

**The Dissemination of Partial Results for the
“Student Associations and Societies of the University of Iași in the Modern Period (1860-1918)” Project,
PN-II-RU-TE-2011-3-0165 Code**

The implementation of the project entitled “Student Associations and Societies of the University of Iași in the Modern Period (1860-1918)” started on 1 April 2012. From that point until present, the implementation team participated in many scientific national and international events, published or prepared for publication different papers, in specialized journals or edited volumes.

Participation in international scientific events

Leonidas Rados, *Toward Neo-Latin Countries: Official Change in Romanian Student Migration in the Early 1860s*, within the 2012 International Conference of the Society for Romanian Studies, *Europeanization and Globalization: Romanians in their Region and the World*, the “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, 2-4 July 2012.

Abstract:

The presentation aimed at underlining the modifications that the 1860s brought in the educational policy of the newly emerged Romanian State, the attitude of the authorities towards the students, the selection of the best and their sending to specializations in prestigious European universities, preferably neo-Latin ones (France, Italy, Spain). The promoter of this Latinophile orientation was an influent figure of the time, V.A. Urechia, who thought that this way the young generation, besides its specialized training, would get unitary civic spirit and mentalities, in a cultural area that was close to the Romanian specific traits. Consequently, the authors of the project thought, when they would return home, these specialized professionals, once appointed in key-positions, would contribute in a decisive manner to the renewal of the old mentalities, to a change of attitude in relation to labour and responsibilities.

Leonidas Rados, *Student Movement in Romania during the Balkan Wars: Ideology, Discourse and Action*, within the “Balkan worlds: Ottoman past and Balkan nationalism” Conference (4 – 7 October 2012), the University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

Abstract:

Compared to the second half of the 19th century, the early 20th century is marked in Bucharest and especially in Iași by a special effervescence of the student movements. The teaching staff, who are, most of them, party members, as well as the academic authorities, are actively involved, trying to better control the phenomenon and to protect it from excess, or even to get advantages in terms of influence or personal image. It is interesting that, on the one hand, the participation in different actions initiated or embraced by the students, starts to get more and more significant, and, on the other hand, one can find here the same hyperactive characters, who make up a mass that could be easily manipulated by politicians or opinion leaders.

Consequently, it is not rare at all that the students would act indiscriminately, refusing opposite opinions in topical matters related to the “national interest” (the Jewish issue, the

participation in the Balkan Wars, or in World War I), the mere rejection of passivity being for the young people a positive sign, a sign of regeneration of the student movement.

On the other hand, the few years that passed since the Balkan Wars to Romania's joining World War I brought forth a benefit for the young people's movement, i.e. the student solidarity, even if out of an exterior, circumstantial cause.

Leonidas Rados, *A Rare Model of Acceptance without Convulsions. Female student Admission in Romania: the Case of University of Iasi*, in the "Women in Educated Elites of Pre-Socialist and Early Socialist East Central European Societies" Conference, Institut européen, University of Geneva, Switzerland, 12-13 April 2013.

Abstract:

The statistics of the student population in Iași show a surprising reality: for a marginal state, submitted to an accelerated process of modernization and yet far from civilized Europe's standards, and for a minor university, like the one of Iași was at the end of the 19th century, the size of female student presence on the University benches (after 1879) and even among the graduates is singular in the whole south-eastern European area, exceeding even some evolved cultures, with a strong academic tradition, like the German one.

Although the girls' number was getting bigger and bigger, especially in the faculties of Humanities, Sciences and even Medicine, the *esprit de corps*, which one can find in other European universities, was missing. They do not establish associations with feminist ideals, but are quickly integrated in student societies (exclusively male ones, until then), they participate in public meetings and events, they teach courses in adult schools, participate in projects of cultural elevation of the disadvantaged classes, etc.

Florea Ioncioaia, *Mobilités étudiantes et configuration de soi: les jeunes Roumains en France (1800-1940)*, Chișinău, 11 May, 2012, the "Interculturalité et Polyfrancophonie" International Symposium, Universitatea Liberă Internațională Chișinău.

Abstract:

See below

Florea Ioncioaia, *Războiul ca spectacol. Presa românească și războaiele balcanice* [The War as A Show. Romanian Press and Balkan Wars], Tg. Mureș, the "Războaiele balcanice și sfârșitul secolului cel lung" International Conference [Balkan Wars and the End of the Long Century], organized by Universitatea Petru Maior, Sapienza Università di Roma, 19-20 July 2012.

Abstract:

The presentation approached the issue of the Balkan wars as a topic of the Romanian press of the time; the conflicts that occurred at the beginning of the second decade of the 20th century made, quite often, the headlines of the newspapers. It is interesting to see not only the accounts regarding the spectacle of the war, but also the way in which the domestic reactions were presented and the public demonstrations supporting the Romanian cause, most of the participants being recruited among the students of the two universities, of Bucharest and of Iași.

Participation in national scientific events

Leonidas Rados, *Spirit asociativ și mișcare națională în a doua jumătate a secolului XIX. Cazul studențimii ieșene* [Group Spirit and National Movement in the Second Half of the 19th Century. The Case of Iași Students], in the “Asociaționism și propășire națională în Bucovina în secolele XIX-XX” Conference [Group Spirit and National Prosperity in 19th-20th Century Bucovina], organized by “Bucovina” Institute and “A.D. Xenopol” Institute of Iași, Rădăuți, 28.06.2012.

Abstract:

In the evolution of the student associations of Iași, one can easily separate two phases, whose temporal frontier is marked by the passage from the 19th to the 20th century. During the former, which started when the “Club” is created (1875), we can find a mainly “socialist” influence, while the involvement of the teaching academic staff in making up the society documents and programmes is minimal. But the latter, majorly “nationalist”, records numerous cases of teachers’ involvement, in both the programmes and the evolution of the different student societies.

A feature of the Romanian student group spirit, which differentiates the young people here from the evolution of the students in the traditional centres of the Anglo-Saxon world, is the total absence of the “brotherhoods”, organisms where the focus is placed not on the patriotic, national or even scientific life, but on the physical and cultural formation of the novices.

In the Romanian area, the main reason of the associations to exist seems to be, beyond the formation of some skills, the cultural and civic elevation of the rural population, which had very limited access to education or information; they finally aim at the “national prosperity” and at reducing the gaps, in relation to the evolved European states. Actually, our universities were not created as organisms meant to ensure, impartially and evenly, knowledge, but as powerful weapons, the most significant ones maybe, in the population’s mobilization to get beyond a rudimentary stage of evolution, and to participate actively, consciously, in the national project.

Leonidas Rados, *Prima etapă a mișcării studențești ieșene: socialiștii* [The First Stage of Student Movement in Iași: the Socialists], in the “Zilele Muzeului Universității Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Symposium [Days of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Museum], Iași, 29 November 2012.

Abstract:

At Iași, the first attempts to crystallize a student group structure go back to the beginnings of the University and show a Viennese influence, or more precisely the influence of the young Romanians studying at Vienna, preoccupied, at that time, by the idea of making up their own association. In the genesis of the student associations of Iași, the model of the famous Corps or Burschenschaft of the German area, where over 1000 such “brotherhoods” existed at the end of the 19th century, was never resorted to; by the Viennese agency of the “România Jună” Society [Young Romania], the model of the literary-scientific associations, with cultural/national purposes, was preferred.

After the creation of the “Student Club” (1875), the association starts to be gradually submitted to socialist ideas, quite significantly represented at Iași and, at the suggestion of some socialist leaders, the first student strike of Romania is started (1880). The students refuse to go to classes for days, and the situation settles gradually, after the minister of Public Education comes at Iași.

After this moment, marked by the firm intervention of the authorities and the removal of the student leaders from the University, the nationalist influences start prevailing over the socialist ones, while the teaching staff and the managers of the institution start following closely the student movement.

Leondias Rados, *Destinul provinciei. Politică și discriminare instituțională în sistemul universitar românesc (1860-1945)* [The Destiny of the Province. Politics and Institutional Discrimination in the Romanian University System], in the “Regionalism și regionalizare în România. Interpretări istorice și provocări contemporane” Conference [Regionalism and Regionalization in Romania. Historical Interpretations and Contemporary Challenges], Iași, 29-30 May 2013

Abstract:

After the institutional unification and the designation of Bucharest as the capital, the status of secondary, province city affected Iași to a significant extent, as it lost the advantages of the centre. The university here, created with the aim to diminish and to control losses, felt quite acutely the new realities; the isolation in which it was born was growing more significant, in spite of all the efforts, and the institution became, every year, more and more peripheral.

Naturally, in the absence of a genuine group spirit, of corporatist structures and, above all, of an integrating unanimously assumed project to save the academic Iași (and Moldova implicitly), the solutions of personal salvation are preferred (usually the transfer of the best socially connected Professors to Bucharest); the loud but isolated voices that militate for getting over the provincial complex, for improving the activity internally and getting, afterwards, the acknowledgement, by the centre, of an improved status, from the financial point of view as well, are perceived as exaggerated compared to the real problem, which is ignored or minimized by the majority.

Just like a common front of the teaching personnel, meant to solve these issues, was impossible to create, the students of Iași, as a whole, and the student associations do not properly understand the problems that the University had to face, the youth being rather preoccupied by the phenomenon of the national politics, and reacting much more promptly to what they called the “Jewish challenges” or to the situations of the Balkans or of Transylvania, regarding the destiny of the Romanian communities living there.

Florea Ioncioaia, *Alexandru S. Sturdza, critic al universității* [Alexandru S. Sturdza, A Critic of the University], “Zilele Muzeului Universității Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Symposium, Iași, 29 November 2012.

Abstract:

A Russian imperial counsellor, with an unusual name transcribed in French, *Alexandre Stourdza*, presented – probably at the beginning of November 1818 – in front of the participants in a conclave of the Holy Alliance taking place at Aix-la-Chapelle/Aachen (September - November 1818) an equally unusual paper, which would stir up quite a debate (actually a true scandal) at that time: *Mémoire sur l'état actuel de l'Allemagne*. Under this delusive title, the paper was actually a severe indictment against the German universities and especially against the student societies (*Burschenschaften*). That was an uncommon gesture for a diplomatic meeting, for the diplomatic language in general. The present approach tries to reconstruct, on the one hand, the sources and motivations of the text from an intellectual, political and diplomatic point of

view, and on the other hand to analyse its influence upon the student movement of the time and the implications in the evolution of the German student movement in the 19th century and implicitly (taking into consideration the influence of this model) in the whole Europe.

Vasilica Asandei, *Considerații privind activitatea profesorilor Universității din Iași în cadrul „Misiunii universitare din Franța”* [Considerations on the Activity of the Professors of the University of Iași as Part of the “University Mission of France”], in the “Zilele Muzeului Universității Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Symposium, Iași, 29 November 2012.

Abstract:

Our contribution presents the part played by the Professors of the Faculty of Humanities and Philosophy of the University of Iași in the triumph of the Romanian cause during World War I. The subjects are the professors mobilized at the beginning of the war at the Romanian Press Service and then sent in a university mission in France: Orest Tafrali (1876-1937), Ion Găvănescul (1859-1949) and Ioan Ursu (1875-1925).

The mission, ended in the summer of 1919, was seen by the three professors, from the point of view of its stake and results, at least equal to that achieved on the front. On the other hand, the controversies that followed this mission underlined the discontent of the other professors mobilized on the front (together with the students or the other social categories) with the attitude of the colleagues that preferred to make propaganda in Paris.

Published studies

Leonidas Rados, “*D-ta ca unul ce ești jidan, strein, n-ai niciun drept de a veni la Universitate*”. *Conflicte între studenții români și studenții evrei la sfârșitul secolului al XIX-lea și începutul secolului XX* [“You, as a Jew, a foreigner, you have no right to attend the University”. Conflicts between Romanian Students and Jewish Students in the Late 19th – Early 20th Century], in Carol Iancu, Alexandru-Florin Platon (eds.), *Profesori și studenți evrei* [Jewish Professors and Students], Iași, Editura Universității, 2012, p. 317-337 (with no indication of the project).

Abstract:

The University of Iași had, since its creation, a certain anti-Jewish component, working in its deep mechanisms, in the teachers’ and students’ mentalities; let us not forget that Professor Simion Bărnuțiu’s ideas, who thought the Jews and the Greeks were guilty for the fall of the Roman Empire, were successful among both the students and the teachers (a proof is the establishment of the *free and independent faction*).

During the first two decades, the Jewish young people who enrolled at University were few (although the first recorded case dates from 1860), but the rhythm of enrolments increases starting with the ninth decade, especially at the Faculty of Medicine, an aspect that worries both the authorities and the students and professors that were more susceptible to nationalist ideas. Even among the more cosmopolite teachers the fear emerged that the Romanians would be “swallowed by the Yids and assimilated by them”, a fact that leads to a rise of the intransigence against the Jewish students at the end of the 19th century.

Leonidas Rados, *Studenți și profesori ai Universității din Iași la studii în străinătate (deceniul șapte al secolului XIX)* [Students and Professors of the University of Iași Studying

Abroad (Seventh Decade of the 19th Century)] (I) in “Historia Universitatis Iassiensis” no. 1 (2010), p. 37-113.

Abstract

In the mid-19th century, the “European” universities held the monopoly of the Romanian cultural and scientific elite’s formation. Most of the fellows of the time were supported by the State to accomplish their higher education, with the aim to have them as teachers, at their return, in the national educational system, which was continually extending. Among the professors of the University of Iași who studied at that time “on the State’s expenses” we can mention N. Culianu, Iacob Negruzzi, George Alexandrescu, Al. Șendea, etc. Returned home, they had the mission to educate the young generation with the methods of the West and in the spirit of the attachment to the European values.

The ideal destination at the time in order to finish one’s studies and to get a diploma was undoubtedly Paris, the place where the Romanian youth could discover public life the way it was not yet home, where they could get accustomed to specific types of sociability, to the performance of the street and of the salon, to the written media, etc. Furthermore, Prince Al. I. Cuza had launched the idea of a Romanian establishment in the capital of France to allow thus a more careful supervision of the progress and morality of the young people sent there to study, who were to be protected from the numerous Parisian temptations.

Leonidas Rados, *Studenti și profesori ai Universității din Iași la studii în străinătate (deceniul șapte al secolului XIX)* [Students and Professors of the University of Iași Studying Abroad (Seventh Decade of the 19th Century)] (II) in “Historia Universitatis Iassiensis” no. 2 (2011), p. 9-59.

Abstract:

The study deals with the life of the Romanian students holding a fellowship, in the centres of education during the years that followed the Unification: their image in the University communities; finding a home; getting accommodated to the new milieu and making relationships; lacking financial resources; their intellectual development, passing the examinations; spare time and participation in public life; returning home and getting a chair in the educational system, especially in the University of Iași.

Anyhow, the groups of Romanian scholars are not particularly important in terms of number, but in terms of finality: obtaining a diploma, an academic title and being hired in the State system, generally as “high education” teachers. Thus, the former fellowship students had the possibility to contribute to a considerable extent in the connection of the Romanian academic and cultural are to the set of values and to the movement of ideas that characterized the Enlightened Europe. Insofar as possible in a milieu that was not yet mature, they educated in this spirit the following generations of students.

Florea Ioncioaia, *Mobilités étudiantes et configuration de soi: les jeunes roumains en France (1800-1940). Une mise en question, în Francopoliphonie: l’interculturalite a travers la linghistique et la literature*, vol. I, Numéro 7, Chișinău, 2012, p. 313-321 (with no indication of the project).

Abstract:

The contribution of the young people who studied abroad in the process of Occidentalization of Romania has been known for a long time. The subject has already been dealt

with by several systematic historical researches. It is true that, in spite of the recent efforts to make them at least compatible, they still remain strongly disparate or even dissonant. Furthermore, many of the approaches lack an adequate conceptual and methodological framework, which could integrate the multitude of the existent or possible approaches, and especially configure an autonomous field of research that would allow the data obtained in empiric investigations to be rendered relatively compatible. How could therefore one make a research in the history of student sociability and migration? The present approach tries to answer this question by briefly analysing the historiography of the experience of the Romanian youth's studying in France, one of the most significant experiences in terms of size and outcomes. The approach includes an attempt to systematize the main problems, a description of the methodological horizon and of the sources, as well as the presentation of a particular case, the experience of the Romanian young students at *Ecole Normale Supérieure*, seen as a historiographical issue.

Florea Ioncioaia, *Evrei în corpul didactic al Universității din Iași (1860-1940* [Jews in the Teaching Staff of the University of Iași (1860-1940)], in Carol Iancu, Alexandru-Florin Platon (eds.), *Profesori și studenți evrei* [Jewish Professors and Students], Iași, Editura Universității, 2012, p. 247-272 (with no indication of the project)

Abstract:

The paper proposes a presentation of what one could call the first wave of Jewish intellectual youth who occupied academic positions, the lower ones included, at the University of Iași. For the history of the University, their presence indicates the moment when a new category of University staff emerged, generally ignored by then: the lower one. The Jewish academe seems to illustrate the best this new category of academic personnel, in precarious subaltern positions. At the same time, the fact could demonstrate a certain opening of the academia of Iași, in a moment when the anti-Semite pressure starts to manifest itself quite significantly in the public area. The fact that two faculties only (Sciences and Medicine) promoted the presence of Jews among the University staff could be explained by the fact that they were more susceptible to the model of the cosmopolite university, as an ideal space of truth and pure knowledge, as well as by the need for technical skills in specialized fields. This moment will be somehow brutally or inexplicably stopped in 1910. There will be a real fracture, as after 1919 the phenomenon will take a radically different form, by the agency of different actors. Besides the fact that the number of the people involved is almost tripled, their statuses are much higher: the positions are more stable, the possibility of a career also appears. Moreover, it is interesting to see how the Romanian students and student associations, with a more and more nationalist orientation, responded to the presence of these specialists in the academe.

Florea Ioncioaia, *Istorie intelectuală și referință ideologică: preistoria Universității din Iași* [Intellectual History and Ideological Reference: the Prehistory of the University of Iași], "Historia Universitatis Iassiensis", 1/2010, pp. 13-36.

Abstract:

At a superficial first sight, it could seem obvious that the historiographical approach referring to the *origins* or the *prehistory* of the University of Iași is more than an homage to predecessors, to failed attempts or to modest projects, a mere celebration, therefore, of the

historical and intellectual “roots” of the institution. It is important to explain the persistence of this historiographical model, beyond the epochs, the ideologies and the intellectual trends.

We can notice that, in spite of the inherent diversity of the groups of authors who wrote the history of the institution and of the cultural and ideological contexts, we do not actually have multiple versions of the University’s *prehistory*: we are facing a canonical, reiterative, non-problematic past. At the same time, except for the attempt opening the volume of 1985, we have no other tries to conceptualize or at least conceive the history of the university as a separate field, as part, at least, of an approach consecrated to the history of education.

Maybe for this reason too, the questioning, the theoretical interrogations and the methodological researches are rare. The *prehistory* of the University of Iași, with each contribution, took the general form of a scheme of historical representation, with a purely scenic function, the expression of a historiographic meta-discourse celebrating the historical process-like evolution, understood as an organic, national, necessary development.

Vasilica Asandei, *Muzeul de Antichități din Iași: de la primele inițiative la înființare (1897-1916)* [The Museum of Antiquities of Iași: from First Initiatives to Establishemnt (1897-1916)], in “*Historia Universitatis Iassiensis*”, 2/2011, pp. 215-233.

Abstract:

The paper analyses the early stage of development of the Museum of Antiquities, defining first its institutional nature and situation (headquarters, budget and equipment). The most important figure, who made these initiatives come true, was Orest Tafrales. He was preoccupied to develop the Romanian historical and archaeological education, organizing a seminar within the Department of Archaeology and Antiquities, aiming at improving the working methods with the students. Thus, he elaborated tutorials for the students of the Seminar of Archaeology, he proposed students for fellowships abroad and organized study trips home and abroad, especially for those who were members of the student associations

Studies sent for publication and accepted by the committees

Leonidas Rados, *Jewish Students and Jewish-Gentile Relations in the University of Iasi (1860-1900)*, sent and accepted for publication in the volume *Politici culturale și promovare socială* [Cultural Policies and Social Promotion], edited by Lucian Nastasă, to be published in 2013.

Abstract:

The Jewish population of the University of Iași fluctuated significantly during the first years of its existence, with a low percentage first of all, which rose afterwards, after the creation of the Faculty of Medicine (1879), and reached its peak at the end of the 19th century. After that, the number of young Jews diminishes, probably as a result of the nationalist boom in the Romanian politics and of the exodus “on foot” at the beginning of the 20th century.

The Jewish students were not accepted in the student associations, and they were not received either in congresses and meetings of the youth. The exception of the “Society of the Students in Medicine”, where the young Jews collaborated at first very well with the Romanian students, was a singular example at the time, both praised and criticized, according to the political and civic orientation of the one who spoke.

Florea Ioncioaia, *Alexandru S. Sturdza, mistic și educator* [Alexandru S. Sturdza, a Mystic and an Educator], in *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie „A.D. Xenopol” Iași*, vol. XLIX, yr. 2012, sent and accepted for publication.

Abstract:

In the introduction, with an autobiographical character, to his famous speech occasioned by the celebration of the semi-centenary of the Romanian Academy on 1/13 April 1891, Mihail Kogălniceanu refers several times to the episode of his Berlin studies, and particularly to the meeting with an almost enigmatic character, little known even by the educated public: Alexandru Scarlat Sturdza. Although the reference is rather vague, Alexandru Zub, his most important biographer, thinks that his role in the formation of the future Romanian journalist and statesman seems to have been significant; but Sturdza's role seems to have been at least equally significant in the formation of other young people in Berlin, as well as in Moldavia or in Russia: from the two sons of M. Stourdza to most important theological figures of the 19th century Romanian world, like brothers Scriban or bishop Melchisedec. The present paper reconstructs these aspects, as well as Sturdza's role in the life of the Orthodox Church here.

Florea Ioncioaia, *Junge Leute aus den Rumänischen Fürstentümern zum Studium in Leipzig im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert*, in *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie G. Barițiu, Cluj-Napoca*, yr. 52/ 2013; sent and accepted for publication

Abstract:

It is known that the presence of the Romanian students at the University of Leipzig was early, quantitatively numerous and resonant in the Romanian society. The research of this phenomenon made the object of several historiographic approaches, especially by D. C. Amzăr, Fritz Valjavec and Stela Mărieș. But they did not base upon a direct research, in the local archive collections, and they did not offer a systematic analysis. The present approach resumes this research relying first of all on the academic collections: matriculation registers, academic correspondence, personal collections. At the same time, this is a systematic approach, on the basis of a unique investigation questionnaire. Moreover, the project aimed at reconstructing the influence of these studies upon the Romanian academic culture in the 19th and the 20th centuries, being based upon a series of memoir, epistolary and press testimonies.

Papers in preparation

We can mention here the collaboration in the projected international volume “Student Revolt, City and Society - From the Middle Ages until Today”, by Pieter Dhondt and Laura Kolbe (eds.), with two articles related to the project topic: Leonidas Rados, *“It was decided in the Student's Club”: The first student strike and the city of Iasi*; Florea Ioncioaia, *Walking out Dissent: Counter-Culture, Milieu, and Student Rebellion in Romania*. The abstracts have already been accepted in August 2012, the first meeting between contributors and editors is programmed for 19-22 June 2013, and the final articles must be submitted in October 2013.