

	
<p><b>1 Decembrie 1918 University of Alba Iulia, Romania</b></p>	<p><b>Centre for the research of the imaginary <i>SPECULUM</i> 1 Decembrie 1918 University of Alba Iulia, Romania</b></p>

**invite papers  
for the conference on**

## **Literature and life: between reality and fiction**

**Venue:** Virtual or 1 Decembrie 1918 University, Alba Iulia

**Date:** March 30<sup>th</sup> –April 1<sup>th</sup> 2023

Literature and life, the connection between the literary text and reality, conveying an event in a social context announcing or reconstituting a time or an event, here is the challenge we are launching this year.

Without willing to sustain the positivist movement which used to borrow from the literary research factological tasks belonging to philology or to the authors' biography thus exaggerating the results, or without particularly seeking the existence of personal myths of the authors in the literary works, or without trying to discover significances unintended by the author, in order to avoid exaggerations in the interpretations based on the biography of the author, we plead for parallels between literature and experienced existence.

We will neither especially incline for what French literature recognizes as "histoire vécue" or English literature as *nonfiction novel*, with "literatură-document" as an

approximate equivalent in Romanian, since the relationship document-fiction from this point of view does not constitute a point of interest for us. The amount of "life" literature contains is not necessarily a mark of "nonfiction", since we are dealing with an epic attitude and a process of structuring and fictionalising together with a mechanism tending towards the erosion of authenticity, capable, for example, to transform a historical character. The character lives in the conscience of the reader only and represents the dimension of a reality existing only in its creator's mind. In other words, turning an event into literature may modify the "truth" one wanted to represent. Nonfiction may lose itself into literary characteristics, the artistic space finishing by blocking its primary significance, the work of art being submitted to aesthetic criteria.

Years before, in a television programme, Neagu Djuvara, a specialist in history, underlined the role of literature in knowing and understanding historical phenomena. On this occasion, he evoked two novels, *I, Claudius* by Robert Graves and *Memoirs of Hadrian* by Marguerite Yourcenar. Many other titles and authors could be added. Not only from the category of the historical novel, but also allegorical writings, utopias, poetic creations, etc. If the historian comes with data furnished by authorised sources, presenting events under the sign of the objectivity and exactness conferred by his capacity to interpret data, the writer, with the same historical data at hand, makes use of his imaginative capacities, with the great advantage of making them live, of offering them a new life. We know that, for a specialist, it is difficult, if not impossible, to interpret contemporary history. He will resume to noting down, to registering events. Through the literary text, literature, a privileged field of the imaginary, offers complete and nuanced images, representative from a social point of view, often containing landmarks for a whole life space. Over decades, those interested in speaking about communist or postcommunist eras will certainly be able to exploit the novels of Radu Aldulescu, Ioana Nicolaie, Dan Lungu or Tudor Ganea, etc. Since literary works generally avoid unveiling total knowledge, having as a starting point the imaginary we generally call reality, you are invited to choose a literary text and the adequate type of approach.

## GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

Those interested in presenting a paper (not more than 25 minutes in length) are requested to submit the title together with an abstract **in English** of not more than 300 words, accompanied by at least 5 keywords, via e-mail before **February 15<sup>st</sup>, 2023**. You will receive confirmation of participation via e-mail by **March 15<sup>st</sup>, 2023**. Prior to their publication, papers, written either in English, French or Romanian will be reviewed by the editorial committee. After selection, the papers will be published in *Incursiuni în imaginar*, the Speculum's Center review, Alba Iulia, Romania.

Send abstracts for the papers to G. Chiciudean by e-mail to [gabrielachiciudean@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielachiciudean@gmail.com), [rogabchira@yahoo.fr](mailto:rogabchira@yahoo.fr)

**Organizing committee:**

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