

Professor, PhD - Lucian - Claudiu Topor (b. 1975)

"Al. I. Cuza" University of Iasi

Faculty of History

Department of History

B-dul Carol I, Nr.11

RO-700506 – Iași

CONTACT: email: claudiulucian@yahoo.com; claudiu.topor@uaic.ro.

Tel: +40-232-201618 (office); Fax: +40-232-201156; Mobil: 0745/070821

SHORT CV /BIOS

EDUCATION AND SKILLS:

- 2020, Certificate of habilitation (No. 6303/22.12.2020) in the field of doctoral studies at IOSUD/IOD Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași where he defended his thesis entitled Between alliance and confrontation. Relations between the German Empire and the Kingdom of Romania from the end of the Balkan Wars (1913) to the years of the Great War (1914-1918).
- 2012, participant in the course Quality Management in Higher Education, "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iași, Corpul R, Conference Room 502. Contract POSDRU/86/1.2/S/61959 - Certificate of membership of the University Community for Quality Management in Higher Education
- 2006, PhD in History (Faculty of History, "Al. I. Cuza" University Iasi) with Magna cum laude distinction, presenting the paper Germany, Romania and the Balkan Wars (1912-1913)
- 2000-2001, Advanced Studies, specializing in Romanians in International Relations, Faculty of History, "Al. I. Cuza" Iasi University
- 1996-2000, Graduate in History, Faculty of History, "Al. I. Cuza" Iasi.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE / TEACHING ACTIVITY

Uninterrupted teaching activity in higher education in Romania at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași. Member of the committees of the bachelor, master and doctoral examinations.

Fellow (2003) and visiting professor (2015) at the University of Konstanz (Germany).

Teaching mobility within the Erasmus programme at Eötvös University

2014/ 2021 - PhD lecturer at the Faculty of History of the University "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iași

2007/ 2014 - lecturer at the Faculty of History of the University "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iași

2004-2007 - assistant in the Faculty of History of the University "Al. I. Cuza " of Iași

2001-2004 - preparator in the Faculty of History of the University "Al. I. Cuza " of Iași

Teaching fields:

History of international relations; International history (19th and 20th centuries);

Military history and genesis of modern wars;

History of press and media;

Diplomacy and political ideologies in modern society.

Courses/seminars / Faculty of History:

Introduction to History / General Course, 1st year, 1st semester

Origins of the First World War / Optional course and seminar, 2nd year, 1st semester;

Modern Europe / General course, 2nd year, 1st semester;

Modern diplomacy. A History of International Congresses and Conferences/Course and Special Seminar, 3rd year, 2nd semester

Media and international relations / Course and seminar, 2nd year Master programme - International relations, institutions and organizations (17th-21st century),

Historiography of the Great War from 1918 to the present, Course and seminar, 1st year, 1st semester, Doctoral School

PUBLICATIONS, HISTORICAL RESEARCH, FIELD OF INTERESTS

Professor Claudiu-Lucian Topor's achievements in studying the human past reflect a long-lasting interest in the history of diplomacy, the history of wars and the history of international relations. His PhD thesis (Germany, Romania and the Balkan Wars, 1912-1913, Iași, "Al. I. Cuza" University Press, 2008, 323 p). investigated the geopolitical significance of Romania in the Balkan projects of the German Empire and revealed a new research perspective on Romanian diplomatic relations under the threat of wars.

Because from a historiography point of view Germany and Romania only marginally interfered in the political epicentre of European politics and their interaction on a diplomatic scale had been viewed as a mere annex to the tensions within the Triple Alliance, the doctoral thesis repositioned this vast field of work, identifying new acquisitions of historical sources and adapting the approach to a methodological alternative. The research followed the narrative thread of German diplomatic correspondence and reclaimed a symbiosis between the classic diplomatic history (an analysis visible in the area of German-Romanian interaction) and the recurrence of military history (reflected in the dynamics of the Balkan war and its consequences for the rivalry of the former allies). For several years he has documented the sociability of foreign diplomats present in Romania (ministers plenipotentiary, legation and consular staff, etc.) in the light of the experiences of social life. His research was carried out as part of the project *Foreign diplomats in the Kingdom of Romania. Ways of socialization and mundanity experiences (1881-1914)* and led to the printing of two volumes of studies (the result of several international conferences) arguing in favour of the need to re-examine from a social history perspective the professional corps of diplomats (see *Diplomats, society and socialites. The end of the "Belle Époque" in the Romanian world*, Claudiu-Lucian Topor, Alexandru Istrate, Daniel Cain (Eds.) pp. 229-241; *Through the Diplomats' Eyes: Romanian Social Life in the late 19th and early 20th Century*, Claudiu-Lucian Topor, Alexandru Istrate, Daniel Cain) Parthenon Verlag, Geist &Wissenschaft, Kaiserslautern und Mehlingen, 2016, 432 p.). The reconstruction of German-Romanian relations was highlighted in the rest of his post-doctoral research. The continuity of the approach is justified by the path pursued constantly by modern Romania in foreign policy after "Independence" (1878) and "Kingdom" (1881) intensely oriented towards an alliance with the powers of the German world. His research, reflecting the peaceful interstice of the cooperation with Germany, finally transgressed into the age of belligerence fully covered in the work *"Auf nach Rumänien!" The German-Romanian Belligerence, 1916-1918* (Iași, "Al. I. Cuza" University Press, 2020, 458 p). He has rethought the profile of an event ignored by Western historiography, integrating it into the current demands of global research and returning it to historical narratives relevant today. This change of perspective considered the inclusion of the German-Romanian belligerence in the identity construction of a war of coalitions with wide representation on the fronts in Europe (see also *"The Unknown War" from Eastern Europe. Romania between Allies and Enemies (1916-1918)*, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University Press, Iași / Hartung Gorre Verlag Konstanz, 2016, Claudiu-Lucian Topor , Alexander Rubel, (Eds.). This integration into the theme of the coalition war was imposed by the trend of internationalization of the historical debate on the issues of the Great War, which reached a high intensity of research in recent decades. The global perspective tends to increasingly replace the national vision today. The current dominant trends no longer seek to "do justice" to a global phenomenon (the war) as it happened in the past in the

content of national "histories" that invoked reparations, restitutions and reconsiderations. The terms of the old historical debates (justice / injustice) have become obsolete. His research has been subordinated to this model of historical narrative, placed in opposition to the old sterile, politicized and patriotic writings from the field of Romanian historiography. The conclusions led to the discussion of postulates that broke away from the traditional paradigm of Romanian historical interpretations. For instance, in the volume *Germany and Romania's neutrality (1914-1916)*. *Historical Studies*, ("Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University Press, Iași, 2017, 306 p) he has demonstrated that the theme of neutrality was not only a reasoning of military expectation aiming, as it was believed, for the preparation of Romania's inevitable intervention in the war, but also a viable alternative to the accentuated rhetoric of violence in society. It lost credibility when faced with the failure of German diplomacy to maintain the influence it had gained over more than three decades of alliance with Romania. Also, after accessing the documentary resources from the German archives, he published the study *Change, Unrest, Confusion: the General Staff of the Romanian Army from 1900 to 1914*. In: *Gehirne der Armeen? Die Generalstäbe der europäischen Großmächte und ihre Rolle im Vorfeld der beiden Weltkriege*, Lukas Grawe (Ed.), pp. 153-176, Brill/ Ferdinand Schöningh, 2023) which revealed a historiographical content long kept under wraps in Romanian writings. It was about the ignorance of the strategists at the top of Romanian politics who, while being aware of the retaliatory capacity of the German army, acted hastily, giving priority to the agreements signed with the Entente to the detriment of a proper military preparation for the war. As a member of the project *Romanian space and international crises: dynamics of military occupations (1769-1918)* he has explored various themes (government, propaganda, social solidarities, religious sensibilities, etc.) from the period of the German military occupation. In contrast to the older historical writings that respected the canons of the revengeful interpretations of the first generation of war survivors, he no longer perceived the interstice of the military occupation only as a mechanism for the spoliation of Romanian resources, but instead showcased it as a regime of political guarantee (agreed by some of the Germanophiles remaining in Bucharest (see Lupu C. Kostaki, *Memoriile unui trădător. Un înalt funcționar român sub guvernământul german (1916-1918) / Memoirs of a Traitor. A high Romanian official under German rule (1916-1918)*, Humanitas, 2020) meant for the reconstruction of a country affected by the war (see also *L'Allemagne Impériale et la «garantie» d'une paix durable dans l'Europe du Sud-Est. Les pourparlers de Bucarest (février-mai 1918)* In: *Les traités de paix (1919-1923). La paix les uns contre les autres*, Isabelle Davion și Stanislas Jeannesson (dir.) pp. 85-99, Paris, Sorbonne Université Presses, 2023). Through his research on the German-Romanian belligerence, he has also formed a cultural perspective on the emergence of the trench generation in the interwar years, seen as a

consequence of the ideological mobilization preceding the war and the coagulation of the soldiers' camaraderie in the theatre of operations.

Ever since the first research dedicated to German-Romanian relations, he has sought to understand to what extent Romanian society had assimilated the experience of the Balkan wars in order to prepare, in the era of neutrality, the ideological mobilization required in order to intervene in the Great War. He has included in a book chapter [A Forgotten Lesson: The Romanian Army between the Campaign in Bulgaria (1913) and the Tutrakan Debacle (1916), pp. 240-258. In: *The Wars of Yesterday. The Balkan Wars and the Emergence of Modern Military Conflict, 1912-1913*, (Eds.) Karin Boeckh and Sabine Rutar, Berghahn Books, 2018] some late autobiographical evocations and literary recollections of the wars in Romania's past that have encouraged the comparison between the fate of different generations of survivors. Taking into account that the narratives of the Great War remained deeply anchored in the memory of the combatants, he intends to further analyze the ways through which the various cultures of memory (literary narrative; visual media, etc.) were kept interconnected in interwar Romania to political and social issues, and to the historiographical topics specific to the war.

Research on the German-Romanian belligerence (1916-1918) has shown that the virulence of the political language of the First World War years was rooted in the exacerbation of the rhetoric of nationalism in pre-war Romania (see *Der "inländische Feind"- Das Schicksal der Deutschen in Altrumänien zwischen nationalen Identität und Rethorik des Krieges (1914-1916)*, in *"Forschungen zur Volks-und Landeskunde"/ Sibiu*, 2011, pp. 145-154.). He has managed to reflect on the formation of the trench generation from the perspective of cultural history by identifying the common representations of the enemy – friend, amenable to internal assimilation (see *Romanians at War - Soldiers' Experience during the Military Campaign (1916-1918)*, pp. 223-249. In: *Die unbekante Front. Der Erste Weltkrieg in Rumänien*, Gundula Gahlen, Deniza Petrova, Oliver Stein (hg.), Campus Verlag, Frankfurt/New York, 2018). He aims to deepen the research about the existence of a tension of remembering in society, confirmed until now by the emotion with which the survivors of the war participate in the commemorations of the event (see our study *Legendary Places after the Great War. The Historical Memory of the "Mărășești Battle" (1917)*, in *"Brukenthalia". Romanian Cultural History Review. Supplement of Brukenthal. Acta Musei*, no. 7/2017, pp. 846-858).