UNIVERSITATEA BABEŞ-BOLYAI
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TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA

EUTOPIA European University

Facultatea de Studii Europene

Str. Emmanuel de Martonne nr. 1, 400090 Cluj-Napoca
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The Student Conference on International Relations and Area Studies

Second Edition

30 October 2026

Faculty of European Studies, 1 Emmanuel de Martonne St., room R. Schuman

Welcome Addresses Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/4214494897?pwd=bTg3eEkxU3lKNitxNHlYa0liaVdVUT09 Room: Robert Schuman	
9.30-9.40	**Prof. Adrian Corpădean** Dean - Faculty of European Studies (BBU) **Prof. Laura Herța** Vice-Dean for Research - Faculty of European Studies (BBU)
Keynote speech Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/4214494897?pwd=bTg3eEkxU3lKNitxNHlYa0liaVdVUT09 Room: Robert Schuman	
9.40-10.10	**Assoc. prof. Anna Skolimowska** Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland *Is Europe Ready for a New Security Order? Lessons from the War in Ukraine*

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Panel 1A: ***Ph. D Students***
Moderator: **Prof. Adrian Corpădean,**
Babeş-Bolyai University

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10.10-10.25	**Naseembanu Kroegel**	National Academy of Science and Engineering, Germany/ Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iaşi, Romania	*From Scientific Advice and the Reform of EU GMO Governance: New Genomic Techniques, Regulatory Outcomes and Democratic Legitimacy*
10.25-10.40	**Chelsea Yu HAN**	City St George's, University of London, UK	*Smart Power under Securitization Pressure: Explaining the Agenda Shift of Harvard's Fairbank Center in Sino-US Bilateral Crisis, 2010–2025*
10.40-10.55	**Ilinca Haiura**	Faculty of European Studies, BBU, Romania	*Healing a Nation: Peacebuilding and Identity (Re)construction in Rwanda*
10.55-11.10	**Adina-Ioana Hoza**	Faculty of European Studies, BBU, Romania	*Governance in the Age of AI: Trends, Trajectories, and Emerging Risks*
Discussions			
11.20-11.35	**Coffee break**		

Panel 1 B: ***Ph. D Students***
Moderator: **Prof. Laura Herţa**,
Babeş-Bolyai University

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11.35-11.50	**Victor Plămădeală**	Faculty of European Studies, BBU, Romania	*The Evolving Nature of American Backchannel Diplomacy: Cold War v. Contemporary Dynamics*
11.50-12.05	**Gabriel Danci**	Faculty of History and Philosophy, Doctoral School "History, Civilization, Culture" BBU, Romania	*From Strategic Depth to Strategic Friction: The Geopolitics of the Afghanistan–Pakistan Frontier, 2021–2026*
12.05-12.20	**Ion Josan**	Faculty of History and Philosophy, Doctoral School "History, Civilization, Culture" BBU, Romania	*Containing Islam in Kazakhstan: Securitization, State Control, and Religious Legitimacy*
12.20-12.35	**Magda Odobescu**	Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences, BBU, Romania	*Misinformation, Social Media, and Public Relations in Ethnic and Religious Conflicts*
12.35-12.50	**Nona Chiriac**	Faculty of European Studies, BBU, Romania	*Soft Power and Digital Engagement: Comparing the Cultural Diplomacy of India and South Korea in Romania*
		Discussions	
13.00-13.15		**Coffee break**	

Panel 2 A: ***MA Students***
Moderator: **Assist. Prof. Monica Meruţiu,**
Babeş-Bolyai University

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13.15-13.30	**Thea-Larissa Barbaroşie**	Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium	*A Comparative Analysis of Transnistria and Northern Cyprus in the Context of EU Accession*
13.30-13.45	**Sarolt Gergely**	Faculty of European Studies, BBU, Romania	*The New Space Race: A Comparative Analysis of American and Chinese Astropolitical Expansion*
13.45-14.00	**David-Gabriel Iancu**	National School of Political and Administrative Studies SNSPA, Bucharest, Romania	*From Engagement to Strategic Rivalry: U.S. Policy Toward China Under the Trump and Biden Administration*
14.00-14.15	**Luan Haohui**	Graduate School of China People's Police University, China	*China's Position on UN Police in the Review of UN Peace Operations: Alignment and Contestation*
14.15-14.30	**Ana-Maria Gruiţoiu**	Université de Lorraine, France	*The Soft Power of Academic Exchange: Informal Cultural Ambassadorship among Erasmus+ Students in Cluj-Napoca*
Discussions			

Panel 2 B: ***MA Students***
Moderator: **Assoc. Prof. Delia Pop-Flanja,**
Babeş-Bolyai University

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14.40-14.55	**Ion-Radu Preda**	Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland	*Between Brussels and Moscow: Serbia's Strategic Ambiguity as a Foreign Policy Doctrine*
14.55-15.10	**Valentina Naumescu**	Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, UBB, Romania	*The Influence of Geopolitics on a Country's National Economy*
15.10-15.25	**Sara-Daria-Ioana Aniţaş**	Faculty of European Studies, BBU, Romania	*The Citizen's Right to Information in the Digital Age: Regulatory Challenges within the European Union*
15.25-15.40	**Maria Alexandra Traşcu**	Central European University, Austria	*Performing an Identity That Rejects You: The "Good Migrant" and the Paradox of Migrant Belonging among Romanian Candidates in Reform UK*
		Discussions	
15.50-16.00		**Coffee break**	
Panel 2 C: ***MA Students*** Moderator: **Assoc. Prof. Elena Grad-Rusu,** *Babeş-Bolyai University* Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/4214494897?pwd=bTg3eEkxU3lKNitxNHlYa0liaVdVUT09 Room: Robert Schuman			
16.00-16.15	**Elena-Alexandra Ochescu**	Faculty of European Studies, BBU, Romania	*Is Moses Still Alive? The Use of the Myth of Exodus in Political Discourse during the Second Term of Donald J. Trump*
16.15-16.30	**Emanuela Maria Grigorescu**	Faculty of European Studies, BBU, Romania	*United in Diversity or Constitutionally Divided? A Critical Discourse Analysis of Minority Education Laws in France and Romania*

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16.30-16.45	**Andreea-Almida Berecz**	Faculty of European Studies, BBU, Romania	*The Hungarian Minority in Romania and Viktor Orbán's Political Influence: 2023–2025*
16.45-17.00	**Sandor Mihaly**	*European Solidarity Corps*, Tours, France	*Armenian political strategy regarding territorial integrity and the role of the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Armenian Parliament in shaping future political discourse*
17.00-17.15	**Ana-Ştefana Covaciu**	Faculty of European Studies, BBU, Romania	*Voices of Resistance: Music in Contemporary Activism*
Discussions			
Panel 3: ***BA Students*** Moderator: **Horaţiu Bontea, Ph.D Candidate** *Babeş-Bolyai University* Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/4214494897?pwd=bTg3eEkxU3lKNitxNHlYa0liaVdVUT09 Room: Robert Schuman			
17.25-17.40	**Liu Pengze**	Dalian University of Foreign Languages, China	*From Crisis to Institutional Uncertainty: Healthcare Reform and European Governance in Post-Pandemic Ireland*
17.40-17.55	**Rayhana Lemnaouer**	Université Lyon 2, France	*Youth Political Polarization in the Digital Age: Gen Z Activism and the Rise of the Manosphere*
17.55-18.10	**Hugo Lemercier**	University of Haute Alsace (UHA), France	*AI Alignment is a Constitution: Who Defines the Machine's Good?*
18.10-18.25	**Bianca-Maria Morariu**	Faculty of European Studies, BBU, Romania	*The UN in Eastern DRC: a playground for multiple actors but not for peace and security during the Great African War*
18.25-18.40	**Anca Voinescu**	Faculty of History, University of Bucharest, Romania	*The Black Sea and European Security: Geopolitical Transformations after 2022*

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18.40-18.55	**Filip Pitic**	West University of Timişoara, Romania	*Pragmatism or Principles? ASEAN in the US–China Rivalry*
18.55-19.10	**Patrick Spitzer**	West University of Timişoara, Romania	*The Russo-Ukrainian War from the Perspective of Mackinder's Heartland Theory*
Discussions and Final Remarks			

Awarding of Participation Diplomas