



1 Decembrie 1918  
University of Alba Iulia



Alba County Council



National Museum of the Union  
Alba Iulia



The Executive Agency for Higher  
Education, Research, Development  
and Innovation Funding

International Conference  
**Churches and Political Power during Communism:  
Individual Biographies and Institutional Mechanisms**  
(Alba Iulia, Romania, 20-23th September 2023)

**Programme**

**WEDNESDAY – 20th SEPTEMBER**

Arrival/ Accommodation  
(Hotel Transilvania & Hotel Vila Preciosa)  
Dinner - 19:00-21:00 (Hotel Transilvania)

**THURSDAY – 21th SEPTEMBER**

Apor Palace ("1 Decembrie 1918" University)  
**Official Opening - 9:30 - 9:45**

**First Session - 9:45 – 12:50**  
(Cosmin Budeancă – chair)

- 9:45 • PhD habil. Kiss Reka - chairperson, The Committee of National Remembrance, Budapest, Hungary  
*Dilemmas and Survival Strategies in the Hungarian Reformed Church during the Communist Regime*
- 10:05 • PhD habil. Mirosław Szumiło - researcher, Institute of National Remembrance, Warsaw, Poland  
*John Paul II and the Activities of the Opposition in the Countries of the Soviet Bloc*
- 10:25 • PhD Radu Preda – professor, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
*The Church in Communism. Towards a Theology of Memory*
- **Discussions**

**Coffee-Break (11:00-11:15)**

- 11:15 • PhD Máthé Áron - vice-chair, Committee of National Remembrance, Budapest, Hungary  
*Deceiving Documents? The Case of Sándor Joó, a Calvinist Pastor*
- 11:35 • PhD Marcin Zwolski - researcher, Sybir Memorial Museum in Bialystok, Poland  
*The Fight for Remembrance. Clergy Repressed by the Soviet Union in the Sybir Memorial Museum's Transmission*
- 11:55 • PhD habil. Bánkuti Gábor - associate professor, University of Pecs, Department of Modern History, Pecs, Hungary  
*The Catholic Church in Hungary and Romania under the Communist dictatorship. A comparative analysis.*
- 12:15 • PhD Dorin Demostene Iancu - chair, The Archives of the Romanian Patriarchate, Romania  
*The Relations between the U.S.S.R and The Vatican in 1963, According to Soviet Documents*
- **Discussions**

**Exhibition Opening (National Museum of the Union) - 13:00**

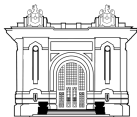


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### Lunch - 14:00 – 15:00

("1 Decembrie 1918" University Restaurant)

### Second Session - 15:00 – 18:45

Apor Palace ("1 Decembrie 1918" University)

(Dragoş Ursu – chair)

- 15:00 • PhD Mirela Bănică - researcher, The Institute for the History of Religions, Bucharest, Romania  
*Strategies of Survival. Decree 410 and Its Effects on Contemporary Romanian Monasticism. A Sociological Approach*
- 15:20 • PhD habil. Rafał Łatka - associate professor, Institute of National Remembrance, Poland / "Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński" University, Warsaw, Poland  
*A Realist and a Prophet - the Role of Card. Stefan Wyszyński for Poland during the Communist Rule*
- 15:40 • PhD Ion Xenofontov - professor, Faculty of History, The Moldova State University, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova  
*The Situation of Monasteries in Soviet Moldova*
- 16:00 • PhD Marius Silveşan - assistant professor, The Baptist Theological Institute of Bucharest/ High-School 'Marin Preda', Bucharest, Romania  
*Baptists from Romania and the Revolution of December 1989*
- **Discussions**

### Coffee-break (16:45-17:00)

- 17:00 • PhD habil. Cosmin Budeancă - researcher, The Institute for the Investigation of the Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile, Bucharest, Romania  
*"Condemned by Communists like 'Vatican's Spy'" The Biography of Roman-Catholic Priest Ştefan Tătaru*
- 17:20 • PhD Ruxandra Canache - curator, Museum of the Horrors of Communism, Bucharest, Romania  
*Hidden Galleries: Clandestine Religion in the Secret Police Archives*
- 17:40 • PhD student Maria Buţcu - Faculty of History, The Moldova State University, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova  
*A controversial destiny - The Priest Vasile Ţepordei*
- 18:00 • PhD student Dragoş Vlădescu - „Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History, Bucharest, Romania  
*Romanian-British Church Relations during the Communist Regime*
- 18:20 • PhD Ioana Ursu - post-doctoral researcher, "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia / National Museum of the Union, Alba Iulia, Romania  
*The Discourse of Repression. Narrativity and Semantics Inside the Securitate File of the Burning Bush from Antim Monastery*
- **Discussions**

### Festive Dinner – 19:00

(Vila Preciosa Restaurant)

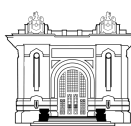


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## FRIDAY – 22th SEPTEMBER

### Third Session - 10:00 – 14:00

Apor Palace („1 Decembrie 1918” University)  
(Ioana Ursu – chair)

- 10:00 • PhD habil. Radoslaw Domke - professor, University of Zielona Góra, Department of Recent History, Zielona Góra, Poland  
*The image of a Church in Polish Communist Films (1968-1989)*
- 10:20 • PhD habil. Jan Nicolae - professor, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Romania  
*Tensions between the Church and the State during the 1950s, as Reflected in Father Ioan Iovan's Memoir*
- 10:40 • PhD Ana Maria Iancu - researcher, "Ion I.C. Brătianu" Institute of Political Science and International Relations, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania  
*Lesser Known Aspects from the History of the Union of Democratic Priests*
- 11:00 • PhD student Adrian Nicolae Petcu - researcher, The National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives, Bucharest, Romania  
*Institutions of Repression and Religious Cults in Communist Romania (1948-1989)*
- 11:20 • PhD Denisa Bodeanu - researcher, The National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives, Bucharest, Romania  
*The Desert of the Uttered Words... Conversations of Catholic Bishop Márton Áron, Taped by the Securitate between 1956 and 1980*
- **Discussions**

### Coffee-Break (12:00-12:15)

- 12:15 • PhD Răzvan Perşa - lecturer, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
*Legal and Canonical Mechanisms for the Oppression of Priests during the Communist Period. Case Study: Father Arsenie Boca*
- 12:35 • PhD Csongor Jánosi - researcher, Pokoly Association Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
*Life Itinerary of a Transylvanian Reformed Priest during the Communist Regime. Dénes G. Fülöp (1931-2005)*
- 12:55 • PhD Rev, Eduard Fartan - London/ "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
*Greek-Catholic Bishop Ioan Suciú and Orthodox Bishop Nicolae Popovici facing Communism. Parallels and Convergences*
- 13:15 • PhD Dragoş Ursu - post-doctoral researcher, "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia/ National Museum of the Union, Alba Iulia, Romania  
*The Controversies of a Dramatic Biography. Bartholomew Ananias' Mission to America in the Context of the Recalibration of State-Church Relations under Ceauşescu*

### Conclusions

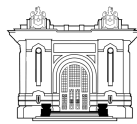


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**Lunch - 14:30-15:30**

("1 Decembrie 1918" University Restaurant)

**Guided Tour in the Alba Iulia citadel - 16:00-18:00**

**Dinner - 19:00**

("1 Decembrie 1918" University Restaurant)

**SATURDAY - 23th SEPTEMBER**

Departure

**Useful addresses:**

Hotel Transilvania – Piața Iuliu Maniu, no. 11

Hotel Vila Preciosa – st. Lucian Blaga, no. 10

"1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia (Apor Palace) – st. Gabriel Bethlen, no. 1

National Museum of the Union – st. Mihai Viteazul, no. 12-14

Contacts (local organizers)

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