

## Angela Catalina GHIONEA

Ph.D. candidate, History Dept., Purdue University.

### Education

- PhD Candidate in History, *Bilsland-Puskas* Fellow (Fall 2009- Summer 2010), at Purdue University, College of Liberal Arts, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA. Major: European History. Advisor: Prof. James Farr
- attended PhD courses (fall 2005 – May 2007) in Political Science program, at Purdue University. Major: International Relations.
- Masters in “International Relations and European Integration, The National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania, (fall 2002-February 2004), GPA: 10/10 (10 out of 10) with honors (A+).
- Bachelors, School of Political and Administrative Science, University of Bucharest (1997-2001), GPA: 9/10 (9 out of 10), Specialty: Political Science (all courses and exams in English), Thesis: “*Anti-Semitism and Theories of Nationalism in Romania in the 1918-1938 period*”.
- Bachelors, Law School, “Titu Maiorescu” University (1997-2003), Thesis: “*The Reform proposed by the Nice Treaty regarding the European Parliament*” was ranked 10/10 (10 out of 10).
- Also attended classes in the Masters Program in French at “L’ Institute Franco-Roumain, de Droit des Affaires et de la Cooperation Internationale Henri Capitain-Nicolae Titulescu”, 2002-2003.

### Interests

Studying the history of the Occult, I became fascinated by the less commonly studied facet of scientific discoveries. More specifically, my interests lie in the less known, mysterious, irrational and occult origins of Science, and span the European Prehistory, Antiquity, Medieval and Renaissance, along with XVI-XVIII centuries in America. I focus on the history of Symbols, Science, Kabala, Alchemy, Herbals, Magic, Hermetism, Occultism and Religion. I currently work on my PhD Dissertation: “**The Occult Origins of Scientific Discoveries: Alchemical Patterns in European Thought from the Carolingian Era to the Early Modern Period (VIII-XVIII centuries)**”

As a PhD student, I passed my Prelims on “**Teaching Early Modern European History**” for my major, and “**The Occult as a Precursor of Scientific Discoveries**” for my minor. The preliminary examination committee included Professors: advisor Professor James Farr, Professor John Contreni, and Associate Professor of Anthropology and Linguistics Myrdene Anderson. My future Committee for Dissertation defense will include professors: James Farr, John Contreni, Myrdene Anderson from Purdue, and Anthony Grafton from Princeton Univ.

## Research

- *“The Non-rational in the Rational: The Occult Origins of Science from Carolingians to Enlightenment” (May 2010)*
- *“The Role of Human Prints and Divine Traces in Persuasive Rituals” (April 2009)*
- *“The Shamanic Origins of Science” (December 2008)*
- *“Products of American Arid and Semi-arid Lands in European Renaissance: Trading Knowledge, Herbs, Food and Drugs” (November 2008)*
- *“Voynich Manuscript and its Genuine Alphabet” (April 2008)*
- *“The Occult in the History of the Scientific Discoveries” (April 2008)*
- *“Magic and Religion in the Mediterranean Studies” (April 2008)*
- *“Understanding the “Voynich”, the Most Mysterious Manuscript in the World. American Shamanism and Exotic Plants” (March 2008)*
- *“Contributions to Voynich Manuscript’s Mystery” (March 2008)*
- *“Voynich Manuscript is not a Hoax. Uncovering New Evidence” (January 2008)*
- *“How Religious Symbols forged Communities in European Religious Wars (XV-XVII)” (December 2007).*
- *“The Heritage of Shamanic Techniques: The Sacred Feminine across Cultures,” December 2007.*
- *“Science and Technology in the Carolingian Renaissance,” May 2007.*
- *“How Culture influences the Occurrence of the Suicidal Attacks. Case Study of Kamikazes and Terrorists,” January 2007.*
- *“The Reform proposed by the Nice Treaty regarding the European Parliament,” June 2004*
- *“From Alliances to Coalitions? The New Foreign Policy of the USA”, June 2003*
- *“The Third Way in Diplomatic Negotiation: The Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe”, May 2003*
- *“NATO and the New Romanian Policy,” April 2003*
- *“Phonies on the International Stage. Nuclear Terrorism Threat,” March 2003*
- *“Pretended to be little Davids with a Sling Shot: The Use of Nuclear Weapon in Terrorism. (Iraq, India and North Korea Case Study”, February 2003*
- *“Hitler’s Diplomacy Trick: Bilateral Treaties,” September 2002.*
- *“Anti-Semitism and Theories of Nationalism in Romania in the 1918-1938 Period,” June 2001*
- *“Past and Present Nationalist Discourse in Romanian Politics,” May 2001*

- “East or West? The Romanian Dilemma,” March 2001
- “Anti-Semitic Discourse and Demagogy in the Political Programs of Romanian Political Parties Today. A Case Study of the PRM,” January 2001
- “From or Towards Democracy? Transition Case Study of Romania,” November 2000 “Italian Culture and Policy,” November 2000.

### **Upcoming Conferences**

#### • **Science and the Occult in European History**

October 1, 2010 Purdue University, History Dept.

Session: Magic and the Occult in Europe from Antiquity to Early Modernity

Organizer: Angela C. Ghionea and *Bilsland-Puskas Fellowship*

*The Occult during Carolingians*

### **Conferences (participated)**

#### • **45th International Congress on Medieval Studies**

May 13–16, 2010 Kalamazoo: Western Michigan University

Session: Magic and the Occult in Europe from Antiquity to Early Modernity

Organizer: Michael A. Ryan and Paul Whitfield White

Paper: *The Non-rational in the Rational: The Occult Origins of Science from Carolingians to Enlightenment*

#### • **44th International Congress on Medieval Studies**

May 7–10, 2009 Kalamazoo: Western Michigan University

Session: Alchemy

Organizer: Nancy L. Turner

Paper: *Voynich has a Meaning: Alchemy and Exotic Plants in the Most Mysterious Manuscript in the World*

My name posted here: <http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/Assets/pdf/congress/Schedule09.pdf>

#### • **MARS Workshops:**

April 6, 2009 Indiana: Purdue University

Session: European Renaissance

Organizer: Michael Ryan

Paper: *New Herbs from Americas and their Use in the Renaissance Italian Medicine*

My name posted here: <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/mars/events/marsmondays.html>

#### • **CSAS 2009 Conference**

April 2-5, 2009 Urbana-Champaign, Illinois: University of Illinois campus

Session: "Body, Culture and Society"

Organizer: Myrdene Anderson

Paper: *The Role of Human Prints and Divine Traces in Persuasive Rituals*

My name posted here: <http://courses.missouristate.edu/mbuckner/CSAS09PrelimProgram.htm>

Abstract here:

<http://courses.missouristate.edu/mbuckner/CSAS%2009%20Paper%20Abstracts.htm>

- **Congreso Internacional Chymia. Ciencia y Naturaleza en la Europea Moderna (1450-1750)** September 2008, El Escorial, Madrid (attended)
- **HGSA 2008 Conference**, Purdue. Paper: "*Voynich Manuscript and its Genuine Alphabet*" (12 April 2008)
- **OAH 2008 Annual Meeting**, New York, (Hilton Hotel). Paper: "*Understanding the 'Voynich', the Most Mysterious Manuscript in the World. American Shamanism and Exotic Plants*" (29 March 2008)
- **MARS Conference** (Medieval and Renaissance Society, Purdue) Paper: "*New Contributions to Voynich Manuscript's Mystery*" (24 March 2008)
- **Purdue students workshop**: "*Voynich Manuscript is not a Hoax. Uncovering New Evidence*" (29 January 2008)

#### **Other accepted papers**

- **North Central Sociological Association 2009 Conference**  
April 16-18, 2009 Hyatt Regency – Dearborn, Michigan  
Session on "Body, Culture and Society"  
Organizer: Jason Whitesel  
Paper: *Handprints, Footprints and Representations of Human Body in Magical Rituals*  
See my name on Preliminary Program from here: <http://www.ncsanet.org/meetings/index.html>
- **SCÉR (Congrès de la Société Canadienne d'Études de la Renaissance)**  
May 23-25, 2009 Ottawa: Université Carleton  
Session: De Fabrica Artis Medicinae: the parts of medicine in Early Modern Times.  
Organizer: Mawy Bouchard and Don Beecher  
Paper: *Products of American Arid and Semi-arid Lands in European Renaissance: Trading Medicine knowledge, Herbs, and Drugs*  
My name posted here: <http://www.crrs.ca/csrs-scer/conferences/cong-09.pdf>
- **SCSC 2009 (The Sixteenth Century Society and Conference)**  
May 28-30, 2009 Switzerland: Geneva, Crown Plaza Hotel  
Session: The Supernatural in Early Modern European Society  
Organizer: Kathryn A. Edwards  
Paper: *The Role of Irrational in the Rationality of Early Modern Europe*  
My name posted here: <http://www.sixteenthcentury.org/2009GenevaProgramv2.pdf>
- **Collecting East and West**  
June 25-29, 2009 Italy: Florence, Florence Univ. of Arts & British Institute of Florence  
Session: The West: New Worlds of Knowledge

Organizer: Andrea Galdy

Paper: *Products of American Arid and Semi-arid Lands in the Italian Renaissance: Trading Knowledge, Herbs, Food, and Drugs*

### **Publications**

Three articles for *Discovery and Invention: A Historical Encyclopedia of Science, Technology and Society*

(see here my name on the list of contributors:

<http://www.encyclopediawebsite.com/disc/contrib.html>)

"Cosmology"

"Calendar"

"Hallucinogenic and Mind-Altering Drugs"

### **Projects**

- to organize an **International Conference** at Purdue, 1 October 2010, title: *Science and the Occult in European History*" (budget of *Puskas-Bilsland Fellowship*).
- "The Role of Irrational in the Rationality of Early Modern Europe"
- "The Occult during Carolingians"
- "The Heritage of Shamanic Techniques in the Shakespearian Theater: Magic, Potions and Metamorphoses"
- "Tartaria Tablets: the Oldest Writing or Magic Symbols?"
- "Why the Mountain is the Dwelling Place of Gods? An Anthropological Survey over the Origins of an Ancient Belief"
- "Uncovering the Mystery of the Egyptian Hieroglyph with the Meaning "Eternity"
- "Uncovering the Mystery of the Egyptian Sphynx: New Insights over its Original Symbolism"
- "New Evidence of Shamanic Techniques in the Eleusinian Mysteries"
- "The Role of Shamanism in the Origins of the Sumerian Culture"
- "The Sacred Feminine throughout the History of Religions"
- "Understanding the Voynich Manuscript. New Evidence for a Genuine Alphabet, Shamanic Imagery, and Magical Plants"

### **Funds and Awards**

- Awarded *Bilsland-Puskas Fellowship* for 2009-2010.
- Funding from Purdue University, Teaching Assistantships: French Dept. Aug. 2006 – Dec. 2007; History Dept Feb. 2008 – May 2009; Italian Dept. teaching offer for 2008-2009 was replaced by continuing History funding.
- Honorary Award (October 2003 – February 2004, merit-based, for outstanding students) granted by Romania's Ministry of Education, through The National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania.

- Scholarship (free tuition) for study of Masters in “International Relations and European Integration”, The National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania, (Fall 2002 - February 2004), daily courses.

### **Teaching Experience**

- taught my proposed course Hist.302 ***The Occult Origins of Science***, Spring 2010.
- taught course Hist.104-01 *Intro to Modern World*, Summer 2009.
- taught History lectures at Purdue: "The Perception of the Other during the Medieval Crusades" (Hist.103, Spring 2008); "Napoleonic Wars," "Metternich's Diplomacy" (Hist. 104-1, Fall 2008); "The Age of Religious European Wars", "Spain: Golden Age, Decline and Fall," and "Bismarck, Unification of Germany and Italy" (Hist. 104-2, Spring 2009).
- TA History since January 2008.
- taught French language (French 103) August 2006 – December 2007 at Purdue University.
- gave multiple culture sessions for the French 103 class, among them: Latin origins of French language, Purdue University.
- taught / Guest lecture for Latin language (Latin 101), Purdue University.
- numerous sessions of teaching demonstrations for the following courses:
  - Seminar in Teaching (POL 603): grade A+
  - Teaching College French (FR 519): grade: A+
  - CIE Workshop and Seminars, fall 2005-2009 (optional)
- taught one session on “Romanian Revolution” as a guest speaker to an International Relations class for Undergraduates at Purdue University.
- taught several sessions on “Italian Culture and Policy” for Prof. Dr. Aurora Martin, (Professor of International Relations, in the School of Political Sciences, University of Bucharest, Romania).
- taught several sessions on “European Crusades in Middle East” for Prof. Aurora Martin (Professor of International Relations, School of Political Sciences, University of Bucharest, Romania).
- certified to conduct research using human subjects at Purdue University, by The Committee on the Use of Human Research Subjects (commonly known as IRB), after the completion of Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) Course, 2005.
- taught private French Language lessons (1999-2002)

### **Selected Work Experience**

- TA, History, *Purdue University* (Fall 2008 - Summer 2009)
- TA, French, *FLL, Purdue University*, (Fall 2006 - Spring2008)
- Lawyer, *Bucharest Bar* (2003-2005)

### **Memberships, Other Activities**

- Participated in various student conferences sessions, where I presented research papers in the following fields: History of Political Ideas (as an undergraduate), History of Diplomacy, International Relations Theories, European Union History, Political Culture, International Law and some Philology.
- Internship at Romanian Foreign Affairs Ministry, Bucharest, summer 1999.
- Affiliation: OAH (Organization of American Historians), HSS (History of Science Society), AHA (American Historical Association), SASM (Society for Academic Study of Magic), RSA (Renaissance Society of America), MARS (Medieval And Renaissance Studies), HGSA (History Graduate Students' Association), SM (Societas Magica).
- Journals subscriptions: *Renaissance Quarterly*; *Isis*; *History of Religions*; *The Medieval Review*; *OAH Magazine of History*; *Journal for the Academic Study of Magic*; *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft*.

### **Languages**

- Romanian: native
- English, French (near native)
- Italian (fluent)
- Spanish, Hebrew, Latin, German (good reading ability)
- Egyptian Hieroglyphs (some working knowledge)
- Classic Greek, Russian (beginner)

### **Various**

- Hobbies: painting, reading, opera, travel
- Computers: 16 years experience
- Personal: born 1978, in Romania, married.

### **Contact**

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