

History of the Department

The Department of Slavic Philology (today the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures) has a long tradition within the Faculty of Letters. Founded in 1919 along with the Romanian University of Cluj, the Department has been led by renowned teachers like Iosif Popovici (1919-1928), Theodor Capidan (1928-1931), and academician Emil Petrovici (1931-1968), who have granted the department its unique character through their hard work.

After the Second World War the number of its members grew considerably and reorganization was required. Thus, the three branches were created: the Department of Russian Language (led by Associate Professor N. Kuznetsova and then by Assistant Professors L. Lukács and K. Pasternak), the Department of Russian Literature (led by Assistant Professor A. Levițki and Associate Professor M. Croitoru) and the Department of Slavic Languages (led by academician E. Petrovici and Associate Professor I. Pătruț). In 1963 changes occurred at organizational level. At first, the Department of Russian Language and that of Slavic Languages were merged, joined by the Department of Russian Literature in 1968. With this new structure, the Department of Slavic Philology operated under the supervision of academician E. Petrovici (until 1968), Professor I. Pătruț (1968-1981), Associate Professor A. Bán (1981-1990), Professor Marius I. Oros (1990-2005), Assistant Professor Sanda Misirianțu (2005-2008). Since May 2008 the Head of the Department has been Assistant Professor Katalin Balázs.

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures currently includes two branches: Russian Language and Literature and Ukrainian Language and Literature (the latter was founded in 1999).

We shall mention the fact that, since the beginning of the 90s, within the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures has been functioning a Polish lectureship. The practical course and the Polish Culture and Civilization course, both optional, are taught by a Polish lecturer by virtue of the existing convention between Romania and Poland.

Throughout its history, the Department focused on two components: the first one is the academic component, the permanent concern of the teaching staff to ensure that students benefit from solid professional education. The second one is the scientific component, focused on the publication of articles and studies covering wide research areas, as well as scientific event organization and participation, both in the country and abroad. Thus, it is worth mentioning the following series of volumes: *Studies of Language, Literature and Methodology* (volumes I-XIV, 1977-2017) and *The Slavists' Dialogue at the Turn of the 21st Century* (2011-2017 – 6 volumes).

In June 2006, the Department organized the first edition of the scientific and cultural event known as the Slavic Culture Days, which included the international symposium *Directions and Perspectives of Slavic Studies in Romania*. The papers presented at this symposium were published in the volume *Actele simpozionului. Direcții și perspective ale slavisticii în România*, in 2006. In December 2006, the department hosted the international symposium *Slavic Studies Today* and the papers presented by the participants were published in 2007, in the volume *Европейская славистика сегодня*. Within the following period, the organization of the scientific and cultural event *Slavic Culture Days* became a tradition of our department, such events having taken place in 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Starting with the 2011 edition, the papers presented at this event have been published in the series of volumes entitled *The Slavists' Dialogue at the Turn of the 21st Century*. The department brings its contribution to the promotion of Russian, Ukrainian and Polish language, literature, culture and civilization. It collaborates efficiently with the Russian Cultural Centre and with the Polish Language and Culture Centre, by organizing periodically interesting activities, where students and teachers of the department participate.

At the same time, the students from the Ukrainian Language and Literature field of study organize and take part in many cultural and artistic events, together with the Cluj-Napoca subsidiary of the Union of Ukrainians in Romania.