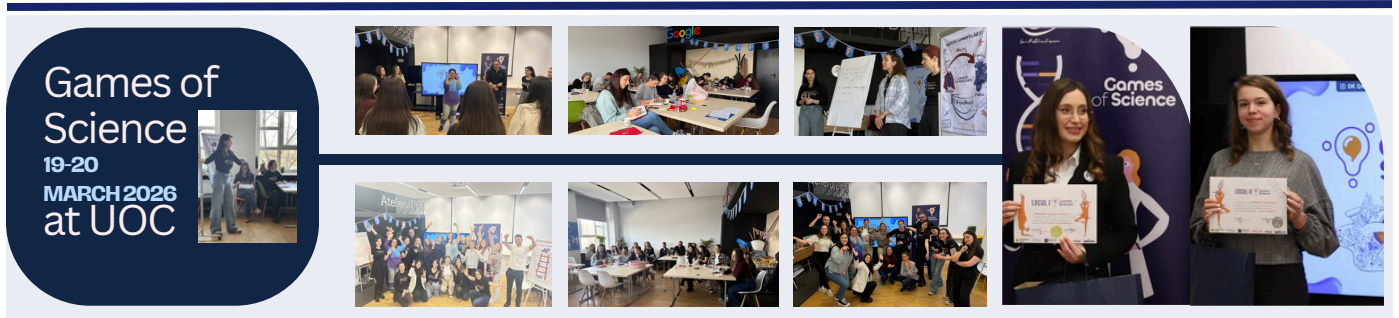


DOCTORALIA OVIDIANA

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 32 – MARCH 2026



The latest **Games of Science** edition has concluded at **Ovidius University of Constanța**! PhD candidates from various doctoral schools participated in a meaningful training experience, as part of an initiative dedicated to communicating science to the general public. Over the course of two intensive days of training and competing, the participants cultivated their presentation skills and tested their oratory and collaboration competencies in a lively setting.

The event was made possible with the support of the SciPublicForum team, led by Ada Roseti, whom we thank for their professionalism and dedication.

The jury has announced the winners of this edition:

- 1st place: **Andreea-Dalila Nedelcu**, for research on DNA quantification and genetic predisposition to sarcopenia (supervised by Prof. Mădălina Iliescu PhD);
- 2nd place: **Ștefania Schnakovszky**, for a presentation exploring the role of poetry in the collective trauma of the Holocaust (supervised by Prof. Roxana Marinescu PhD, Habil.);
- 3rd place: **Cătălin Meran**, for research on physical conditioning strategies for female gymnasts (supervised by Associate Professor Antoanela Oltean PhD).

The following special prizes were also awarded:

- Creativity Award and Peers' Choice Award: **Alina Elena Astăluș**, for her analysis of literary archetypes in video games (supervised by Prof. Roxana Marinescu PhD, Habil.);
- Contemporary Issues Award: **Gabriel-Valentin Șerban** (Politehnica București), for his research on the use of household waste in wastewater treatment (supervised by Prof. Eng. Daniela Simina Ștefan PhD);
- Passion and Engagement Award: **Maria-Daniela Gavrilă**, for her study on the evolution of sports journalism from the communist era to the present day (Master's student in Communication Sciences – Faculty of Letters, UOC).

Congratulations to all those involved – participants, volunteers, and partners – for their contribution to shaping a new generation of science communicators.

We wish the best of luck to the two PhD students who placed first and second, and who will represent our university in the national competition taking place in May, in Bucharest.

A model of academic excellence IN ENGINEERING



On the occasion of his 85th birthday, **Professor Romeo Ciortan PhD, Eng.** was celebrated at the second edition of the **Geotechnical Engineering Gala** (20 March 2026, UTCB), an event that highlights a remarkable career dedicated to research and the training of new generations of engineers.

A defining figure in Romanian geotechnical engineering and a specialist in hydrotechnical works and port structures, he enjoys both national and international recognition. A member of the Romanian Academy of Technical Sciences and Romania's representative for three decades in PIANC, he has made essential contributions to ISSMGE and IGS, as well as to the training of PhD students at *Ovidius University of Constanța*, promoting scientific rigor, critical thinking, and excellence in engineering.

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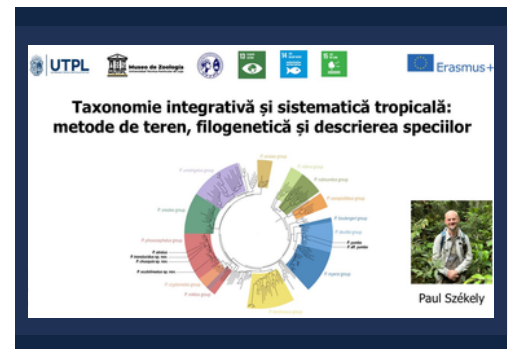


In March 2026, **ARTEMIS ambassador** PhD candidates at *Ovidius University in Constanța*, took part in an extensive training program covering communication, networking, diversity, and inclusion. The events featured presentations dedicated to the **Erasmus+** program and the **ARTEMIS** alliance, with a particular focus on the academic mobility opportunities available to members.

These activities fostered inter-university collaboration and reinforced the vision of a shared European campus, while also providing students with valuable information and the opportunity to engage directly during the question-and-answer session.

As part of an Erasmus+ KA171 mobility, **Paul Szekely**, Profesor at *Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (Ecuador)* and associate researcher at *Centrul de Cercetare al Departamentului de Științele Naturii, FSNSA, UOC*, delivered a presentation on March 24, 2026, at *Ovidius University in Constanța*, entitled *Taxonomie și sistematică tropicală: metode de teren, filogenetică și descrierea speciilor*.

PhD students from the **Doctoral School of Applied Sciences**, field **Biology**, had the opportunity to engage actively with the visiting specialist, discussing field methods for exploring species diversity and the integration of phylogenetics into modern research – a valuable learning experience and scientific best practices exchange.



CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION



On 24 March 2026, PhD candidate **Sercan Önder**, from the **Doctoral School of History** at *Ovidius University in Constanța*, under the supervision of Prof. Ovidiu Cristea PhD, participated in the international conference *Diplomacy, Intelligence, and Influence in Balkans and Beyond, 17th–19th Centuries*, organized by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia.



On this occasion, he held the presentation entitled *Bulgarian Question at the Congress of Berlin 1878*, engaging in an international academic discussion on history and diplomatic relations in the Balkan region.

Nicoleta Însurățelu, PhD candidate at the **Doctoral School of History**, participated on 30 March 2026 in the *Annual Session of the Commission for the History of Towns in Romania – the 23rd Edition, Patrimoniul urban din România. Cercetare, protecție și reabilitare* (2nd part, Sibiu, online), with the presentation *Dinamica zonei costiere – problema prăbușirii malului în Constanța veche*.

Iulia Tudorache-Arfire, PhD candidate at the **Doctoral School of Philology**, participated on 12 March 2026 in the national workshop dedicated to Women's History Month, entitled *Lipstick, Ink and Revolution. Women Writing, Framing and Reclaiming the World*, organized by the English Department at the Faculty of Letters, *Dunărea de Jos University in Galați*, where she presented her paper *Speaking the Unspoken: Voice, Silence and Narrative Power in Octavia Butler's 'Kindred' and Margaret Atwood's 'The Handmaid's Tale'*.



PhD candidate **Dana Constantinică (Lupu)**, at the **Doctoral School of Philology**, together with her supervisor, Professor Emerita **Laura-Mihaela Mureșan PhD**, participated during 20–21 March 2026 in the international conference entitled *Bridging Worlds: Digital Competence and Language Education for Sustainable Tourism*, organized by **QUEST**, Romania, online/hybrid form, in Cluj-Napoca.

The presentation entitled *New Avenues in Digital Communication Training for Scientists. The 'DILAN' Project* foregrounded the results of the **DILAN** European Project along with a few innovative perspectives on digital training for researchers.



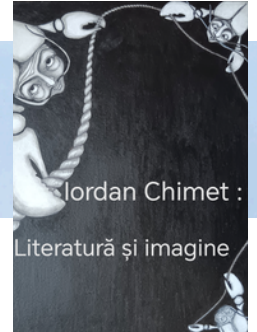
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Doctoral Students' Voices

FIELD
PHILOLOGYFIELD
PHILOLOGY

Digital storytelling and the reframing of literary archetypes in video games

drd. Alina Elena Astăluș

under the supervision of Professor Roxana Elisabeta Marinescu PhD, Habil.

My research aims to show how classical literature finds new forms of expression in the interactive medium of video games. These function as genuine contemporary narratives, where text gives way to imagery, choice, and interaction.

Indeed, the fundamental archetypes of human culture, such as the hero or the mentor (Jung, 1969), transcend their literary origins and resurface in the digital space, where they are reinterpreted through game mechanics, visual design, and open-ended exploration. Rather than following a linear narrative, digital storytelling creates a framework in which the player becomes an active participant, shaping meaning through personal choices and gameplay strategies. This is compellingly illustrated in *The Witcher* series, in which the hero archetype undergoes a profound reframing through the figure of Geralt of Rivia. The static hero of Andrzej Sapkowski is transformed, within the game world, into an interactive hero, whose identity is no longer solely determined by text, but by the player's decisions.

Through this research, I aim to develop a solid theoretical framework for analyzing interactive narratives in video games, highlighting the role of *player-story* interaction in the reframing of literary archetypes within the digital medium.

Jordan Chimet: Word and Image

drd. Teodora Șoș

under the supervision of Professor Angelo Mitchievici PhD, Habil.

The work of Jordan Chimet establishes a compelling dialogue between literature and image, giving rise to an escapist literary vision within the hostile climate of the communist regime. His literary and visual contributions place Chimet at the forefront of the anti-totalitarian intellectual elite, through the creation of a fantastical world offering cathartic escape, a body of work that has significantly enriched visual literature both locally and internationally.

There are several reasons for my choice to study the work of Chimet in this interdisciplinary research. First and foremost, the legacy left by Chimet warrants scholarly attention due to the hybrid nature of his work: from fantastic literature and film criticism to his exceptional contribution as an anthologist. Furthermore, through this research I aim to revisit a rich and historically significant period in Romanian book art, to which Jordan Chimet made a considerable contribution.

One of the main directions of this research is, therefore, that of the book-object. Chimet created sumptuous fusions with his own artistic destiny, as exemplified by *Lamento pentru peștișorul Baltazar* (1968), *Închide ochii și vei vedea Orașul* (1970), or *Cele douăsprezece luni ale visului. Antologia inocenței* (1972) - his most emblematic book-object.

PUBLICATIONS OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS



We note the recent publication of the article *Diagnostic sensitivity: Surgical biopsy versus minimally invasive techniques in bronchopulmonary cancer*, authored by Denisa-Gabriela Ion-Andrei, Elena Mocanu, Sergiu Chirilă, Cătălina Muntean, Liliana Seicaru, Elena Dantes.

The article, published in *Revista Española de Patología*, Volume 59, Issue 2 (2026), highlights the importance of diagnostic methods in bronchopulmonary cancer, comparing surgical biopsy with minimally invasive techniques. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.patol.2026.100860>



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THESIS DEFENSES:



PhD Candidate **Strugaru Alina**

Field of research: **Philology**

Thesis title: *Lexical Means of Stance in English and German Academic Writing: Corpus-Based Analysis of Academic Essays by Multilingual Students in a Romanian University Environment*

Supervisor: Prof. Laura-Mihaela Mureșan PhD Habil.

Date of defense: 4 March 2026

PhD Candidate **Burlacu Ionuț**

Field of research: **Medicine**

Thesis title: *Abordări multidimensionale în caracterizarea carcinoamelor renale prin integrarea analizelor de tip omic*

Supervisor: Prof. Mariana Așchie PhD

Date of defense: 6 March 2026

PhD Candidate **Coțofan Tatiana**

Field of research: **Philology**

Thesis title: *Female Body and Power in Feminist Dystopian Novels*

Supervisor: Prof. Emerita Adina Ciugureanu

Date of defense: 6 March 2026

PhD Candidate **Dimofte Răzvan**

Field of research: **Civil Engineering and Building Services**

Thesis title: *Contribuții privind tehnici și metode de consolidare a construcțiilor monument istoric*

Supervisor: Prof. Ana Maria Grămescu PhD, Eng.

Date of defense: 6 March 2026

PhD Candidate **Ionescu Alexandru Cristian**

Field of research: **Civil Engineering and Building Services**

Thesis title: *Modelarea prin metode avansate de calcul a interacțiunii construcțiilor de acostare cu prismul descărcător în funcție de soluția constructivă adoptată*

Supervisor: Prof. Romeo Ciortan PhD, Eng.

Date of defense: 6 March 2026

PhD Candidate **Iordache Mădălina**

Field of research: **Civil Engineering and Building Services**

Thesis title: *Contribuții privind creșterea siguranței structurale a clădirilor multietajate*

Supervisor: Prof. Ana Maria Grămescu PhD, Eng.

Date of defense: 6 March 2026

PhD Candidate **Maiorean (now Dinu) Alexandra**

Field of research: **Medicine**

Thesis title: *Relevanța factorilor clinico-morfologici și a imunotestării complementare pentru biomarkerii P53 și RBI în diferențierea diagnostică a neoplasmelor neuroendocrine de grad înalt gastrointestinale*

Supervisor: Prof. Mariana Așchie PhD

Date of defense: 6 March 2026

PhD Candidate **Petrică Laura-Andra**

Field of research: **Medicine**

Thesis title: *Entități clinic morfologice și biomoleculare ale carcinomului cervical*

Supervisor: Prof. Mariana Așchie PhD

Date of defense: 13 March 2026

PhD Candidate **Stoica Andreea-Georgiana**

Field of research: **Medicine**

Thesis title: *Limfomul limfocitic cu celulă B - corelații clinico-biologice, imunohistochimice și bio-moleculare*

Supervisor: Prof. Mariana Așchie PhD

Date of defense: 13 March 2026

PhD Candidate **Costea (now Badea) Iulia Andreea**

Field of research: **Medicine**

Thesis title: *Anemia în patologia cardiovasculară : particularități transfuzionale, genetice și asocierea cu boli cronice sistemice*

Supervisor: Prof. Irinel Raluca Parepa PhD

Date of defense: 16 March 2026

PhD Candidate **Moiseanu (now Radu) Luminița**

Field of research: **Philology**

Thesis title: *Fantasticul eliadesc*

Supervisor: Prof. Marina Cap-Bun PhD

Date of defense: 27 March 2026

HABILITATIONS:

Habilitation in the research field of **Medicine**

Associate Prof. **Monica Daniela Doșa PhD**

Thesis title: *Trace Elements and Biomarkers of Oxidative Stress and Apoptosis in Metabolic, Neurological, and Oncological Diseases: From Pathophysiology to Nutraceuticals and Natural Drugs*

Date of defense: 24 February 2026