

Vlad B. Jecan

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.c. in Comparative Literature (ABD)

To defend in 2019

University of Georgia at Athens, United States

Dissertation title: "The Hacker's Playground: Cyberspace as a Ludic-Liminal Paradigm in Cyberpunk Fiction"

Committee: Mihai I. Spariosu (chair), Dorothy M. Figueira, Dezso Benedek.

Ph.D. in Political Science

December 2016

Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Dissertation title: "The Play of Hacking and the Political Values of the Hacker Culture"

Committee: Vasile Boari (chair), Mihai I. Spariosu, Rodica Mocan, Silviu Rogobete, Gheorghe M. Stefan.

MA in Media Communication

July 2011

Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Dissertation title: "Media and Cyberthreats: The Making of a Hyperbolic Discourse".

BA in History

June 2009

Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

GRANTS

Co-manager (with Prof. Mihai I. Spariosu) and research team member: "Clash of Civilizations or Peaceful Co-Evolution? Intercultural Contact in the Age of Globalization." A grant of the *Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research*, CNCS-UEFISCDI, project ID: PN-II-PCE-2011-3-0771, 2011 – 2015, 383,000 EUR (\$445,134).

University of Georgia, *Graduate School Travel Award* of \$2,462, March 24, 2017

Teaching Assistantship, *Department of Comparative Literature, University of Georgia*, 2014 – 2019.

Doctoral Assistantship in Political Science, University of Babeş-Bolyai, a grant by *Romanian Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research*, 2011 – 2016, 18,000 EUR (\$20,923).

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Consultant and Research Editor

January 2015 - Present

The Global Learning Center, Inc., Atlanta, GA.

Responsibilities:

- Research communication and reports editing
- Content Management Systems coordination and design
- Book editing and cover design
- Brand development and online presence coordinator
- Interpreting Thomson Reuters EIKON data metrics for business risk reporting
- Design ethics consulting

Research Assistant and Communications Coordinator

October 2011 – July 2014

Institute for Global Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Responsibilities:

- Research editing
- Content Management Systems coordination and design for ongoing research projects
- Multimedia editing of conference and workshop recordings
- Event organization and coordination

Digital Editor and Correspondent for WN.com and Phones.com

June 2009 – August 2011

World News Inc., United States

Responsibilities:

- Op-eds and reporting of international affairs, science and technology
- Proofreading, copy editing and developmental editing contributions from non-native English correspondents
- Working with AP photo database, photo editing

Freelance Journalism Opinion, Science and Technology Reporting

2008 - Present

Various Publications

Responsibilities:

- Contributed numerous stories to History News Network (hnn.us), Infection Protection and Control, and other publications
- Multiple stories for Environmental Graffiti were featured on IO9, Gawker, first page on Digg.com, and LA Times

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

August 2014 - Present

University of Georgia, Athens, Department of Comparative Literature.

Selected courses taught as Instructor of Record:

CMLT 3080	Playing with Robots: Artificial Intelligence in Multicultural American Speculative Fiction
CMLT 3170	Detective Fiction
CMLT 2500	Comparative Ethnic American Literature
CMLT 2600	Multicultural Black Diaspora Literature
CMLT 3060	Intercultural Digital Humanities (under review by the UGA Curriculum Development Committee)
CMLT 3090	Professional Translation and Technical Writing in the Digital Age (under review by the UGA Curriculum Development Committee)

Adjunct Lecturer of Digital Media

October 2011 – July 2014

Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania, Department of Journalism and Digital Media

Courses taught as Instructor of Record:

- New Media Theory
- Media History
- Diversity in Media

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Philosophy of play, cyber ethics, A.I. ethics, cyberpunk fiction, hacker culture, American literature, interactive media studies, philosophy of technology, intercultural studies, political philosophy, African American literature, digital humanities, developmental editing.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Cyberspace: A Cultural History of the Hacker's Playground (in preparation)

Works in Progress:

Playing with Robots. Agonistic Mentalities of Replacement in Early 20th Century Science Fiction (to be submitted).

Asimov's Optimism. Non-Agonistic Play in Isaac Asimov's Robot Series (in preparation).

Comparative Simulations. Cyberspace in Vernor Vinge's *True Names*, Neal Stephenson's *Snow Crash*, and William Gibson's *Neuromancer* (to be submitted).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“The Ludic-Irenic Promise of Cyberspace”, in Dorothy Figueira (ed.), *Rebuilding A Profession: Comparative Literature, Intercultural Studies and the Humanities in the Age of Globalization*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht unipress, upcoming 2019

“Rei Magosaki. Tricksters and Cosmopolitans: Cross-Cultural Collaboration in Asian American Literary Production”, in *Recherche Littéraire / Literary Research*, No. 33, Summer 2017, pp. 88 – 93.

(with Radu Meza) “Co-Citation Mapping and the Intercultural Dialogue of the Intellectual Communities in Arad and Timisoara (19th to early 20th centuries)”, in Spariosu, Mihai, I., (ed.), *Intercultural Conflict and Harmony in Central European Borderlands. The Cases of Banat and Transylvania 1849 – 1939*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht unipress, 2017, pp. 355 – 367.

(with Radu Meza) “Concept Mapping of Ideological Positioning in Cultural and Political Periodicals in the Interbellum Cluj”, in *Romanian Journal of Information Science and Technology*, vol. 16, no. 2-3, 2013, pp. 237-250.

(with Radu Meza) “Harta co-citărilor ca analiză a comunicării științifice intercultural din Banat (sec. XIX), in Mihai Spariosu, Vasile Boari (eds.), *Armonie și conflict intercultural în Banat și Transilvania. Perspective cultural-istorice*, European Institute, 2014, pp. 513 – 527.

“Hacking Hollywood: The Hacker Culture in Three Popular Films”, *Journal of Media Research*, no. 11, 2011, pp. 95 – 114.

Reviews

“Ready Player One” in *SFRA Review*, No. 327, Winter 2019, Science Fiction Review Association

“Altered Carbon”, in *SFRA Review*, No. 327, Winter 2019, Science Fiction Review Association

LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Replacement. A Comparative Review of Human-Machine Agonistic Play in E. M. Forster’s *The Machine Stops* and Karel Čapek’s *Rossum’s Universal Robots*” upcoming, 2019 National American Culture and Popular Culture Conference, American Culture Association, Washington DC, April 17-20, 2019.

“Innovative Information and Communication Technological Platforms for Intercultural Studies” at the University of Georgia at Athens, GA, April 13, 2018.

“Hacktivism and Cyberpunk” at John Hopkins University, Society for Comparative Literature and the Arts, October 20, 2017.

"The Political Values of the Hacker Culture in Phrack and 2600 Magazine" American Culture Association, 47th Annual Conference, San Diego, April 14, 2017.

"Hacktivism Revisited: Co-citation Analysis of Political Concepts of Major Hacktivist Groups" Integrative Research & Ideas Symposium, University of Georgia, March 20, 2017.

"The Process in Translation: Quantum Relations Principle and New Machines" The Society for Comparative Literature and the Arts, University of South Carolina – Columbia, October 15, 2016.

"Strategy, Military Thought, and the Hacker Spirit. A Post-Clausewitzian Framework" College of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences, University of Babeş-Bolyai, June 20, 2016.

"A Digital Humanities Approach for the Study of Intercultural Dialogue" College of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences, University of Babeş-Bolyai, May 4, 2014.

"On the Digital Apocalypse. Media and Cyber Threat Inflation", College of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences, University of Babeş-Bolyai, February 25, 2013.

"Author Co-Citation Analysis and Concept Mapping as Research Methods for Intercultural Studies," at Oesterreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Institut für Kulturstudien und Theatergeschichte, Vienna, October 25, 2012.

"Computer-Assisted Research in Intercultural Studies," at *The 2012 Cultural Bridges in Germany Forum, Berlin. Conference on "Strengthening Intercultural Relations in Germany Through Arts, Sports, Politics and the Economy"*, Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, Nov. 7-9, Berlin, 2012.

"Authors and their Work as Cultural Bridges. A Case Study for Banat", at *The Cultural Bridges in Germany – A Forum for Young Leaders*, Nov. 11, 2012, Berlin

(with Radu Meza) "Co-Citation Mapping for Intercultural Studies / Harta co-citărilor pentru studii interculturale", at *Intercultural Conflict and Harmony in Banat and Transylvania: Cultural-Historical Perspectives*, May 17-19, 2012, Timișoara, Romania.

(with Radu Meza) "Concept Mapping of Ideological Positioning in Cultural and Political Periodicals in the Interbellum Cluj", at *Computational Models for Interethnic Studies in Transylvania and Banat*, 27-29 September 2012, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

“Cybersecurity and the State. An overview” College of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences, University of Babeş-Bolyai, January 25, 2012.

“Meanings of Advanced Military Technology in Contemporary Warfare,” *Semiotics, Society and Culture*, University of Babeş-Bolyai, May 18, 2008 (CNCSIS PN II TD-379/2008).

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Affiliated Faculty, African Studies Institute, University of Georgia
Associate Expert, DAVA Strategic Analysis, Romania

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Member, The Association for Computers and the Humanities
Member, American Culture Association
Member, Science Fiction Research Association

LANGUAGES

English, German, Romanian, some French.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEES (CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS)

Intercultural Studies for a Global Age: Principles, Methodology, Practice, April 12-14, 2018, University of Georgia at Athens.

Intercultural Conflict and Harmony in Banat and Transylvania: Cultural-Historical Perspectives, May 17-19, 2012, West University of Timișoara, Romania.

International Conference on Religion and Politics in the Globalization Era, June 22-24, University of Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Intercultural Conflict and Harmony in Banat and Transylvania: Cultural-Historical Perspectives (II), September 28-30, 2012, University of Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Computer Models for Interethnic Studies in Banat and Transylvania, September 27-29, 2012 University of Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Intercultural Dialogue, Mediation and Negotiation in Romania, May 31, 2013, University of Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

International Conference on Media Convergence, 23-26 October 2013, University of Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

REFERENCES

Prof. Mihai I. Spariosu

Distinguished Research Professor, Head of the Department of Comparative Literature,
University of Georgia

CEO and Founder, The Global Learning Center, Inc., Atlanta, GA
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Prof. Dorothy Figueira

Distinguished Research Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, University of
Georgia
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Prof. Vasile Boari

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Prof. Gheorghe M. Stefan

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Bucharest
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