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P R O G R A M

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Two Democratic Societies in Transition:
Exploring the Dynamics
of a Post-COVID World
1st Edition

GALATI
September 13-15, 2021

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Signing of the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century between Romania and the United States of America

Organizing Team

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William B. Harvey, Danubius University, Romania

Steve O. Michael, Association of Global Universities and Colleges (AGAUC), and Association of Chief Academic Officers, USA, United States

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Alin Bobeica, Danubius University, Romania

Ionut Ichim, Danubius University, Romania

Academic Institutions and other Organizations:

- **Danubius University;**
- **AGERPRES;**
- **BNR/ The National Bank of Romania;**
- **Duke University;**
- **Împreună Agency;**
- **HERS, Higher Education Resource Services;**
- **Louisiana State University;**
- **Ministry of Education;**
- **National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics;**
- **National School of Political and Administrative Studies;**
- **Romanian Government, Department for Sustainable Development;**
- **UCLA;**
- **University of Richmond;**
- **University of North Carolina**
- **University of Southern Indiana;**
- **University of Texas Arlington;**
- **US Embassy in Romania;**
- **Viața Liberă/Free life Newspaper.**
- **MIT Lincoln Laboratory**

Partner:

- **IPA Galati.**



Two Democratic Societies in Transition: Exploring the Dynamics of a Post-Covid World

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Alina Petra Marinescu, Danubius University
Alina Răileanu, Danubius University
Anca Spânu, Viața Liberă newspaper
Andy Pusca, Danubius University
Bogdan Gotu, Danubius University
Călin Rangu, Danubius University
Cezar Ion, TVR/Romanian Television
Claudia Nicolae, AGERPRES
Cynthia Duncan Joseph, University of South Carolina
Daria Iftode, Danubius University
Doru Castaian, Arts Highschool “Dimitrie Cuclin”
Emanuel Marinescu, Danubius University
Florian Nuță, Danubius University
Gabriela Mustata Wilson, University of Texas Arlington
Gelu Duminică, Împreună Agency
Gloria Thomas, HERS, Higher Education Resource Services, University of North Carolina
Hortensia Amanza Guizado, University of Southern Indiana
Ioan Crăciun, National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics
Josi M. Barscz, University of Southern Indiana
László Borbély, Romanian Government – Department for Sustainable Development
Lee A. Moore, University of Southern Indiana
Leonardo Badea, BNR vice-governor
Louis M. Hebert, MIT Lincoln Laboratory

Mihai Bogdan Mateescu, Superior Council of Magistracy

Oana Armeanu, University of Southern Indiana

Oana Nae, Danubius University

Rahn Bailey, Department of Psychiatry, Louisiana State University Medical Center

Ronald Crutcher, University of Richmond and Board Chair, American Council on Education

Sergiu Medar, former national security adviser to the President of Romania, former defense attaché of Romania to the United States

Sorin Cimpeanu, Romanian Minister of Education

Steve O. Michael, Danubius University

Victor Alistar, National School of Political and Administrative Studies

Walter Allen, UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies

William B. Harvey, Danubius University

William Darity, Duke University

Danubius University of Galati Monday, September 13, 2021	
12.30	Registration <i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i>
13.00 – 13.30	Welcome Messages and Greetings from the hosts and guests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Danubius University, Dr. Andy Pusca; • Rector of Danubius University, Dr. William B. Harvey; • Vice-Chair of Board of Trustees and DHC of Danubius University, Dr. Steve O. Michael. <i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i>
13.30 - 14.15	<u>Topic (in person):</u> <i>“Considering the Role of Higher Education in Facilitating Social Progress in Democratic Societies”</i> <u>Moderator:</u> Doru Castaian (Arts Highschool “Dimitrie Cuclin”) <u>Presenters:</u> Dr. Ronald Crutcher (President Emeritus and University Professor, University of Richmond and Board Chair, American Council on Education) (in person) Dr. Sorin Cimpeanu (Romanian Minister of Education) (in person) <i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i>
14.15 - 14.30	Final Q & A <i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i>
14.30—14.45	Break <i>Venue: B building, 2nd floor</i>
14.45—15.45	<u>Topic (in person):</u> <i>“Countering Disinformation: The Role of the Media and policy experts in Emerging and Established Democracies”</i> <u>Moderator:</u> Anca Spânu (<i>Viața Liberă</i> newspaper) <u>Presenters:</u> Dr. Gabriela Mustata Wilson (University of Texas Arlington) [presentation: <i>The Silent Killer: How the Epidemic of Misinformation and Low Health Literacy Affected the Response to COVID-19</i>] (in person); Claudia Nicolae (AGERPRES) [presentation: <i>Regardless of the challenges of the times, the news agencies must remain the most credible sources of information</i>] (in person) <i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i>
15.45 – 16.00	Final Q & A <i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i>

16.00 – 16.45	<p><u>Topic (online):</u> “Economic Recovery and Social Development in America and Romania”</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Călin Rangu (Danubius University)</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <p>Dr. William Darity (Duke University) [<u>presentation:</u> <i>Understanding Economic Inequality in the United States</i>] (online)</p> <p>Dr. Leonardo Badea (BNR vice-governor) [<u>presentation:</u> <i>Regional Disparities on the Background of an Uneven Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery in Romania</i>] (online)</p> <p><i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i></p>
16.45– 17.00	<p>Final Q & A</p> <p><i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i></p>
17.00 – 17.30	<p>Refreshments and conversation</p> <p><i>Venue: B building, 2nd floor</i></p>
17.30	Bus leaves from Danubius University to hotel
18.45	Bus leaves from hotel to Dinner’s location
19.00	<p>Dinner (and Table Discussion)</p> <p><i>Venue: Teatris (show & wine presentation/tasting)</i></p> <p><i>Address: Str. General Iacob Lahovary 5, Galati</i></p>
21.30	Bus leaves from Dinner’s location to hotel
Tuesday, September 14, 2021	
08.30	Bus leaves from hotel to Danubius University
09.00 – 09.45	<p><u>Topic:</u> “Technology and the Future: Prospects for America and Romania”</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Alina Răileanu (Danubius University)</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <p>Dr. Ioan Crăciun (National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics) [<u>presentation:</u> <i>Digital Transformation and Cultural Change of Higher Education</i> (in person)]</p> <p>Louis M. Hebert (MIT Lincoln Laboratory)</p> <p><i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i></p>
09.45 P- 10.00	<p>Final Q & A</p> <p><i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i></p>
10.00 – 10.45	<p><u>Topic:</u> “Climate change – a Strategic Development Matter”</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Florian Nuță (Danubius University)</p>

	<p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <p>Dr. László Borbély (Romanian Government – Department for Sustainable Development) [<u>presentation: Sustainable Post-Pandemic Recovery - the Solution to Combat Climate Change Effects</u>] (online)</p> <p><i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i></p>
10.45 – 11.00	<p>Final Q & A</p> <p><i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i></p>
11.00 - 11.45	<p>Break</p> <p><i>Venue: B building, 2nd floor</i></p> <p>COVID testing for all the US travelers</p> <p><i>Venue: B building, 2nd floor, B26 Room</i></p>
11.45 - 12.30	<p><u>Topic:</u> “Providing for the Common Defense Examining the Military Alliances between Romania and the United States”</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Emanuel Marinescu (Danubius University)</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <p>Gen. Sergiu Medar (Professor, former national security adviser to the President of Romania, former defense attaché of Romania to the United States) [<u>presentation: Military Diplomacy in Support of Constructing the Romanian-American Strategic Partnership</u>] (online)</p> <p><i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i></p>
12.30 - 12.45	<p>Final Q & A</p> <p><i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i></p>
12.45 – 13.00	<p>Transfer from Danubius University to Lunch’s location</p>
13.30 - 15.30	<p>Lunch</p> <p><i>Venue: TV Tower</i></p> <p><i>Address: Str. Victor Vâlcovici, No. 1, Galati</i></p>
15.30	<p>Bus leaves from Lunch’s location to Danubius University</p>
15.45 - 16.30	<p><u>Topic:</u> “Considerations of National Identity and Sub-Group Affiliation: Examining Black Lives Matter in America and Roma Identity in Romania”</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Oana Nae (Danubius University)</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <p>Dr. Walter Allen (Allan Murray Cartter Professor of Higher Education, Distinguished Professor Education, Sociology and African American Studies, UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies) [<u>presentation: How the Black Lives Matter Movement impacted UCLA</u>] (online);</p>

	<p>Dr. Gelu Duminiță (<i>Împreună</i> Agency) [<u>presentation</u>: “If you don't behave accordingly, a Gypsy will come and steal you”. <i>The image of Roma in the Romanian society</i>] (online)</p> <p>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</p>
16.30 – 16.45	<p>Final Q & A</p> <p>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</p>
16.45	<p>Bus leaves from Danubius University to hotel</p>
18.45	<p>Bus leaves from hotel to dinner's location</p>
19.00	<p>Dinner</p> <p>Venue: <i>The Livingroom</i></p> <p>Address: <i>Str. Brăilei no. 28</i></p> <p> <i>Dress code - Smart casual</i></p>
21.30	<p>Bus leaves from dinner's location to hotel</p>
Wednesday, September 15, 2021	
08.30	<p>Bus leaves from hotel to Danubius University</p>
9.00 – 9.45	<p><u>Topic</u>: “Identifying and Reducing Gender Inequities: American and Romanian Perspectives”</p> <p><u>Moderator</u>: Cezar Ion (TVR/ Romanian Television)</p> <p><u>Presenters</u>:</p> <p>Dr. Gloria Thomas (President of HERS, Higher Education Resource Services, University of North Carolina) [<u>presentation</u>: <i>Intersectional Gender Inequities in U.S. Higher Education: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly</i>] (online)</p> <p>Dr. Victor Alistar (<i>National School of Political and Administrative Studies</i>) [<u>presentation</u>: <i>The Role of Legal Professionals in Defending the General Interests of Society and Individual Freedoms</i>] (online)</p> <p>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</p>
09.45 – 10.00	<p>Final Q & A</p> <p>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</p>
10.00 - 10.45	<p><u>Topic</u>: “Healthcare in the Post-Covid World”</p> <p>Introducer: Dr. William B. Harvey (Danubius University)</p> <p>Dr. Rahn Bailey (Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Louisiana State University Medical Center) [<u>presentation</u>: <i>How the World Community Can Recover from the Negative Mental Health Effects of the Pandemic</i>] (online)</p> <p>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</p>

10.45 - 11.00	Final Q & A <i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i>
11.00 - 11.15	Break <i>Venue: B building, 2nd floor</i>
11.15 - 12.00	<u>Topic:</u> “The Rule of Law: Perspectives on American and Romanian Politics” <u>Moderator:</u> Dr. Alina Petra Marinescu (Danubius University) <u>Presenters:</u> Dr. Oana Armeanu (University of Southern Indiana) [<u>presentation:</u> Political Polarization, Legitimacy, and Rule of Law] (in person) Mihai Bogdan Mateescu (Superior Council of Magistracy) (online) <i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i>
12.00 – 12.15	Final Q & A <i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i>
12.15 – 13.00	<i>People to people contact – Student leaders from American and Romanian universities</i> <u>Moderator:</u> Dr. William B. Harvey (Danubius University) <u>Presenters/participants:</u> - Josi M. Barscz (University of Southern Indiana); - Bogdan Gotu (Danubius University) - Hortensia Amanza Guizado (University of Southern Indiana); - Daria Iftode (Danubius University); - Cynthia Duncan Joseph (University of South Carolina); - Lee A. Moore (University of Southern Indiana) <i>Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor</i>
13.00	Bus leaves from Danubius University to Lunch’s location
13.15 – 14.45	Closing Lunch <i>Venue: Blue Aqua</i> <i>Address: Bulevardul Marea Unire 75, Galati</i>
14.45	Bus leaves from Lunch’s location to hotel
15.15	Bus leaves from hotel to Bucharest
19.00	Check in to hotel in Bucharest
20.00 – 21.00	Dinner at the Hotel



Two Democratic Societies in Transition: Exploring the Dynamics of a Post-Covid World

The conference theme is *Two Democratic Societies in Transition: Exploring the Dynamics of a Post-Covid World*, and it is specifically timed to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the **Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century between Romania and the United States of America**.

Romania and the United States of America have enjoyed a formal diplomatic connection for over one hundred and forty years and the two nations reaffirmed the significance of their relationship with the signing of the Joint Declaration ten years ago. Both countries endorse democratic forms of government and open economies, and they also have common membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which acknowledges their shared interests as military allies. As they emerge from the pandemic, both Romania, a country with a relatively recent history of the democratically elected form of government, and the United States, which prides itself on its history of democratic governance and the orderly transfer of political power, will face significant economic, social, and environmental concerns. However, recent events in the US have indicated that the commitment to democracy may be less deeply ingrained than observers had supposed. Some of these topics, which transcend geographical borders, will be analyzed and discussed during this conference. Experts from the academic, government, corporate and media sectors, from both Europe and America, will share their observations and insights with the audience, as will student participation from different nations. This conference also represents a symbolic exit from the pandemic as it is the first in-person gathering of academic colleagues since covid-19 affected all nations around the globe. However, in order to achieve maximum opportunity for engagement, it will operate in a blended format that will also permit virtual participation.

The purpose of this International Conference is to provide a forum for exchange of ideas, research outcomes, business case and technical achievements.

The themes of the event are:

- 1. Considering the Role of Higher Education in Facilitating Social Progress in Democratic Societies;***
- 2. The Role and Responsibilities of the Press and Policy Experts;***
- 3. Technology and the Future: Prospects for America and Romania;***
- 4. Economic Recovery and Social Development in America and Romania;***
- 5. Healthcare in the Post-COVID World;***
- 6. Identifying and Reducing Gender Inequities: American and Romanian perspectives;***
- 7. Considerations of national identity and sub-group affiliation: Examining Black Lives Matter in America and Roma Identity in Romania;***
- 8. Democratic Societies. Prospects for America and Romania.***

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Dr. Ronald A. Crutcher**, President Emeritus and University Professor, University of Richmond and Chair of the Board of the American Council on Education

Topic: The Role of Higher Education Institutions in Facilitating Social Progress in Democratic Societies

Short Bio: Dr. Ronald A. Crutcher, a national leader in higher education, a distinguished classical musician, and an accomplished administrator, became the 10th President of the University of Richmond on July 1, 2015. Dr. Crutcher is President Emeritus of Wheaton College in Massachusetts. Prior to Wheaton, he served as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at Miami University of Ohio.

- **Dr. Sorin Mihai Cîmpeanu**, Minister of Education, Romania

Topic: The Role of Higher Education Institutions in Facilitating Social Progress in Democratic Societies

Short Bio: Dr. Sorin Mihai Cîmpeanu is a Romanian politician, Minister of Education in the Government of Florin Cîțu, former Minister of Education in the Ponta Government and interim Prime Minister for 12 days in November 2015.

- **Dr. Rahn Kennedy Bailey**, Kathleen and John Bricker Chair Professor and Head Department of Psychiatry and Assistant Dean of Diversity and Community Engagement at Louisiana State University Health Science Center (LSUHSC) in New Orleans, Louisiana

Topic: How the World Community Can Recover from the Negative Mental Health Effects of the Pandemic

Short Bio: Dr. Rahn Kennedy Bailey, M.D., DFAPA, ACP, runs a part time private practice at the address listed above and serves as the Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and the Assistant Dean of Diversity and Community Engagement at Louisiana State University Health Science Center (LSUHSC) in New Orleans, Louisiana. Dr. Bailey's career has centered around community outreach and forensic psychiatric consulting.

- **Dr. Gabriela Mustata Wilson**, Professor and Co-Director, Multi-Interprofessional Center for Health Informatics, Texas.

Topic: The Silent Killer: How the Epidemic of Misinformation and Low Health Literacy Affected the Response to COVID-19

Short Bio: Dr. Gabriela Mustata Wilson is a Professor in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation and Co-Director of the Multi-Interprofessional Center for Health Informatics at The University of Texas at Arlington, in Arlington, Texas.

- **Professor Walter R. Allen, PhD**, Allan Murray Cartter Professor Of Higher Education, Distinguished Professor Education, Sociology and African American Studies, UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies

Topic: *How the Black Lives Matter Movement impacted UCLA*

Short Bio: **Walter R. Allen** is the Allan Murray Cartter Professor in Higher Education in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is also a Distinguished Professor of Education, Sociology, and African American Studies as well as co-director of UCLA Capacity Building Center, which helps universities and organizations optimize research, teaching, practice and policy goals.

- **Dr. Gloria D. Thomas**, President of HERS (Higher Education Resource Services)

Topic: *Intersectional Gender Inequities in U.S. Higher Education: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*

Short Bio: **Dr. Gloria D. Thomas** was recently appointed President of HERS (Higher Education Resource Services), the national leadership development organization dedicated to creating and sustaining a diverse network of women-identified leaders in higher education. She ended her 5-year term at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she has served since 2016, as the Director of the Carolina Women's Center; Senior Personnel for the NSF-funded Targeting Equity in Access to Mentoring (TEAM) ADVANCE, and Curriculum Development and Facilitator Trainer for the NIH-funded PROMISE Study. From 2009 – 2016, she was the Executive Director of the Center for the Education of Women (CEW) at the University of Michigan.

- **Dr. László Borbély**, State Counselor, Coordinator of the Department for Sustainable Development, Romania

Topic: *Sustainable Post-Pandemic Recovery - the Solution to Combat Climate Change Effects*

Short bio: **Dr. László Borbély** is a politician who has significantly contributed to the democratic development of Romanian society, both as one of the most well-known leaders of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania and through the different high ranking functions held in the Romanian Parliament and the Romanian Government in the field of International Affairs, Environment and Sustainable Development, Regional Development and Infrastructure, which he has fulfilled with a rigorous professionalism yielding important results.

- **Dr. Oana Armeanu**, University of Southern Indiana

Topic: Political polarization, legitimacy, and rule of law] (in person)

Short bio: Dr. Oana Armeanu is Associate Professor of Political Science Chair of Political Science, Public Administration and Philosophy Department Political Science, Public Administration and Philosophy Department. She teaches comparative politics, international relations and European, post-communist, and Middle East politics. She came to USI from Dallas, Texas, where she taught at the Southern Methodist University.

- **Claudia Victoria Nicolae**, Managing Director - AGERPRES

Topic: Regardless of the Challenges of the Times, the News Agencies must remain the most Credible Sources of Information

Short bio: Claudia Victoria Nicolae (41) is the Managing Director of AGERPRES, the Romanian National News Agency, since November 2018. Her mission is to manage the entire activity of the journalists and editors of the biggest news agency in Romania, while also being their representative in relations and collaboration with other national and international organizations, both public or private. Claudia Nicolae's objective is to create and to preserve the framework the journalists from AGERPRES need to deliver accurate news so that the general public receives the most reliable and meaningful information possible.

- **Dr. Gelu Duminica**, Executive Director of "Impreuna" Agency

Topic: "If you don't behave accordingly, a Gypsy will come and steal you". The image of Roma in the Romanian society.

Short bio: Gelu Duminica (born 1977, Galati), has a PhD in Sociology. He is visiting teacher of the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work at the University of Bucharest, Romania. As part of the University of Bucharest staff, Gelu is lecturing about "Minorities and Equity" and "Programs, projects and intervention methods in Roma communities". In the last 21 years, Gelu Duminica act as executive director of "Impreuna" Agency, one of the most active NGO's in Roma inclusion area.



Two Democratic Societies in Transition: Exploring the Dynamics of a Post-Covid World

SUBMISSIONS

NOT SELECTED FOR PRESENTATION

Considering the Role of Higher Education in Facilitating Social Progress in Democratic Societies

Examining History and Science Curriculum Distortions that Reinforce Racism and Appease Zealotry in America

John Holden Bickford, Eastern Illinois University, USA

The Creative and Reflective Professor in the Global Pandemic of COVID - Innovative Learning Design for Present and Future

Doinita Popa, Danubius University, Romania

The Role and Responsibilities of the Press in a Democratic Society

Multicultural Education, A Representative Public Policy for the Construction of Multiculturalism

Flavia-Tania Stefan, Bucharest University, Romania

Tolerance, Condition of Manifestation of Multiculturalism

Ionut Stefan, Danubius University, Romania

Technology and the Future: Prospects for America and Romania

The Globalization of Democracy and the Democracy of Globalization in the Digital Age

Nicolae Pana, Danubius University, Romania

From Desire to Necessity – the Use of AR as Innovative Teaching and Learning Method in Higher Education

Gabriela Marchis, Danubius University, Romania

Mihaela Nicolau, Danubius University, Romania

Considerations of National Identity and Sub-group affiliation: Examining Black Lives Matter in America and Roma Identity

The Role of Media in a Democratic Society. How Can Media Influence the Perception of Reality

Oana Andreea Nae, Danubius University, Romania

Countering Disinformation: The Role of the Media in Emerging and Established Democracies

The Reconstruction of Reality in Theaters of Operations by War Correspondents

Constantin Mireanu, National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Romania