

Lapedatu Fellowships at New Europe College (2019-2020)

With the generous financial support of the Lapedatu Foundation, NEC continues to offer the Lapedatu Fellowships aimed to encourage the study of modern and contemporary Romanian history. In 2019-2020 academic year, researchers Oliver Jens Schmitt and Sorin Radu will organize a colloquium dedicated to the modernization of Romania in the interwar era. Organizers and their guests, foreign and Romanian researchers, will analyze the process of accelerated modernization aimed at the institutional, economic and cultural uniformization of the “Greater Romania”. Discussions will tackle recent points of view regarding the perception of the interwar era, including clichés or prejudices related to this interesting historical period.

Oliver Jens Schmitt – Professor of South-Eastern European History at the University of Vienna – is an expert on Romanian history. His areas of interest include fascism in Eastern Europe with a focus on Romania, 19th century Eastern Mediterranean urban societies, society and politics in the late Ottoman Empire, socio-cultural developments in the Albanian Balkan area, history of the maritime Empire of Venice and history of the Balkans in late Middle Ages. Since 2017 he has been the president of the Section of Philosophy and History of the Austrian Academy of Science. His most recent works on the history of Romania include *Corneliu Zelea Codreanu. Ascensiunea și căderea „Căpitanului”* (*Corneliu Zelea Codreanu. The Rise and Fall of the “Captain”*, translated by Wilhelm Tauwinkl, Humanitas, 2017) and *România în 100 de ani. Bilanțul unui veac de istorie (Romania in 100 years. An Overview of a Century of History)*, translated by Wilhelm Tauwinkl, Humanitas, 2018.

Sorin Radu is Professor of Contemporary History at the Department of History and Heritage and the Dean of the Social and Humanistic Sciences of the *Lucian Blaga* University in Sibiu. His areas of interest include the history of Romania in the 19th and 20th centuries, history of political parties and doctrines, political culture and modernization in modern and contemporary Romania, history of electoral systems in Central and South-Eastern Europe, history of the communist regime in Romania. His recent works on the topic of the colloquium include *The Countryside and Communism in Eastern Europe: Perceptions, Attitudes, Propaganda*, LIT Verlag, Wien, Zürich, Münster, 2016 (edited in cooperation with Cosmin Budeancă); *Politics and Peasants in Interwar Romania: Perceptions, Mentalities, Propaganda*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2017 (edited in cooperation with Oliver Jens Schmitt).