**INTERSECTIONAL ANALYSES OF POPULIST POLITICAL COMMUNICATION: THE PANOPTIC PERFORMANCES OF GENDER IN ROMANIAN POPULIST RADICAL RIGHT MEDIA**

The lecture examines the populist political communication in post-state-socialist Romania. It concentrates on the editorials of populist radical right party leader (Corneliu Vadim Tudor) published at election times between 2000 and 2012 in the weekly party organ Greater Romania Magazine (*Revista România Mare,* RRM). The lecture represents a dialogue between political sociology–particularly the political communication of populist radical right ideology by party leader; media studies–mainly the ability of media frames to become a panoptic mechanism to discipline gender performances, with regard to constructing national identities; from a decidedly intersectional perspective. Two interconnected studies are presented. One concerns how the desirable ideals of femininity for the ethno-nationalist project are framed in populist radical right media–at the intersection of gender, class and ethnicity. The other examines how ideals of male heterosexuality for the aforementioned ethno-nationalist project are framed with the aid of appeals to religion in populist radical right media at election times–at the intersection of gender, sexuality, religion and ethnicity. With the help of critical media framing, then, the two studies evidence the interplay between the previously mentioned categories of difference in disciplining gender performances that were deemed suitable for accomplishing the ethno-nationalist project: enforcing traditional gender roles within the ethnic community, and narrowly ascribing religious piety and reproductive heterosexuality as cornerstones for safeguarding the purity of the Romanian nation.

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