

VLAD NAUMESCU

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Current position

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Central European University, Budapest.

Education

- 2003 - 2006 PhD in Social Anthropology (*magna cum laude*)
Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and Martin Luther University,
Halle/Saale, Germany
- 2000-2002 MA in Social Anthropology
National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest, Romania.
- 1995-2000 BA in Social and developmental psychology
Titu Maiorescu University, Faculty of Psychology, Bucharest, Romania.

Further academic training

- 2007-2008 SIAS Summer Institutes: *The Vision Thing: Studying Divine Intervention*.
organized by Some Institutes for Advanced Studies (SIAS) at the Center for
Advanced Studies in Behavioral Sciences, Palo Alto CA and Collegium
Budapest. Convenors: William Christian, CASBS and Gabor Klaniczay,
Collegium Budapest.
- 2007 SUN Summer course *Cognition and Culture*. CEU's Summer University
Course directors: Dan Sperber, CNRS and György Gergely, Hungarian
Academy of Sciences.
- 2003 Ukrainian Language Summer School, L'viv Ukraine.
Ukrainian Catholic University and University of Saskatchewan, Canada.
- 2001 SUN Summer course *The Plight of the Roma and Gypsy People: The
culture and politics of ethnic transformations in post-communist societies*.
CEU's Summer University, Budapest. Course director: Michael Stewart UCL.

Grants and fellowships

- 2012-2014 Social Science Research Council grant in the frames of SSRC research
program New Directions in the Study of Prayer. Co-investigator in the
comparative project 'Sensory Spirituality: Prayer as Transformative Practice
in Eastern Christianity' led by Sonja Luehrmann, SFU.
- 2012- 2013 CEU Research Support Scheme grant for the project 'Sensory Spirituality',
supporting fieldwork in Kerala (India) and Romania.

2011 Standard Grant from the International Visegrad Fund for the Documentary and Anthropological Filmmaking Summer School, SUN CEU 2011

2009 CEU Research Support Scheme grant for a pilot study on St. Thomas Christians in Kerala, India.

2008-2009 SAIA teaching scholarship in the framework of the Slovak National Scholarship Programme for the Support of Academic Mobility.

2008-2010 Junior Fellow at the Center for Hellenic Traditions, CEU, Budapest.

July 2008 Short-term Visiting Fellow at the Collegium Budapest in the frames of 'The Vision Thing' SIAS Summer Institute.

2007-2008 SIAS grants for SIAS Summer Institute workshops at the Center for Advanced Studies in Behavioral Sciences, Palo Alto (CA) and Collegium Budapest. Sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon and Alexander von Humboldt Foundations.

2007 Film development grant from the Media programme of the EU and the Romanian Center for Cinematography.

2007 Research grant from the Center for Urban History, L'viv, Ukraine.

2006 Conference travel grant from Kennan Institute/Woodrow Wilson Center for the Kennan Institute Workshop on *Democracy and Civil Society in Ukraine* held at the Second Annual Danyliw Research Seminar in Contemporary Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa

2003-2004 Research grant MPI for Social Anthropology for 15 months fieldwork in Western Ukraine.

Professional experience

2011- Book Review Editor for *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale*, journal of the European Association of Social Anthropology

2009 - Member in the Executive Committee of the Religious Studies Program, CEU

2011 Course Director CEU Summer University 'Documentary and Anthropological Filmmaking' supported by the CEU SUN and the International Visegrad Fund.

2009-2013 Co-organizer and core faculty for the **V4 Summer Schools**, organized by the Institute of Ethnology, Warsaw University, Institute of Anthropology, Comenius University (Bratislava), the Department of Ethnology, Charles University (Prague) and CEU sponsored by the International Visegrad Fund.

2008-2010 Faculty resource for Marie Curie Socanth - International PhD Programme Promoting Anthropology in Central and Eastern Europe

2007 - 2008 Associate Researcher – Center for Urban History, L’viv, Ukraine.
Urban research project : *Sykhiv: from microraiion to macrohistory*.

2007 Research consultant for the External EU Land Border Monitoring Project (Hungarian part) part of the Friendly EU Border project of Stefan Batory Foundation, Poland. See final report: http://www.batory.org.pl/doc/gateways_to_europe.pdf

Referee for peer-reviewed journals: *Civilisations, Gradhiva, JRAI, Journal of East Central Europe, Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale, Studia Sociologia (Babes-Bolyai, Cluj)*,

Fieldwork

2013- 2014 Five months fieldwork in Kerala (India) within the frames of the SSRC and CEU sponsored project 'Sensory Spirituality'

2010-2011 Archival research in Romania for the project ‘Memories of an unwanted modernity: the paradoxes of Old Believers accommodation in socialist Romania’; sponsored by ICCMER Romania.

2009 Research on ‘Religious transmission in St. Thomas Christian monasticism’ - one month pilot research in Kerala, South India; sponsored by CEU’s Research Support Scheme).

2007-2009 Research and filming on Old Believers in the Danube Delta for a documentary film (Birds’ Way 2009) sponsored by Media Programme and the Romanian Center for Cinematography.

2003-2006 Phd research ‘Modes of religiosity in Eastern Christianity: Religious Processes and Social Change in Ukraine’ (15 months) sponsored by the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology Halle/Saale, Germany

Teaching experience

2007- **Graduate courses** at the Dept. of Sociology and Social Anthropology, CEU: Anthropology of Religion, Social Memory, Visual Anthropology, Ethnographic Methods, Rethinking Ethnography (PhD course), Secularism and Religion in Comparative Perspectives: Islam and Christianity, Social and Cognitive Approaches to Religion

2013 Main tutor for the international Ethnographic Filmmaking Summer School, organized by the Dept. of Anthropology, University of Western Bohemia, Pilsen July 15 - 27 with a grant from the Visegrad Fund.

2012-13 Core faculty for the ReSET school “Anthropological Approaches to Religion and Secularism, 2010- 2013, International Higher Education Support Program, Open Society Foundation.

2011-2013 Faculty for CARTI Summer Schools and Workshops, International Higher Education Support Program, Open Society Foundation. Teaching theory and research

methods workshops: 'Social memory, identity and the politics of the past', 'Ethnography beyond description', Visual analysis.

2009- Faculty for CEU's Curriculum Resource Center courses: Multiconfessional Societies in a global world - New Challenges to the Study of Religion and Society (2011); Religious Geography. Symbolic Landscapes and Religious Movements (2010); Religion in Multiconfessional Societies (2009)

2007-2009 Visiting lecturer, Institute of Ethnology, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia. 3rd year and MA courses: Anthropology of Religion, Ethnographic Methods.

2006-2008 Visiting lecturer, MA program in cultural anthropology. Faculty of Political Sciences, National School of Political Sciences and Administration, Bucharest, Romania. MA course: Anthropology of Religion.

Languages

Romanian (native)

English (fluent)

French, Ukrainian (intermediate)

Hungarian, German, Italian (passive)

Membership in professional bodies

EASA – European Association of Social Anthropologists

AAA – American Anthropological Association, Society for the Anthropology of Religion

SOYUZ - The Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies

SACR - Romanian Society of Cultural Anthropology (Secretary, 2001-2002)

PUBLICATIONS

Books, edited volumes

Mahieu, Stephanie & Vlad Naumescu eds. 2009. *Churches In-between: Greek Catholic Churches in Postsocialist Europe*, Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia Bd.16, Berlin: Lit Verlag.

Naumescu, Vlad. 2008. *Modes of Religiosity in Eastern Christianity: Religious Processes and Social Change in Ukraine*, Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia Bd. 15, Berlin: Lit Verlag.

Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

2012. Learning the 'Science of Feelings': Religious Training in Eastern Christian Monasticism. *Ethnos* 77: 227-251.

with Halloy, Arnaud. 2012. Learning Spirit Possession: an Introduction. *Ethnos* 77: 155–176.

2011. The case for religious transmission: time and transmission in the anthropology

of Christianity. *Religion and Society: Advances in Research* 2: 54-71.

2010. Le vieil homme et le livre : la crise de la transmission chez les Vieux-Croyants. *Terrain* 55 (*Transmettre*): 72-89.

Book chapters

2013. Old Believers' Passion Play: The Meaning of Doubt in an Orthodox Ritualist Movement. In *Ethnographies of Doubt*. Pp. 85-117, Edited by M. Pelkmans. London: I.B.Tauris.

--- 2010. Exorcising demons in post-Soviet Ukraine: a monastic community and its imagistic practice. In Hann, Chris & Hermann Goltz (eds) *Eastern Christians in Anthropological Perspective*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 155-176.

- 2010. Encompassing religious plurality: The Orthodox Imaginary of Ukraine. In Paul D'Anieri ed. *The Contest for Social Mobilization in Ukraine: From Revolution to Civil Society?* Washington D.C.: Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 274-299.

-- 2010. The Religious Imaginary of Western Ukraine: Understanding social change through religious apparitions. In Valtchinova G.(ed) *Religion and Boundaries; Studies from the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Turkey*, Istanbul: Isis Press. Pp. 227-246.

-- 2009. Learning Religion in Eastern Christian Monasticism. In Christian Jr., W. & G. Klaniczay (eds) *The Vision Thing: Studying Divine Intervention*. Collegium Budapest Workshop Series No. 18, pp. 419-438.

-- 2009. Continuities and Ruptures of a Religious Tradition: Making 'Orthodoxy' in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. In Mahieu S. & V. Naumescu (eds.) *Churches In-between: Greek Catholic Churches in Postsocialist Europe*. Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia, Berlin: Lit Verlag, pp. 157-182.

--. 2006 Religious pluralism and the imagined Orthodoxy of Western Ukraine in Chris Hann and the Religion and Civil Society group (eds). *The Postsocialist Religious Question: Faith and Power in Central Asia and East-Central Europe*. Münster: Lit Verlag, pp. 241-268.

Documentary films

Birds' Way, 56 min. Romania 2009, creative documentary co-directed with Klara Trencsenyi, produced by Libra Film, sponsored by Media Programme of the EU and the Romanian Film Fund. www.drumulpasarilor.ro

Awarded Best Romanian Documentary at Astra Film Fest 2009; nominated for the Romanian Film Awards 2010; awarded Best Directors at Mediawave International Film and Music Festival 2010, Special Mention RAI Film Prize 2011; screened at over 15 festivals worldwide.

Online contributions

Iconic Books, posted on the SSRC Reverberations forum, 'Praying with the senses' portal: <http://forums.ssrc.org/ndsp/2013/06/17/iconic-books/> (June 17, 2013)

Reviews

Kürti, Laszlo & Peter Skalník eds. 2009. *Postsocialist Europe: anthropological perspectives from home*. Oxford and New York: Berghahn Books published in *JRAI (N.S.)* 17(3): 648–649, September 2011.

Rewakowicz Zaleska, M. L. & Onyshkevych, Maria G. eds. 2009. *Contemporary Ukraine on the Cultural Map of Europe*. Armonk, NY.: M.E.Sharpe, for *H-Net Reviews* and H-SAE list published online Feb. 2011: <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=25327> (permanent link)

Pine, Frances & Joao de Pina-Cabral eds. 2007. *On the Margins of Religion* Berghahn Books for *Religion and Society: Advances in Research* 1, September 2010.

Canas Bottos, Lorenzo. 2008. *Old Colony Mennonites in Argentina and Bolivia; nation making, religious conflict, and imagination of the future*. Leiden, Boston and London: Brill Academic Publishers. *Comparative Sociology*.

Wanner, Catherine. 2007. *Communities of the Converted. Ukrainians and Global Evangelism*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press. *Anthropological Notebooks* XIV/3, 2008.

Invited lectures and seminars

2013 *Documenting Social Reality: Imaginations of the Everyday*

SUN course ‘Documentary Cinema in the Digital Century’, June 23-July 6, CEU Summer University (CEU/OSA)

2013 *The End Times and the Near Future: Old Believers’ ethical engagements* at the ZMO, Berlin, June 20.

2012 *Approaching ethics as anthropological subject: the view from religion* workshop given at Nazarbayev University, Astana Nov. 29-Dec. 1.

2011 *The Power of Images: Capturing the Social in Documentary Film*
The Visual Laboratory, Verzio Film Festival, Budapest, Nov. 8-10

2011. *The End Times and the Near Future: the temporalities of Old Believers’ ethics*
History Department Scholarly & Social Meeting, CEU Budapest, Oct. 11.

2010 *Temporality, ritual and belief among the Old Believers - issues of religious transmission*. **UCL Seminars In Anthropological Theory**, London, Nov. 24.

2010 *Messianism in Contemporary Religious Movements*. **CEU Summer University Course ‘Messianism: Jewish and Christian Perspective’** convened by Michael Miller and Matthias Riedl (CEU), Budapest July 5-16

2010 ‘*Religion and the Public Sphere*, **V4 Social Anthropology Summer Schools ‘Rethinking Anthropological Engagement in Central-Eastern Europe’**,

Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Warsaw University, funded by the International Visegrad Fund.

- 2009 *The past as a lost resource: Old Believer's 'failed' transmission*, Laboratoire d'Anthropologie des Mondes Contemporains, Université Libre de Bruxelles, May 26.
- 2009 *Religious learning in monasticism: a case for the role of the imagination in religious transmission* Cognitive Development Center Seminar Series, CEU Budapest, Feb. 18.

Conference papers

- 2013 *The iconic economy of Old Belief: towards an aesthetics of transmission* International Workshop: Mediating Religion – Emotional, Material, and Ideological Practices, Schloss Hohentübingen, Tübingen, Germany, April 5-7.
2012. *Prayer as play, play as prayer: pretence as basis of religious development* Research workshop at ICS Lisbon **PragRel: Discipline, Imagination and Aesthetics** funded by PHC Pessoa 2012 (Parteneriat Hubert Curien).
- 2012 *Learning Possession: a pragmatic approach* (with Arnaud Halloy) Spirit Possession: European contributions to comparative studies sponsored by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, Pecs (Hungary), September 14-16.
- 2011 *The nostalgia of suffering: apocalypticism as everyday practice*. Panel: **Ethnographies of Nostalgia/Ethnography as Nostalgia, American Anthropological Association** Annual Meeting Montreal, Nov. 14-16.
- 2011 *Secular missionaries or phonies? Old Believers' moral dilemmas in (post)socialist Romania. Atheism and Anthropology: Researching Atheism and Self-searching Belief and Experience'*, UCL, London Sept. 21.
- 2011 *Serious play: religious learning in an Eastern Orthodox community* **Children and Religion**, University of Århus, Copenhagen, Denmark, May 18-19.
- 2010 *The Vision Thing* workshop at the Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences, Stanford (CA), convened by William Christian and Gabor Klaniczay, July 19-26.
- 2010 *Alternative models of change: Eastern Christianity and the problem of transmission*. '**Religious Hegemony and Religious Diversity in Eastern Europe: Postsocialism vis-a-vis Longue Durée**' Conference, MPI for Social Anthropology Halle/Saale Germany, June 24-25.
- 2009 *The role of the imagination in religious transmission*, Workshop on '**Religious Pragmatics: Theoretical Proposals, Comparative Case Studies**', Institute of Social Sciences, Univ. of Lisbon, Oct. 23.
- 2009 *The silence of the senses: ritual and emotion in Eastern Christianity*, at the conference '**Feeling the Divine: Emotions in Religious Practice. Historical**

- and Cross-Cultural Approaches'** Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, July 22-25.
- 2009 *Old Believers' passion play: faith and failure in a ritualist movement.* **Ethnographies of Doubt** workshop, Centro Incontri Umani, Ascona, May 8-10
- 2009 *Churches In-Between? The Politics of Religious Syncretism in Greek Catholicism.* **Eastern Christianity in Post-Imperial Societies** conference, CEU, Budapest March 27-8.
- 2008 *Rester dans la tradition: les greco-catholiques de l'Ukraine.* Colloque sur '**Le fait religieux en Europe**' organisé par Collegium Budapest, l'Institut Français de Budapest, RSP CEU et L'Atelier, Nov. 4-5.
- 2008 *The work of the imagination in religious experience.* Panel 'Rethinking spirit possession' **10th EASA Biennial Conference: Experiencing Diversity and Mutuality**, Ljubljana, Aug. 26-30.
- 2008 *Visions in the East: Cultivating imagistic religiosity in an Eastern Christian Monastery,* **SIAS Summer Institute 'The Vision Thing'**, Collegium Budapest, June 30- July 11.

Panel and Conference Organizer

2012. 'Grappling with uncertainties: ethnographies of the imagination'. Panel co-organizer. **12th EASA Biennial Conference:** Uncertainty and disquiet, Nanterre University, France, July 10-13.
2011. 'The pragmatics of religious transmission: contexts, case studies and theoretical departures', Panel co-convenor **SIEF International Congress** Lisbon, April 17-21.
- 2009 'Eastern Christianity in Post-Imperial Societies', organized by the **Religious Studies Program, CEU**, March 27-8.
- 2009 'Rethinking spirit possession', Panel co-organizer. **10th EASA Biennial Conference: Experiencing Diversity and Mutuality**, Ljubljana, Aug. 26-30.