FACULTATEA de PSIHOLOGIE și ȘTIINȚE ale EDUCAȚIEI

UNIVERSITATEA „ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA" din IAȘI

The Institute of Narrative Therapy

psiterra

NTCW 7th Edition

2014*2016*2018*2020*2022*2024*2026

NARRATIVE THERAPY AND COMMUNITY WORK CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Str. Toma Cozma nr. 3,
UAIC D Building,
Conference Room S8
& ONLINE

TN+ANCO 7

CONFERINȚA NAȚIONALĂ DE TERAPIE NARATIVĂ ȘI APLICAȚII NARATIVE ÎN COMUNITĂȚI ȘI ORGANIZAȚII

Partners:

Psiterra Association; Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, Romania; Institute of Narrative Therapy UK.

SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Hugh Fox
Cornelia Măirean
Adina Karner-Huțuleac
Marcel Nedelcu

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Magda Samoila
Radu Robota
Aliona Dronic
Ana Feyen,
Ana Maria Waskiewicz,
Manuela Buznosu,
Sabina Brandiu





TN+ANCO 2026 (ediția a 7-a) - Conferința Națională de Terapie Narativă și Aplicații Narative în Comunități și Organizații
7th Romanian NTCW - Narrative Therapy and Community Work Conference,

October 24, 2026
UAIC corp D sala S8 bibliotecă, parter, *& hybrid, on Teams*

PROGRAM

10:00-10:15 **Conference opening / Deschidere festivă** (15')
10:15-10:35 Narrative therapy stories (I) – Ioana-Alexandra Fuior ***The Story of "Unghii roz"/„Pink nails": Applying the Narrative Approach in School Counselling*** (25')
10:35-11:00 Alternative ways to grow stories (I) - Jon Dronik ***Reimagining Story Creation through Learning Theory and AI*** (25')
11:00-11:25 Narrative therapy stories (II) - Camelia Nițulescu ***Storytelling and narrative therapy in building a teenage girl's favorite identity*** (25')
11:25-11:45 Alternative ways to grow stories (II) – Alina-Mery Hurubean ***(Auto)ethnographies of women's transitions. A Theoretical and Methodological Framework*** (20')

11.45-12.00 *Tea & Coffee/ moving* break

12:00-12:20 Narrative therapy stories (III) – Aliona Dronic ***Gender prejudice in therapy*** (20')
12:20-13:00 Alternative ways to grow stories (III) - Sabine Vermeire ***Narrato*** (40')
13:00-13:45 Alternative ways to grow stories (IV) - Mariana Casale '***Narrative Bibliotherapy: A Literary Journey to Hope***' (45')

13.45-14.00 *Tea & Coffee/ moving* break

14:00 – 16:00 **Interdisciplinary roundtable: *„Narrative therapy and arts - the arts through the narrative lens*"** (120')
- Prof. univ. dr. Ioana Petcu, conf. univ. dr. Dorina Comănescu, drd. Cezara Fantu, drd. Carmen Târnoveanu (UNAGE Iași)
- Prof. univ. dr. Dana Janeta Bădulescu (F. Litere), Prof. univ. dr. Ovidiu Gavrilovici (F. Psihologie și Șt. Educației) (UAIC din Iași)
- Lector univ. dr. Gabriela Toca (UBB Cluj-Napoca)

16.00-16.15 *Tea & Coffee/ moving* break

16:15 – 16:45 Narrative therapy stories (IV) Cătălina Neculau ***TBA*** (30')
16:45 – 17:30 **Keynote**: Hugh Fox and Anita Franklin (30')
17:30 – 18:00 **Testimonials**: *Transformative Journeys: Somatic, Wilderness, and Narrative Therapies unique experiences* (30') Radu Robotă, Ovidiu Gavrilovici

POSTERS

- Dynamic Testimonies – Life into Movement/Movement into Life
- Transformative Journeys
- Voices of Resilience
- Augumentative Alternative Communication – AAC for inclusion
- Project PCBROMD2024
- Book launch – Agripina Ioan – Conversații cu iubirea (Conversations with Love)

Ioana-Alexandra Fuior



Ioana-Alexandra Fuior is a school counselor at the Iași County Center for Educational Resources and Assistance (CJRAE Iași), Romania. With a background in special education, she has experience working with children and adolescents with diverse educational and emotional needs. She specializes in systemic psychotherapy and integrates narrative approaches into her school counseling practice to support students' personal development, emotional well-being, and resilience. Her work focuses on helping young people explore their experiences, recognize their strengths, and discover new perspectives on their personal stories.

TITLE: The Story of "*Unghii roz*"/„Pink nails": Applying the Narrative Approach in School Counselling
This presentation explores the application of narrative principles in school counseling, focusing on externalizing problems, separating children's identities from their difficulties, and identifying personal resources. Based on the view that children are experts in their own experiences, the presentation discusses the case of an eight-year-old student who bit his nails until his fingers bled. Through externalizing the problem, named "Unghiiroz," and activating personal resources, particularly courage, the child created a tangible symbol of his ability to cope with the difficulty. The presentation highlights the potential of the narrative approach to reduce the impact of labeling and foster children's self-expression, confidence, and engagement in the change process. The observations presented are drawn from professional practice and do not constitute findings from systematic research.

Jon Dronik



Jon is a software engineer, consultant, and AI researcher from Oslo, Norway. Since June 2025, he has been building Storyclub.ai, a suite of tools that helps writers defend their work. As founder and product architect, he drives the product vision and builds the platform, combining Zones of Proximal Development educational theory, AI agents, practical writing workflows, progress systems, and reader engagement tools.

Title: Reimagining Story Creation through Learning Theory and AI
In this presentation, Jon introduces Storyclub.ai, an innovative approach to collaborative story creation that combines large language models (LLMs) with the educational theory of the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD). The tool uses a mobile app and a narrative scaffold to guide users through the creative process, supporting them as they develop their own stories.
Following the introduction, participants will have the opportunity to experiment with the app, explore the proposed narrative scaffold, and create a story of their own. The session combines a practical demonstration with hands-on exploration of how AI can support creativity, learning, and storytelling.

Camelia Nițulescu



I am a physician, specialist in pediatric neurology and a psychologist. The interest in child development and the desire to contribute to the recovery of children with developmental difficulties were the basis for choosing my medical specialty. My concern for psychological development later led me to special psychopedagogy and speech therapy, which I deepened through master's studies. I then followed a master's degree in neurobiology, in order to broaden my perspective on the mechanisms underlying human functioning.

Clinical psychology represented a new stage in this journey. I was particularly attracted by the personality assessment, but also by the possibility of understanding the human being beyond what he reveals at first glance. The training in psychoanalytic psychotherapy of children, adolescents and adults opened up another perspective on the human experience: that of the deep psychic life.

Currently, these concerns and skills form the basis of my professional activity, which I carry out with openness to knowing, understanding and helping. In everything I do, I am guided by the curiosity to discover, the respect for the human being and the concern to find, with discernment and responsibility, the solution that best meets his needs.

TITLE

Storytelling and narrative therapy in building a teenage girl's favorite identity

The story represents a way in which the human experience is organized, signified and integrated into a coherent narrative. In a therapeutic context, the story becomes a symbolic space in which experiences, conflicts and possibilities of transformation can be explored through the characters and imagined events. This can be constructed through the technique of fabulation, as proposed by Paola Santagostino in the volume How to heal yourself with a story, or it can take the form of an autobiographical narrative, open to a process of exploration and rewriting. Although different in the way of relating to personal experience, the two types of narrative can open paths to the reorganization of experience, the resignification of events and the construction of alternative perspectives on one's own history.

This paper presents a therapeutic approach in which we combined the technique of fabulation with narrative practices to help a teenager reconnect with the resources, values, principles and significant people in her life and explore possibilities of action in accordance with them. Working through the technique of fabulation with Eve, who was facing multiple and persistent somatic symptoms, I noticed how an identity story was taking shape. In the moments when the story opened the possibility of exploring significant themes for the teenager, we introduced narrative practices, which made it possible to formulate the values and aspirations of the character, to recognize the correspondences with her own experience and to explore personal directions of action.

Through the integration of fabulation and narrative practices, a framework for exploring the preferred identity was created, in which the story freely constructed by the teenager facilitated the indirect expression of personal themes, and the narrative practices facilitated the understanding of the links between the universe of the story and her own experience, opening the possibility of resignifying and rewriting the life story

Alina-Mery Hurubean



ALINA-MERY HURUBEN – University Lecturer, PhD in Political Science, "Petre Andrei" University of Iași, Faculty of Law, Economics, Political and Administrative Sciences, Department of Political Science. Her experience, research, and publications cover the following thematic areas: feminist and gender studies; narrative practices applied in social research and continuous professional development; career-life transition coaching.

She has published articles in scholarly journals and co-edited two collective volumes: "The Status of Women in Communist Romania: Public Policy and Private Life" (2015) and "Feminine–Masculine: Career and Life Stories" (Institutul European Publishing House, Iași, 2016)— these were republished in 2026 for open access by Polis Books Publishing.

TITLE: (Auto)ethnographies of women's transitions. A Theoretical and Methodological Framework

This paper highlights feminist autoethnography as a narrative practice applied to the study of life and career transitions of women from post-communist Romania and the diaspora.
The research interest lies in understanding how these women experienced their career-life transitions in relation to a society in transition, and how they navigated uncertainties and radical changes (in terms of country, profession, or political regime) and how they reconfigured and reinvented themselves as women and citizens, amidst the pressures of patriarchal cultural models and the freedom of choice that opened up. This is an ongoing project involving applied narrative practices, titled "*Je suis une femme de l'Est*. (Auto)ethnographies of the Transition." The project is co-created through career-life stories generated by women of various ages and professions—from Romania and the diaspora—focusing on the narrative construction of identity and meaning. These narratives are relevant for understanding the lived history of our personal and social transitions.

Aliona Dronic



Aliona is vice-president of Psiterra Association, systemic and narrative therapist in private practice. She graduated the full training in Narrative Therapy with INT UK/Psiterra programs under the guidance of Hugh Fox, beginning the Diploma in Narrative Therapy program. As a researcher, she contributes to numerous Erasmus+ projects developed in partnership with Psiterra and the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at UAIC. A long-distance runner, a promoter for women's and disadvantaged people's rights, Aliona embraces a narrative embodied stance, attentive to discriminating social discourses and the effects of differentials of power.

TITLE: **Gender prejudice in therapy**
There are many social discourses that have the potential to oppress women: women are not good at sports, they are not strong, they are not good leaders, there are not so many women in science.

Historically, women can learn, play sports, research, open a bank account for less than 150 years. What do we do when these beliefs are said by women in the office in therapy? The narrative approach offers tools to deconstruct social discourse. Why talk about it? Because otherwise these beliefs end up being believed by women, being shared at the level of society and affecting the way women are seen in society as less, inferior and who can be abused and criticized including on social media

Sabine Vermeire



Systemic and narrative psychotherapist, supervisor, and trainer at the Interactie-Academie. Associate trainer at The Institute of Narrative Therapy (UK) and at The Faculty of Dulwich Center (Australia), and president of the NDC² (Narrative, Dialogic, Collaborative Collective). Mainly working with families, children, adolescents, parents, in challenging contexts and developing alternative, creative approaches when conversation and therapeutic journeys get stuck.

TITLE: Narrato, a narrative boardgame, as social action. A journey into meaningful experiences

In today's world complex problems and the effects of hardship are often seen and understood as individualized, decontextualized problems that people have to solve on their own, overwhelmed by a tsunami of information and expert language.



Can we reclaim time and space for storytelling and retelling? And can we re-discover the stories that got out of sight, while making visible the multiplicity of these stories by playing Narrato?

Our boardgame is an invitation to 'slow down' and collective action. Together with other players you embark on an adventurous trip where fiction and reality, game, and collective narrative practices meet. During this journey you visit and revisit stories, in the present, in the past and in the future. You will deal with questions and challenges, while exploring different life domains: the neighbourhood; romantic relationships; leisure time; (extended) family; work; friends and school. The players become connected in surprising ways.

During this presentation we guide you through this exciting journey and introduce you to the many possibilities of this boardgame.

https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/bannangames/narrato-a-journey-to-meaningful-life-experiences?ref=discover_saved_projects&category_id=34

Mariana Casale



Dr Mariana Casale, School of Narrative Bibliotherapy, Manchester, UK.

Mariana holds an MA in Literature, Culture and Modernity (London) and a PhD in Latin American Cultural Studies (Manchester). She has trained in Narrative Therapy and has had supervision from the Institute of Narrative Therapy (UK). She is the founder and director of the School of Narrative Bibliotherapy, which offers training to professionals wishing to incorporate narrative ideas to their bibliotherapeutic practice or bibliotherapeutic practices to their helping work. She works independently as a bibliotherapist in private practice, offering individual and group sessions as well as mentoring and supervision. She has also taught Spanish and Latin American Studies at the University of Manchester. Her latest publication is 'Bibliotherapy as Narrative Practice; Reader Empowerment Through Re-Authoring Conversations', *European Journal for Biblio/Poetry Therapy* (2025) Vol. 1. No. 1. 14-21. She is currently writing about the personal as political in narrative bibliotherapy.

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Title: *'Narrative Bibliotherapy: A Literary Journey to Hope'*

In this workshop, narrative ideas and skills will be put into practice as participants engage in meaning-making conversation prompted by a literary text.

Based on the view that reading is a dialogical act of co-authoring, the aim is to experience how literature can be used to start potentially difficult conversations; and by reflecting on each person's reactions, identify and deconstruct received and dominant discourses. And to find ways in which literary texts may enable reauthoring conversations by supporting the identifying or creation of preferred narratives, inspired and driven by what people give value to, potentiating wisdoms that underpin them, and enabling the devolution of agency and empowerment to the person. Thus, the power of each voice and its reverberations in the collective become forces for both individual and societal change.

Ovidiu Gavrilovici – Roundtable discussant, facilitator – conference director

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Ovidiu is professor in psychology at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at UAIC. He graduated PhD from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA and a postdoctoral program in Health ethics and policies from University of Medicine and Pharmacy Gr. T. Popa Iasi.

Ovidiu benefited from workshops of Michael White, Hugh Fox, Sabine Vermeire, Johnella Bird, Anita Franklin, Jill Freedman, and many others, since 2005 – creating and presiding Psiterra Association and starting a narrative therapy journey that continues to date. Narrative therapy professional training programs under the supervision of Hugh Fox, the first master level academic course in Narrative therapy in Romania at the department of Psychology, UAIC, a long series of NTCW Conferences and symposiums, since 2008, including the 3rd Europe+ NTCW Conference in Iasi, in 2014.

Promoting narrative approaches based on Michael White's narrative therapy in Romania – in professional development, in education, professionalization, narrative medicine, conflict dissolution, therapy, community development and including narrative themes in research.

Ioana Petcu – Roundtable discussant



Ioana Petcu-Pădurean is an associate professor at the Faculty of Theatre at the "George Enescu" University of Arts in Iași, a theatre critic and author of books on theatre or cinematographic theory: The Descendants of Thespis (2012), Imaginary Dialogues with Film (2015), The History of Romanian Theatre – Course (2018), Fragmentarium with Shakespeare (2019). She is one of the voices of criticism in Iasi (she is a member of the International Association of Theatre Critics), also standing out in the field of research and being active through local cultural projects. She is the author of several studies and articles in academic journals in Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Germany and the United States of America. Within the Doctoral School of Theatre Iași she is specialized in the subfields of History of Universal Theatre and History of Romanian Theatre.

Dorina-Geta Comănescu – Roundtable discussant



Dorina Comănescu is an associate professor at the "George Enescu" National University of Arts in Iași and conductor of the Aletheia choir, a multi-award-winning choir that she has been leading for over 15 years. Dorina successfully combines psychology and music, both in scientific research and in interpretive practice

Graduate in special education and academic choir conducting, with a doctorate in Psychology and Music, she teaches disciplines such as Psychology of Musical Performance, Educational Psychology, Counseling and Guidance and Special education of Adolescents, Young People and Adults. She has published 4 books, 2 book chapters and around 30 scientific articles in specialized journals indexed in international databases. She counts over 190 citations in foreign literature, of which 30 in Web of Science (March 2025).

Cezara Fantu – Roundtable discussant



Cezara Fantu is an actor at the National Athenaeum in Iași, a psychologist and researcher, combining theater and psychology in a professional path dedicated to exploring the human experience. Active in the cultural life of Iasi, she makes the vlog "Fairytale People", she moderates events and conferences, writes and develops projects in which art, culture and psychology meet. Currently, she is pursuing an interdisciplinary PhD, in which she researches the potential of William Shakespeare's work as a dramatherapy and psychodrama tool in support of women who have gone through experiences of domestic violence. She defines herself as a qualitative researcher who works with stories, which she considers "given with soul". He believes that theater and psychology offer two complementary perspectives on man, helping us to understand not only the world we live in, but also the way we construct its meaning.

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Carmen Târnoveanu – Roundtable discussant



Carmen Târnoveanu is a senior journalist, presenter and producer of television shows at Romanian Television (TVR), with over two decades of experience in radio and television. Throughout her career, she has developed and moderated projects such as: "Give Romania!", Romania Like You!, "Romanians after Brexit" and "My Romania!", giving visibility to the people, stories and values that define Romanian society.

Through her dialogues with artists and people of culture, Carmen Târnoveanu explores the power of the word, authenticity and emotion as forms of rapprochement between people. As the founder of the independent project "Conferences of the Good", she promotes meaningful stories and experiences that inspire and create authentic connections.

Her professional experience illustrates how a story told sensitively, through voice, dialogue and presence, can transform personal experiences into messages with human and cultural resonance. For Carmen Târnoveanu, narration becomes more than a communication technique: it is a way to discover the man behind the story and create authentic connections.

Carmen Târnoveanu graduated from the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures and the Faculty of Philosophy, both faculties being within the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași. She also attended the UNESCO Master's courses, taught in English - "Communication and Intercultural Studies", at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Bucharest. Currently, Carmen Târnoveanu is a PhD student at the "George Enescu" National University of Arts, Iași.

Dana Janeta Bădulescu – Roundtable discussant



Dana Bădulescu holds a PhD in Philology following the thesis Impressionistic Modes and Metaphoric Structures in E. M. Forster's Fiction and Criticism. Since 1991, she has been teaching British and American literature, literary theory (prose), critical thinking, transculturalism, poetics and literary translations at the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, Romania. Since 2010, her research topics include migration, hybridity, transnationalism and transculturalism. In December 2014, she formed a national research network within ISCH COST Action IS 1404 "Evolution of reading in the age of digitalisation (E-READ)" (IS1404 E-READ: Evolution of Reading in the Age of Digitization). This created opportunities for her to explore the process and effects of reading in print and digital. The most recent international project is Women's Imaginary Cooking and Appetites Across Cultures (2025), edited together with Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru and Florina Năstase (Women's Imaginary Cooking and Appetites Across Cultures: Studies in Literature, Media and Film – Cambridge Scholars Publishing).
Dana Bădulescu (0009-0004-4363-2654) – ORCID

Gabriela Toca



Gabriela Țoca is a clinical psychologist accredited by the Romanian College of Psychologists and an associate professor at the Faculty of Theatre and Film (UBB Cluj-Napoca). She has over eleven years of experience in vocational counseling and career guidance at the University of Art and Design in Cluj-Napoca. Her interdisciplinary training combines psychology, management and doctoral studies in the sociology of art (EHESS Paris) and visual arts (UAD). She has coordinated numerous national and international projects, accumulating extensive expertise as a project manager and trainer. She is the author and co-author of publications and specialized guides focused on educational counseling, interdisciplinarity and performing arts. Her activity integrates applied psychology, career guidance, personal development and cultural management

Cătălina Neculau



Cătălina Neculau, psychologist, narrative practitioner and researcher works as a scientific secretary at OAMGAMR and has worked as a nurse for 25 years. She graduated from the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences (2004) and a master's degree in social sciences (2006). She has been working as a professor of Psychology and Sociology at a private post-secondary health school since 2011. In her attempt to become a therapist in the narrative approach, she came into contact with Rita Charon's work in narrative medicine. She participated together with other fellow therapists in narrative medicine programs with resident doctors in diabetology and obstetrics and started coordinating a program for nurses in training since 2011.

Hugh Fox & Anita Franklin – KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Hugh Fox has worked with children and families for over 40 years and has been involved with Narrative Therapy for over 20 years. He was a social worker before qualifying as a family therapist in the early 90s and moving to work for CAMHS. He is a UKCP registered family therapist and an AFT registered supervisor. He offers supervision based in Matlock, Derbyshire as well as by Skype or phone.

Anita Franklin, BA, MA, PhD is a narrative practitioner who works in educational and community settings. Anita uses narrative ideas in adult education to support women whose lives have been affected by domestic violence, trafficking and other difficulties. She served as co-director of the Centre for Narrative Practice in Manchester from 2002 to 2009 and has been cultural consultant to a number of national and international narrative events. She has contributed to the Dulwich Centre's Race and Privilege project and to its Feminisms and Narrative Practice project. Anita joins the INT team as an educational consultant to the training programme, to help maintain and improve the quality of teaching and learning for trainees and staff. Anita brings with her over 30 years' experience as a lecturer, course leader and examiner in higher education in the UK. She has recently retired from the University of Sheffield's School of Education.