



Claudia-Florentina Dobre

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Gender: Female **Date of birth:** 05/04/1977 **Place of birth:** Călărași, Romania **Nationality:** Romanian

ABOUT ME

- I hold a habilitated doctorate in History and earned my PhD in History from Laval University in Québec. I am the author of three academic monographs and the co-author of two additional volumes. My scholarly output includes fifty-five peer-reviewed articles and studies. I have served as editor of five academic books and five special issues of scholarly journals.
- I have participated in ninety national and international conferences and workshops and have organized eleven international conferences. I currently coordinate an international research project and have previously participated in two other international projects, serving as both a team leader and a project member.
- In addition to my academic activities, I founded and managed a non-governmental organization dedicated to memory and heritage projects. I have co-directed two documentary films and served as scientific advisor for a docufiction on the Bărăgan deportations.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Country: Romania

[06/12/2019 – Current] **Researcher**

Doing research; writing academic papers; participating to conferences and workshops; disseminating my research to wider audience through interviews; new media; social media.

Centrul de Studii Memoriale și Identitare

City: Bucharest | **Country:** Romania

[01/07/2016 – Current] **Research manager**

I have elaborated research projects; managed them and also coordinated the research team. I have monitored the projects and disseminated information about them.

University of Bucharest, Faculty of Letters, Cultural Studies Department

City: Bucharest | **Country:** Romania

[01/10/2019 – 01/02/2020] **University lecturer**

I taught to students; moderated a seminar about cultural memory; doing and disseminating research.

Fundația Culturală Memoria/Memory Cultural Foundation

City: Bucharest | **Country:** Romania

[01/03/2012 – 01/09/2016] **Senior copy editor**

I have read and revised articles for Memoria magazine and the manuscripts of the books published by Memoria Cultural Foundation.

University of Bucharest, Ecole Doctorale Francophone en Sciences Sociales

City: Bucharest | **Country:** Romania

[01/10/2005 – 31/12/2006] **University teaching assistant**

I have moderated and taught the seminar «Mémoires historiques d'ici et d'ailleurs: regards croisés». I have evaluated students and I have graded their research papers for the seminar.

University Hyperion of Bucharest

City: Bucharest | **Country:** Romania

[01/02/2003 – 30/12/2005] **University teaching assistant**

I taught courses on medieval history; I evaluated students; done research and disseminated it.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

[01/09/2004 – 31/12/2007] **PhD in History**

Université Laval de Québec

City: Québec | **Country:** Canada |

[01/10/2003 – 19/07/2004] **MA in Social Studies**

University of Bucharest/Ecole Doctorale Francophone en Sciences Sociales

City: Bucharest | **Country:** Romania |

[01/09/2001 – 30/07/2002] **MA in Medieval Studies**

Central European University

City: Budapest | **Country:** Hungary |

[01/10/1999 – 31/03/2001] **MA in History of Ideas**

University of Bucharest, Faculty of History

City: Bucharest | **Country:** Romania |

[01/10/1995 – 30/06/1999] **BA in History**

University of Bucharest, Faculty of History

City: Bucharest | **Country:** Romania |

PROJECTS

[01/09/2025 – Current] **Communism for Young People. Passing on the Recent Past to Young Generations in Romania and the Republic of Moldova**

Our research project, „*Communism for Young People. Passing on the Recent Past to Young Generations in Romania and the Republic of Moldova*”, through comparison between Romania and the Republic of Moldova, two countries intimately related through their common past, language and traditions, goes beyond its scientific relevance pertaining to building connections between actors involved in shaping the memory cultures of Romania and the Republic of Moldova. It aims at providing explanations for young people perspective on Communist/Soviet past and to propose new public policies in order to transform this past from a ‘foreign country’ into a heritage to be passed on to future generations. Furthermore, as Romanian and Moldavian politics of memory are

shaped by the European politics and legislation, our project will contribute to a better understanding of the memorial regimes of both countries as well as youth's responses to them. It also aims at fostering similar approaches in terms of public policies and institutions as regards the memory of the Communist/Soviet past in the context of a common European future.

Link: <https://xn--comunismul-pe-nelesul-tinerilor-84c840h.ro/>

[01/01/2017 – 30/09/2021]

Knowledge Exchange and Academic Cultures in Humanities: Europe and the Black Sea Region, late 18th-21st centuries

Coordinator of the Romanian team; doing research; disseminating research; organizing conferences; writing academic papers; participating in exchange stuff activities.

Link: <https://blacksearegion.eu/>

[01/10/2014 – 01/05/2017]

Regaining the future by rebuilding the past: Women's narratives of life in communism (Project number: NCN nr/no. 2013/10/M/HS3/00482)

Doing research; participating to conferences; writing academic studies; co-writing a book: Claudia-Florentina Dobre, Bernadette Jonda, Izabela Skorzynska, Anna Wachowiak, *(Re)gaining the Future by (Re)building the Past. Women's Narratives of Life under Communism in Poland, Romania and the Former East Germany*, editată de Izabela Skorzynska, Poznan University Press, Poznan, 2019.

[01/09/2010 – 01/09/2011]

The Memory of Deportations in Romania/Memoria deportarilor in Romania

Copy-editing the Memoria magazine issue dedicated to deportations; taking part to conferences about deportations; disseminating information about the project; participating in workshops.

PUBLICATIONS

[2024]

Historia y Memoria en Rumania Postcomunista

Reference: translated by Miguel Angel Gomez Mendoza

The volume approaches Romanian communism through the lens of memory studies, focusing on post-communist memorial policies as key sites of memory production and contestation. It analyzes memorial legislation alongside the institutions and public actors that mediate, construct, and circulate narratives of the communist past in the public sphere. A dedicated chapter examines public monuments from the communist period, tracing their re-signification, preservation, removal, or neglect in the post-communist memory landscape.

Publisher: Editorial Aula De Humanidades, Bogota, Columbia

[2023]

Fostele deținute politic și Securitatea. Studiu de caz (Women Former Political Detainees and the Securitate. A Case Study)

Reference: Claudia-Florentina Dobre, Târgoviște, Cetatea de Scaun, 2023, 370 p. ISBN: 978-606-537-626-7.

The book is dealing with the memorial discourse of a group of seven women persecuted by the communists as well as with the Securitate's narrative about this group of political detainees. The findings that emerged from the analysis of the life stories and of the files forged by the former Securitate allow us to draw the conclusion that our case study can be considered pertinent to a special category of former political prisoners, namely, women belonging to the interwar middle class. Educated, with a self-awareness and a well-defined social identity before communism came to power, forced to reshape their identity discourse in order to survive repression and adapt to the communist society, they built after the fall of communism an identity of witnesses of history, memory vectors and

anti-communists in total contrast to the labels disseminated by the communists, those of 'enemy of the people', with its subcategories, 'bandits', 'spies', 'cosmopolitans', 'criminals'.

[2021] **Martore fără voie. Fostele deținute politic și memoria comunismului în România (Unwilling Witnesses. The former political detainees and the memory of communism in Romania)**

Reference: Claudia-Florentina Dobre, Târgoviște, Cetatea de Scaun, 2021, 325 p. ISBN: 978-606-537-512-3.

The book, which is the Romanian translation of my PhD thesis, defended at Laval University of Québec in 2007, tells the story of seven women, former political detainees during communism in Romania. The stories of these women are told from the perspective of the present, dominated by the anti-communist paradigm, and through the lens of unwilling witnesses of difficult historical times. Furthermore, it analyses the post-communist social frameworks of memory in order to understand what was at stake in promoting the memory of communism in Romania both from a witness and societal perspective.

[2024] **Deportați în Bărăgan. Amintiri din Siberia românească (Deportees to Bărăgan. Memories from Romanian Siberia)**

Reference: Claudia-Florentina Dobre, Valeriu Antonovici, eds.

The deportation of June 18–19, 1951 served multiple purposes: preventing peasant revolts against collectivization, dismantling resistance groups, securing cheap labor for the Bărăgan region, and tightening control along the Yugoslav border amid tensions between Stalin and Tito. Experienced as a severe punishment, the deportation became a lasting cultural trauma, remembered across generations. The revised and expanded second edition of *Deportees to Bărăgan. Memories from Romanian Siberia* brings together survivor interviews from the "Memorial of Deportation" project, supplemented with new analyses, photographs, maps, and archival data from CNSAS, offering a clearer understanding of this repressive policy and its long-term impact.

Publisher: Cetatea de Scaun

[2020] **Eroine neștiute. Viața cotidiană a femeilor în perioada comunistă în Polonia, România și RDG. Studii de caz (Unknown Heroines. Women Everyday Life during Communism in Poland, Romania and GDR. Case Studies)**

Reference: Claudia-Florentina Dobre, editor; Târgoviște, editura Cetatea de Scaun

Communism viewed from women everyday life perspective highlights the dimensions, frameworks and limits of "normality" imposed by this regime in Poland, Romania, and the GDR. Acceptance of this normalcy meant, on the one hand, the adaptation to the new laws and rules established rigidly and arbitrarily (often to the detriment of the citizens) by the state confiscated by the communist party and, on the other hand, the use of tactics to avoid the impositions as well as their misappropriation in support of the individual, the family, and even the social group to which they belong.

As our research assesses, women in Poland, Romania, and the GDR have found the necessary resources not only to adapt to the system, but also to avoid its rigid rules, and to take risks (sometimes even deadly, if we think about illegal abortions in Romania). We argued that women showed an unsuspected capacity for action in an oppressive regime such as communism everywhere in Central and Eastern Europe.

[2019] **(Re)gaining the Future by (Re)building the Past. Women`s Narratives of Life under Communism in Poland, Romania and the Former East Germany**

Reference: Claudia-Florentina Dobre, Bernadette Jonda, Izabela Skorzynska, Anna Wachowiak

As an increasing body of research on the status of women in the Central and Eastern European socialist countries shows, the regime did not turn women into “slaves of the system”, their lives reduced to the dual role of worker and housewife. Rather, communism also enabled many women to achieve professional and personal development. That said, it remains the case that women’s socio-economic and political status was adversely affected both by certain features of everyday life during communism and by the destruction brought upon Central and Eastern Europe by WW2. The devastating effects of the war and the social costs of building the socialist society defined the quality of life for at least two generations of Polish, Romanian, and East German women. Called upon to participate to the challenging task of reconstruction, the women born during or just after the war were nevertheless deprived in many cases of the social-cultural and economic capital of their parents. In our book, we have investigated how women from Central and Eastern Europe, struggling with the material legacy of WW2 and the difficulties of life under the communist regime, found ways to rise to the challenge before them, namely: „(re)gaining the future by (re)building the past.”

[2019] **MemoScapes. Romanian Journal of Memory and Identity Studies. Vol. 3, No. 3, 'Frames of Reference in Central Europe, and the Black Sea Region, in the Last Two Centuries**

Reference: Claudia-Florentina Dobre, editor.

The articles gathered in this issue of *MemoScapes*, titled *Frames of Reference in Central Europe, and the Black Sea Region, in the Last Two Centuries*, assess the importance of nationhood in constructing the social imaginary in the above mentioned regions. Furthermore, they emphasize the national myths, the building processes of national, local, and regional identities in the post-communist/post-soviet world as well as the role played by scholars and politicians, by mass-media and social media in forging new narratives on the past, present, and future. The role of minorities and diasporic communities in the national building processes in the region are also highlighted by a number of papers.

[2018] **MemoScapes. Romanian Journal of Memory and Identity Studies. Vol. 2, No. 2, 'Constructing the Social (and Individual World): Myth, Memory, and Identity'**

Reference: Claudia-Florentina Dobre, editor.

The articles collected in the current issue of *MemoScapes. Romanian Journal of Memory and Identity Studies*, provide a fresh perspective on various topics related to myth, memory and identity. The majority of these essays investigate the construction, cultural significance, and socio-political functions of an array of European political and cultural myths in the last century. These analyses do not claim an external or neutral – and in this sense privileged – standpoint from which to reflect on historians’ and social scientists’ production of knowledge, but engage in ongoing methodological and theoretical debates by formulating new conceptual possibilities.

The articles gathered in this issue emphasize the heuristic value of myths, as well as their importance in constructing and deconstructing broad historical, cultural, social or narrative paradigms. They have an immediate contribution to the understanding of the imaginary universe in which communities, societies, nations and even individuals operate at different times and in different cultural areas.

[2017] **Quest for a Suitable Past: Myth and Memory in Central and Eastern Europe**

Reference: Claudia-Florentina DOBRE, Cristian-Emilian GHIȚĂ, editors, CEU Press

The case studies collected here show that myths were often instrumental in the vast projects of social and political mobilization during a period that has witnessed, among other things, two world wars and the harsh oppression of the communist regimes. Yet another common theme throughout the papers is that the mythological dimension of modern societies continued to play a role in the twenty-first century, inasmuch as the new political/national myths reused many of the symbols that defined the earlier mythology.

Analyzing myths as part of the cultural memory of Eastern and Central Europe is particularly important. The region has experienced its fair share of historical drama and social division after 1989 and turned to myth-making as a possible remedy for societal rifts. Myths were produced and/or actualized in order to create social consensus and/or to overcome cultural trauma. Sometimes myths perpetuate a nationalistic paradigm that hinders the national, inter-regional, local, and even European consensus. Debunking these myths became of paramount importance in order to help the Eastern European nations regain their political and social compass.

[2025] **Povești de viață din comunism. Represiune și cotidian (Life Stories from Communist Times. Repression and Daily Life**

Reference: Claudia-Florentina Dobre, ed

This volume of interviews gives voice to ordinary people who experienced communism in Romania. Bringing together 21 women and men from different generations and social backgrounds—intellectuals, workers, and peasants—it foregrounds personal memories shaped by both individual trajectories and shared historical conditions. Rather than offering a comprehensive account of Romanian communism, the book presents life stories of people living under a highly centralized, single-party regime in which repression functioned as a mode of governance. Through these remembered experiences, the volume explores how communism was lived, perceived, and subsequently narrated, shedding light on the ways political power sought not only to transform society but also to shape human subjectivity.

Publisher: Cetatea de Scaun

NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Member in Academic associations

Member of **Historians without Borders** <https://historianswithoutborders.fi/en/network>

Member of **International Federation for Public History**.

Member of **Memory Studies Association**.

Member of **World Center for Women's Studies**.

Member of **International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography**.

Member of **Rețelei pentru cercetarea istoriei femeilor și promovarea studiilor de gen în spațiul românesc**.

Member of **Society of Romanian Studies (SRS)**.

Member in the Scientific Committee of *Balkanistic Worlds*. ISSN 3033-134X (Print); ISSN 3033-1358 (Online).

Member in the Scientific Committee of *Sensus Historiae*. ISSN 2082-0860.

CREATIVE WORKS

[01/10/2011 – Current]

Director and producer of documentaries

I wrote the script, I directed and produced the documentaries: **„Povestiri din Bărăgan: Amintiri din Siberia românească”** (Bargan stories: Memories from Romanian Siberia) and **„Vocile Bărăganului: Deportarea din 1951”** (The Voices of Bărăgan: The deportation of 1951).

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yplHbhKIVwM&t=206s>

[01/06/2011 – 01/09/2011]

Scientific Counselor for the Documentary **„Fericită în tristare a lui Andras Visky (The Joyful Sadness of Andras Visky)”**

Scientific adviser for the documentary on deportation during communism in Romania. The documentary received the 2011 award of The Romanian Filmmakers Association in the TV film category.

ACADEMIC AND RE-SEARCH HONOURS

Fellowships, Grants, Invited Researcher

2021: May-August: Guest Researcher to the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, Matenadaran, Yerevan, Armenia.

2018: June-July: Guest Researcher to the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, Matenadaran, Yerevan, Armenia.

2016, September-December: Thesaurus Poloniae Fellowship, International Cultural Centre, Krakow.

2010-2013: Postdoctoral fellowship, University of Bucharest, Romania, in the framework of the strategic grant POSDRU/89/1.5/S/62259.

2012, April-September: Research Fellow, Central European University, School of Historical and Interdisciplinary Studies.

2010, February-June: Research Fellow, Institute for Studies of the Recent Past, Sofia, Bulgaria.

2009, November-2010, February: Junior Research Fellowship, University of Sofia, St. Kliment Ohridski, Centre of Excellence, “Dialogue Europe”.

2007-2008: Robert Schuman Fellowship of the European Parliament, Archive and Documentation Centre, CARDOC, Luxembourg.

2004-2007: Doctoral Fellowship awarded by Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie and Laval University.

2003-2004: MA Fellowship awarded by Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie and University of Bucharest.

2001-2002: MA Fellowship awarded by Central European University, Department of Medieval Studies.

1999, March: Research grant at Academia di Romania, Rome, Italy.

1998, June: Research grant at Istituto Romeno di Cultura e Ricerca Umanistica, Venice, Italy.

ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS

Organizing international conferences

2025: Co-organizing the Round Table, „Experiențe traumatice și atașamentul față de loc” (Traumatic Experiences and Place Attachment), in the framework of the SRS Congress,

„Voices and Silences. 50 years of the Society for Romanian Studies”, in Cluj, 29-31 May.
<https://srstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/SRS-2025-conference-program.pdf>

2022: Member of the organizing committee of the international conference, „Gender Equality, Conflict and Humanitarian Crises: Issues and Prospects for the Future”, organized by World Center for Women’s Studies and „Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History, 4-5 November.

2022: Convenor of the international conference, „Dealing with the Past in the Black Sea Region: History, Memory, and Patrimony”, organized by „Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History in partnership with Muzeul Național al Țăranului Român (MȚR), and History Faculty of Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan (29-30 June).

2021: Member of the organizing committee of the international conference, „Beyond Recognition: Autonomy, Memory, Visuality and Politics of Identity”, organized by History Faculty of Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan (14 October).

2019: Co-Convenor of Panel: “Wandering Cultures at the Turn of the 20th and 21st Centuries in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. Experience, Memory, Narration” at the [2019 IUAES Inter-Congress “World Solidarities”](#).

2018: October 11-12: Convenor of the international conference, ‘Regional, National and Local Identities in the Black Sea Region in the last 100 years’, organized by Institutul de Istorie ‘Nicolae Iorga’ and Centrul de Studii Memoriale si Identitare (CSMI), in the framework of the project, Knowledge Exchange and Academic Cultures in the Humanities. Europe and the Black Sea Region.

2018: September 13-16: Member of the organizing committee of the international and multidisciplinary conference on Travel Writing, „Borders and Crossings”, organized by Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, Croatia, Faculty of Interdisciplinary, Italian and Cultural Studies.

2015: November 12-15: Member of the organizing committee of the international workshop, «Oblivion of War. Central and Eastern Europe in XX/XXI centuries», organized par Instytut Historii, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Martin Luther Universitat Halle-Wittenberg, Centre of Ethnology and Anthropology of Contemporaneity, Polish Academy of Sciences.

2014, November 20-21: Member of the organizing committee of the international conference, “25 Years Later. History and Memory of Communism”, organized by IICCMER and Memoria Cultural Foundation in partnership with SNSPA, Bucharest, Romania.

2012, October 25-26: Member of the organizing committee of the international conference, “History of People. History for People,” organized by Adam Mickiewicz University.

2011, October 6-8: Member of the organizing committee of the international conference, “Myth Making and Myth Breaking in History and the Humanities”, organized by the University of Bucharest.

SHORT LIST OF ACADEMIC ARTICLES AND STUDIES

[10/10/2015 – Current]

Articles and Academic Studies

2026: „Hegemonic or Marginal Perspective?! The Many Shades of Nostalgia in Post-communist Romania”, în *Balkanistic Worlds*, nr. 1, 2026, pp. 40-64.

2025: Claudia-Florentina Dobre, Oana-Ramona Ilovan, „Traumatic Experiences, Place Attachment, and Resilience in the Case of Communist/Soviet Political Deportations”, în *Revista Istorică*, tom XXXVI, nr. 4-6, iulie-decembrie 2025, p. 577-596.

- 2025: Oana-Ramona Ilovan, Claudia-Florentina Dobre, Vasile Zotic, Adinel-Ciprian Dincă, "Agency through Storytelling: Place Attachment Bridging Past, Present and Future in Romanian Deportees' Memories", în *Journal of Settlements and Spatial Planning*, 1/2025, pp. 49-66.
- 2024: Oana-Ramona Ilovan, Claudia-Florentina Dobre, Vasile Zotic, Adinel-Ciprian Dincă, „Recovering Place Attachment after Deportation? The Romanian Experiences Reflected in Oral and Written Cultural Heritage”, în *Transylvanian Review*, vol. XXXIII, supliment nr. 2/2024, Place, Culture, and Legacy, p. 241-269.
- 2024: "Communism in Post-communist Romania: An Ambivalent Legacy", în *Balkanistic Forum*, vol. 2/2024, 'Ambivalent Legacies', p. 120-142.
- 2024: "'Alyosha, go home!' The Monuments of the Soviet Army in Romania and Bulgaria from the End of World War II until the Present", in *kunsttexte.de*, special issue, *War on Monuments: Documenting the Debates over Russian and Soviet Heritage in Eastern and Central Europe* (ed. Kristina Jöekalda), 1/2024: www.kunsttexte.de <https://doi.org/10.48633/ksttx.2024.1.102643>
- 2023: „Between Deprivation and Privilege: (Former) „Enemies of the People” in Communist and Postcommunist Romania”, în *Balkanistic Forum*, vol. XXXII, nr. 2, 2023, p. 32-49.
- 2022: „The Uses and Misuses of the Secret Communist Police Files: The Notorious's Securitate Archives in the Postcommunist Era”, în *Balkanistic Forum*, vol. XXXI, nr. 2, p. 44-61.
- 2021: "The Patrimonialization of the Communist Past in Romania: Laws, Memorials, and Monuments", în *Balkanistic Forum*, vol. 1, p. 179-195.
- 2020: „Deportarea între istorie și memorie”, în Liliana Corobca (ed.), *Panorama comunismului în România*, Iași, Polirom, 2020, p. 330-342.
- 2019: "30 Years after the Fall: Narratives on the Communist Past in Post-communist Romania. A Short Overview", în *Balkanistic Forum*, vol. 3, p. 204-214.
- 2018: "Die Reste der Vergangenheit – Kommunistische Denkmäler Zwischen Instrumentalisierung und Vergessen", în Michèle Mattusch (ed.), *Kulturelles Gedächtnis – Ästhetisches Erinnern in Literatur, Film und Kunst in Rumänien*, Berlin, Frank & Timme, p. 405-428.
- 2017: "Avatars of the Social Imaginary: The Myths about Romanian Communism after 1989," în Claudia-Florentina Dobre, Cristian-Emilian Ghiță, (eds.), *Quest for a Suitable Past: Myth and Memory in Central and Eastern Europe*, CEU Press, New York-Budapest, p. 101-117.
- 2016: "Pasts Into Present: Ideology, Memory, and Monuments in Communist and Post-communist Romania", în *Sensus Historiae*, 3 (24), p. 175-194.
- 2015: "Uses and Misuses of Memory: Dealing with Communist Past in Postcommunist Bulgaria and Romania", în Małgorzata Pakier, Joanna Wawrzyniak, (eds.), *European Memory: Eastern Perspectives*, Berghahn Books, series Studies in Contemporary European History, New York, Oxford, p. 299-316.