

PRESIDENT
Rei-Terada
University of California, Irvine

VICE-PRESIDENT
Ranjana Khanna
Duke University

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
Karen Emmerich
Princeton University

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Dina Al-Kassim
University of British Columbia

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER
Danielle Fanucchi

PAST PRESIDENT
Shu-mei Shih
University of California, Los Angeles

NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE CHAIR
Jennifer Wenzel
Columbia University

FINANCE
COMMITTEE CHAIR
Robert Meister
University of California, Santa Cruz

PROGRAM
COMMITTEE CHAIR
Nicoletta Pireddu
Georgetown University

PUBLICATIONS
COMMITTEE CHAIR
Michael Allan
University of Oregon

CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE CHAIR
E.K. Tan
Stony Brook University

INTERIM ADPCL REPRESENTATIVE
Luis Fernando Restrepo

GRADUATE STUDENT
COMMITTEE CHAIR
Liz Kinnamon
University of Arizona

GRADUATE
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
Corneshia Tweede
University of Oregon

René Wellek 2023: Monograph

Committee:
Chair, Mary Layoun (University of Wisconsin)
Kamran Rastegar (Tufts University)
Simona Bertacco (University of Louisville)

Anca Parvulescu and Manuela Boatcă, *Creolizing the Modern: Transylvania across Empires*

Parvulescu and Boatcă's intellectually compelling and beautifully written work defines its effort as "to both analyze Transylvania's inter-imperial condition and develop the Transylvanian perspective as a method" (3). Their *Creolizing the Modern* impressively accomplishes both goals – analyzing Transylvania as a part of the East European semiperiphery, as multiethnic, multilingual, multiconfessional, and as historically positioned at the intersection of multiple empires (Habsburg, Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian, Russian) and proposing a richly suggestive method from that analysis.

From and beyond the disciplines of comparative literary studies and sociology, and drawing widely and insightfully from a range of work (Immanuel Wallerstein, Laura Doyle, Stuart Hall, Edouard Glissant, Françoise Lionnet and Shu-mei Shih), the critical work of *Creolizing the Modern* is framed by coloniality and inter-imperiality in the world-system and is underscored by Romania's first modern novel, Liviu Rebreanu's 1920 *Ion*. With the revelatory challenges in and contradictions of *Ion* as a touchstone then, Parvulescu and Boatcă's richly suggestive and theoretically informed analysis traverses the critical terrain of peasants and the land question; the world system and antisemitism; Romani music; the language question and Transylvanian interglottism; nationalism, women's labor and violence against women; women's education; and the ethnicization religion. *Creolizing the Modern* ends its own last chapter, "God is the New Church: The Ethnicization of Religion," pointing to the refusal that ends Rebreanu's *Ion*.

At the end of the first modern Romanian novel, as a prefiguration of the future, Pripas gets a new church, a pulpit for the new nationalism and a refusal of its creolized history (180).

Parvulescu and Boatcă, though, have stunningly and persistently reinvigorated that creolized history in their collaborative work here. Their study of Transylvania's position on a global economic, political, and cultural stage works with their analysis of Rebreanu's novel to reveal and retell Transylvania's creolized history to be sure. And simultaneously, *Creolizing the Modern* formulates a rich methodological exemplar of looking again and differently at "small places" -- and even perhaps at not-so-small places with the small places always in sight – to understand global movements – cultural, political, economic.

It is with great pleasure and even greater admiration for its powerful accomplishments that we unanimously award the ACLA René Wellek Prize for an outstanding book in the discipline of comparative literature to Anca Parvulescu and Manuela Boatcă's *Creolizing the Modern: Transylvania across Empires*.