

ILEANA MARIN
**FROM COMPARATIVE LITERATURE TO IMAGE STUDIES;
FROM TEXTUAL STUDIES TO INTERDISCIPLINARITY**

ABSTRACT

This habilitation thesis *From Comparative Literature to Image Studies; from Textual Studies to Interdisciplinarity* demonstrates my skills in the coordination of research in the domain of cultural studies with a focus on the study of images and text in their relation with the rest of cultural palettes. The three major directions of my academic research and teaching are: 1. comparative literature with a specialization in the relations among the arts; 2. textual studies with emphasis on manuscripts and engravings in the 19th Century; 3. interdisciplinary studies with an emphasis on cultural aspects. My first doctoral thesis, *The Narrative of the Works of the Pre-Raphaelites: a Comparative Approach*, defended at the University of Bucharest in 2000, was published under the title *Pictura preraphaelită sub semnul narativului* (2003). In total, I have published five books, namely: *Beata Beatrix: Pre-Raphaelite Studies* (2001), *Infidelitățile mitului: repere hermeneutice* (2002), *Poezia și proza preraphaeliților* (2003) and *The Victorian Aesthetics of Erasure in Fiction and Print* (2015). The books enjoyed generous reviews from specialists.

I edited three collections of studies: *A Festschrift for Professor Dan Grigorescu at 70* (2002) in collaboration with the Institute of Theory and Literary Criticism; and “George Călinescu; *13 Approaches to the Image* (2003) in collaboration with the Center of Excellence in Image Studies; and *On Censorship Today: (New) Spaces and Ethic Ramifications* (2013). The first and the third volumes have been entered in five databases, while the second received the Prize of the National Salon of Books – Constanta, 2002. These multilingual volumes have gathered prestigious specialists from Romania and abroad.

My presence at 20 international conferences has yielded fruit in the publication of the works in conference proceedings. I moderated panels at the American Association of Comparative Literature conference (New York 2014, Seattle 2015) and at the American Society for Romanian Studies (Bucharest 2015). I am a member of the editorial board of *The International Journal of Cross-Cultural Studies and Environmental Communication*, indexed in

CEEOL, Index Copernicus, COPAC, EZB, and SCIPPIO. I have published articles in the peer-reviewed scientific journals among which the most recent are: “Dante’s *Hell* Envisioned by Gustav Doré: An Overlooked Opening to Modernity” in *The International Journal of Cross-Cultural Studies and Environmental Communication*; “Brontë’s Busy Scissors Revising *Villette*” and “Brontë’s Heron Scissors: Cancellations and Excisions in the Manuscript of *Shirley*” in *Brontë Studies*; as well as “Millais’ Illustrations, Fuel for Trollope’s Novels” in *The Journal of Pre-Raphaelite Studies*.

In recognition of my work as a specialist in interartistic studies, I was invited to participate with chapters in the three volumes dedicated to the presence of Shakespeare in Romanian culture, published at Editura Humanitas: “Illustrated Shakespeare in Nineteenth-Century Romanian Translations” in *Shakespeare in the Nineteen-Century Romania* (2006), “Shakespeare in Romanian Art of the First Half of the Twentieth Century” in *Shakespeare in Romania: 1900-1950* (2007), and “Shakespeare: An Icon of (Post)Modernity” in *Shakespeare in Romania. 1950 to the Present* (2008).

In 2003, I received a Fulbright Fellowship for the research project “Romanians on America, Americans on Romania”. I earned a series of international grants: The European Society for English Studies Fellowship for the project on British Cultural Icons, London (2005); Pre-1900 Studies from the University of Washington (2005); The University of Washington Simpson Research Center grant for the project “Rossetti’s Oversaturated Readings” (2006). The project “Dante Gabriel Rossetti’s Sonnets for Pictures: A Multimedia Edition” (2006) brought me the UW Textual Studies Program award, which I received a second time for the project “The Anthony Trollope Archive at Firestone Library, Princeton” (2009). The Chester-Fritz Fellowship was awarded to me for the project “Victorian Literary and Visual Textuality” (2009). The research for this last project which took place in London at the British Museum, Victoria & Albert Museum, British Library led to the completion of my dissertation.

Between 1991 and 2012, I held an academic position in the Department of Letters of Ovidius University, Constanta where I taught comparative literature to second and third-year students, as well as several elective courses for the BA and MA programs. The course for 2nd year yielded the book *A Hermeneutic Approach to Ancient Greek Mythology* (2002). The series of elective courses I offered reflected my interest in intra-artistic studies. I proposed courses such as: “Pre-Raphaelite Poetry and Picture”; “Image and text in European Culture in the 20th

Century”. For the Master’s in American and British Studies I offered the course “British and American Cultural Icons” as a result of my Fulbright and the grant from the European Society for the Study of English; for the Master’s in Romanian Studies I designed the course “Romanian Cultural Icons of the European Discourse”.

Since 2010 I have collaborated with the Center of Excellence in the Study of Images where I coordinate practical activities of Master’s students from the program Theory and Practice of the Image and where I also teach the course “From the Artistic Object to a Cultural Icon”.

In 2006 I began teaching courses in comparative literature at the University of Washington such as: Sophocles’ Antigone: His Text, Our Values, Controversial Victorian works, A Postmodern Perspective on Victorian Women, and Victorian Artists and Writers on Art and Writing. Since my Ph.D. defense at the University of Washington in 2012, I have collaborated with the Honors Program teaching very successful interdisciplinary courses: Artists, Citizens and Censors: the Problem of Art in Fascist and Communist Societies, Experiencing Music, From Manuscript to Kindle. My dedication to teaching has been recognized by my 2012 nomination for the Weber Outstanding Teaching Prize.

I designed and directed the Exploration Seminar in Romania: Scars on Romanian Culture: Dracula and Ceausescu in 2013. I am currently sharing the responsibility for another Exploration Seminar which will take place this fall in Romanian and Georgia: “Conflicting Currents in the Turbulent Black Sea.” Both seminars have benefitted from a partnership with the Center for Excellence in Image Studies in Bucharest.

This fall I will submit the research proposal “Closet Disciplines in Communist Romania” to Stanford Humanities Center. I also intend to publish the course on the cultural icon theories and to add a class on digital humanities and computer-assisted arts to my teaching portfolio.

My academic teaching, research, and publication indicate my commitment to the profession.