what can be placed in His stead on the empty altar? Can man endure without relating to a "Something" or "Someone"? Will he begin to create irrational idols on which he will irrationally depend even more? In this context of the malady of the utopia of freedom, Jean-Luc Marion identifies and offers an answer by directly referring to the account of creation in which man is nothing but the representation of the image of God, the copy called into a metaphysics of identity, to make God's image his own. In such conditions, a rupture of finite freedom from its root, which is God, leads to nothing but dehumanization: what is man without God? Can man still be called man?

### **Ștefi Alexandra Florentina**

*Transhuman Narratives in Video Games: Exploring a New Humanism*

This study aims to explore the concept of transhumanism in video games, highlighting narratives that depict the transformation of humans through augmentations and the evolution of a 'new humanism,' in order to provide insight into how it is represented through video games. The analysis is based on the game *Observer*, where augmentations are presented ambiguously, offering benefits but also severe risks. The game underscores the ideological opposition between those who see augmentations as an evolution, those who dream of a 'pure' human nature, and those who seek radical transformations, taking a pessimistic and even grim view of the idea of the 'new human'. In contrast, I will discuss the game *Mass Effect*, where advanced technology and biological augmentations allow characters to transcend their limits without losing control of their own identity, thus bringing a balance between technology and humanity. The study proposes a comparative analysis of dystopian and utopian narratives to understand the potential of transhumanism in defining the concept of 'humanity.'

### **Yikunoamlak Mesfin**

*Pragmatic Ethics in Defense of Transhumanism*

Moral philosophers, theologians, and scientists have long debated the evaluation of technological progress. While some regard transhumanism as an inevitable, natural, and evolutionary process driven by the need to overcome current biological and natural limitations or determination, its opponents accuse it of bringing ethical problems, ontological modification and unforeseen consequences. Thus, this paper aims to resolve these antagonistic appraisals of transhumanism with the help of pragmatic philosophy; specifically, with Dewey's pragmatic ethics. I contend that Deweyan ethics, which is downright against essentialism and ethical absolutism, can provide us with progressive, case-sensitive, and scientific ethical guidance to address

critiques of transhumanism in the digital age. In light of pragmatic ethics, I will examine transhumanism and justify that human dignity, equality, and innovation can be preserved in transhumanism. I conclude that Dewey's scientific ethics, with his teachings of democratizing and humanizing technology, enable us to address the ethical problems and conditions created by transhumanism.

## HISTORY

### **Deheleanu Adrian**

*The Influence of Politics on Plastic Arts in Communist Romania. January 23, 1978 Moment*

In the context of the PCR ideology, the socialist revolution was seen as the greatest leap in social existence. Thus, the political sphere influenced the cultural life of the Romanian people through this ideology in several segments of the vast cultural space, namely plastic arts, theatre, literature, etc. There is a combination of political factors, events, and consequences that directly or indirectly, in time or immediately, have an impact on the cultural life of the Romanian people, with politics influencing the cultural plan, imposing its own images. The homage exhibition entitled: "Proofs of the love, high esteem and deep esteem enjoyed by Comrade Nicolae Ceaușescu and Comrade Elena Ceaușescu, of the extensive friendship and cooperation between the Romanian people and the peoples of other countries", was opened on January 23, 1978, at the Museum of History of the Socialist Republic of Romania, being a truly special achievement. The exhibition almost completely distorted the role and purpose of the largest museum in the country, but it also became an important component in the mechanism on which the cult of Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu's personality was based.

### **Dragomir-Cozma Darius-Aurelian**

*Gheorghe Pompilian. The Formulation of Modernity between Goya and Géricault*

The study analyzes the unique and paradigmatic case of the Romanian painter Gheorghe Ioachim Pompilian, exploring his contributions and influences. Enchanted by the dark style of Caravaggio during his studies in Italy, Pompilian combined raw emotion with an effort to push the limits of conventional art, setting himself apart in the Romanian artistic landscape. His series of paintings representing 'Punishments' aligns with creations by Géricault, Delacroix, and Goya. When coincidences seem random, Pompilian's programmatic cycle of 'Punishments' removes all doubt, making allusions to 'Les Monomanes' and 'Los Caprichos' and clarifying themes in his work.

### **Martinescu Andreea Laura**

*History and High-Tech: Restoration of Historic Buildings through the Visions of John Ruskin and Eugène Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc and the Power of Artificial Intelligence*

In the context of 19th-century historicist ideas, two major currents emerged regarding architectural heritage revitalization. John Ruskin advocated for unaltered preservation of monuments, emphasizing historical authenticity, while Eugène Viollet-le-Duc proposed creative restoration with modern materials. This study examines how artificial intelligence can support heritage revitalization, integrating these approaches. Through advanced structural analysis and digital simulation, AI offers tools that facilitate both conservation and adaptive restoration, proposing a synthesis of Ruskin and Viollet-le-Duc's principles in today's context.

### **Lozeanu Larisa**

*The Church of the Franciscan Convent from Caransebeș*

This study provides a brief history of the Franciscan Order in Caransebeș and its impact on local religious

heritage. The Franciscan monks' presence influenced the spiritual life and contributed significantly to the religious and cultural heritage in Banat.

### **Olteanu Andrei-Dumitru**

*A Royal November. The Visits of the Ceaușescu Couple to the Nordic Countries (1980)*

This paper aims to investigate the official visits of Elena and Nicolae Ceaușescu to Sweden, Denmark, and Norway from a dual perspective: propaganda and cultural diplomacy. The study examines the methods and goals of Ceaușescu's diplomacy in the context of the Cold War, with a special focus on how these visits were intended to shape Romania's image abroad and strengthen its independence within the Eastern Bloc.

### **Popa Mihaela Livia**

*Art History in the Times of Industrial Revolution 5.0: Architecture beyond Facades*

As we are already in the era of Industrial Revolution 5.0, Art History shows an integration of Technology, Sustainability, and Human-Centred Design. It is our time to explore how these new ways of learning, teaching and using , redefine architectural practice and theory, thus expanding the concept of "facade" beyond its physical structures to a more dynamic, interactive space.

Trying to follow the evolution from Traditional Architectural Styles to a Tech-infused Design nowadays, this presentation will examine how Architecture transcends conventional boundaries, becoming a science that responds to the social, environmental, and technological changes.

We can see how structures became adaptable, inclusive, intelligent and thus making Architecture not only a place for human activity but an important participant in shaping cultural and environmental narratives.

This transformation/ adaptation aligns with the main goals of Industrial Revolution 5.0 that to prioritise Human well-being, sustainability, and ethical design in a hyper-connected world.

### **Racoveanu Adrian-Tiberiu**

*Contemporary Challenges of Humanities – Lessons from the Past, Retrospective on the Communist Situation*

We live in a pragmatic society and the world is changing at a fast pace. To keep up, people are turning to different technologies to make their daily activities easier. Artificial intelligence brings a set of useful tools to every field of activity. However, using these tools can have drawbacks, not just benefits.

In a pragmatic society, the humanities face new challenges. It is not the first time that they are at risk. During the communist period, both the arts and the humanities were affected by the decisions of the single parties in the satellite countries of the Soviet Union. However, people managed to find ways to escape from the limits imposed by the regime precisely through the arts and humanities, even though these fields were closely supervised by the authorities.

Today, the humanities, human values and characteristics, art, are once again facing challenges. This time, however, the obstacles are not created by a totalitarian regime, but by ourselves, by technological innovations. In the past, young people have played an important role in overcoming ideological boundaries, but today it is young people who will face the changes imposed by artificial intelligence. They need to be innovative, motivated and disciplined to make the most effective use of new technological tools and innovations. The humanities and the arts remain important in keeping human values and characteristics intact in an increasingly pragmatic world.

### **Toth Amelia**

*Legislative and Administrative Integration of Banat into the Kingdom of Romania: A Historical and Transhumanist Perspective*

This paper explores the integration of Banat into the Kingdom of Romania after World War I, focusing on the legislative and administrative transformations involved. The study analyzes the region's shift from Austro-Hungarian governance to Romanian structures, highlighting challenges in aligning diverse legal frameworks. In the context of contemporary discussions on humanism, transhumanism, and the transition from IR 4.0 to IR 5.0, this historical case offers valuable insights into balancing human-centric administration with evolving technological paradigms. The analysis underscores the importance of legislative cohesion, the preservation of regional identity, and the potential lessons for modern governance.

## **THEOLOGY**

### **Bășa Vicențiu Dragoș**

*The Discernment Dimension of St. Basil the Great in Understanding the Relationship between Science and Religion*

The ability to distinguish between good and evil, useful and harmful, truth and error represents, for St. Basil the Great, the enhancement of the rational capacity with which the human being is endowed. Discernment, in addition to its intellectual component, is the accumulation of moral and spiritual formation and experience, which guides the mind in tempering possible excesses in favor of a balance anchored in the parameters of the given reality. This virtue, towards which the Saint urges us at every step in his teaching, is indispensable in any endeavor, including cosmological research, whether we refer to that of 16 centuries ago or the new contemporary.

In his writings, St. Basil affirms that this virtue must be rooted in delentimization and the search for divine truth. Only the seeker, purged of passions and open to revelation and to the novel aspects that the cosmos presents, can grasp the breadth of the order of the world as an expression of divine wisdom. The saint warns against exclusive reliance on human reason, which is structurally limited in the face of fundamental mysteries.

Basil's discernment transcends autonomous rationality, being a balance between contemplation, faith and research, which allows man to integrate science and theology in a coherent vision of the cosmos.

### **Boghiu Adriana Anca**

*The Technological Dimension and Data Protection in the Romanian Orthodox Church: Theological Perspectives on Technological Desirability and Transhumanism*

This paper explores the intersection of technology and the theology of the Romanian Orthodox Church, focusing on the ethical and theological implications of transhumanism and personal data protection in the context of contemporary digitalization. In an era where technological innovations promise to expand human capabilities and redefine human identity, the Orthodox Church faces the challenge of navigating new realities imposed by data protection regulations, such as GDPR. The study examines the desirability of these technological advances from a theological perspective, balancing the protection of sacramental confidentiality and the Church's core values with the necessity of complying with modern data protection norms. Finally, the paper proposes solutions and perspectives to support the Church in maintaining a balance between tradition and innovation, emphasizing the role of Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of salvation and sanctification for humanity through divine grace imparted by the Sacraments.

### **Botezan Ioan**

*The Nyptic Revival of Man in a Technological World: Problems and Solutions According to the Teachings of the Reverends Ephraim of Katounakia and Joseph of Vatopedi*

The continuous and thorough practice of watchfulness constitutes one of the main occupations of the authentic Christian life. Not only the patristic writings, but also the liturgical tradition of the Church indicates the fundamental importance of this spiritual aspect, the nyptic state representing the core of Eucharistic communion. One of the biggest challenges of watchfulness is technology, which has seen an overwhelming

increase in contemporaneity. The human mind is directly influenced by this evolution, being at the same time subjected to an intense bombardment of information. In this context, the practice of watchfulness becomes a considerable challenge for the latter-day Christian. If the scattering of the mind is a consequence of the fall of the ancestors, the age of technology continues to facilitate this inner dispersal, further jeopardizing man's steadfastness in the unseen level of spiritual warfare. The present study aims to indicate both problematic aspects and solutions for the nyptic revival of man, from the perspective of two contemporary fathers: Saint Ephraim of Katounakia and Elder Joseph of Vatopedi. The importance of the teaching of these two personalities of Athonite monasticism is confirmed by the embodiment of the philokalic spirit and the empirical actualization of an authentic nyptic practice in contemporaneity.

### **Buchiu Damian**

#### *Technological Theosis? An Eastern Orthodox Perspective of Religious Transhumanism*

This paper investigates how Eastern Orthodox theology intersects with transhumanist ideas, particularly the notion of “technological theosis.” By promoting the enhancement of human abilities through technologies like genetic engineering, transhumanism challenges and even opposes the longstanding Eastern Orthodox views on what it means to be human and on the path to divine transformation. Drawing from the teachings of early church fathers and, notably, the insights of Romanian theologian Father Dumitru Stăniloae, this paper examines transhumanism’s theological and ethical implications. Orthodox anthropology upholds the sanctity that the human soul is called attain, prioritizing spiritual growth over artificial enhancements. This suggests that the goals of transhumanism might even risk distorting the essence of human nature. Therefore, this analysis clarifies the issue of the relationship between technology and the Orthodox view of humanity’s purpose.

### **Chiorean Ciprian**

#### *The Divine Beauty of Humanity: An Interreligious Vision in the Context of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*

This article explores the concept of the divine beauty of humanity in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, emphasizing the common vision of man as a reflection of a beauty higher, which is fully manifested at the spiritual level. In all three monotheistic religions, man is considered the bearer of the divine image - Imago Dei, in Judaism and Christianity, and in Islam khalifa, as the representative of Allah on earth, this quality conferring dignity and beauty through love, justice and harmony.

In Judaism, human beauty is revealed through holiness and the fulfillment of divine laws, while in Christianity it is fulfilled eschatologically in Christ, who restores the divine face of man touched by sin. For Islam, human beauty derives from the balance of soul and reason, being expressed through the responsibility to respect justice and creation, according to the Koran. The three monotheistic traditions describe human beauty as a spiritual communion with God, where the heart, mind and soul reflect the divine majesty, as a sensible rationality that expresses divine wisdom, manifested in moral life, lived through love and virtue.

Like this, the divine beauty of humanity, reflected in creation and in the image of God present in man, becomes a bridge of connection in monotheistic religions. In a world marked by differences and tensions, this common ideal can contribute to interreligious dialogue, promoting a deeper precept of the value of the human being and cultivating a culture of peace and respect, in the light of a superior beauty that transcends human limits and becomes testimony of the Divine.

### **Cocan Valentin**

#### *The Human Journey Through Emotions Toward Self-Discovery*

In my presentation, I will deal with the place of emotions in contemporary anthropology, to which psychology is related and which psychiatry considers, then I will try to distinguish between this point of view and the vision of the Holy Fathers, particularly St. Maxim the Confessor. I will also try to specify what their role is in the process of human healing, but especially in the path of acquiring attention and awareness of our actions. In conclusion, I will try to establish a well-defined boundary between the two ways of relating to man's constitution and how man can be healed starting from the premises emphasized by the Holy Fathers.

**Ivanov Mina**

*The Eternal Relationship Between Body and Soul in the Vision of Saint Mark Eugenicus*

This article delves into the thought universe of Saint Mark Eugenicus, the Bishop of Ephesus, through the lens of the eternal connection between body and soul. In the wake of the proliferation of Neoplatonic ideas within the Byzantine Empire, Saint Mark stood in opposition to these notions, highlighting the critical importance of the body in achieving human perfection and fulfilling one's eternal destiny. He contended that the relationship between body and soul does not culminate in death; rather, it persists into eternity, albeit temporarily separated by the power of God. This perspective is articulated in his work "On the Resurrection," a text that remains relevant even today. Saint Mark Eugenicus can provide a valuable response across the ages to the issues faced by contemporary man, in an era where the imbalances in the body-soul relationship are evident, and the prospect of resurrection is often overshadowed by the materialism of the present.

**Magda Nicolae**

*On the Path of Faith: Between the Wisdom of Religion and Scientific Discoveries*

"Our daily activity is in constant contact with the scientific discoveries of the last decades, because since the beginning of the last "Industrial Revolution", namely the "Digital Revolution", that began around 1950, science has had a spectacular leap in its discoveries, resulting in an improvement in the quality of life. In the same way, we know that the Savior's teachings and commandments have had and continue to have a special impact on the formation of moral qualities, all the more so when we know that He is "the Way, the Truth and the Life" (Jn 14:6).

Moreover, Theology can be called the science of salvation, because it explains to us through the Church how the eternally living Christ will remain with us until the end of time (Matt. 28:19), he being the one who saved us and healed us from sin, uniting us with the immortal and eternal life-giving God.

Thus, in this study we will see what are the challenges of science for faith in God and how science can be used in such a way as not to annihilate the moral values detached from the bosom of faith".

**Niergeş Cosmin-Paul**

*Transhumanism and Orthodox Soteriology: Improvement or Healing of the Human Nature*

In my paper I'll show that transhumanism is not something new in the history of mankind. Some of its aspects are present in the philosophical and political systems of the antiquity which all proposed a soteria. Due to the dualist views of creation and human nature, especially the human somatic condition, these systems understood soteria as a salvation of man - the nous - from his own humanity or a part of his humanity. Transhumanism also proposes this kind of a soteria, but it has its own particularities. Human nature is a step in man's evolution, its transformation and perfection through the fusion of man with technology means eventually the annihilation of the divine image of man and makes the fall total and irreversible. Christianity confronted these gnostic soteriological systems and emphasized a biblical anthropology, the goodness of creation, the natural divine image of man, the role of the body - the whole man - in salvation. Soteria does not mean salvation from humanity, but the inner therapeutic process of man as a psyche-somatic unity, through life in Christ, death and resurrection.

**Pr. Mazilu Dumitru**

*Artificial Intelligence: A Social Challenge and the Possible Canonical Response of the Romanian Orthodox Church*

I have chosen to deal with artificial intelligence -considered a social provocation- out of a desire to provide some information of spiritual and, why not, scientific use. Here I am referring to the explanations and arguments that highlight the role of the Church which, in its missionary journey characterized by a continuous dynamism, is ready to draw our attention to two aspects: how useful artificial intelligence can be for us or how harmful it can be. I will also try to identify the possible canonical response of the Romanian Orthodox Church regarding the conditions by which we can protect the environment of natural reality from



the onslaught of repetitive relativity - specific to the age of computerization which is devoid of the prospect of spiritual progress.

The first trend is the accommodation of children even at very young ages with the virtual environment. Here I will give a descriptive account of how this phenomenon develops out of a desire to create one's own comfort in the family home, unaware of the dangers to which parents expose their own offspring.

The second trend is detachment from natural reality where they can evolve socially and spiritually and wandering into the virtual world where the imaginary causes the real disaster for each individual: spiritual and human desertification.

The third trend is the robotization of individuals who step by step cancel out the human and all that is related to feeling, in short the total detachment from God.

The age of computerization taken to the extreme will develop a society of insensitive human beings who belong to a virtual environment devoid of the spiritual perspective.

### **Pr. Oprea Andrei**

*The Vision of the Martyr Bishop Andrei Magieru on the Future and the Fate of the Orthodox Church*

Martyr Bishop Andrei Magieru according to the writings of Pavel Berariu and Fr. Pavel Vesa was one of the most illustrious bishops of Bihor and Arad. A strong personality in the face of the challenges and sufferings of the time in which he lived. He stood by the believers whom he loved unceasingly, and exhorted them to receive all that came, but also to take the good of everything. He himself was asked due to his opposition to the communists, together with other bishops of Romania, if he did not want to go to England, where he would be among the clerical peaks, and the bishop's firm answer was ""we must suffer with the people"".

Precisely because of his persecution, he urged the priesthood of both Bihor and Arad to peace, to the thing that everyone wants to achieve, and everything that is new, to be received as a divine gift. Like his principle, which followed him all his life ""Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's"" (Mark 12,17). Through his vision of the half of the 20th century, he expresses to us today an authentic, pure and very topical perspective, to take the position of listening and receiving everything that society, respectively life, offers us.

Even through his travels as an intellectual, because he knew no less than 10 languages, travels through Europe, America developed its foreign relations with representatives of the great powers of the world, always being a personality that sought to encourage cooperation, but more chosen towards the faith developed through the ideas of society, which sought to be accessible to all people.

### **Pr. Roman Adrian Ioan**

*The Spiritual Life of Modern Man Under the Influence of Digital Technology: Adverse Effects of Electronic Screens from the Perspective of Eastern Spirituality*

The world we live in is becoming more digitalized every day, the Internet is part of our daily life through all types of digital devices, starting from mobile phone, television, computer, laptop, tablet, etc. All this offers unlimited possibilities of spending time online, through information means, but also through activities that distract us from the spiritual life to the virtual universe, which, in turn, tempts us through entertainment, social networks, movies, video games, various sites or applications. In this context, the question may be asked whether digital technology is an impediment in our relationship with God or to what extent we find an answer in Eastern spirituality regarding this contemporary turmoil. At first glance we would be tempted to state that the Holy Fathers who lived many centuries ago, did not face such issues, however, their ascetic experience and their graceful union with God are unmistakable evidence that man can reach unsuspected heights by divine grace and the fulfillment of divine commandments.

### **Purcel Nicu**

*Resurrection of the Dead and the Habitation of the Cosmos: An Old Project of Russian Cosmism*

In this conference, I aim to explore the relationship between transhumanism and theology from the perspective of the ""philosophy of the common task"" proposed by the Russian cosmist thinker Nikolai Fedorov. Although this 19th-century thinker is not associated with transhumanism, some of his ideas—such

as the enhancement of life conditions and the aspiration for immortality through technology and science; the use of technology to shape the cosmos and influence cosmic factors upon terrestrial realities; or the idea of expanding livable space to a cosmic dimension—present certain parallels with what is now known as "transhumanism".

On the other hand, Fedorov was a deeply religious thinker, and his project (which indeed contains nuances that we might today call transhumanist) is founded on specific philosophical-theological principles. These include a particular philosophy of history, where ensuring justice and fulfillment for human beings entails the restoration of all human entities/units denied in the historical process, supported by the evangelical revelation of general resurrection, Gregory of Nyssa's theory on the possibility of resurrection, and others.

I believe that Fedorov's occasionally hallucinatory philosophical-theological project provides an excellent opportunity to question the possibility of a relationship between theology and certain transhumanist ideas or aspirations.

### **Vrabie Iulian-Constantin**

#### *Personal Development and Spiritual Improvement: The Current Techno-Spiritualism Model Versus Divine Grace*

The concerns of contemporary man are reflected in the two concepts that characterize the current context: digimodernism, which shows that technology has so profoundly changed human life that we can speak of a major cultural paradigm shift, and pseudo-modernism, which shows that the age we live in is characterized by superficiality, ephemerality (electronic and textual), consumerism and conformity. They manifest a redefinition of human existence within the limits of the ideology of technological progress and transhumanist theories. But since human interest cannot ignore spiritual concerns, the question arises how can a technologized culture embrace spiritual experience? There are several possible perspectives here: the incompatibility of the two concepts, technology as a tool to promote spirituality, changing the spiritual model through spiritual engagement at the individual level, or technology as a new form of spirituality.

The encounter between technology and spirituality in the current context can be synthesized in the concept of techno-spiritualism, which implies a relocation of the sacred in the digital domain. Technology becomes a means of personal growth according to transhumanist principles: perpetual progress, self-transformation, practical optimism, increasing longevity until reaching immortality, as a technological eschatology promised by the immanence of the cyber paradise, cyberspace being the means to free the self from the suffering and imperfection of the world, creating a paradise on earth, where technology becomes a means of salvation. But this perspective is a form of anthropocentrism in which man becomes the measure of all things. But man's existence is not autonomous but theonomic, because man's dignity does not lie in the fact of being a self-sufficient and autonomous subject, but in the fact of needing God's grace. The purpose of human life and the way in which each person can be constantly reborn for the cause of human fulfillment is aimed at approaching holiness, because as Nichifor Crainic says in a dedicated title: it is only holiness that fulfills the human being. Bringing man closer to holiness offers the possibility of growth in the love of the Most Holy Trinity, towards the joy of full fulfillment in the communion of eternal life.

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