



Universitatea
BABEŞ-BOLYAI



Facultatea de
Istorie și Filosofie



ȘCOALA DOCTORALĂ
Istorie.Civilizație.Cultură

The Doctoral School “History. Civilization. Culture”

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL IN HISTORY
17th EDITION

The Historian’s Craft and the Conspicuous Consumption of History

10-12 November 2022

Cluj-Napoca

The Doctoral School “History. Civilization. Culture” of the Faculty of History and Philosophy, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj has the pleasure of inviting you to attend the 17th edition of the international conference of the PhD and post-doctoral students in history. During the last few years, the organisers have noticed the growing interest in attending this conference from both Romanian and international students. The presentations and especially the discussions have proved stimulating for all participants and have persuaded the organisers to continue with this endeavour and come up with new and interesting topics for reflection.

This year we would like to suggest a subject, hopefully conducive to reflection, focused on the role of history in society today. Starting from the Latin dictum *Historia magistra vitae (est)* and the subtle suggestions of the well-known French historian Marc Bloch, from his posthumously published book, *The Historian’s Craft: Reflections on the Nature and Uses of History and the Techniques and Methods of Those Who Write It*, we hope that, this year, discussions will reflect the opinions of participants concerning the relationship between history, as practiced in academic environment, and a much wider public. In many countries today, particularly in Romania, the place allocated to history in academic curricula seems to suggest decreasing interest in this topic. However, enthusiasm for ‘popular’ historical literature, for historical novels and medieval festivals seem to argue otherwise. Moreover, the dynamics of international relations, the geo-political challenges facing the contemporary world and the use of historical arguments in political debates bring to the fore the role of the historian and of history in

shaping public opinion and fueling civic spirit. In this context, the organisers would like to suggest a few questions that will hopefully find an answer by the end of the conference:

- ✚ What does it mean to be a historian today?
- ✚ What are the boundaries of the field?
- ✚ What does it mean to market history in the context of the dissemination of research results?
- ✚ How accessible has history become, taking into account the popularity of scholarly journals, monographs, syntheses, textbooks, popular publications, digital collections, blogs, Facebook, Instagram?
- ✚ How much public interest does history benefit from?
- ✚ What is the impact of funding on prevalent topics in historical research versus public interest and personal options?
- ✚ What is the role of commemoration and associated public ritual in shaping interest for various topics in historical research?
- ✚ What is the impact of political instrumentalization on the writing of history?
- ✚ What is the impact of ideological instrumentalization on the writing of history?
- ✚ What is the role of historians in current debates in the context of contemporary geopolitical challenges?
- ✚ Can history still be considered *magistra vitae*?

Participants are invited to reflect on the proposed themes within the framework of their own research topics.

This year, because of the Covid 19 pandemic the conference will take place online, on ZOOM. As organising an online conference involves careful planning and logistics, we would like to ask you to comply with the deadlines suggested for submitting proposals.

As always, this year the conference will benefit from the presence of prestigious plenary speakers:

Gelu Florea (Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj, Romania), *The Dacians between archaeological reality and today's imaginary*.

József Laszlowzsky (Central European University, Vienna/Budapest, Austria/Hungary), *Can history still be considered magistra vitae? The impact of public history and community archaeology on the research of the Mongol Invasion of Central Europe (1241-42)*.

Patrick Geary (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey, USA), *Lessons of History, the Idol of Origins, and the Seduction of Public History*

Maria Bucur (Indiana University, Indiana, USA), *When the Invalids Came Home: Visual Discourses about Disability in Interwar Romania*

Practical details:

- The title of the presentation (institutional affiliation, PhD supervisor) and brief abstract of no more than 300 words will be sent by email to diana.ursoi@yahoo.com

by September 15th 2022.

- The presentations will last 20 minutes and will be followed by 10 minutes of discussion
- The organisers will respond to each proposal by September 30th 2022
- The organisers will send the conference program to all participants by October 15th 2022.