

CURRICULUM VITAE

Alexandra Ghiț

PhD, Central European University

Personal Information

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Current Position

2023 (July) - Research Affiliate, ZARAH: Women's labour activism in Eastern Europe and transnationally, from the age of empires to the late 20th century. Central European University, Vienna, Austria

Previous Position

2020-2023 Postdoctoral Fellow, ZARAH: Women's labour activism in Eastern Europe and transnationally, from the age of empires to the late 20th century. (ERC Advanced Grant; project start date 1 February 2020; Project director: Susan C. Zimmermann)

Project title: Women Against Paternalism and Exploitation: Gendered Work and Entangled Organizing in the Tobacco Industry, in "Greater Romania", 1890s to 1980s.

2019 Global Teaching Fellow, Asian University for Women, Chittagong, Bangladesh (August-December)

Education

2020 PhD in Comparative Gender Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
Thesis title: Loving Designs: Gendered Welfare Provision, Activism and Expertise in Interwar Bucharest.
Supervisor: Susan C. Zimmermann

2011 Master of Arts, Matilda Erasmus M.A. in Gender and Women's History, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, and University of Nottingham, United Kingdom
Thesis title: Mobilizing Gender for Modernity: The Work of One Transylvanian Chapter of the Union of Anti-Fascist Women and the Democratic Union of Women in Romania Between 1945 and 1953.

2009 Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, School of Political, Administrative and Communication Studies, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Languages

Romanian native
English fluent
French advanced
German advanced
Hungarian beginner

Research Experience

- 2016-2018 Researcher, "Women and Trade Unions in Europe, 19th to 21st century"
- Bibliographic and archival research on historiography of women and trade unionism in Romania for preliminary Project Questionnaire
- Participation and presentation at "Women and the Workplace: Activism and Politics in Central, East Central, and South Eastern Europe, and internationally, 1860s to 1990s" Workshop and Meeting, Oberstaad, Germany, 8-15 September 2017
- 2015-2017 Sub-Editor, Habsburg Empire cluster, "Women and Social Movements in Modern Empires" digital database, Alexander Street-ProQuest
<https://search.alexanderstreet.com/wasg>
- Identified, digitized and wrote detailed introductions for 50 archival and published sources on Romanian women's political organizing in Transylvania (circa 1860 to 1933)
- Contributed to the historiographical essay introducing the Habsburg Empire cluster of documents: Bader-Zaar, Birgitta, Susan Zimmermann, Michaela Königshofer, Alexandra Ghit, Jitka Gelnarová, and Ágoston Berecz, Women and Social Movements in the Habsburg Empire (Alexandria, VA: Alexander Street, 2018)
- 2012 Research Assistant, Prof. Susan Zimmermann, Pasts Inc.
(April-May)
- Participation and presentation at "Twenty Years of Change: Post-Communist Historiography in/on Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe" Workshop / Conference, Paper given: "Troubled waters. Potentials and realities, paradigms and trends in women's and gender history"(together with Susan Zimmermann)

Institutional Responsibilities and Professional Service

- 2020-present ZARAH Lead responsibility: ZARAH DB Database (admin and public interface development coordination; technical documentation; team tutoring and support; team/IT developer interfacing; database entry management)
<https://public.zarahdb.eu/>
- "For Researchers" essay - <https://public.zarahdb.eu/for-researchers>
- 2018 Member, Organizing Committee for the "Looking Forward through the Past" Conference of the Society of Romanian Studies, Bucharest, Romania, 26-30 June 2018

2016-2018 Graduate Student Representative, Executive Board, Society for Romanian Studies (elected position)

Peer review for Nationalities Papers, Historical Materialism, History of Communism in Europe

Scholarships, Fellowships, Awards

2022 Fellowship, Imre Kertész Kolleg, Jena, Germany (January-June; on leave from ZARAH)

2019 Global Teaching Fellowship, Asian University for Women, Chittagong, Bangladesh (August-December)

2016 Short-term Research Grant, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

2016 Conference Travel Grant, Association of Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS)

2015 Travel Grant to attend Duke Feminist Theory Workshop, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA

2014 Research Grant for Doctoral Candidates and Young Academics and Scientists, University of Leipzig, Germany, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)

2012 Grant for Participation in the New School of Social Research Transnational Summer School Wroclaw, Poland, East West Women's Network

2011 Study Grant at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, Erasmus

2010 Academic Pro-Rector's Excellence Award, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

2007 Undergraduate Exchange Program Fellowship at Duke University, Durham, NC, USA, Open Society Institute

Other Academic Achievements

2023 Workshop presentation "Reconstruction: Communist Women, Housing and Domesticity in Postwar Romania. Providing and prescribing the domestic space in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans", Centre D'études Turques, Ottomanes, Balkaniques Et Centrasiatiques (CETOBAC), Paris, France, 4-5 July

2023 Invited lecture "Women's Labor Activism and Gendered Tobacco Work in Rural Southern Romania, 1930s to 1950s", Rural History Forum No. 86, Institut für Geschichte des ländlichen Raumes. St. Pölten, Austria, 14 June

2023 Paper "'From an Organizational Point of View, We Must Learn Everything': International Cooperation and Women's Trade Union Education in Early 1990s Romania", European Social Science History Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden, 12 April

- 2023 Paper "Paternalism și protest într-o industrie de stat: Munca și activismul femeilor în industria tutunului în Transilvania 1880-1940 [Paternalism and protest in a state industry: Women's work and activism in the tobacco industry in Transylvania 1889-1940]", Transformări Capitaliste în România: Dezvoltare Inegală și Decalaje Sociale Conference, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 25 March (remote participation)
- 2022 Paper "Overlaying Histories of Women's Labour Activism: Women's Organizing in the Bucharest Belvedere Tobacco Factory (1906 – 1955)", Third ZARAH International Workshop, Vienna, Austria, 10-12 October
- 2022 (with Görkem Akgoz) Paper "Peripheral to Industrial Work? Gendered Bodies and Sexualities in Post-1945 Labour's Discourses, Turkey and Romania Compared", 23rd International Congress of Historical Sciences, Poznań, Poland, 24 August
- 2022 Paper "Welfare Work Without Welfare: Rural Servant Women and Women Welfare Activists in Great Depression Bucharest", colloquium of the Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena, Germany 16 May
- 2022 Lecture "Romanian-speaking Middle-Class Women, Nationalism and Empire in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Transylvania", Ratiu Forum on the Teaching of History Webinar, 29 January (remote participation)
- 2021 Paper "Gendered Work and Women's Labour Activism in the Cluj Tobacco Manufactory in Transnational Perspective (1890s to 1930s)", Second ZARAH International Workshop, Vienna, Austria, 11-13 October
- 2020 Paper "Not So Humble: Women's Work and Labour Activism Around Tobacco Growing in Interwar Romania", First ZARAH International Workshop, Vienna, Austria, 14-17 October
- 2018 Paper "The Work of Crisis: Women's and Children's Work and Impact on Labour and Social Policy Regimes in Interwar Romania", Society for Romanian Studies Conference, Bucharest, Romania 27 June
- 2017 Presentation at "Women and the Work-place: Activism and Politics in Central, East Central, and Southeastern Europe, and internationally, 1860s to 1990s" Workshop and Meeting, Oberstaad, Germany, 8-15 September
- 2016 Paper "'Years of struggle': A Reading of Romanian State Socialist Historiography on Women and Gender as Gendered 'New Labor History'", European Social Science History Conference, Valencia, Spain, 1 April
- 2015 Paper "Tangling Themes: Gender, Social Policy and the 'Interwar Conjuncture' in the (Semi-) Periphery", International Summer School "Repositioning in a Globalizing World", Graduate School Global and Area Studies, University of Leipzig, Germany, 8-11 June
- 2014 Paper "(Re)Constructing Work: Popular Discourses on Gender and Labour in Post- War Romania (1945-1953)", Workshop "The Value of Women's Work: Between the Subjective and the Economic", European

- University Institute, Florence, Italy, 24 October
- 2013 Paper "The Public Now Understands (...) by Grace of New Conceptions of Good Deeds': Citizenship and the Education of Compassion in 1920s Romania", Nordwel and REASSESS International Summer School "State, Society and Citizen: Cross-disciplinary Perspectives on Welfare State Development", Reykjavik, Iceland, 17 August
- 2011 (with Susan Zimmermann) Presentation "Troubled Waters. Institutionalization, Paradigms, and Trends in Women's and Gender History", Conference "20 Years of Change: Post-Communist Historiography in/on Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, 1989-2009", Budapest, Hungary, 16 September

Publications

Monographs

Under contract *Welfare Work Without Welfare: Women and Austerity in Interwar Bucharest* (De Gruyter, "Work in Global and Historical Perspective" series)

Co-edited Special Issues

2023 (co-edited with Veronika Helfert, Ivelina Masheva, Zhanna Popova, Jelena Tešija, Eszter Varsa, and Susan Zimmermann) *Women's Labour Activism in Central and Eastern Europe and Internationally in the Twentieth Century*, *Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe* 31 (2023) 2.

Articles and book chapters

- Under review "State Labor Control and Women's Resistance in Austro-Hungarian Transylvania Tobacco Manufacturing, 1890s-1918", in *Rethinking Tobacco History, 1780-1960*, ed. Alexander van Wickeren, Jean Stubbs, and William Clarence Smith.
- Under review "Serving Fewer by Design: Romania's Austerity Welfare Politics during the Great Depression", in *The Liminality of Failing Democracy: East Central Europe during the Interwar Slump*, ed. Klaus Richter, Anca Mindru, and Jasmin Nithammer.
- Under review "Biography and Context - Ecaterina Arbore: The Working Woman in the Struggle Towards Emancipation", in *Texts and Contexts from the History of Feminism and Women's Rights. East Central Europe, Second Half of the Twentieth Century*, ed. Zsófia Lóránd et al. Budapest, Hungary: Central European University Press.
- Forthcoming "The Longer Life of (Lack of) Skill: Gendered Work and Women's Labor Activism in a Romanian Tobacco Manufactory, 1920s to 1960s." *International Labor and Working-Class History*.

- 2023 (with Veronika Helfert, Ivelina Masheva, Zhanna Popova, Jelena Tešija, Eszter Varsa, and Susan Zimmermann) "Women and the Gendered Politics of Work in Central and Eastern Europe, and Internationally, in the Twentieth Century: Activism, Governance, and Scale." *Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe* 31 (2023) 2.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/25739638.2023.2227512>
- 2023 "The Treacherous Trade Unionist: Paraschiva B. Ion and Labour activism in the Romanian Tobacco Sector, 1920s to 1940s." *Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe* 31 (2023) 2.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/25739638.2023.2227514>
- 2018 "Professionals' and Amateurs' Pasts: A Decolonizing Reading of Post-War Romanian Histories of Gendered Interwar Activism." *European Review of History. Revue Européenne d'histoire* 25, no. 1 (2018): 21–44.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13507486.2017.1376619>.
- 2017 "'Emoții mecanice': Familia femeii muncitoare din urbanul românesc în anchetele sociale și sanitare interbelice (1924-1939) ['Mechanical emotions': The Urban working woman's family in interwar social and sanitary inquiries (1924-1939)]", in: *Familia în România - O Incursiune diacronică pluridisciplinară*, ed. Anca Dohotariu, 121–60. Bucharest, Romania: Editura Universității București.
- 2016 "Partisan Potential: Researching Communist Women's Organizations in Eastern Europe." *Aspasia: The International Yearbook of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern European Women's and Gender History* 10: 160–7.
<https://www.berghahnjournals.com/view/journals/aspasia/10/1/asp10010.xml>
- Book reviews
- 2021 Book Review: Kristen Ghodsee, *Second World, Second Sex: Socialist Women's Activism and Global Solidarity during the Cold War* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2018). *International Review of Social History* 66, no. 2 (2021): 304–08.
- 2020 Book Review: Chiara Bonfiglioli, *Women and Industry in the Balkans: The Rise and Fall of the Yugoslav Textile Sector* (IB Tauris, 2020). *Aspasia: The International Yearbook of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern European Women's and Gender History* 14, no. 1 (2020): 162–65.
<https://doi.org/10.3167/asp.2020.140113>
- 2016 Book Review: Luciana Jinga, *Gen și reprezentare în România comunistă, 1944–1989* [Gender and representation in communist Romania, 1944–1989] (Polirom, 2015). *Aspasia: The International Yearbook of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern European Women's and Gender History* 10 (April 2016): 195–197.

Community Service

- 2016 European Voluntary Service, Musée de la Batellerie de l'Ouest, Redon, France
- 2018-2021 Editor, LeftEast (online publication) – lefteast.org