



**Faculty of Letters
and Political Sciences**



Faculty of Philosophy and Social

”THE BOOKS THAT MADE US”

26 May 2018

The conference puts the title of a book written by the contemporary Romanian literary critic, historian and essayist Dan C. Mihăilescu in an academic context, suggesting a humanistic approach to the book and also implying that reading it brings about “therapeutically charming” revelations, which we wish to subject to the participants’ reflection.

Since the discovery of print, the reading of books has probably been the modern individual’s most important activity. Perhaps the fallacy of Don Quixote – one of the first heroes of the modern novel - is that he reads intensively a kind of literature meant to be extensive through Gutenberg’s invention. This Quixotic fallacy has kept on haunting us in the last four hundred years.

What is the future of books and reading when books become digitized? What will the individual and culture look like in the context of the transformations affecting books, reading and education? What is the role of books in our life? These are issues the participants in the conference are invited to consider. As such, it is an invitation to an interdisciplinary debate on the post-Gutenberg age, as Marshall McLuhan called humanity as early as the 1960s.

The existence of an international cooperation project, COST ”Evolution of Reading in the Age of Digitisation”, initiated in 2014, and in which our university is a partner, is evidence of the interest taken by the academic world in the changes that reconfigure the book as a repository of knowledge, and also as an object which manages to go beyond a strictly material utilitarian condition. The book yields culture, uplifts the mind, opens up the soul, and changes destinies. These are a few of the ideas that underpin the academic event of an interdisciplinary conference on “The Books that Made Us.”

The conference invites academics and researchers in a variety of fields, book authors and editors, translators, those who deal in book management, and the large public alert to the dynamics of change in the era of new technologies.

1. Abstract submission deadline:

- **To be sent to alexapostol87@gmail.com by 30 April 2018**

Abstracts written in word shall mention the following items in the order below:

- Author(s)
- Affiliation
- E-mail address
- Paper title
- Abstract

Authors of accepted papers to be notified by **10 May 2018**

2. Topics:

- Book and culture
- Symbolic dimensions of book and reading
- Yesterday’s books, today’s books (e-books)
- Text translation, criticism and hermeneutics
- The book in science, religion and creative writing
- Formation and information through books
- Ideology and the realm of books

- Book consumption and functional illiteracy
- The book from author to reader

3. Partners:

- Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași
- The Municipal Government of the City of Iași
- The Romanian Academy, Alexandru Philippide Institute of Romanian Philology, Iași branch
- The Romanian Academy, Gheorghe Zane Institute of Economic and Social Research, Iași branch
- The Museum of Romanian Literature
- Mihai Eminescu Central University Library of Iași
- Sf. Voievod Ștefan cel Mare Association - Hârja

1. Scientific Committee:

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| • MA Student Alexandra Vrînceanu | |

Important:

- The conference proceedings may be published.
- NO attendance fees. Transportation and accommodation expenses will NOT be refunded by the organisers.

Coordinators:

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