

## РЕФЕРАТ

Поводом достављања предлога за кандидатуру професора **Михај И. Спариосу**-а за иностраног члана Српске академије образовања у Београду



Професор **Михај И. Спариосу** је рођен 1944. године у Дети, варошици на румунско-српској граници. Корени породице се вуку из румунске заједнице уУздину и Вршцу, у српском Банату, а такође има и Срба међу својим прецима. Почетком 20-их година прошлог века породица се преселила у Румунију и његов деда именован је за краљевског бележника (нотароша) у тадашњем Деђанском округу (Plasa Deta). Породица Спариосу уживала је изузетан углед у некадашњој међуратној средини у Дети, где стоји и сада (нажалост у незавидном стању) њихова породична кућа, једна од најрепрезентативнијих здања у најужем центру варошице, уз само здање хотела *Bella vista*. пуно раскошних огледала и вртећим вратима у америчком стилу, како је то тада било по банатским угледнијим паланкама .

Али то златно доба није баш потрајало... дошли су комунисти, а њих су окарактерисали за непријатеље-буржује, те следи кућни притвор, пресељење у Темишвар да би се избавили од неугодних искустава из прошлости, депортација у Бараган...Уз свакодневна понижења истовремено и бриљантни школски успеси, гимназија "Константин Ђаконовић Лога", најелитнија школа у Банату; када је попустила хајка на бројне измишљене непријатеље, пријемни испит и успех, на Филолошком факултету у Букурешту. Блистав студент, префињене културе и знања, асистент на факултету, потом атмосфера немогућа, услед културног замрзавања чаушизма, по кинеском и корејском моделу, са почетка 70-их година...

Изгледа као суђено, вечито померање и премештање, из једног краја у други; ето и прилике за велико корачање у прави слободни свет, високе науке и интелектуалног доказивања: стипендија на Западу, а отуда даље, много даље, на Пацифичкој обали, докторат у Станфорду и почетак изузетне, јединствене каријере врсног академског научника која се и данас наставља.

Из пребогате ризнице врхунских домета интересовања и научних остварења нашег уваженог професора, осврнућемо се на поља нама приступачнијих и која чине управо и предмет садашњег нашег поступка. Реч је о истаживањима о сржи нашег заједништва, српско-румунског, и заправо овде, у Банату.

Кренувши од горких доживљених стварности из личне биографије, професор Спариосу ставља под знак питања основне темеље европског морала, полазећи у свом трагању са префињеним анализама Дионисијевог митског кода и коментара Платонових дијалога. Богата лепеза знања се веома плодотворно жири према изучавању теоретских темеља етницитета, националног и регионалних идентитета европског контекста. Теоретски приступ ексилу (изгнанству) и утопији као екстремне границе егзистенције заснива се, такође, на личној биографији и цивилизацијском искуству на маргинама прожимања различитих етницитета, у опет контексту међунационалних и регионалних идентитета ширих заједница некадашње велике Румуније и снажних личности које су креативно обележиле и живот културне околине. Задњих година

интересовање професора је оживело и у историјском простору источне и централне Европе, експлицитно на теренима Трансилваније и Баната, са веома запаженим и за данашње време профитабилним теоретским доприносима у прилог политичких делотворника садашњице (наравно, оних који имају позива за стручне студије и теоретска разматрања).

Пред нама се представља изузетна стваралачка личност данашње културе, теоретичар корена филозофског стваралаштва, врстни познавалац класичне културе, преводаца и стваралаца у простору прожимања различитих видова културе и историје наше заједничке источно-европске стварности. Све у свему, Српска академија образовања има прилику да постане, својим новим чланом, богатија и још приврженија динамичним догађајима окружења и уочавању позитивних трендова из бурног свакодневног живота наших толико искушених заједница.

У Темишвару, 3. Јануара 2020.

***Потписници реферата:***

*Академик проф. др Миодраг Милин*

*Академик проф. др Виктор Нојман*

*Акад. проф. др Грозанка Гојков*

1973-1976: Ph.D., Comparative Literature, Stanford University

1971-1973: M.A., English, Tulane University

1961-1966: B.A., English, University of Bucharest

**PROFESSIONAL RECORD:**

**RESUME**

**Mihai I. Spariosu**

Mailing Adress: Comparative Literature Department, 225 Joseph Brown Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, USA. Tel. (1) 404-345-8184. E-mail: spariosu@uga.edu

**EDUCATION:**

1994- : Distinguished Research Professor, University of Georgia, Athens

1990-1993: Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens  
1985-1989: Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, UGA  
1982-1984: Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, UGA  
1981-1982; Mellon Fellow in Comparative Literature, Cornell University  
1979-1981: Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, University of Konstanz, Germany  
1977-1978: Visiting Assistant Professor, SUNY-Binghamton  
1976-1977: Visiting Instructor, Comparative Literature, Ohio State University  
Spring, 76: Visiting Assistant Professor of English, University of San Diego  
1966-1971: Assistant Professor, English, University of Bucharest  
Spring, 83: Faculty Exchange Program, Assistant Professor of English, University of Paris, XIII  
Spring, 84: Faculty Exchange Program, Assistant Professor of English, University of Antwerp

#### **TEACHING INTERESTS:**

Intercultural and global studies; European studies; literary theory and criticism; history of ideas; philosophy and literature; literature and science; humanities courses

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

Head, Department of Comparative Literature, 2017-  
Academic Director, Institute for European Studies, UGA (2000-2007)  
Director, Avignon Study Abroad Program, UGA (1998-2001)  
Director, East Central European Program, UGA (1997- 2012)  
Co-Director (with Dario Villanueva), International School of Theory in the Humanities, Santiago de Compostela (1997-2000)  
President and Co-Founder, International Foundation for Global Studies, Atlanta, Georgia (1998-2003)

#### **EDITORIAL POSITIONS:**

Editor, The Margins of Literature Series, SUNY Press, Albany, New York (1992-2007)  
Co-Editor (with Giuseppe Mazzotta) of Cultura ludens Series, John Benjamins Publ., Philadelphia/ Amsterdam (1982-92)

## GRANTS, RESEARCH:

Fulbright Teaching/Research Grant to Romania, 2016-2017; Grant from the Romanian Scientific Research Council (IDEAS Code PN-II-ID-PCE-2011-3-771), "Clash of Civilizations or Peaceful Development?" October 2011-September 2014, 383,000 euros; Fulbright Teaching Grant to Argentina, 1992; D.A.A.D research grant, Konstanz, Germany, Summer 1990; N.E.H. grant, Yale University, Summer 1989; U.G. Research Foundation grant, Summer 1985; A.C.L.S. grant, Summer 1983; Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1978-79 and 1981-82; Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1979-81; N.E.H. Postdoctoral Fellowship, School of Criticism and Theory, U.C. Irvine, Summer 1977; Kent Fellowship, 1974-76

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS:

### BOOKS:

*The Seventh Letter: A Philosophical Enigma at Plato's Academy*, accepted for publication by Vulpine Press, Ockham Publishing Group, Aberdeen, UK, (expected spring 2019)

*The Quantum Relations Principle: Managing Our Future in the Age of Intelligent Machines*, co-author with Hardy F. Schloer (Goettingen and Taipei: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht and National Taiwan University Press, 2016), 271 pages

*Modernism and Exile: Play, Liminality and the Exilic-Utopian Imagination* (Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), 225 pages

*A șaptea scrisoare: O enigmă filosofică la Academia lui Platon*. Romanian translation from English by Virgil Stanciu (Bucharest: Humanitas, 2010), 513 pages.

*Remapping Knowledge: Intercultural Studies for a Global Age* (Oxford and New York: Berghahn Books, 2006), 209 pp

*Global Intelligence and Human Development: Toward an Ecology of Global Learning* (Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2005), 287 pages

*Inteligența globală și dezvoltarea umană: Pentru o ecologie a educației globale* (Iași: Institutul European, 2013), 536 pages. Romanian translation of *Global Intelligence and Human Development*.

*The Wreath of Wild Olive: Play, Liminality and the Study of Literature* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1997), 315 pages

*God of Many Names: Play, Poetry, and Power in Hellenic Thought from Homer to Aristotle* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1991), 265 pages

*Dionysus Reborn: Play and the Aesthetic Dimension in Modern Philosophical and Scientific Discourse* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1989), 352 pages.

*Resurecția lui Dionysos*. Translated with an Introductory Study by Ovidiu Verdes (Bucharest: Univers, 1997). Romanian translation of *Dionysus Reborn*.

*Literature, Mimesis and Play: Essays in Literary Theory* (Tuebingen: Gunter Narr Verlag, 1982), 132 pages

#### EDITED COLLECTIONS:

*Intercultural Conflict and Harmony in the Central European Borderlands: The Cases of Banat and Transylvania, 1849-1939.* Edited by Mihai Spariosu. (Goettingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2017)

*Armonie și conflict intercultural în Banat și Transilvania. Perspective cultural-istorice.* Edited by Mihai I. Spariosu and Vasile Boari, with an Introduction by Mihai I. Spariosu (Iasi: Editura Institutul European, 2014), 581 pages

*Computational Models of Interethnic Conflict and Harmony.* Edited by Mihai I. Spariosu and Gheorghe Stefan, in *Romanian Journal of Information Science and Technology*, Vol. 16, No. 2-3, 2013. Found at [http://www.imt.ro/romjist/Volum16/Number16\\_2/cuprins16\\_2.htm](http://www.imt.ro/romjist/Volum16/Number16_2/cuprins16_2.htm)).

*Exploring Humanity: Intercultural Perspectives on Humanism.* Edited by Mihai I. Spariosu and Jörn Rüsen, with an Introduction by Mihai I. Spariosu (Göttingen and Taipei: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht UniPress and National Taiwan University Press, 2012)

*Mimesis in Contemporary Theory: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, Vol. 1, *The Philosophical and Literary Debate* (Philadelphia and Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1984)

*The Play of the Self* (Albany, N.Y: SUNY Press, 1994); co-editor with Ronald Bogue

*Building A Profession: Autobiographical Perspectives on the History of Comparative Literature in the United States* (Albany, N.Y: SUNY Press, 1994); co-editor with Lionel Gossman

**Note:** As Editor of The Margins of Literature Series at SUNY Press, I have also acquisitioned, edited and published **70 (seventy) monographs and collective volumes** over a period of fifteen years

#### TRANSLATIONS

Laurence Sterne, *Viața și opiniunile lui Tristram Shandy, Gentleman.* Romanian translation of *The Life and opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman.* Translated with an Introductory Study and Notes by M. Miroiu and M. Spariosu (Iasi: Polirom, 2004)

Darío Villanueva, *Theories of Realism.* Translated from Spanish by Mihai Spariosu and Santiago García Castañón (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1997)

Northrop Frye, *Anatomia criticii.* Romanian translation of N. Frye, *The Anatomy of Criticism.* Translated by M. Spariosu and D. Sterian (Bucharest: Univers, 1972)

#### RECENT ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS AND INTERVIEWS

“Introduction,” in Mihai I. Spariosu (editor), *Intercultural Conflict and Harmony in the Central European Borderlands.* (Goettingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2017), 11-43

“Cultural or Intercultural Studies in East-Central Europe? Preliminary Observations,” in Mihai I. Spariosu (editor), *Intercultural Conflict and Harmony in the Central European Borderlands*. (Goettingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2017), 59-81

“Digital Humanities, Social Sciences, and Intercultural Studies: Principles and Methodology,” in Mihai I. Spariosu (editor), *Intercultural Conflict and Harmony in the Central European Borderlands*. (Goettingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2017), 323-346

“Exile and Utopia as Liminal Play: A Cultural-Theoretical Approach,” in MacLean, Malcolm, Emily Ryall & Wendy Russell (eds), *Philosophical Perspectives on Play* (New York: Routledge, 2015), 12-27

“Intercultural Relations in East-Central Europe: The Cases of Banat and Transylvania” in *World Literature Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (2015), 88-99

“Some Observations on the Prospects of Intercultural Hermeneutics in a Global Framework” in Ming Xie (editor), *The Agon of Interpretations: Towards a Critical Intercultural Hermeneutics* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014)

Review-article on Libuša Vajdová and Róbert Gáfrík (editors), “*New Imagined Communities: Identity Making in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe* (Bratislava: Kalligram, 2010), in *Recherche Littéraire/Literary Research*, Vol. 28, no. 54-56 (Summer 2012)

“Interview with Mihai Spariosu,” in *Islamic Perspective Journal*, vol. 7 (May 2012), London

“Introduction,” in Mihai I. Spariosu and Joern Rüsen (eds), *Exploring Humanity* (Göttingen and Taipei: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Press/National Taiwan University Press, 2012), pp. 7-27

“Intercultural Humanism and Global Intelligence: Definition, Principles, Practice,” chapter in Mihai I. Spariosu and Joern Rüsen (eds), *Exploring Humanity* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Press/National Taiwan University Press, 2012), pp. 101-127

“Intellectualii și puterea: Dialog cu Mihai Spariosu” in V. Boari, N. Vlas and R.N. Murea (eds), *Intellectualii și puterea* (Iași: Editura Institutul European, 2012)

“Education, Intercultural Knowledge, and the Global Practitioners of Tomorrow,” *Club of Amsterdam Journal*, June 2009, Issue 118

“Ethnic, National and Regional Identities: Preliminary Theoretical Considerations,” in V. Boari and S. Gherghina (eds), *Weighting Differences: Romanian Identity in the Wider European Context* (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publ., 2009)

“The Idea of Culture,” in *Verso*, no. 50 (Dec 2008), 1-11

“Global Knowledge and Education,” in *TCS* vol. 23 (2-3), March-May 2007, special issue on “Problematizing Global Knowledge.” Entry in *New Encyclopaedia of Knowledge Project*

“The Information or Knowledge Society: A New Global Paradigm?” in G. Berthoud, A. Kündig, B. Sitter-Liver (eds), *Informationsgesellschaft - Geschichten und Wirklichkeit/Société de l'information-récits et réalité* (Academic Press: Fribourg, 2005)

“Global Intelligence and Intercultural Studies,” *Turnrow*, Fall 2003, 102-126

"Sociobiology, Natural Science, and Human Development in a Global Age" in R. Aczel and P. Nemes (eds), *The Finer Grain* (Bloomington, Ind: Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, 2003), pp. 205-228

## RECENT LECTURES, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, POSITION PAPERS

"Great Romania: An Interethnic Analysis," at international conference on *Great Romania: Idea, Disaster, Victory, Zenith*, October 21-23, 2016, Jassy, Romania

"Modernism, Play and the Exilic-Utopian Imagination," invited lecture at The Slovak Academy of Science, Bratislava, Slovakia, November 23, 2016

"Multicultural Personalities in the Historical Banat: Paul Iorgovici Brancoveanu," invited paper, at international conference on *Timisoara 300. History. Society. Business*, November 24-25, 2016

"The Quantum Relations Technology: The Interactive Search, Analysis and Transaction Environment," in *Explorations in Textual Digital Analysis for the Humanities and Social Sciences* International Workshop, May 14-15, 2015, Institute for Global Studies, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca. Co-organizer and keynote speaker

"Global Humanities: A Transformative Way of Integrating Knowledge Across Disciplines, Technologies and Cultures," at the International Conference on *Beyond Crisis: Visions for the New Humanities*, Centre for Humanities Innovation, Durham University, Durham, UK, July 7-8, 2014

"Modernity, Global Learning and the Neo-Sophic Turn," keynote lecture at the International Conference on "Conceptualizing Modernity in Central and Southeastern European Cultures: Notions, Discourses and Languages," University of the West, Timisoara, Romania, October 8-11, 2014

„Exploring the Liminal Spaces: Intercultural Conflict and Harmony in the Central European Borderlands,” Invited lecture, Austrian Academy of Science (Institut für Kulturstudien und Theatergeschichte) Viena, November 28, 2012

„Intercultural Studies in Central Europe: An Overview,” invited lecture at the School of Education, University of Belgrade, Vrsac, Serbia, November 21, 2012

"Intercultural Conflict and Harmony in Banat and Transylvania: Cultural-Historical Perspectives (1600 – 1918)." National conference. Organizer and keynote speaker, Timișoara, May 17-19, 2012.

"Intercultural Conflict and Harmony in Banat and Transylvania: Cultural-Historical Perspectives (1850 – 1950)." National conference. Organizer and keynote speaker, Cluj-Napoca, September 28-30, 2012

„Computer Models for Interethnic Studies”. International conference. Co-organizer and keynote speaker, Cluj-Napoca, September 27 – 29, 2012.

"Democracy in a Global Age," keynote address, International Conference on "Cha(lle)nging Democracy at the Beginning of the 21st Century," October 27-29, 2011, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

“Global Intelligence and Intercultural Humanism: Principles and Practices.” Co-organizer and keynote speaker, International Conference on Intercultural Humanism, September 9-12, 2010 Christ Church College, University of Oxford, UK

Intercultural Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development Project, UNESCO and University of Cyprus, September 23-26, 2009, Member of Coordinating Committee and Round Table Participant

“Devouring their Own: Stalinist Purges and (Mis) Trials in Communist Romania of the 1950’s,” International Symposium on “Comrades, Please Shoot Me,” University of Pennsylvania, April 18, 2009

Faculty Development Workshop Organizer and Leader for the Annual Series on “Conversations in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition,” Georgian Court University, January 7- May 1, 2009. Six (6) Workshops on “Mercy and Justice in Religious and Literary Texts” (Homer; St Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas; Shakespeare; Manzoni; Catherine McAuley; John Paul II, “Dives in Misericordia” and Benedict XVI, “Spe Salvi”

Faculty Development Workshop Organizer and Leader, Georgian Court University, January 7- May 1, 2008. Six (6) Workshops on “The Self in Religious and Literary Texts” (St. Augustine; Sor Juana de la Cruz; Goethe; Dostoevsky; Camus; Mother Teresa)

“Tertiary Education for Sustainable Development,” Position paper for International Conference on “Shared Visions and Futures: Education for Sustainable Development across Disciplines and Cultures,” UNESCO and University of Cyprus Nov 15-17, 2008

Invited Speaker, Global Thought Leader Roundtable: “The Global Employee: Defining the Workforce of the Future,” May 16, 2008, School of Business Education, Northwestern University

“Exile, Utopia and Modernity,” International Conference on “Modernism and Antimodernism: Theories, Visions, Ideologies, Politics,” Bucharest, September 19-21, 2008

“Global Learning and the Modern University,” Invited Public Lecture, Soka University, Feb 5, 2005

Invited Speaker, International Symposium, “Europe’s Symbolic Geographies,” May 28-30, 2004, Central European University, Budapest

“Gambling for Empire: Marlowe’s *Tamburlaine the Great* and Hardt and Negri’s *Empire*,” Keynote Address, International Conference on “Gambling Theory,” University of Western Ontario, Oct 13-16, 2004

“Is Knowledge or Information Society a New Global Paradigm?” International Workshop, Swiss Academy of Social and Human Sciences, Gerzensee, March 2003.

## **INTERNATIONAL DISTINCTIONS**

“2016 Highly Cited Researcher,” Thomson-Reuters Essential Science Indicators, December 2016

“Rigas Velestinlis” Medal of Honour (recognizing prominent cultural personalities of the Balkan diaspora); conferred by the President of Greece on May 8, 2007



**LANGUAGES:** English, French, German, Italian, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Greek and Latin

## **IMPACT OF MY SCHOLARSHIP**

Google (advanced search, 03/24/2015) lists over 150,000 entries under my name in many different languages. Google Scholar (consulted on 08/20, 2018) lists 1180 references in English to my work, in various academic fields.

Professor Brian Sutton-Smith of University of Pennsylvania, a distinguished and widely-respected psychologist who has published over four hundred studies on play notes: "My more immediate debt is to the three truly great twentieth-century play theorists, J. Huizinga, M. Spariosu, and R. Fagen, who have wittingly or otherwise, contributed to our playful illusion that the time of the 'ludic turn' in Western culture is about to arrive." (*The Ambiguity of Play*, Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1997, p. vii)

### *Modernism and Exile:*

"...quite brilliant both in content and in style, which is crisp, confident, and perspicuous. It says a whole lot about modernism and says it in an interesting way."

- Hayden White, Professor of History and Literature, University of California, Santa Cruz, and author of *Metahistory*

### *Global Intelligence and Human Development:*

"A deeply researched, thoughtful assessment of existing global educational resources and how they can be reconfigured to address the requirements of ecologically aware paths to human development. Spariosu draws on worldwide cultural knowledge, wisdom traditions, and twenty-first century science in his design for a transdisciplinary

and experiential program—Intercultural Knowledge Management—which offers an inspiring and viable way forward."

—Hazel Henderson, author of *Building a Win-Win World*, *Beyond Globalization*, and *Planetary Citizenship*

"This book is a rare flash of intellectual creativity and an important contribution to the study of global transformation. An excellent handbook for those bewildered by the intricacies of social change."

—Caletous Juma, Director, Science, Technology, and Globalization Project, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

*The Wreath of Wild Olive:*

“Mihai Spariosu’s book strikingly intervenes in the debate raging among the various oppositional and hegemonic discourses by advancing a new philosophy that transcends the currently prevailing agonistic mentality. He develops a ludic-irenic view intended to exceed both a voluntaristic and rationalist mode of thought, thereby convincingly opposing the all-pervading mentality of power in a world marked by difference, scapegoating, and strife between various social, ethnic, racial and sexual factions. The ludic-irenic stance, basically derived from the playfulness of literature, produces alternative mentalities and alternative worlds which promote a responsive understanding of what there is, thus bringing to bear a healing influence within the human community, in which power and difference will cease to be ultimates. What Spariosu puts forward and demonstrates by a stupendous erudition is no less than a total reorientation of cultural criticism that is bound to have its impact on the course cultural studies will take.

It is one of the outstanding achievements of the book to explore the concept of liminality—a term introduced by Victor Turner into the critical discussion—as a threshold and passageway from one historical world to another. Liminality, as Spariosu unfolds it, may well be the key term of the coming decade, replacing the current prominence of ‘otherness’”

-----Wolfgang Iser, University of California, Irvine

“Mihai Spariosu is a prodigiously learned comparatist, a bold thinker of broad, humane sympathies, and a writer of great skill and refinement. His new book *The Wreath of Wild Olive* undertakes to rethink literature as a field not—as the prevailing cant has it—of power relations and combative differences but (mirabile dictu!) of peace and play: to the dogma of theory as eristics, Spariosu has had the courage to propose an irenics of literature. *The Wreath of Wild Olive* has salvational force.”

-----Stanley Corngold, Princeton University

*Questia*, The International Library Journal considers the two chapters on Homer and Hesiod, published in *God of Many Names* (1991), among “the top eighteen best essays ever published” on these poets.