

**UNIVERSITY INTERNSHIP/ACADEMIC PRACTICE**  
**March 20 – May 22, 2026**

[PARTNERS: Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu” of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Department of Political Science (scientific researcher III, Dr. Viorella Manolache); University of Bucharest, Faculty of Letters, Department of Cultural Studies (assistant professor Dr. Oana Preda)]

This year’s academic practice hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of annual academic debates, in which complex and relevant topics, theories and concepts were discussed. The practice offered participants the opportunity to engage in academic debates and to deepen concepts specific to related theoretical areas. At the same time, participants took part in the ISPRI archival inventory process.

- Henrieta Anișoara Șerban, *The human is the style, not the opinion. For a philosophical and poetic geography of opinions*

- Claudia Agafiței, *From the noise of the modern world to the value of necessary silence*

The first meeting took place on March 27, 2026. In the first lecture, Researcher Henrieta Șerban emphasized that the statement “the human is the style”, attributed to Gustave Flaubert, shows that the way we express ourselves reflects our identity and the way we perceive the world. Opinions, being subjective and influenced by personal experiences, do not represent absolute truths. The transition proposed by the Researcher Claudia Agafiței was a fundamental restructuring of how we process reality. This noise is not informative, but rather a barrier that obscures the truth through mechanisms such as “fake news” and “post-truth” discourse.

- Ruxandra Iordache, *Brief foray into the life and work of Dumitru Drăghicescu*

- Marina Îngustu, *Debate on the book: “The Condition of the Child in Modern Romania (1859–1914)”*

The second meeting took place on April 3, 2026. In the first presentation, Dumitru Drăghicescu’s role as an important Romanian sociologist was highlighted by Researcher Ruxandra Iordache. In his work “The Reality of the Spirit” which was published in 1928, Drăghicescu argues that humans have a dual nature, both biological and social, and that their evolution is determined by the development and complexity of human groups. In the second lecture, dr. Marina Îngustu explained how Romanian elites actively “forced” modernization, accelerating socio-political transformations and identify children as a key category through which national values and loyalties could be cultivated. Drawing on theories of modernity and state formation (Koselleck, Giddens, Gellner, Weber, Scott), the modernization of childhood marks a shift from customary norms to institutional regulation.

Pol. Sc. Int. Rel., **XXIII**, 2, pp. 244–246, Bucharest, 2026.

- Ian Browne, *Toleration and the State – Historical Approaches*
- Sanda Cincă, *The Schengen Area: evolution, achievements and challenges*

The third workshop took place on April 24, 2026. It began with the lecture given by the Researcher Ian Browne, who described how public authorities manage differences in opinions, beliefs and political positions. Liberal philosophy, particularly that of J. Locke, argues that governments should protect freedom of conscience and equality of rights, rather than impose a specific religion or worldview. The debate surrounding Diana Șoșoacă's exclusion from Romania's 2024 presidential election illustrates the democratic dilemma of balancing political freedom with the need to protect constitutional order from anti-democratic rhetoric. In the second lecture, Researcher Sanda Cincă presented an overview of the transformations of the Schengen area. Its role in promoting free movement and collective security through mechanisms such as the Schengen Information System (SIS), as well as Romania's gradual accession were highlighted.

- Andreea Ignat, *The Saints of the Plague – an apotropaic and didactic iconography*
- Mihai-Viorel Dumitru, *Metamodernism on the political compass: between irony and commitment*

During the 4<sup>th</sup> workshop, which took place on May 8, 2026, drd. Andreea Ignat explored the profound intersection of art, faith, and crisis management during the plague epidemics of the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Centered on the Italian context, the presentation analyzes how religious imagery served a dual purpose: as a spiritual shield against disaster and as a tool for moral and liturgical guidance. Functionally, the icons and frescoes were didactic because they translated biblical teachings into visual conduct. In the second lecture, Mihai-Viorel Dumitru described metamodernism as a new and ambivalent concept that is still regarded with skepticism. Metamodernism opposes extremes and adopts an "as if" attitude, which opposes absolutizing. It does not possess a fixed ideology. Instead, it can oscillate between positions and political narratives.

- Diana Vardianu, *Indispensable actor and emerging partner: Turkey and the new strategic priorities of the European Union*

- Mihai Dan, *The European Union and European societies facing the war in Ukraine*

The presentation of drd. Diana Vardianu, which took place on May 15, 2026, aimed to establish the framework in which Turkey can continue to be considered a stable pillar for Europe. The neorealist and liberal perspectives were discussed in order to understand the role that Turkey plays in the multipolar global architecture. The military dimension, the economic and the political ones were analyzed as well. The second presentation, delivered by drd. Mihai Dan, aimed to analyze whether the European Union succeeded in responding effectively to the economic, social, energetic, and security challenges that emerged after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Two essential ideas discussed in this debate were the energy crisis generated by the war and the limited military capacity of the European Union.

- Moriann Cohen-Tzedec, *Does political culture still matter in Presidential elections? Romania and Poland in the 2024-2025 electoral cycle*

In her lecture, Moriann Cohen-Tzedec argues that, in Romania, political culture has declined, leading to more emotional and anti-establishment voting decisions, in a highly polarized context in which approximately 40 to 50% of voters supported candidates

perceived as opposed to traditional parties. At the same time, electoral behavior is influenced by factors such as socio-economic status, perception of marginalization, and political discourse, including forms of radicalization on both sides. Unlike Romania, Poland structures its vote more along clear ideological lines, between religious conservative segments and a liberal urban electorate, with a more pronounced separation between pro-sovereignty and pro-EU orientations.

The Academic practice consolidates itself as an opportunity for participants, in order to accomplish the rules of complex debates on current topics.

**MIHAI-VIOREL DUMITRU** (coord., master CPCEI, year I)  
**IOANA DUMITRU** (master CPCEI, year I);  
**SABINA GHEORGHE** (master CPCEI, year I);  
**ANDREI ALEXANDRU OANCEA** (master CPCEI, year I);  
**DIANA VALENTINA ENACHE** (master CPCEI, year I);  
**MARIA GHIOCA** (FLLS, year II);  
**BIANCA MOCANU** (SE, year II);  
**LAVINIA JELESCU** (SE, year II);  
**IOANA MARCU** (SE, year II);  
**IOANA ADELINA IOVCIU** (SE, year II);  
**ALEXANDRA DARIA STOIAN** (SE, year II);  
**TUDOR CONSTANTINESCU** (SE, year II)