

*Newsletter of the Institute for the History of Religions  
of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest*  
[II | July 2022]

Bucharest | 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022, Friday

Dear Colleagues,

With all due thanks to members and staff of the Romanian Academy as well as of IHR, I would like to briefly mention here the main team moves during the first month of my mandate.

First of all, IHR was able to open on 6<sup>th</sup> of June **four new permanent positions of researchers** (CS, 2 x CŞ III ½ as well as CŞ I). This is indeed very good news for our team as they represent an accrual of 50% of research personnel within IHR, the largest happening in a single shift since IHR's very foundation in 2008. This would have not at all been possible without the support of the past **Director a.i. of IHR, Dr Bogdan Tătaru-Cazaban**, the Section for Historical Sciences and Archaeology of the Romanian Academy presided by **Acad. Prof. Dr. Victor Spinei**, and the **Board of the Academy**. Moreover, June 2022 was the last possible month for opening positions in Romanian state system: from July 1 up to the end of the year at least, new positions, including promoting within the institutes, would be blocked in all state and public institutions as the Romanian Academy is.

These four new permanent positions were publicized not only in Romania (published in a newspaper and on Meta *et c.*), but also on the EASR Lists (twice: on 1<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June). We do hope to be able to choose the best candidates willing to join our team! The deadline remains 6 July 2022:

[Anunt-post-CS-avizier\\_site.pdf\(ihr-acad.ro\)](#)

[Anunt-post-CS-III\\_1-pt-avizier\\_site.pdf\(ihr-acad.ro\)](#)

[Anunt-post-CS-III\\_2-pt-avizier\\_site.pdf\(ihr-acad.ro\)](#)

[Anunt-post-CS-I.pdf\(ihr-acad.ro\)](#)

I am happy indeed to report that colleagues from **13 institutions**, **5 academic/university centres** and **two countries** accepted my invitation to join the eight mandatory commissions for these four new research positions. This is a bit of a novelty within IHR, as for the first time **five** current research members as well as **two** associate members will be directly involved in discerning the best future colleagues. The other 12 institutions are:

1. Institutului de Istorie „N. Iorga”, Academia Română, Bucureşti.
2. Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan”, Academia Română, Bucureşti.
3. Institutul de Studii Sud-Est Europene, Academia Română, Bucureşti.
4. Facultatea de Istorie, Universitatea din Bucureşti.
5. Facultatea de Limbi şi Literaturi Străine, Universitatea din Bucureşti.
6. Facultatea de Ştiinţe Politice, Universitatea din Bucureşti.
7. Universitatea Politehnică Bucureşti | SNSPA, Bucureşti.
8. Facultatea de Teologie Catolică, Universitatea din Bucureşti.

9. Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca.
10. Universitatea „Alexandru-Ioan Cuza“, Iaşi.
11. Universitatea „Lucian Blaga“, Sibiu.
12. Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München.

We thank you all!

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Especially for a young, emerging research institution, the Scientific Council is the best tool in administering its research life. In IHR's case, as past secretary of the Scientific Council (2008-2018), I can assure our colleagues this valuable infra-organism is of greatest help in meeting all required needs. I had the chance to work with our founding Director, Professor Andrei Pleşu (President, 2008-2010, then member of the Scientific Council 2010-2022) as well as with Professor Francisca Băltăceanu (member, 2008-2022) and Dr Andrei Oişteanu (member, 2008-2022). All of them assumed for IHR more than three mandates and contributed greatly to a beneficial scholarly endeavour, protecting the clearly insufficiently institutionalized discipline in nowadays Romania. All the three wrote to me excellent message of support for the new mandate and for the IHR as a whole: while thanking them deeply for their continuous and future support, I would also like to once again pledge for the three cardinal scholarly virtues Professor Pleşu opted for, back then in June 2008, when he presented and recommended to us a virtually optimal scholar, even more in the case of a fine scholar of religion today: *acribia, îndrăzneala & bunătatea*.

Mandatory elections for a new Scientific Council were thus held in June 2022. On 10-14 June, six candidates for these three positions were proposed by colleagues from IHR: Assoc. Prof. Dr Bogdan G. Bucur, Professor Dr Florin Deleanu, Dr Daniela Dumbravă, PD Dr. Alin Suciu, Dr.dr. Ana-Stanca Tăbăraşi-Hoffmann, and Dr. Bogdan Tătaru-Cazaban. On 15 June (electronically), **Professor Dr Florin Deleanu** (Director of the International Institute for Buddhist Studies, Tokyo), **PD Dr. Alin Suciu** (Akademie der Wissenschaften, Göttingen | University of Helsinki) and **Dr Bogdan Tătaru-Cazaban** (IHR) were elected with a majority of votes. The two others positions of the current Scientific Council include the director of IHR (as president) and a Member of the Romanian Academy. I am happy to report the designated member from the Academy is **Acad. Professor Dr Mircea Dumitru**, an global authority in his own field of research, who moreover keenly followed IHR's since its beginnings. On my proposition, **Dr Bogdan Tătaru-Cazaban** was elected as the **new Secretary** of the Scientific Council, during the first of its meetings, on 29<sup>th</sup> of June. I am proud and happy to be able to start working with such a fine, international indeed team of expert colleagues!

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June was a month literally full of meetings and visits, just launched or forthcoming institutional partnerships, lectures and communications as well as proofreading of future IHR journal articles and books. I would here highlight the visit His Excellency Mr Rahul Shrivastava, the Ambassador of India to Bucharest, most kindly paid to IHR on Solstice (and Yoga International!) Day:



India in Romania  
@eoiromania

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Ambassador visited the Institute of History of Religions which has numerous original manuscripts and letters of Mircea Eliade in regard to his studies on India. Amb and Dir of the Inst Mr. Eugen Ciurtin also discussed areas of possible collaboration between the Embassy and the Ins

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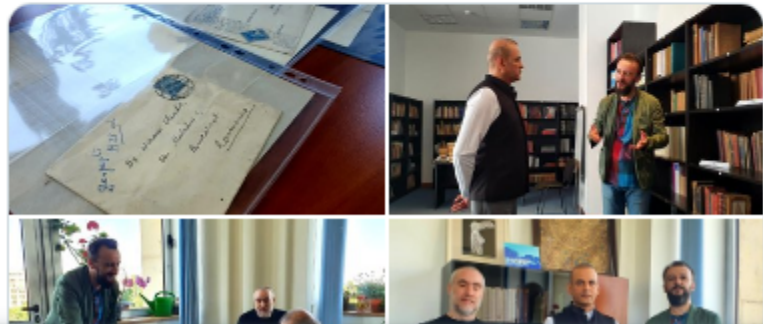


India in Romania · 21 Jun

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Replying to @eoiromania

Ambasadorul a vizitat Institutul de Istorie a Religiilor al Academiei Române, care deține numeroase manuscrise originale și scrisori ale lui Mircea Eliade cu privire la studiile sale despre India. Amb împreună cu Dl. Eugen Ciurtin au discutat și despre posibile colaborări.



Two dozen partnerships were launched during the first month of this mandate. I am very much looking forward to also know the names and involvement of our three future colleagues in order to inform our benevolent readers about all these – there will soon be very stimulating news!

Just a side note for now: in a team meeting of E.C.C.E.: *Ediția critică completă Eliade* | *The Complete Critical Edition of Mircea Eliade's scholarly works, 1921-1945*, we collectively deciphered an unpublished, really unknown set of manuscript pages of Eliade written in haste, perhaps even being on a Calcutta street, manuscripts from the grand donations made recently to IHR. Among them, written in Calcutta probably in 1929, several addresses of Bengali booksellers with their own references and signatures. Right underneath, Eliade copied several back then just published titles of Indian publishing houses. One of these books – as promptly reacted our associate member, Indologist Vlad Șovărel – was not only purchased then by Eliade, but it is now to be found, due to utmost kindness paired with unknown workings of more than one individual *karman*, in the very Eliade Library of IHR!

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You may easily follow us on [Institutul de Istorie a Religiilor – Academia Romana \(ihr-acad.ro\)](http://ihr-acad.ro) where we offered in June several recent volumes of IHR scholarly journals *Archaeus. Studies in the History of Religions* and *Studia Asiatica. International Journal for Asian Studies* in full open access,

as well as on Meta | [www.facebook.com/HistoryofReligionsBucharest](https://www.facebook.com/HistoryofReligionsBucharest).

If you are a scholar of religion visiting Bucharest, you'll never walk alone: don't miss paying a visit to our premises, we salute you!



Team meeting of R.H.R. | *Religious History of Romania, 1500-2000*, 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022 | (l-r) Cătălin-Ștefan Popa, Bogdan Tătaru-Cazaban, Mirel Bănică, E.C., Vlad Șovărel, Octavian Negoită, IHR. Photo by Larisa Ispas (our chief accountant).

Every good wish,  
Eugen

Dr Eugen Ciurtin  
Founding member | Research Professor (CȘ I) | Director of IHR.