



# Epistolography, knowledge, and the Ancient World

University of Bucharest, October 3-4, 2025

Hybrid conference

Venue: Casa Universitarilor, Str. Dionisie Lupu 46, Bucharest

<https://unibuc.ro/despre-ub/recreere-si-timp-liber/casa-universitarilor-bucuresti/#1543842108067-df332f96-b301>

## PROGRAM

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

(Time Zone EEST: GMT +3; London BST +2; Paris +1)

08.30 – 09.00 – Participants registration, welcome coffee

09.00 – 09.30 – Opening remarks

**Alexandra Lițu**, Vice-Dean, Faculty of History, University of Bucharest

**Florica Mihut**, Director, Center for Compared History of Ancient Societies, University of Bucharest

#### First session: 09.30 – 11.30

**Moderator: Andra Jugănar**

**Tobias Hirsch**, University of Technology Nuremberg: *The Letters of Isocrates as Instruments of Social Networking in Fourth Century BCE Greece*

**Kerasenia Papalexiou**, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens: *The epistolary autobiography as a philosophical treatise: Plato's Seventh Letter and the theory of knowledge*

**Florentina Nicolae**, Ovidius University Constanta / The G. Călinescu Institute for Literary History and Theory: *The Silence of Men, reflected in "Heroides", the imaginary letters of love written by Publius Ovidius Naso*

**Enrico Piergiacomi**, Bruno Kessler Foundation of Trento/Italy: *"Doctrine does not warm me". Leontion's epistolary romance in Alciphron*

**Cristiano Minuto**, University of Naples Federico II: *Supporting Friends and Discussing Literature: The Shadow of Hesiod in Libanius' Letters*

Coffee break : 11.30-11.45

**Second session: 11.45 – 13.45**

**Moderator: Diana Pavel**

**Carlos Heredia Chimeno**, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona: *Cicero's Letters and the Politics of Transgression after the Social War*

**Fögen Thorsten**, Northeast Normal University in Changchun, Durham University: *Knowledge and 'Intellectuals' in Pliny the Younger's Letters*

**Florica Mihuț**, University of Bucharest: *Feasting with Pliny the Younger – Perspectives from His "Epistles"*

**Marina Bodnaruk**, Masaryk University in Brno: *Inscribing Senatorial Authority: Epigraphic Epistles and Imperial Legislation in the Later Roman Empire*

**Ethan Christopher Miller Chilcott**, Oxford University: *Cassiodorus' Epistles, Inside and Outside the "Variae"*

**Lunch break: 13.45 – 15.00**

**Third session: 15.00 – 16.30**

**Moderator: Florica Mihuț**

**Jörg v. Alvensleben**, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen: *The letter as a medium of friendship, self-expression and rhetoric lessons: The correspondence between Marcus Cornelius Fronto and Marcus Aurelius on the example of the letter "De nepote amisso".*

**Giovanni Tagliatela**, Università degli Studi di Siena: *Fronto as Quintilian Ideal: Pedagogical Virtues and the Art of Teaching Through Letters*

**Isabela Popa**, University of Bucharest: *The organisation of religious notions in the female communication from the Mari Archive*

**Titus Sarkar**, University of Hyderabad: *Letters of Credit and Commerce in Early Medieval Western India from Lekhapaddhati*

**Coffee break: 16.30 – 16.45**

**Forth session: 16.45 – 18.15**

**Moderator: Vladimir Crețulescu**

**Manuela Dobre**, University of Bucharest: *Ancient Themes, Symbols and Motifs in the Letters of Emperor Manuel II Palaiologos*

**Patrizia Mascoli**, University of Bari Aldo Moro: *Un epistolario tardoantico: Aldelmo di Malmesbury*

**Ecaterina Lung**, University of Bucharest: *Physical Beauty and Its Political Instrumentalization in Letters from Late Antiquity (5th-6th Centuries)*

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4**

(Time Zone EEST: GMT +3; London BST +2; Paris +1)

### **Fifth session: 09.00 – 11.00**

**Moderator: Ecaterina Lung**

**Chiara Di Serio**, University of Cyprus: *Letters of Alexander the Great to kings, queens and other rulers*

**Nunzio Bianchi**, Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro: *The Return of Alexander to the West: The Letter-prologue by Leo Archpriest to His Latin Translation*

**Chiara Telesca**, Universität Innsbruck: *Karl Benedikt Hase's Epistolary Practice and the Construction of Scholarly Identity*

**Andrei Alexandrescu**, University of Bucharest: *Looking towards Antiquity. The exchange of ideas about the ancient history of Romanians in the correspondence of the Romanian elite involved in the revolutionary movements of 1848*

**Coffee break: 11.00-11.15**

### **Sixth session: 11.15 – 13.00**

*Correspondence between Christians and Pagans in Late Antiquity*

**Moderators: Carmen-Angela Cvetkovic, Andra Jugănar**

**Matthijs Zoeter**, Gent University: *The Correspondence of Basil of Caesarea with Libanius of Antioch*

**Andra Jugănar**, University of Bucharest: *The Cappadocian Fathers and Their Pagan Correspondents: Philosophical and Diplomatic Approaches*

**Carmen-Angela Cvetkovic**, Georg-August University Göttingen: *Augustine and his Pagan Correspondents: Dialogue and Religious Boundaries in Late Antiquity*

**Lunch break: 13.00 – 14.15**

### **Seventh session: 14.15 – 16.30**

**Moderator: Alexandra Lițu**

**June-Ann Greeley**, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield: *Purity, Pollution and the Practical Ethics of being a Christian: The Correspondence between Publicola and Augustine*

**Lorenzo Monaco**, University of Rome 'La Sapienza': *Licet interdum confabulationis tale convivium doctrinae quoque sale conditur: S. Jerome's letters to Marcella and biblical exegesis in epistolary form*

**Jose Alberto Diaz Valero**, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa / Universidad de Salamanca: *Late antique protreptics as community builders: reading Gregory of Nazianzus' letter to Nemesius and Paulinus' letter to Jovius from an intercultural perspective*

**Hajnalka Tamas**, Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca: *Liturgical Readings in the Letters of Ambrose of Milan*

**Liviu Damian**, University of Bucharest: *Fear, sadness and sociality in John Chrysostom's exile letters (404-407)*

**Closing remarks: 16.30 – 17.00**

**Alexandra Liţu**

**Florica Mihuţ**

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### **Organizers:**

- The Department of Ancient History, Archaeology and Art History, Faculty of History, University of Bucharest (DIAAIA)
- The Centre for Compared History of Ancient Societies, University of Bucharest (CICSA)
- Asociația Cetatea Histria / The Istros *Polis* Association

### **Organizing Committee:**

**Florica Mihuţ**, University of Bucharest, CICSA

**Daniela Zaharia**, University of Bucharest, DIAAIA

**Valentin Bottez**, University of Bucharest, Asociația Cetatea Histria

**Ecaterina Lung**, University of Bucharest, DIAAIA

**Alexandra Liţu**, University of Bucharest, DIAAIA

**Andra Jugănar**, University of Bucharest, DIAAIA

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**Isabela Elena Popa**, CICSA

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