

## *Book of Abstracts & Bionotes*

### **The International Workshop (IN)VISIBLE BUT INVINCIBLE**



*Tracing Silences, Breaking Frames:  
Disability, Representation, and the Power of the Unseen*

the third edition of  
**NOT DIS-ABLED. JUST DIFFERENTLY-ABLED.**

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ROMANIA - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & RESEARCH  
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## *Book of Abstracts*

### *Plenaries*

Carmen ANDREI

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

#### *ADHD-ul sau când dizabilitatea dă putere. Considerații despre femei tinere și adulte neurodivergente*

Comunicarea noastră are ca obiect propunerea unei perspective tonice asupra celui mai cunoscut diagnostic al timpurilor noastre, tulburarea de deficit de atenție și hiperactivitate (ADHD) și asupra modului în care poate fi transformată într-un avantaj atunci când este gestionată corect și profesionist, dar, mai ales, colaborativ. Consultarea surselor de specialitate (studii punctuale, meta-analize, confesiuni și testimoniale ale unor cazuri celebre – Gabor Mate, Tracy Otsuka, ș.a. reprezentate de psihiatri și psihologi clinicieni, terapeuți), ne îndrituiește să avansăm ideea că viața persoanelor neurodivergente, a femeilor tinere în special poate fi modelată spre „normalizare” astfel încât să aibă beneficii potențiale importante cu ajutorul unor strategii care devin o cutie de instrumente dătătoare de (super)putere. După o trecere în revistă a simptomatologiei generale după care se testează și ulterior se diagnostichează ADHD-ul, la copii și adolescenți, ne referim la cazuri punctuale de tinerele femei și femei adulte care nu au lăsat această afecțiune să le afecteze viața, au ales să-și transforme vulnerabilitatea în (super) putere cu ajutorul unei medicații potrivite și a unor exerciții adecvate, cu cel al psihoterapiei) și au devenit cazuri de figură reușite.

**Cuvinte cheie:** ADHD, neurodivergență, hipersensibilitate, strategii, femei

#### *ADHD, or When Disability Becomes Strength: Reflections on Neurodivergent Young and Adult Women*



Our paper proposes a constructive and empowering perspective on one of the most widely discussed diagnoses of our time - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) - and on the ways in which it can be transformed into an asset when managed correctly, professionally, and, above all, collaboratively. Consulting specialised sources (targeted studies, meta-analyses, personal accounts and testimonies of well-known figures such as Gabor Maté, Tracy Otsuka, among others, alongside the work of psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and therapists) allows us to advance the argument that the lives of neurodivergent individuals - particularly young women - can be guided toward a form of "normalisation" that yields significant potential benefits through the use of strategies that become an empowering, personalised toolbox of (super)abilities.

Following an overview of the general symptomatology used in the evaluation and subsequent diagnosis of ADHD in children and adolescents, we turn to specific cases of young and adult women who have refused to let this condition hinder their lives. Instead, they have chosen to transform vulnerability into (super)power through appropriate medication, tailored exercises, and psychotherapy, thereby becoming noteworthy examples of success.

**Keywords:** ADHD, neurodivergence, hypersensitivity, strategies, women

**Anamaria CIUBARĂ**

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### *Mind, Self, and Society: Rethinking Psychiatric Disability and the Power of Being Seen*

**Introduction:** In our clinical practice, we see that individuals with psychiatric conditions face a profound dual challenge. Beyond the direct burden of their symptoms, they must navigate a social world rife with prejudice and misunderstanding. This societal stigma does not remain external; it is often internalized, leading to a corrosive form of self-stigma that can dismantle a person's sense of self-worth and obstruct the path to

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recovery. This presentation argues that what we term "psychiatric disability" is therefore not merely a clinical issue, but a crisis of social connection and visibility.

**Aim:** We aim to explore a more holistic understanding of psychiatric recovery. This presentation will shift the focus from a purely deficit-based medical model to one that examines the power of social recognition. We will demonstrate how the simple, fundamental human need to be seen, acknowledged, and valued by others is a critical, evidence-based component of healing and rebuilding a life.

**Methods:** A systematic literature review was conducted across major academic databases (PubMed, PsycINFO, Web of Science), examining research on self-stigma, social exclusion, identity formation, and recovery in severe mental illness. The synthesis connects empirical findings on the impact of stigma with established social theories on identity and recognition.

**Results:** The literature confirms a clear and damaging pathway: when individuals internalize societal prejudice, it profoundly harms their self-esteem and hope, often leading to withdrawal from work, social relationships, and even treatment itself. Conversely, our review found strong evidence that a sense of being accepted and valued - by family, in the community, and through the validation of one's legal rights and social contributions - is a powerful factor in rebuilding a positive identity and fostering a durable recovery.

**Conclusion:** For recovery to be meaningful and lasting, psychiatric care must extend beyond symptom management to address the patient's social world. Interventions that foster a sense of belonging and social value, such as peer support programs and robust anti-stigma initiatives, are not adjunctive but are essential therapeutic tools. By recognizing the person beyond the diagnosis, we unlock a powerful mechanism for healing that is fundamental to the practice of psychiatry.

**Keywords:** psychiatric disability, self-stigma, social recognition, recovery, identity formation



**Cecilia CURIS**

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***From Invisible to Invincible - Strength in Weakness. An Approach Using Narrative Techniques and Psychodrama***

The life story of people with disabilities transcends the medical aspect. We are used to feeling compassion when we see them or just realizing how lucky we are. Then we forget. And life flows for us and for them at the same time, but in such different ways... Sometimes we become blind when we meet them because we fear the sadness they cause us. We are more concerned with our own sadness than theirs. Intuitively, we think about how hard it must be for them, but we prefer to continue enjoying our unrestricted freedoms and consider them invisible. Education and society have offered us models in which behavioural patterns are related to the somatic dimension of the person with disability without reflecting on their experiential dimension. This paper aims to bring to attention the benefits of using techniques from psychodrama and narrative medicine as educational tools, in order to become aware of and understand the thoughts and feelings of people with disabilities who demonstrate the power they possess every day without condemning our weakness, the "strong". Equally, by educating the empathic dimension of our behaviour and the capacity for self-reflection, we can contribute to social evolution by asking ourselves questions about our relationships with our peers, our place and meaning in the world. Thus, sociodrama as a dynamic process can become the engine of change in mentality at a social level regarding people with disabilities.

**Keywords:** disability studies, psychodrama, narrative medicine, empathy, sociodrama

**Mioara GRIGORAȘ**

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***Călătorie către S(T)INE în dizabilitățile invizibile: între vulnerabilitate, plasticitate și parteneriatul psiholog-psihiatru***

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Această prezentare își propune să exploreze „călătoria către sine” ca proces de reconectare, vindecare și recâștigare a sensului personal, într-un demers care unește perspectiva psihologică și cea psihiatrică într-un parteneriat autentic de sprijin.

Într-o lume tot mai grăbită să producă performanță, dar tot mai puțin dispusă să recunoască fragilitatea umană, tulburările anxioase și depresive rămân printre cele mai răspândite și, paradoxal, cele mai invizibile forme de dizabilitate.

În societatea actuală, viteza a devenit normă, iar tehnologia ne ține mereu disponibili, conectați, dar rareori prezenți. Fiecare mesaj, apel sau cerință devine o solicitare de a fi „acolo” pentru ceilalți, nu pentru noi.

Astfel, omul modern trăiește într-o stare de alertă continuă, într-un flux neîntrerupt de stimuli, care consumă atenția și epuizează emoțiile.

Această hiperconectare produce, treptat, deconectarea de la sine. Când nu mai există liniște, nu mai există reflecție. Iar fără reflecție, nu mai există sens.

Această suprasolicitare produce, treptat, un dezechilibru interior care poartă nume clinice: anxietate și depresie. Ele nu sunt semne de slăbiciune, ci răspunsuri naturale ale creierului și psihicului la o realitate care nu mai permite oprirea.

Această vulnerabilitate nu este o defecțiune, ci un semnal de viață. Ea marchează momentul în care persoana are șansa de a începe călătoria către sine.

Pornind de la conceptul de neuroplasticitate și de la ideea că schimbarea modului de a simți poate schimba, literalmente, creierul, prezentarea propune o reflecție asupra vulnerabilității ca resursă. Emoțiile nu sunt obstacole, ci busole care indică direcția reconstrucției interioare. În acest context, colaborarea psiholog–psihiatru devine un model interdisciplinar de intervenție și reabilitare, care transformă invizibilul în vizibil și tăcerea în dialog.

Discuția se va concentra pe recunoașterea tulburărilor anxioase-depresive ca dizabilități invizibile, pe explorarea relației dintre emoții și reziliență, dar și pe importanța protejării sănătății mintale în mediul universitar.

Călătoria către sine este, de fapt, procesul prin care omul învață să se

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deconecteze de la zgomotul lumii pentru a se reconecta la propria interioritate. Este actul conștient de a spune „nu” acolo unde toți spun „da”. Este revendicarea timpului personal, a tăcerii și a gândului liber. În acest proces, deconectarea devine formă de existență.

Când îți permiți să te oprești, începi din nou să exiști.

**Cuvinte cheie:** anxietate și depresie, dizabilități invizibile, neuroplasticitate, vulnerabilitate, reconectare la sine

### *Journey Toward (your)SELF: Invisible Disabilities Between Vulnerability, Plasticity, and the Psychologist–Psychiatrist Partnership*

This presentation aims to explore the “journey toward the self” as a process of reconnection, healing, and reclaiming personal meaning - an endeavour that unites psychological and psychiatric perspectives within an authentic partnership of support.

In a world increasingly driven by the pursuit of performance, yet ever less willing to acknowledge human fragility, anxiety and depressive disorders remain among the most widespread and, paradoxically, the most invisible forms of disability.

In contemporary society, speed has become the norm, and technology keeps us constantly available - connected, yet rarely truly present. Every message, call, or demand becomes a requirement to be “there” for others, rather than for ourselves.

Thus, the modern individual lives in a perpetual state of alertness, immersed in an uninterrupted flow of stimuli that drains attention and exhausts emotional resources.

This hyperconnection gradually produces disconnection from the self. Where there is no silence, there can be no reflection. And without reflection, meaning dissolves.

Such overstimulation slowly generates an inner imbalance known clinically as anxiety and depression. These are not signs of weakness, but natural responses of the brain and psyche to a reality that no longer





allows stopping.

This vulnerability is not a malfunction but a signal of life - marking the moment when a person has the opportunity to begin the journey inward. Drawing on the concept of neuroplasticity and the premise that changing the way we feel can literally reshape the brain, this presentation invites a reflection on vulnerability as a resource. Emotions are not obstacles but compasses guiding the direction of inner reconstruction. In this context, the collaboration between psychologist and psychiatrist becomes an interdisciplinary model of intervention and rehabilitation - one that transforms the invisible into the visible and silence into dialogue.

The discussion will focus on recognising anxiety-depressive disorders as invisible disabilities, exploring the relationship between emotions and resilience, and emphasising the importance of protecting mental health within the academic environment.

Ultimately, the journey toward the self is the process through which one learns to disconnect from the noise of the world in order to reconnect with one's own interiority. It is the conscious act of saying "no" where everyone else says "yes." It is the reclaiming of personal time, silence, and unencumbered thought. In this process, disconnection becomes a way of being.

When you allow yourself to stop, you begin to exist again.

**Keywords:** anxiety and depression, invisible disabilities, neuroplasticity, vulnerability, reconnection to the self

**Sandrina MINDU**

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### *Imaturitatea psihologică la vârsta adultă – o dizabilitate?*

Creșterea psihologică nu este întotdeauna în acord cu vârsta la care ne aflăm. Însă, de cele mai multe ori, în relațiile noastre sociale uităm această realitate și ne raportăm la celălalt ca și cum ar fi matur psihologic conform vârstei pe care o are.

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Atunci când spațiul identitar nu este adecvat construit și delimitat în etapele formative ale dezvoltării, individul poate să stagneze într-o stare de „invizibilitate psihologică” care se reflectă în relații disfuncționale, dependență emoțională, precum și în incapacitatea de a funcționa adaptativ în context social. Astfel, imaturitatea psihologică la vârsta adultă poate fi înțeleasă ca o formă subtilă, dar semnificativă, de dizabilitate psihosocială.

Dezvoltarea și maturizarea psihologică, ca obiectiv educațional, sunt în continuare o provocare pentru părinți și profesori, în contextul în care discontinuitatea dintre performanța intelectuală și maturitatea identitară poate conduce la vulnerabilitate psihologică.

Tema constituie o invitație spre reflecție din perspectiva procesului educațional și a actorilor lui.

**Cuvinte cheie:** imaturitate psihologică, identitate, dizabilitate psihosocială, vulnerabilitate, educație

### *Psychological Immaturity in Adulthood – A Disability?*

Psychological growth does not always align with the chronological age we have reached. Yet, in our social interactions, we often forget this reality and relate to others as though their psychological maturity necessarily corresponds to their biological age.

When the identity space is not properly constructed and delineated during the formative stages of development, the individual may stagnate in a state of “psychological invisibility”, which manifests in dysfunctional relationships, emotional dependence, and an inability to function adaptively within social contexts. Thus, psychological immaturity in adulthood can be understood as a subtle yet significant form of psychosocial disability.

Fostering psychological development and maturity as an educational goal remains a challenge for both parents and teachers, particularly in contexts where the discontinuity between intellectual performance and identity maturity may lead to psychological vulnerability.

This topic serves as an invitation to reflect on the educational process and the roles of its key actors.



**Keywords:** psychological immaturity, identity, psychosocial disability, vulnerability, education

**Diana NEDELCU**

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*De la tăceri biologice la reziliență: neuroimunitate, neuroplasticitate și integrare socială*

Lucrarea explorează relația dintre procesele neuroimunitare, capacitatea de neuroplasticitate și construirea rezilienței în contextul dizabilităților invizibile. Afecțiunile cronice cu componentă neuroimună implică adesea mecanisme biologice subtile „tăceri biologice” care se traduc prin simptome greu de cuantificat clinic, dar cu impact major asupra calității vieții. Aceste procese sunt analizate nu doar în dimensiunea lor fiziologică, ci și în interacțiunea cu factorii psihosociali și de mediu. Lucrarea evidențiază modul în care intervențiile integrative pot susține reglarea axei neuroimune, stimularea neuroplasticității și restabilirea echilibrului psihofiziologic, favorizând astfel reintegrarea socială și participarea activă a persoanelor cu dizabilități invizibile. Se propune o perspectivă transdisciplinară asupra rezilienței, în care procesele biologice, emoționale și sociale devin complementare în redarea vizibilității celor aparent invizibili.

**Cuvinte cheie:** neuroimunitate, neuroplasticitate, reziliență, dizabilități invizibile, medicină integrativă, integrare socială

*From Biological Silences to Resilience: Neuroimmunity, Neuroplasticity, and Social Integration*

The paper explores the relationship between neuroimmune processes, neuroplasticity, and the development of resilience within the context of invisible disabilities. Chronic conditions involving neuroimmune dysregulation often manifest as subtle “biological silences” mechanisms which are difficult to quantify clinically, yet profoundly impactful on quality of life. These processes are examined not only in their

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physiological dimension but also in interaction with psychosocial and environmental factors. The study highlights how integrative interventions can modulate the neuroimmune axis, enhance neuroplasticity, and restore psychophysiological balance, thereby promoting the social reintegration and active participation of individuals with invisible disabilities. A transdisciplinary perspective on resilience is proposed, in which biological, emotional, and social processes converge to restore the visibility of those who are seemingly invisible.

**Keywords:** neuroimmunity, neuroplasticity, resilience, invisible disabilities, integrative medicine, social inclusion

**Marta RUDNICKA**

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

*Barriers and Breakthroughs - Challenges, Strategies, and Good Practices in Teaching English to Students with Hearing Impairment*

Multimedia Centre for Teaching Foreign Languages at AMU (Adam Mickiewicz University) is a place where students of various educational needs may learn foreign languages in ways adjusted to their needs and in a friendly, supportive environment. The presentation will focus on challenges that students with hearing impairment need to face in their learning process, strategies that lecturers of English use in their classes to facilitate that process and good practices that have been tested by many teachers in order to make students' learning more effective and achieve incredible language successes.

**Keywords:** hearing impairment, inclusive language teaching, learning strategies, good practices, English language education

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## Workshops

**Hatice ÇALIŞKAN**

Toroslar Special Education Practice School in Mersin, Turkey

### *The Transformative Cry of Silence – A Creative Awareness Workshop*

This workshop, designed for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), aims to illuminate the silent yet profound world of invisible disabilities through creative practices. "The Art of the Unseen" invites participants to explore the multilayered nature of invisibility by engaging in both individual reflection and collective creation.

The session begins with a brief conceptual introduction that discusses cultural representations of invisible disabilities, the politics of silence, and the transformative potential of art. Participants are then guided through a three-stage creative process:

**Silent Traces:** Participants express an invisible experience - such as fatigue, anxiety, exclusion, or resilience - through a visual or verbal metaphor.

**Weaving Together:** Individual creations are combined into a collage, sound layer, or short performance, forming a collective piece.

**Sharing and Reflection:** The collective artwork is discussed, emphasizing how invisibility can serve as a language of solidarity.

By the end of the workshop, participants will have experienced that invisibility is not merely a lack, but also a space for creativity, self-expression, and resilience. This event aligns with the conference theme "(In)Visible but Invincible," aiming to make the hidden power within silence visible.

**Keywords:** invisible disabilities, creative expression, silence, resilience, collective art

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## Miruna CĂRĂUȘU

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

### *Brushstrokes of Visibility: Art as Shared Presence*

This workshop invites participants to explore the transformative power of artistic creation as a form of shared presence and mutual visibility. Led by Lect. Dr. Miruna Căraușu, the session brings together art students and audience members in a collaborative painting experience that dissolves boundaries between creator and observer. To deepen the exploration of expression beyond conventional perception, students will paint while blindfolded, with one hand tied, or wearing headphones - sensory constraints designed to shift focus away from visual control and toward intuition, embodiment, and relational awareness.

Working alongside invited participants from the audience, they will engage in a co-creative process where spontaneity, vulnerability, and sensory experimentation reveal new modes of artistic communication. Through collective brushstrokes, the workshop highlights how art can illuminate emotions, identities, and subtle forms of connection that often remain unseen. In this shared creative space, art becomes both a medium of expression and a catalyst for visibility, allowing each individual to contribute to an evolving collective presence.

**Keywords:** shared presence, sensory art, collaborative creation, visibility, embodiment

**Silvia GERARDINI<sup>1</sup>, Veronica RAGUSA<sup>1</sup>, Christian POZZI<sup>1</sup>, Laura GOBBI<sup>1</sup>, Luca DELLA VALLE<sup>1</sup>, Emanuela CATENACCI<sup>1</sup>, Mario Antonio CUCUMO<sup>1</sup>, Isabella SALIMBENI<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>2</sup>University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), Switzerland

### *Ti Illumiamo Noi: Brewing Inclusion. One Cup at a Time*

People with disabilities (PwD) are particularly vulnerable to loneliness, a condition that negatively affects both physical and psychological well-being. To address this issue, the Elisabetta Germani Foundation developed "Ti



Iluminiamo Noi", an inclusive café run by residents of the Disability Care Unit (RSD) with support from an occupational therapist. The project aims to enhance social participation, build practical competencies, and promote meaningful interactions among residents, caregivers, staff members, and the wider community.

The café, located in the "Marina Generali" hall and open three times a week, involves five residents who independently manage key activities, such as beverage preparation, customer service, and cash handling. The menu was co-designed with the participants and is also available in an accessible QR code format for blind users. Visitor satisfaction was assessed through structured surveys. A total of 167 visitors attended the café: 22 residents, 80 caregivers, and 65 staff members. Baristas reported high satisfaction, with an average rating of 8.8 out of 10. Participants further expanded their skills by contributing to catering services during institutional events and conferences organized by the Foundation.

Findings reveal significant improvements in social inclusion, autonomy, and perceived self-efficacy. This project highlights the value of meaningful, protected work experiences in reducing loneliness among PwD and fostering collective well-being.

**Keywords:** people with disabilities (PwD), social inclusion, autonomy, community engagement, occupational therapy.

**Lidia Mihaela NECULA, Ana-Maria MOGA**

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### *Love, Actually... Is a Superpower: What Sam Teaches Us about Love, Loyalty, and Challenging the System*

This workshop explores the transformative power of love as portrayed through the character of Sam in *I am Sam* (2001, dir. Jessie Nelson), using his story as a lens for understanding emotional resilience, loyalty, and the courage to defy limiting norms. Through a blend of narrative analysis, guided reflection, and interactive discussion, participants will examine how authentic affection - whether romantic, familial, or aspirational - can act as a catalyst for personal growth and social change. The session highlights the

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ways in which love motivates bold action, fosters deep connections, and challenges established systems that constrain human expression. By engaging with Sam's journey, attendees will gain insights into cultivating their own emotional agency, embracing vulnerability, and harnessing love as a genuine superpower in both personal and professional contexts.

**Keywords:** emotional resilience, love as agency, vulnerability, social norms, personal transformation

**Delia Cristina POPA, Nicoleta Mariana ORLEA**

Autism Voice, Romania

### *Neurodiversity*

This workshop introduces participants to the concept of neurodiversity and to the main conditions included under this umbrella, such as Autism, ADHD, and Dyslexia. The session highlights the valuable strengths that neurodivergent students bring to academic life, while also drawing attention to the high dropout rates among these learners - an issue often linked to insufficient support and a lack of understanding within educational institutions.

Throughout the workshop, participants will examine practical ways in which universities can create more inclusive environments: appropriate accommodations, flexible teaching methods, accessible course materials, and clearer communication practices. The aim is to provide educators and students with concrete tools that support both academic success and long-term employability for neurodivergent individuals.

**Keywords:** neurodiversity, inclusive education, academic accommodations, student retention, accessibility

**Mariana RUSU**

### *Neuroștiințe, spiritualitate, dizabilități*

Workshopul de Neurofeedback oferă participanților o introducere accesibilă și captivantă în modul în care creierul își poate autoregla activitatea prin feedback în timp real. Prin exerciții practice și demonstrații interactive,

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participanții descoperă cum funcționează procesele neurofiziologice implicate în concentrare, gestionarea stresului și menținerea echilibrului emoțional. Activitatea își propune să arate cum tehnologiile de neurofeedback pot îmbunătăți atenția, autocontrolul și starea de bine, dezvoltând treptat capacitatea creierului de a recunoaște și ajusta propriile tipare de funcționare. Astfel, workshopul devine o experiență de autocunoaștere și optimizare personală, în care participanții înțeleg cum pot folosi aceste mecanisme pentru a-și susține performanța cognitivă și armonia interioară.

**Cuvinte cheie:** neurofeedback, autoreglare cerebrală, concentrare, echilibru emoțional, optimizare cognitivă

### *Neurosciences, Spirituality, Disabilities*

The Neurofeedback Workshop offers participants an accessible and engaging introduction to the ways in which the brain can self-regulate its activity through real-time feedback. Through practical exercises and interactive demonstrations, participants explore the neurophysiological processes involved in concentration, stress management, and emotional balance. The workshop aims to show how neurofeedback technologies can enhance attention, self-control, and overall well-being by gradually strengthening the brain's ability to recognize and adjust its own functional patterns. In this way, the workshop becomes an experience of self-awareness and personal optimization, helping participants understand how these mechanisms can support cognitive performance and inner harmony.

**Keywords:** neurofeedback, brain self-regulation, concentration, emotional balance, cognitive optimization

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## *Interviews and Stories of Resilience*

**Elena COSTANDACHE**

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### *Interview avec un champion paralympien: Alexandru Bologna*

Les Jeux Paralympiques sont une compétition internationale multisports réservée aux athlètes en situation de handicap. Organisés tous les quatre ans, parallèlement aux Jeux Olympiques, ils ont pour objectif de promouvoir l'inclusion, l'égalité des chances et de mettre en valeur les performances des sportifs en situation de handicap à travers diverses disciplines : para athlétisme, para aviron, para badminton, basket fauteuil, boccia, para canoë, cécifoot, para cyclisme, para développé couché, para équitation, escrime fauteuil, goalball, para judo, para natation, rugby fauteuil, para taekwondo, tennis fauteuil, para tennis de table, para tir, para tir à l'arc, para triathlon, volley assis.

La compétition de 2024 a été une très belle l'occasion pour les paralympiens roumains de participer aux Jeux Paralympiques de Paris, où les résultats ont été vraiment remarquables. Notre attention s'arrête sur Alexandru Florin Bologna, un jeune homme roumain judoka, en situation de déficience visuelle, qui s'est fait remarquer sur Arena Champ-de-Mars, où il a obtenu la médaille d'or. C'est une incroyable réussite qui témoigne de son talent, de sa détermination et de son engagement. C'est une victoire remarquable qui inspire de nombreux autres athlètes et montre l'excellence du sport paralympique. Par voie de conséquence, nous nous proposons une présentation détaillée des résultats obtenus par les sportifs paralympiques roumains et une interview avec Alexandru Florin Bologna.

**Mots-clés :** Alexandru Florin Bologna, judo, jeux paralympiques, médaille d'or.

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### *Interview with a Paralympic Champion: Alexandru Bologa*

The Paralympic Games are an international multisport competition for athletes with disabilities. Held every four years, parallel to the Olympic Games, their purpose is to promote inclusion, equal opportunities, and to highlight the performances of athletes with disabilities across a wide range of disciplines: para athletics, para rowing, para badminton, wheelchair basketball, boccia, para canoe, blind football, para cycling, para powerlifting, para equestrian, wheelchair fencing, goalball, para judo, para swimming, wheelchair rugby, para taekwondo, wheelchair tennis, para table tennis, para shooting, para archery, para triathlon, and sitting volleyball.

The 2024 competition offered an excellent opportunity for Romanian Paralympians to take part in the Paris Paralympic Games, where the results were truly remarkable. Our focus turns to Alexandru Florin Bologa, a young Romanian judoka with visual impairment, who distinguished himself at the Champ-de-Mars Arena by winning the gold medal. His achievement is extraordinary and reflects his talent, determination, and commitment. It is a remarkable victory that inspires many other athletes and demonstrates the excellence of Paralympic sport. Consequently, we propose a detailed presentation of the results obtained by Romanian Paralympic athletes, along with an interview with Alexandru Florin Bologa.

**Keywords:** Alexandru Florin Bologa, judo, Paralympic Games, gold medal.

### **Diana ONCIOIU**

Dela0.ro, Centrul pentru Jurnalism Independent, Romania

*Între prejudecăți și lipsa de cunoaștere: Reprezentarea sănătății mintale în presa din România în 2025*

Cercetarea, realizată de jurnalista Diana Oncioiu (dela0.ro), și-a propus să afle cum scrie presa din România despre sănătatea mintală, care sunt cele mai frecvente teme în media și cum poate fi abordată mai bine o temă atât

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de importantă precum sănătatea mintală. Cercetarea a fost realizată pe baza unor analize cantitative și calitative. În vreme ce partea cantitativă a monitorizat 12 publicații/site-uri din presa centrală și locală în perioada februarie – martie 2025, partea calitativă a cercetării a cuprins interviuri cu jurnaliști și jurnaliste de la publicațiile monitorizate, dar și din presa independentă.

Cercetarea se uită dincolo de greșelile pe care presa le face atunci când relatează despre sănătate mintală, uitându-se și la ce lipsește din peisajul mediatic românesc când vine vorba de înțelegerea tulburărilor de sănătate mintală, dar și la ce poate fi făcut mai bine pentru a reduce stigmatizarea cu care se confruntă persoanele care suferă de acest tip de tulburări.

**Cuvinte cheie:** sănătate mintală, presa românească, reprezentare media, jurnalism

### ***Between Prejudice and Lack of Awareness: The Representation of Mental Health in Romanian Media in 2025***

The study, conducted by journalist Diana Oncioiu (dela0.ro), aims to examine how the Romanian press covers mental health, which topics are most frequently tackled, and how this important subject can be addressed more effectively. The research combines quantitative and qualitative methods. While the quantitative component monitored 12 national and local media outlets/websites between February and March 2025, the qualitative component consisted of interviews with journalists from the monitored outlets, as well as from independent media.

The study goes beyond merely identifying the mistakes the press makes when reporting on mental health, also examining what is missing from the Romanian media landscape in terms of understanding mental health disorders and what can be improved to reduce the stigma experienced by people living with these conditions.

**Keywords:** mental health, Romanian press, media representation, journalism



**Alina PETRE**

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### *Disability in the Spotlight*

In today's world, it is important to acknowledge the multiple domains where people with a disability can be encountered. Some are advocating for their inclusion in every work field regardless of the type or degree of disability. Cerebral palsy, paraplegia, ectrodactyly are diagnosis which impacts someone's life in both physical and psychological ways. This paper briefly presents and defines the disabilities mentioned above, illustrating people who suffer from them and the way they approach life. As the saying goes, "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade" the persons I selected to present have used their disability to their advantage. If up to this point the paper presents disability from a medical perspective, the following section approaches the "spotlight" domain. To cope with the psychological pressure from one's disability, which is triggered by the everyday life difficulties and the way in which others react to their presence, those who have a disability tend to use humour to deal with the tension, or better said, to relieve the accumulated tension and stress. Those selected for this research turned to humour, most specifically to stand-up comedy, they used themselves as the topic for their routines and managed to create witty, humorous content around their diagnosis and situations that they encountered in their life. The overall aim is to see which type of humour better describes the routines created, if there is a pattern in the construction of the topics specific to disabled comedians and the reaction received from the audience.

**Keywords:** disability, psychological pressure, humour, stand-up comedy

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## Contributions

**Iuliana Petronela BARNA**

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### *Autobiografia unui autist celebru - Hans Christian Andersen*

Scriitor prolific care, de-a lungul vieții sale, a scris povestiri și povești, poeme, romane, piese de teatru, cărți de călătorie și multe autobiografii, Hans Christian Andersen nu a reușit pe deplin să domine aceste genuri. Odată cu plămuierea basmelor, literatul a cunoscut succesul, și mai mult, o faimă mondială. Andersen nu a fost diagnosticat cu autism (concept inexistent în secolul XIX), dar numeroși cercetători contemporani au observat multiple corespondențe între comportamentul său și particularitățile tulburării din spectrul autist: anxietate socială, hipersensibilitate, gândire imagistică intensă, fixare pe rutine, automatisme sociale, dificultăți în relații, o imaginație neobișnuit de vie, etc. Aceste elemente se regăsesc transpuse în basmele sale, la nivel tematic, structural și stilistic. În esență, basmele lui Andersen sunt povești despre identitate, diferență și acceptare – teme profunde ale existenței, dezbătute în studii științifice despre neurodiversitate. În prezentul studiu, ne propunem să analizăm, în melanjul de simboluri și alegorii, o serie de trăsături autiste recunosibile în basmele lui Andersen, atât în structura narativă, cât și în conturarea personajelor.

**Cuvinte cheie:** neurodiversitate, autism literar, Hans Christian Andersen, identitate și diferență, simbolism narativ

### *Autobiography of a Famous Autistic Artist - Hans Christian Andersen*

A prolific writer who, throughout his life, produced stories and fairy tales, poems, novels, plays, travel books, and numerous autobiographies, Hans Christian Andersen never fully managed to dominate all these genres. It was through the creation of fairy tales that he achieved success and, ultimately, worldwide fame. Andersen was never diagnosed with

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autism (a concept that did not exist in the 19th century), yet numerous contemporary researchers have observed strong correspondences between his behaviour and characteristics associated with autism spectrum conditions: social anxiety, hypersensitivity, vivid visual thinking, fixation on routines, social automatisms, difficulties in relationships, an unusually vibrant imagination, etc. These elements are reflected in his fairy tales—at thematic, structural, and stylistic levels.

Essentially, Andersen's tales are stories about identity, difference, and acceptance—profound existential themes that resonate with contemporary scientific discussions on neurodiversity. In this study, we aim to analyse, within the blend of symbols and allegories, a series of recognisable autistic traits in Andersen's tales, both in their narrative structure and in the shaping of the characters.

**Keywords:** neurodiversity, literary autism, Hans Christian Andersen, identity and difference, narrative symbolism

**Daniela-Aura BOGDAN**

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### *Disability and Advertising: A Love Story That Never Happened*

This paper explores the persistent disconnect between disability and mainstream advertising, examining why the relationship between the two has never fully developed despite growing calls for authentic representation. While contemporary campaigns often claim inclusivity, disability remains one of the least visible and most stereotyped identities in commercial media. The study analyses the structural, cultural, and economic factors that have hindered meaningful inclusion - from tokenism and aesthetic bias to market-driven narratives that prioritise perfection and desirability. Through case studies of successful and failed attempts at disability representation, the paper reveals how advertising continues to miss opportunities to embrace disabled bodies, stories, and perspectives. Ultimately, it argues that the "love story" between disability and advertising has yet to happen because true inclusivity requires more

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than visibility: it demands a reimagining of beauty, value, and human diversity beyond commercial norms.

**Keywords:** disability representation, inclusive advertising, tokenism, media stereotypes, cultural narratives

**Miruna CĂRĂUȘU**

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*A Testament to Courage: Art as a Path Forward. Portraits of Artists Who Transform Disability into Flight*

Art therapy offers an effective pathway to enhancing physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Creative practices such as painting, drawing, sculpting, poetry, or music nurture and strengthen human consciousness. Whether self-taught or guided by trained therapists, individuals who engage in artistic expression become active creators, using art as a medium for exploration and healing.

In this context, art therapy, play, and participation in artistic activities assume a vital role. Their capacity to reduce psycho-emotional tension opens new avenues for recovery, enabling individuals to process experiences and develop resilience through creative means. The overarching goal of art therapy is not only to promote well-being and stimulate creative potential but also to support healing through targeted therapeutic applications. Ultimately, the value lies in the process of creation itself rather than in the finished artwork.

**Keywords:** art therapy, emotional well-being, creativity, recovery, healing process

**Anca-Irina CIGHIR, Mariana NEAGU**

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*Anxiety, a Shared Emotion?*

The present study examines the conceptualization of anxiety through metaphor, drawing on the theoretical framework of Conceptual

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Metaphor Theory (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980). Specifically, it aims to identify the underlying conceptual metaphors which structure people's linguistic expressions of anxiety, an emotion invisible to others but shared by most individuals.

To facilitate this analysis, a corpus consisting of two subcorpora has been compiled. The first subcorpus comprises 100 anxiety-related memes selected from different social media platforms. These tokens provide naturally occurring instances of metaphorical encoding in the digital discourse.

The second subcorpus is based on data collected through a bilingual questionnaire administered to students aged 19 to 25. This subcorpus enables the investigation of elicited metaphor use and provides complementary insights into speakers' conceptualization of anxiety in English and Romanian.

**Keywords:** anxiety, CMT, emotion, memes, metaphor.

## Laura CIOAREC

The purpose of this paper is to analyse the effects of visible, partially visible, and invisible disability on certain categories of people; to observe their reactions, identify the society's attitude, and their own behavioural patterns. Moreover, it aims to establish how storytelling, memoir, and autoethnography can become useful tools of empowerment in the process of healing, integration, acceptance, and processing hidden struggles. Writing – in any form – is highly therapeutic. Especially in nonfiction articles/books/journals, where the impact may be even higher, due to the transformational journey of the person/author. In terms of gender, nationality or emigration discrimination, the present paper shares the lived stories of several persons who chose to become invisible while working on their goals, as it felt more comfortable. Or of those who have struggled to surpass their disabilities, have managed to do so after a long time, but perhaps they were discriminated or bullied and, gradually, their light and enthusiasm have dimmed, until darkness and demotivation

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made room in their lives. For autistic or avoidant personalities - who have many scars and various emotional patterns, habits, who like stability, structure, but have had a hard time integrating in communities, getting/keeping a job - developing survival strategies has become their coping mechanism. How did exclusion affect divorced, single mums? Or verbal and physical abuse? Unemployment or lengthy reintegration on the labour market – because of preconceived ideas? What could be done, from social, political, and cultural point of view, for the people in need to start feeling safe and protected, to gain awareness, heal trauma, courage to open up, be vulnerable, and rebuild their personal identity? Moreover, in corporate culture, are women truly empowered and promoted in management positions? Sometimes, they are “slowed down”/detoured just for being too smart, too beautiful, twice as hard-working as men in similar positions. Could this be called “gender-based-intellectual-bullying”, maybe?

**Keywords:** Visibility, Identity, Exclusion, Resilience, Healing

**Iulia Veronica COCU**

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### *Naming the Unseen: Lexical Strategies for Invisible Disabilities in Medical and Everyday Discourse*

The paper *Naming the Unseen: Lexical Strategies for Invisible Disabilities in Medical and Everyday Discourse* examines how lexical choices shape the (in)visibility of disability in contemporary English medical and everyday discourse. Focusing on chronic pain, mental illness and neurodivergent conditions as prototypical “invisible disabilities”, it explores the extent to which labels, collocations and evaluative adjectives contribute either to the erasure or to the empowerment of disabled people. The study investigates how people with invisible disabilities are labelled in institutional versus lay texts, which recurrent collocations around disability-related terms carry predominantly negative or

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supportive prosodies, and how adjectives of severity, prevalence and legitimacy (e.g. "mild", "severe", "debilitating", "common", "subjective") frame conditions and their bearers. Particular attention is paid to the tension between medicalised, problem-oriented formulations ("suffers from", "non-compliant patient") and neutral or self-chosen expressions ("lives with", "autistic person", "spoonie"), and to the ways in which lexical patterns encode assumptions about credibility and agency. The paper argues that apparently minor lexical decisions have substantial pragmatic and ideological effects for people whose disabilities are not outwardly visible, and it concludes by outlining implications for inclusive language policies.

**Keywords:** invisible disabilities, lexical representation, medical vs. everyday discourse, evaluative language, inclusive terminology

**Daniel Mădălin COJA**

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*From Invisibility to Empowerment: A Systematic Review on the Role of Physical Therapy and Adapted Physical Activity in Promoting Inclusion and Resilience among Individuals with Invisible Disabilities*

Invisible disabilities such as chronic pain, neuromuscular disorders, and psychosocial impairments often result in social marginalization and limited recognition. While physical therapy and adapted physical activity are widely recognized for their contribution to physical rehabilitation, their role in fostering empowerment and inclusion among individuals with invisible disabilities remains underexplored. This systematic review aims to synthesize current evidence on how physical therapy and adapted physical activity (APA) contribute to enhancing visibility, self-efficacy, and psychosocial resilience in persons with invisible or partially visible disabilities. A systematic literature review was conducted across major scientific databases, focusing on studies published within the last decade that addressed the intersection between physiotherapy, adapted movement, and empowerment. Eligible articles were screened following PRISMA principles, and findings were narratively synthesized to identify

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common psychosocial and functional outcomes. The reviewed studies suggest that structured physical therapy and APA interventions can significantly improve body awareness, confidence, and social participation. Integrative programs combining movement with education, self-reflection, and group engagement appear particularly effective in transforming personal invisibility into a source of empowerment and resilience. Physiotherapy and adapted physical activity transcend their traditional rehabilitative roles by promoting visibility, agency, and inclusion. They empower individuals to reclaim their presence within society, positioning the physiotherapist as both a facilitator of function and an advocate for dignity, autonomy, and social justice.

**Keywords:** invisible disabilities, adapted physical activity, physiotherapy, empowerment and inclusion, psychosocial resilience

**Mihaela Florentina CONSTANTINESCU**  
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### *Becoming Everyone, Being No One: Zelig, Invisibility, and the Paradox of Disability*

As a PhD student studying mockumentary, I see Woody Allen's *Zelig* (1983) as one of the most striking early examples of how the fake-documentary form can expose the violence hidden inside social conformity. The film tells the story of Leonard Zelig, a man who transforms physically and psychologically to resemble anyone he meets. His gift, or illness, makes him invisible by making him belong. The more he blends in, the more he disappears.

This paper reads Zelig's condition as a metaphor for masking and assimilation within ableist culture. Long before the language of neurodiversity or invisible disability entered public discourse, the film portrayed a character whose body performs society's expectations to survive them. The vintage mockumentary style, complete with fabricated experts and archival footage, becomes a critique of medical authority itself. The psychiatrists and scholars who explain Zelig's case stand in for institutions that label, treat, and contain those who cannot or will not fit.



Zelig's transformations are a form of chosen invisibility, but they come at the cost of identity. His final recovery, when he stops imitating others, echoes the movement from invisibility to invincibility that this conference invites us to imagine. It suggests that survival is not enough if it demands erasure.

By framing disability through satire and simulation, *Zelig* reveals how normalization operates as both shield and wound. Its mock-documentary lens doesn't just parody science or celebrity culture; it stages the quiet terror of living unseen because visibility feels unsafe.

**Keywords:** mockumentary, invisible disability, masking and assimilation, ableist culture, identity and conformity

**Gabriela-Aura CUCOȘ**

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### *The Hidden Voices Shine the Brightest*

We all know the theory that the world should be a safe and accessible place for everyone, including people with disabilities. Yet in practice, we often overlook just how essential this truly is.

To begin with, everyone needs to enter buildings, attend appointments, or use public transportation. Every space should be accessible - whether through ramps, handrails, lifts, or clear signage. Imagine, for instance, a person with a disability who needs to visit the bank, only to find that the entrance is completely inaccessible. Something so basic becomes an obstacle that excludes.

Secondly, although we are living in 2025 and everyone has the Right to Education, many school buildings remain unadapted. Even worse, people can still be unkind or insensitive toward individuals with disabilities, making inclusion not just a structural issue but a social one.

Thirdly, inclusion laws are essential. On paper, Romania claims to be an accessible country, with legislation supporting accessibility. In reality, accessibility is still far from being properly implemented, and many





public spaces fail to meet basic standards.

Lastly, media awareness plays a crucial role in addressing these issues. Traditional media like television and newspapers may be effective, but the people who could truly create change no longer engage with them. This is why raising awareness on social media platforms - such as Instagram, TikTok, and X - is now more important than ever.

To conclude, I'll leave you with a question: Why is it still so difficult to make the world accessible for everyone?

**Keywords:** accessibility, inclusion, disability rights, awareness, social justice

**Elena DEDIU, Gianina-Ioana DINCĂ, Nadiia OSTROVSKA, Luminița-Mariana PANTILIMON**

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### *Courage, audace, performance. L'histoire des Paralympiens Roumains aux Jeux de Paris 2024 au-delà des limites*

Les Jeux Paralympiques constituent un événement majeur du sport mondial, mettant en lumière le talent, la détermination et le dépassement de soi des athlètes en situation de handicap. Ils sont organisés tous les quatre ans, après ou en parallèle des Jeux Olympiques, et ils favorisent la sensibilisation du grand public aux enjeux liés au handicap, tout en promouvant l'inclusion et la reconnaissance des performances sportives. Grâce à leurs différentes disciplines, ils offrent l'occasion aux athlètes de démontrer leurs capacités exceptionnelles, inspirant ainsi de nombreux individus et contribuant à faire évoluer les mentalités dans le monde entier.

Le terme « paralympique » vient du grec « para » (à côté de) et « olympique », soulignant le lien avec les Jeux Olympiques, tout en représentant une compétition distincte dédiée aux athlètes avec des déficiences physiques, intellectuelles ou sensorielles. La première édition a eu lieu en 1960 à Rome, connue sous le nom de Jeux de Rome, mais les origines des jeux se trouvent après la Seconde Guerre mondiale et concernaient les vétérans blessés. À travers le temps, les compétitions

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ont évolué pour inclure divers types de handicaps et un large public. Dans notre étude, nous proposons une fine présentation des disciplines paralympiques et des sportifs roumains paralympiens qui ont démontré en 2024, à Paris, qu'une inaptitude peut se transformer en un autre type d'aptitude et qu'il n'y a pas de contrainte physique ou morale si on veut gagner.

**Mots-clés :** jeu(x), paralympique(s), sport(s), champion(s), victoire(s)

***Courage, Audacity, Performance: The Story of Romanian Paralympians at the Paris 2024 Games Beyond Limits***

The Paralympic Games are a major global sporting event that highlights the talent, determination, and extraordinary resilience of athletes with disabilities. Held every four years, either after or in parallel with the Olympic Games, they raise public awareness of disability-related issues while promoting inclusion and recognition of athletic performance. Through their wide range of disciplines, the Games offer athletes the opportunity to demonstrate exceptional abilities, inspiring countless individuals and helping to shift mentalities around the world.

The term "*Paralympic*" comes from the Greek "*para*" ("beside" or "alongside") and "*Olympic*", emphasizing the connection to the Olympic Games while designating a distinct competition dedicated to athletes with physical, intellectual, or sensory impairments. The first official edition took place in 1960 in Rome - known as the Rome Games - but the origins of the Paralympic movement go back to the period after the Second World War and were initially created for injured veterans. Over time, the competitions evolved to include various types of disabilities and a broader audience.

In this study, we offer a detailed presentation of Paralympic disciplines and Romanian Paralympic athletes who demonstrated in Paris in 2024 that a limitation can be transformed into a different form of ability, and that no physical or moral barrier stands in the way of those who truly aspire to win.



**Keywords:** game(s), paralympic, sport(s), champion(s), victory(ies)

**Iulia-Corina DOBROTĂ**

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### *Hearing Through Words: Translating Deafness and Identity in David Lodge's A Deaf Sentence*

This paper examines the translation of disability as both a linguistic and cultural construct through David Lodge's *A Deaf Sentence*, a novel that intricately explores hearing loss, communication breakdown, and self-perception. Situated at the intersection of Disability Studies and Translation Studies, the analysis investigates how deafness, as both metaphor and lived experience, is rendered in translation from English into Romanian and French. Drawing on Venuti's domestication and foreignization model and Critical Disability Theory, the study explores how translators negotiate idiomatic expressions, irony, and self-reflexive humor linked to hearing impairment. The findings reveal how translation choices can subtly reshape the novel's portrayal of deafness - either by normalizing it, emphasizing its stigma, or preserving its embodied ambiguity. By focusing on the interplay between language, perception, and identity, this paper argues that translating disability is not merely a linguistic act but an ethical and cultural mediation - one that determines how difference is understood, empathized with, or silenced across languages.

**Keywords:** mediation, translation strategy, humour in translation, domestication, foreignization

**Raluca DRAGOMIR**

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### *Toulouse-Lautrec : corps différent, regard unique sur la Belle Époque*

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864–1901) est l'un des artistes les plus représentatifs de la Belle Époque. Par son style audacieux, ses portraits sensibles et ses affiches devenues icônes, il a su capter l'essence de la vie

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nocturne parisienne et transformer la culture visuelle de son temps. Son œuvre est indissociable de Montmartre, haut lieu d'effervescence artistique et populaire.

L'un de ses plus grands apports à l'art est son travail sur les affiches : couleurs vives, lignes très marquées, silhouettes stylisées et mise en page inspirée des estampes japonaises. Il élève l'affiche - autrefois simple outil publicitaire - au rang d'art moderne. Son style énergique, vif et expressif semble donner vie aux personnages, comme s'ils allaient se mettre en mouvement. Aujourd'hui encore, ses images comptent parmi les plus emblématiques de la Belle Époque.

Ce qui confère à sa figure une dimension encore plus remarquable est le fait que sa vie et son œuvre sont profondément marquées par une forme précoce de marginalisation corporelle. Atteint de pycnodysostose, une maladie osseuse rare responsable de douleurs chroniques, de fractures répétées et d'une stature singulière, Lautrec a vécu sous le poids constant du regard social et de la stigmatisation. À bien des égards, il peut être considéré comme un précurseur d'une sensibilité artistique façonnée par la condition de handicap : l'expérience de la différence, la conscience aiguë de la fragilité corporelle et une empathie particulière envers les personnes marginalisées se reflètent dans sa manière de représenter danseuses, artistes de cabaret, travailleuses du sexe ou saltimbanques - toutes figures souvent reléguées à la périphérie.

Dans cet article, nous proposons de revisiter Toulouse-Lautrec sous l'angle de la vulnérabilité et de la résilience, en montrant comment son handicap n'a pas été un obstacle mais un prisme qui a amplifié son regard artistique. À travers une sensibilité unique, mêlant audace, empathie et innovation, il a donné une visibilité nouvelle à des existences souvent invisibilisées, transformant ainsi la marge en centre et la fragilité en force expressive. Son œuvre demeure une référence majeure dans l'histoire de l'art moderne et un exemple éclairant de la manière dont le handicap peut devenir un moteur de création.

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**Mots-clés:** Toulouse-Lautrec, Belle Époque, handicap et création artistique, Pycnodysostose, art moderne, Marginalité et représentation.

***Toulouse-Lautrec: A Different Body, a Unique Gaze on the Belle Époque***

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864–1901) is one of the most representative artists of the Belle Époque. Through his bold style, sensitive portraits, and now-iconic posters, he captured the essence of Parisian nightlife and reshaped the visual culture of his era. His work is inseparable from Montmartre, a vibrant centre of artistic and popular effervescence.

One of his greatest contributions to art lies in his poster work: vivid colours, sharply defined lines, stylised silhouettes, and layouts inspired by Japanese prints. He elevated the poster - once merely a tool of advertisement - to the status of modern art. His energetic, lively, and expressive style seems to bring his figures to life, as though they might start moving at any moment. Even today, his images remain among the most emblematic of the Belle Époque.

What makes his figure even more remarkable is the fact that his life and work were profoundly shaped by an early experience of bodily marginalisation. Suffering from pycnodysostosis, a rare bone disease that caused chronic pain, repeated fractures, and an unusual stature, Lautrec lived under the constant weight of social scrutiny and stigma. In many ways, he can be seen as a precursor of an artistic sensibility shaped by disability: the experience of difference, an acute awareness of bodily fragility, and a deep empathy for marginalised individuals are reflected in his representations of dancers, cabaret performers, sex workers, and acrobats - figures traditionally relegated to the margins.

In this article, we revisit Toulouse-Lautrec through the lens of vulnerability and resilience, showing how his disability was not an obstacle but a prism that amplified his artistic vision. Through a unique sensitivity combining boldness, empathy, and innovation, he offered new visibility to lives often rendered invisible, transforming the margins into

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the centre and fragility into expressive strength. His work remains a major reference in the history of modern art and a powerful example of how disability can become a catalyst for creation.

**Keywords:** Toulouse-Lautrec, Belle Époque, disability and artistic creation, pycnodysostosis, modern art, marginality and representation

**Laura FLORE**

Ilfov Children's and Students' Palace, Romania

### *Blooming against the Pain: Luchian, Poet of Petals*

Gala Galaction once said that, then "...when I see his painting again, his vases with flowers that will never wither as long as Art and Humanity last, the shards of the mysterious mirrors with which Luchian came to earth, then the hour of my unforgettable encounter with them appears to me as a lesson of supreme initiation, as an act of mystical revelation, at the threshold of a temple."

By reconstructing the artist's personality, we hope to emphasize and highlight his conception of the art of his day, but also the unstoppable fight he waged against the disease that opposed him and could not subjugate him to a life without art.

The last period of his life was overshadowed by a precarious financial situation, but especially by his serious health, being ill with multiple sclerosis. Even though he ended up confined to an armchair, he continued to paint with a brush tied to his wrist and from the works created during this period we observe his passion for nature, his love for life and especially the painting of flowers (during this period he managed to bring the pastel technique to an unprecedented mastery).

**Keywords:** art, visual, Ștefan Luchian, education, symbol, Romanian painter, the plastic poet of flowers.

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### *Grit and Grain: Subtitling Voice and Soundscape in Peak Blinders*

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Subtitling for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SDH) has evolved from a niche accessibility practice into a specialised form of audiovisual translation that requires linguistic precision, multimodal awareness, and an understanding of sensory experience. This paper advances SDH research by analysing the subtitles of an episode of *Peaky Blinders*, a series rarely explored through accessibility perspectives, aiming to show how subtitlers handle the interplay of accent, soundscape, and atmospheric identity.

Building on existing research in media accessibility and multimodality, this paper presents a case study of SDH strategies in this series, which heavily relies on Birmingham dialects, gritty ambient noise, and anachronistically curated music to construct its aesthetic identity. Two main aspects are analysed: non-standard speech forms, such as ellipsis, mumbling, and regional accents (the grain, following Roland Barthes' concept in the essay *Le grain de la voix* (1972)); and a rich sonic environment, including industrial soundscapes and gunfire alongside stylised musical cues (the grit). The article argues that high-quality SDH is not merely a technical challenge but also an ethical obligation to promote inclusive communication, shaping the accessibility, participation, and cultural agency of deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers within an increasingly digital media landscape.

**Keywords:** SDH, inclusion, language varieties, sound, cultural agency.

#### Anca Oana HAYAT

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#### *Psychology and the Inner Gaze: Invisibility, Internalized Ableism, and the Therapeutic Encounter*

This presentation examines the psychological dimensions of invisibility experienced by people with disabilities. It explores how internalized ableism shapes self-perception, emotional well-being, and identity, while





also analysing the role of psychological counselling in countering social exclusion and reinforcing a sense of visibility.

The concept of the inner gaze is introduced as a lens for understanding how individuals absorb societal expectations surrounding normalcy, productivity, and bodily legitimacy - often resulting in self-silencing, masking, and the gradual erasure of lived experience.

By addressing both societal attitudes and inner psychological processes, the presentation reveals a central tension within psychology: the discipline can unintentionally reinforce the invisibility of disability, yet it also holds the tools to challenge stigma and promote more inclusive understandings. Participants are encouraged to consider how psychological research, counselling, and pedagogy can become more responsive to the lived realities of disability, fostering visibility, dignity, and belonging.

Ultimately, the presentation argues that psychology stands at a critical crossroads - capable of sustaining norms that render disability unseen, but equally positioned to illuminate the emotional, somatic, and existential realities of disabled individuals. It calls for clinical practice and scholarship that resist the invisibilization of disability and actively support inclusive, affirming psychological frameworks.

**Keywords:** invisibility, internalized ableism, psychological counselling, identity and self-perception, disability studies, inclusion and visibility

**Simona Gabriela LUCA**

Ilfov County, Casa Corpului Didactic

### *The Hidden Curriculum of Empathy: Making Emotional Disabilities Visible in the Classroom - Pedagogical Benefits of Difference*

Traditional schooling often conceals emotional and neurodevelopmental differences - such as anxiety, ADHD, and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) - beneath expectations of uniform attention, participation, and behaviour. This study investigates how an *empathic hidden curriculum*,



intentionally shaped by teachers through everyday routines, language, and spatial design, can reveal these differences without stigma and foster greater inclusion in secondary classrooms.

Drawing on recent research in neuroeducation and inclusive pedagogy, the paper reframes difference as a natural expression of human diversity rather than a deviation from the norm. When classrooms prioritise flexibility over conformity, they create conditions that allow all students to participate meaningfully. Neurodidactic approaches, which align teaching with the brain's processes of attention, emotion, and memory, further support this shift by promoting multimodal instruction and emotionally safe learning environments.

Practice-based examples from secondary schools in Ilfov County, Romania, illustrate accessible, low-cost strategies: brief emotional check-ins at the start of lessons, visual schedules, short movement breaks, calm corners for managing anxiety, and structured peer roles that enhance social communication for autistic learners. Teacher mentoring cycles that integrate co-planning, micro-observations, and rapid feedback help sustain these empathic practices and ensure consistency across classrooms.

The proposed framework - **Routines, Language, Space, and Feedback (RLSF)** - offers a practical model for embedding empathy into daily teaching. Predictable routines, inclusive and respectful language, adaptive learning environments, and reflective feedback systems make hidden needs visible, normalise diversity, and transform difference into a shared pedagogical resource.

**Keywords:** hidden curriculum, neurodiversity, inclusive pedagogy, neuroeducation, classroom adaptations, empathic teaching

**Lidia Mihaela NECULA**

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***I Am Sam: Rewriting Fatherhood Through Disability***

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This paper examines the reconstruction of fatherhood through the lens of disability in the film *I Am Sam* (2001, dir. Jessie Nelson), proposing that the narrative destabilizes normative assumptions about parental competence, masculinity, and cognitive disability. Drawing on theoretical frameworks from Disability Studies - including the social model of disability (Oliver, 1990), crip theory (McRuer, 2006), and narrative prosthesis (Mitchell & Snyder, 2000) - the analysis explores how the film redefines fatherhood as relational, affective, and performative rather than biologically or cognitively determined. Additionally, the study engages with critical masculinity studies to interrogate how Sam's identity challenges dominant ideals of independence, rationality, and productivity traditionally associated with fatherhood.

Through a close reading of the film's visual strategies, character interactions, and discursive constructions, the paper argues that *I Am Sam* articulates an alternative model of fatherhood grounded in care, emotional literacy, and interdependence. The narrative reframes disability not as a deficit but as a generative condition that enables new forms of kinship, resilience, and social bonding. Ultimately, the paper proposes that Sam's story functions as a cultural critique of ableist definitions of parenting and contributes to a broader rethinking of how fatherhood can be represented, embodied, and validated within contemporary society.

**Keywords:** Disability and Fatherhood, Crip Theory, Masculinity Studies, Narrative Prosthesis, Interdependence

**Carmen OPRÎȚ-MAFTEI**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

### *Assessing ESP Linguistic Proficiency in Learners with Disabilities: Methods, Challenges and Pedagogical Insights*

In recent years the European Union has demonstrated a strong commitment to educational inclusion. Following the enactment of the Laws 199/2023 and 4481/2024 certain measures have been implemented at

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"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați to enhance the accessibility of learners with disabilities. As a result, the number of learners with disabilities has been steadily increasing.

After reviewing good practices implemented by other universities in Romania as well as those adopted by "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, the research continues with a reflection on my experience with these learners and introduces a multi-modal, learner-centred assessment approach designed to capture the diverse linguistic competencies of students with sensory, cognitive, and physical disabilities.

The present paper aims to introduce a set of methods for assessing English for Specific Purposes (ESP) linguistic proficiency in learners with disabilities. Although these methods are not inherently innovative, they have proven effective in enabling all learners and particularly those with disabilities to demonstrate their full linguistic potential and to receive objective, constructive feedback from their peers, increasing their self-confidence and self-esteem at the same time.

**Keywords:** ESP assessment, learners with disabilities, inclusive education, multimodal evaluation, accessible pedagogy, linguistic proficiency

**Adora PARASCHIVESCU**

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### *Children of a Lesser God by Mark Medoff: A Play of Invincible Disabilities*

Mark Medoff's *Children of a Lesser God* is a pioneering, Tony Award-winning play later adapted into an Oscar-winning film - both of which significantly shifted societal perceptions of disability. The work illustrates that disability is a challenge rather than a weakness, and that deafness represents only one facet of a person's identity. It becomes a powerful lens through which restrictive social norms - those that categorise individuals as if handing down a life sentence - are questioned and dismantled. Through the character of Sarah Norman, a deaf woman who fiercely

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asserts her independence against social and romantic expectations, the play interrogates the politics of language, representation, and inclusion. Marlee Matlin's Academy Award-winning performance in the 1986 film adaptation further amplified the cultural and political impact of Medoff's work. Her portrayal not only challenged audience assumptions about mainstream cinema but also opened new pathways for deaf and hearing-impaired actors. This paper examines the central themes of Medoff's play and its film adaptation, exploring how both works transform disability into a source of strength - drawing on Matlin's reflections from her autobiographical book *I'll Scream Later* (2009).

**Keywords:** disability representation, deaf identity, language and inclusion, Marlee Matlin, figurative strength.

**Gabrielle POPA**

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### ***Disability in the Media - Adventure Time: With Finn and His Arm***

Finn the Human is a beloved cartoon character from the Cartoon Network television series *Adventure Time*. The series revolves around Finn and his best friend Jake the shapeshifting dog as they go on a variety of adventures throughout the magical land of Ooo in which Finn is believed to be the last human. The children's show deals with surprisingly complex themes throughout the ten seasons. One of the main arcs of the show revolves around Finn becoming disabled and losing his arm. Within the show, Finn goes on a journey of accepting his identity as a disabled person. While the show ends on a positive note by accepting Finn's disability for what it is, there are numerous ways in which the writers fail to provide positive and accurate disability representation.

**Keywords:** disability representation, adventure time, character identity, animated narratives, media and disability

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**Vicentziu PUȘCAȘU**

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*Art and Accessibility for People with Disabilities: Cultural Policies and Curatorial Practices in Romania*

Starting from the current state of exhibitions and their accessibility for audiences with disabilities in Romania, this research examines public policies and the ways in which cultural institutions succeed (or fail) to facilitate inclusive access to cultural participation for vulnerable communities. Although accessibility has gained visibility and support at the level of European Union, cultural events, curatorial strategies and accessible exhibition policies in Romania are inconsistently implemented and often lack the resources required to meet the objectives. Through an analysis of the legal framework concerning the rights of disabled persons, with regard of their access to education and culture, alongside case studies conducted in museums, galleries and alternative art spaces, my research explores how accessibility is conceptualized, negotiated and/or put in practice. The study highlights significant gaps between legislation and concrete curatorial implementations, drawing attention to systemic barriers: administrative, communicational, architectural, digital and (more often) attitudinal – things that audiences with disabilities frequently encounter. At the same time, the research identifies examples of good practices that can contribute to the development of genuinely inclusive curatorial methodologies. The in-extenso article argues for reconceptualization of accessibility, not only as an institutional responsibility or a condition for cultural and educational democratization, but as a fundamental component of (core) artistic production. The anticipated outcome consists of concrete recommendations for policymakers, practitioners and curators aiming to foster meaningful inclusion within the artistic sector.

**Keywords:** cultural accessibility, disability studies, inclusive curatorial practice, cultural policy, social inclusion.

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Mariana RUSU

*Când mintea tace, inima vorbește: O paralelă între Neurofeedback, Tao și dizabilitate*

Dizabilitatea nu este o limitare, ci o invitație profundă de a te ridica și a străluci prin reconectarea cu sinele interior. Ea devine un spațiu al redescoperirii, o perspectivă nouă asupra lumii și asupra propriei existențe. Atunci când presiunile sociale, așteptările celorlalți și zgomotul exterior se estompează, omul începe să își audă cu adevărat propria voce. Când mintea tace și inima vorbește, apare claritatea: aceea că valoarea unei persoane nu stă în corpul ei, în capacitățile fizice sau în normele impuse de societate, ci în autenticitatea ei, în puterea de a transforma vulnerabilitatea în resursă și dificultatea în drum spre sens. În această lumină, dizabilitatea devine un teren fertil pentru curaj, introspecție, empatie și creștere personală, un drum care conduce nu spre lipsă, ci spre plinătatea întregirii de sine.

**Cuvinte cheie:** dizabilitate, neurofeedback, Tao, autenticitate, transformare interioară

*When the Mind Falls Silent, the Heart Speaks: A Parallel Between Neurofeedback, Tao, and Disability*

Disability is not a limitation but a profound invitation to rise and shine by reconnecting with one's inner self. It becomes a space of rediscovery, a new perspective on the world and on one's own existence. When social pressures, the expectations of others, and the noise of the outside world fade away, a person begins to truly hear their own voice. When the mind falls silent and the heart speaks, clarity emerges: the understanding that a person's worth does not lie in their body, in physical abilities, or in society's imposed norms, but in their authenticity - in the power to transform vulnerability into a resource and difficulty into a path toward





meaning. In this light, disability becomes fertile ground for courage, introspection, empathy, and personal growth, a journey that leads not toward lack but toward the fullness of one's own wholeness.

**Keywords:** disability, neurofeedback, Tao, authenticity, inner transformation

**Mirela Simona RUSU**

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### *Translating Health, Transforming Lives: The Power of Understanding*

Health translation - the adaptation of health information across languages, cultures, and literacy levels - is essential for ensuring equitable access to care in increasingly diverse societies. Even in advanced health systems, communication gaps remain a major cause of limited understanding, reduced adherence, lower patient satisfaction, and poorer health outcomes among linguistically and culturally diverse populations. This paper brings together insights from health literacy, patient-centred care, diffusion of innovations, linguistics, and translation studies to propose a comprehensive conceptualisation of health translation. It maps the multiple forms translation can take, including language interpretation, plain-language rewriting, cultural adaptation, and numeracy support, and examines how these strategies influence patient comprehension, autonomy, and clinical outcomes.

Through case studies, the paper illustrates how effective translation interventions can reduce inequities, strengthen trust, and improve the uptake of health services. Ethical and policy considerations - such as informed consent, privacy, cultural sensitivity, and institutional responsibility - are analysed to identify the systemic changes required for sustainable implementation. Challenges related to linguistic complexity, resource limitations, and evaluation practices are also explored, alongside future directions that emphasise technological innovation,

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interdisciplinary collaboration, and robust assessment frameworks.

The paper argues that health translation is not a peripheral auxiliary service but a core component of safe, high-quality, and equitable health care, and it calls for its integration into every level of health system design and delivery.

**Keywords:** health translation, health care, translation studies



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Profesor universitar la Departamentul de Franceză, Facultatea de Litere, Universitatea "Dunărea de Jos" din Galați, abilitat în conducerea de doctorate în domeniul filologie-franceză și traductologie, Carmen Andrei predă cursuri de literatură franceză din secolele XX și XXI, literaturi francofone (belgiană, quebecheză, oceanice, magrebiene) și traducere literară. A publicat 10 cărți, dintre care 7 ca autor unic, și peste o sută treizeci de articole științifice. Traducătoare autorizată, este membră și a Uniunii Scriitorilor Români, a Asociației Române a Traducătorilor Literari și responsabilă Asociației de Studii canadiene românești. Este responsabil științific al Centrului de Cercetare „Teoria și Practica Discursului” unde coordonează axa de cercetare „Literaturi și identități culturale”. Domeniile sale de interes și preocupările actuale oglindesc formarea recentă în consiliere psihologică și educațională, psihologie clinică și psihoterapie.

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Hatice Çalışkan, a graduate of Istanbul University, has been working as an English teacher for 17 years and is actively involved in national and international projects such as Erasmus+ and eTwinning. She is deeply committed to social awareness, inclusion, and the empowerment of disadvantaged individuals. A humanist by nature, she approaches education as a means of empathy and transformation. Sensitive to social issues and diversity, she strives to create inclusive learning environments that value every learner's voice. She currently works at Toroslar Special Education Practice School in Mersin.

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Miruna Căraușu is a lecturer at the Faculty of Arts at "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, where she specializes in visual arts education and artistic research. She holds a PhD in Fine Arts from the National University

of Arts, Bucharest awarded for her dissertation on The Role of Digital Imagery in Children's Artistic Education. Her academic and professional trajectory reflects a strong engagement with both traditional and contemporary artistic practices, as well as an ongoing commitment to arts pedagogy. As a researcher and practitioner, Căraușu has participated in numerous national and international conferences, symposia, and exhibitions, where she has explored themes such as digital media in fine arts education, contemporary artistic trends, and the evolving relationship between art and technology.

She is an active member of the Romanian Union of Plastic Artists and has exhibited her work in various prestigious venues, including the The National Salon of Small-Scale Plastic Arts in Brăila, The International Biennial of Miniature Art in Timișoara, and the The National Salon of Contemporary Art in Bucharest. Her artistic practice spans multiple disciplines, including painting, digital media, and monumental art. She has also contributed to several educational initiatives, developing curricula and methodologies for integrating artistic expression into broader pedagogical frameworks. Through her work, she seeks to bridge the gap between classical artistic traditions and the dynamic possibilities offered by new media and digital technologies.

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Collaborator with Quarto Publishing House, Bucharest, for editing and translation services.

Founder, manager, CEO, and administrator of HQ WRITING PEN S.R.L. Member of Mirela-Carmen Stancu's Sales Team, within "The Path to Your Book" Programme, EduKiwi Franchise.

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Iulia Cocu is an Associate Professor at the English Department of the Faculty of Letters, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania. She was awarded a PhD in English stylistics in 2012 by "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, Romania, for the dissertation *Black Humour: A Stylistic Approach*, which was published in 2013. The research she has conducted up to the present has materialized in over thirty articles and book reviews. Moreover, she authored 3 books and co-authored 4. Her research interests include linguistic stylistics, teaching English for Specific Purposes, language learning strategies, lexicology, English for Professional Communication, English for Computer Science. She is a member of ESSE and RSEAS.

**COJA, Daniel Mădălin**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Dr. Dainel Coja is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania. His academic and professional background combines physiotherapy, adapted physical education, and functional rehabilitation. As a licensed physiotherapist and certified massage trainer, he focuses on inclusive approaches to movement, recovery, and wellbeing. His current research explores how physical therapy and adapted physical activity foster empowerment, resilience, and social participation among individuals with visible and invisible disabilities.

**CONSTANTINESCU, Mihaela Florentina**

UNATC I.L. Caragiale, Bucharest, Romania

Mihaela Florentina Constantinescu is a PhD student in Cinema and Media Studies at UNATC I.L. Caragiale in Bucharest. Her research

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explores the mockumentary as a genre that bridges documentary and fiction, focusing on how it reshapes ideas of authenticity and cinematic truth. She also works as a film director and producer. Beyond academia, she organizes BUZZ International Film Festival in Buzău, dedicated to European feature, student, short, and documentary cinema, and Buzău International Arts Festival, a multidisciplinary event uniting film, theatre, music, and visual arts. Her work connects research, filmmaking, and cultural management across Romanian and international contexts.

#### **COSTANDACHE, Elena**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Ana-Elena Costandache is an Associate Professor in the Department of French Language and Literature, Faculty of Letters, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, secretary of the scientific journal *Mélanges francophones*, and a member of the Research Centre *Theory and Practice of Discourse*. She defended her PhD thesis in 2011, focusing on Franco-Romanian cultural interferences in the 19th century. Her academic interests include 17th- and 18th-century French literature, the didactics of French as a foreign language, Francophone cultures, civilizations and literatures, literary translation, and Romanian literature written in French. She is the co-author of a dictionary, the author of university textbooks, and of numerous studies published both in Romania and abroad.

#### **CUCOȘ, Gabriela-Aura**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Gabriela-Aura Cucos is a first-year student at the Faculty of Letters, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, specialising in Romanian and English language and literature.

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### **CURIS, Cecilia**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Curis Cecilia is a lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy and the Faculty of Arts of the "Dunărea de Jos" University in Galați. Her doctoral thesis addressed a complex topic, namely, that of diagnostic and therapeutic acceptance in patients with psychosomatic conditions, articulating the medical field with that of psychology and psychotherapy. She is a doctor, nutritionist and psychotherapist with training in Clinical Hypnosis, Ericksonian therapy and holds a master's degree in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy. His research interests focus on the therapeutic relationship and holistic patient approach in medical practice, the field of psychosomatics, eating disorders and psychonutrition. He also researches the applications of music therapy in medicine and psychotherapy, mindfulness techniques, clinical hypnosis and philosophy of medicine.

### **DEDIU, Elena, DINCĂ, Gianina-Ioana, OSTROVSKA, Nadiia, and PANTILIMON, Luminița-Mariana**

Elena Dediu, Gianina-Ioana Dincă, Nadiia Ostrovska, and Luminița-Mariana Pantilimon are third-year students specializing in Applied Foreign Languages at the Faculty of Letters, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați. They are actively and frequently involved in academic and scientific activities specific to student life: national and international colloquia, conferences in French and English, and volunteering with the Galați Student League.

### **DOBROTĂ, Iulia-Corina**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Corina Dobrotă, Associate Professor, PhD at the Faculty of Letters, Department of English, has been teaching mainly English for Specialized Purposes, as well as Translation Theory and Practice, Syntax, Morphology, Semantics and Pragmatics to students in Philology,

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Engineering, Law, Arts and Economics for nearly two decades. Her PhD was defended at the Faculty of Letters of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania in 2007, with a contrastive study (English-Romanian) regarding specialized metaphor. She has authored two monographs, several chapters in collective volumes, and almost 90 scientific articles published in national and international proceedings, mainly focusing on translation and translatology, as well as English for Economics and Legal English.

### **DRAGOMIR, Raluca**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Raluca Dragomir, Lecturer, teacher of French for Specific Purposes (medicine, economics, etc.) and French as a Foreign Language.

She has presented papers at international conferences held in Romania and abroad, and has published articles in Romanian journals indexed in international databases.

Research areas: comparative literature, didactics of French for Specific Purposes, translation studies.

Member of three projects funded by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, member of ARDUF, and of the Research Centre Theory and Practice of Discourse within the Faculty of Letters, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați.

### **FLORE, Laura**

Ilfov Children's and Students' Palace, Romania

Laura Flore is an art teacher, restorer, visual artist and full member of the Union of Fine Artists of Romania – Religious Fine Art and Restoration section. Laura expresses herself through a stable and regular exhibition path, both nationally and internationally. The range of works she exhibits includes both classical icons, Byzantine traditions, and her own interpretations of religious themes. The artist also addresses themes such

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as flowers, traditional architecture, portraits, landscapes or still life. The richness of the subjects, but also of the themes used, make her a distinguished artist of Romanian contemporary art.

In his teaching career, he has coordinated and organized numerous exhibitions, workshops and conferences, an opportunity to observe his constant concern to involve and promote young people in artistic projects and events.

By participating in specialized conferences, he contributes with works that express his constant concerns about art and art history, but also about the evolution of contemporary art, which is also demonstrated by obtaining his doctorate in art history in 2023.

#### **GERARDINI, Silvia**

Elisabetta Germani Foundation, Cingia de Botti (CR), Italy

Silvia Gerardini is an occupational therapist who graduated from the University of Pavia in 2022. She began her professional career at the Quarenghi Clinical Institute in San Pellegrino Terme, focusing on neuromotor rehabilitation. Since 2024, she has worked at the Elisabetta Germani Foundation, providing occupational therapy within the Disability Care Unit (RSD) and supporting activities in the nursing home (RSA). Her professional interests include social inclusion, community-based occupational therapy, and initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of people with disabilities.

#### **GHEORGHIU, Oana Celia**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Associate Professor at the Cross-border Faculty of "Dunărea de Jos" of Galați, she holds a PhD and a habilitation certificate in English and American Literature. She teaches subjects in Literature, Cultural Studies, and Translation Studies. She has published extensively abroad with Palgrave Macmillan, Springer, Peter Lang, and others. An award-winning translator, she has published translations of Linda Hutcheon, Sebastian

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Barry, David Mamet, Eugene O'Neill and Christopher Marlowe. Her research interests revolve around contemporary politics and culture, terrorism, trauma, and digital media. In 2015, she published a book on subtitling as a form of literary translation for film adaptations of classical novels.

### **GRIGORAȘ, Mioara**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Mioara Grigoraș is a clinical psychologist, psychological counsellor, and psychotherapist, accredited by the Romanian College of Psychologists, with over 17 years of experience in the field. She graduated from the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (2006), and from the master's program "Psychological Assessment and Recovery Psychotherapies", Petre Andrei University, Iași (2008).

She also completed the postgraduate courses "Experiential and Unification Psychotherapy centred on adult-child-couple-family" from the Romanian Society of Experiential Psychotherapy and the training course for trainers accredited by CNFPA. She is currently a psychologist in an individual psychology office, lecturer/psychologist at the Centre for European Studies and Consultancy and collaborates with various NGOs and institutions in Galați. She is also involved in various projects and events with psychological themes and participated in psycho-educational conferences/projects in the country and abroad.

### **LUCA, Simona Gabriela**

Casa Corpului Didactic Ilfov, Romania

Simona Gabriela Luca is a teacher trainer at Casa Corpului Didactic Ilfov and a training coordinator for multiple professional development programs dedicated to teachers, activating in this field for more than 30 years. She also collaborates with CJRAE Ilfov, contributing to initiatives in inclusion, counselling, and socio-emotional development. As an

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education analyst and Erasmus+ coordinator, she specializes in modern pedagogy, digital transformation, neurodidactics, and inclusive practices. She designs evidence-based training frameworks that bridge theory and classroom practice, supporting schools in building future-ready learning environments. Her work connects Romanian education with European innovation through mobility projects, job shadowing, and curriculum development.

#### **MINDU, Sandrina**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

PhD in Psychology, lecturer at "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, psychotherapist and psychological counsellor, with expertise in supporting anxiety-depressive disorders, individual and group personal development, and in counselling and psychotherapy for children, couples, and families.

#### **MOGA, Ana-Maria**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Ana-Maria Moga is a Junior Lecturer at "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania. She holds a PhD in English and American Literature. She teaches Practical Courses in English Literature and ESP for students in various specialisations. Her main research interests include Shakespearean Studies, Film Studies, and Literary Studies.

#### **NEAGU, Mariana**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Mariana Neagu is a Professor in the English Department, the Faculty of Letters at "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați. She earned her PhD in Philology, specializing in English, from the University of Bucharest in 1999. She teaches lectures and seminars at the undergraduate level

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(Contemporary English Language: Phonology and Semantics, Textual Typology), master's level (Translation and Elements of Style, Metaphor in Translation, Translation as Cultural Mediation), and doctoral level (Primary and Secondary Sources in Doctoral Research, The Semantics and Pragmatics of Academic English). Her research interests include figurative language, translation studies, intercultural communication, and cognitive linguistics.

She is co-editor of *Translation Studies: Retrospective and Prospective Views* and the author of several books. Her current research focuses on figurative language in both literary and non-literary discourses.

#### **NECULA, Lidia Mihaela**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Dr. Lidia Mihaela Necula is an Assistant Professor at "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, where she has been shaping minds and inspiring students since 2003. Her academic journey reached a significant milestone in 2010 with the successful public defense of her PhD thesis, *David Lodge: Novel Wor(l)ds and Media(ted) Communication*. This accomplishment earned her the esteemed Doctoral Title in Philology and laid the foundation for her diverse scholarly pursuits. Dr. Necula's academic interests span a rich tapestry of fields, reflecting her intellectual curiosity and interdisciplinary approach. From delving into the evocative worlds of Romantic poetry and Victorian literature – core subjects of her lectures and seminars for BA students – to exploring the intersections of artistic forms, literary representations, and intercultural dialogue, she brings a fresh perspective to the classroom. Her expertise extends to the MA program *Literature, Film and Cultural Representations*, where she teaches courses on literary conventions and filmic architectures, or on artistic forms and their literary representation, but also on the nuanced dynamics of British cultural spaces.

Beyond teaching, Dr. Necula serves as the *Editorial Secretary* of *Cultural Intertexts*, a highly regarded academic journal indexed in SCOPUS,

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EBSCO, ERIH PLUS, INDEX COPERNICUS, CEEOL, DOAJ, PROQUEST, and OPEN AIRE. As a member of the Editorial Board, she joins her efforts with her colleagues' to ensure that the publication remains a vital platform for scholarly discourse and innovation. Dr. Necula also ventured into fiction with the publication of her postmodern romance novel, *Dragonfly Wings (Aripi de libelulă)*, in 2015 and when she is not immersed in the worlds of literature and academia, she enjoys crafting her own stories, continuing to explore the boundless possibilities of the written word.

### **NEDELCU, Diana**

Physician, Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, Integrative Medicine; Founder of Medicine2Health Galați; Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Phytotherapy, Emil Racoviță Post-Secondary Health School Galați; PhD Candidate, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

With professional training in Germany and over 15 years of experience in the medical and educational fields, Dr. Diana Nedelcu combines Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine with Integrative Medicine in an approach focused on identifying the real causes of diseases and implementing targeted therapeutic interventions. The founder of Medicine2Health, she also teaches Pharmacology and Phytotherapy at the Emil Racoviță Post-Secondary Health School in Galați and is pursuing doctoral studies in Biomedical Sciences at "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați.

As a partner in the international network Haus of Bright Minds (Germany), dedicated to the prevention and integrative treatment of chronic diseases, she contributes to the development of modern health concepts based on identifying underlying dysfunctions, regulating biological systems, and personalizing therapeutic plans. Her work integrates nutrigenetics and nutrigenomics to optimize long-term health and stimulate regeneration and longevity.

She promotes a preventive, personalized, and patient-centred model of health.

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### **ONCIOIU, Diana**

Dela0.ro, Centrul pentru Jurnalism Independent, Romania

Diana Oncioiu currently works for the independent media platform *Dela0.ro*. She is also a member of the project *Să Fie Lumină*, which published, in 2019, the first investigations into the sexual abuses committed by Bishop Corneliu of Huși, who was finally sentenced to eight years in prison in 2025. Her work focuses primarily on social issues, domestic violence, education, social assistance, extreme poverty, and social exclusion - and she is the author of a series of reports on the social reintegration of former prisoners, life in the Ferentari neighbourhood of Bucharest, human trafficking, and the way the justice system addresses sexual offences involving underage victims. She studied Political Science at the University of Bucharest and holds a master's degree in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from the University of Amsterdam.

### **OPRIȚ-MAFTEI, Carmen**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Carmen Opriț-Maftei, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, where she teaches courses in Business English, Professional Communication, and Academic Writing. She holds a PhD in General Linguistics from "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iași and a Master's Degree in Translation and Interpreting. With over two decades of experience in higher education, she has published three single-authored books and more than sixty scientific papers, and has participated in over fifty international conferences. Her research interests include contrastive grammar, ESP, translation studies, and lexical borrowing. She is a member of RSEAS and the DISCORPS Research Centre.

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**PARASCHIVESCU, Adora**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Adora-Ioana Paraschivescu is a PhD student in Philology at "Dunărea de Jos" Galați University with a strong academic and teaching background across secondary school, high school, and university-level education, particularly within engineering faculty. With a keen interest in language, literature, and pedagogy, she brings interdisciplinary insight into both research and classroom instruction.

Her doctoral research focuses on figurative language in fashion discourse, exploring its cognitive, rhetorical, and cultural dimensions. She has published several scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals, addressing topics such as metaphor theory, semantic change, and the role of figurative expression in technical and literary discourse.

Beyond academia, Adora-Ioana Paraschivescu is an experienced educator committed to fostering critical thinking and linguistic awareness in students of all ages and backgrounds. Her unique position at the intersection of humanities and technical education allows her to bridge communicative gaps between disciplines and enrich the study of language in diverse contexts.

**PETRE, Alina**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

With a PhD in Philology from "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, I successfully crowned the work and research which started while studying for the master's degree and continued with the doctoral thesis. The main focus throughout the years has been the study of humour, translating comedy in the form of stand-up comedy. The doctoral thesis analyses stand-up comedy performers and performances from Romania as well as other countries and translates them to determine to what degree the humour is preserved or lost in translation.

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### **Gabrielle POPA**

Fulbright ETA, Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj, Romania

Gabrielle Popa is a Fulbright ETA currently working within the Faculty of Letters at Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai. Having received her BFA in Theatre Education from Emerson College in 2024, she is a trained theatre educator with multimodal experience in television, film, theatre, and concert production, acting for film and theatre, and is a SAG-AFTRA union member.

### **PRAISLER, Alexandru**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Alexandru Praisler is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Letters, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania. He has a doctorate and a post-doctorate in English – Translations Studies (title of doctoral thesis: *Language, Power and Intercultural Communication. Translation Policies and the Politics of Translation*; title of post-doctoral dissertation: *A Study on the Linguistic Policies and Practices Regarding Translation and Interpreting Services Adopted by Public Institutions in Galați*). He has published various scientific articles and specialised translations, has participated in numerous conferences, seminars, workshops and professional training programmes, and has been part of the research teams of international projects.

### **PUȘCAȘU, Vicentziu**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Vicentziu Pușcasu works as an assistant professor and independent curator in the city of Galați. He is affiliated with both the Painting Department (Faculty of arts) and the Sacred art Department (Faculty of history, philosophy and theology) of Dunărea de Jos University of Galați.

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His main areas of expertise are curatorial practice, art history and aesthetics. In a broader perspective, his academic interests, research and publications include copyright and intellectual property, cultural management, history and philosophy of arts, artistic didactics and museology.

#### **RUDNICKA, Marta**

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Marta Rudnicka is a teacher of English at School of Languages (SJ) at Adam Mickiewicz University. She has been coordinating a team of 13 teachers conducting classes of foreign languages for students of diverse educational needs in Multimedia Centre for Teaching Foreign Languages. She also has been a coordinator of SJ at the Department of Biology where she specializes in teaching ESP to students of various faculties including biotechnology, environmental protection, biology and health.

In Multimedia Centre she mostly works with students with sensory disabilities but her main interest has been teaching English to students with hearing impairment, and she has been doing it since 2018. For the last two years she has been conducting research into hard of hearing students' pronunciation and intelligibility.

In her private life she is a mother of twin young men and a female dog. She is also a keen reader, traveller and a person of many interests.

#### **RUSU, Mariana**

Asistent medical cu o experiență de peste 27 de ani în domeniul pediatrie, licențiată în Psihologie (2009) și deținătoare a unui Master în Nutriție (2020).

În 2022 a finalizat cursurile de inițiere și avansare în Neurofeedback, iar din 2023 practică această metodă cu scopul dezvoltării cognitive și emoționale.

Misiunea ei este să combine experiența clinică, psihologia și neuroștiința

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pentru a oferi servicii personalizate, bazate pe echilibru și bunăstare.

### **RUSU, Mirela Simona**

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

Mirela Simona Rusu, born in 1980, is a dedicated English teacher and educational leader from Galați, known for her passion for children, peace, and self-discovery. With over two decades of experience, she began her career teaching in rural areas, where she cultivated a profound respect for simplicity and unconditional love for all beings. Since 2014, she has been transforming classrooms and communities at one of Galați's top schools, where she currently serves as deputy director, a role she has held since 2020.

Simona integrates innovative approaches like the Outward Mindset as an Arbinger facilitator and collaborates with the SuperTeach organization to champion education's transformative power. A lifelong learner, she holds a bachelor's degree from "Dunărea de Jos" University and is pursuing a PhD. Her philosophy, "The meaning of life is to give life meaning," reflects her commitment to inspiring personal and collective growth.

Balancing her professional achievements with a fulfilling family life alongside her husband Claudiu, daughter Olivia, and pet Sasha, Simona views life as a journey of self-discovery, guided by love and purpose. She continues to foster harmony, sincerity, and respect in all aspects of her life and work, leaving a lasting impact on those she touches.

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