

# EUROZINE

## 20th European Meeting of Cultural Journals Changing places (What's normal, anyway?) Sibiu, 21–24 September 2007

### PROGRAMME

#### Friday September 21

From 13.00

Registration  
Hotel Continental Forum  
Piata Unirii 10, Sibiu

16.00

Walking tour of Sibiu (departs from the hotel)

19.00

Opening  
City Hall  
S. Brukenthal 2, Sibiu

#### **Welcome addresses and inaugural speeches**

Klaus Johannis (Mayor of Sibiu), Carl Henrik Fredriksson (*Eurozine*), Gheorghe Ban (Brukenthal Museum), Irina Horea (*Lettre internationale*), Mircea Stanescu (*Euphorion*), Bianca Herlo (Deutsches Kulturzentrum, Sibiu)

#### **Opening keynote speech**

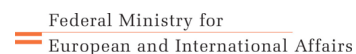
#### **"Normality or normalities? From one transition to another"**

Mircea Vasilescu (editor, *Dilema veche*; Romania)

#### **Buffet**

Hosted by the Mayor of Sibiu

In cooperation with *Euphorion*, *Lettre Internationale* (Romanian edition), the Brukenthal Museum, and the Deutsches Kulturzentrum Hermannstadt.



## Saturday September 22

10.00–13.00

### Conference session 1

*The Contemporary Art Gallery of the Brukenthal Museum  
Str. Tribunei 6, Sibiu*

#### **Normality: The obscure object of desire?**

Speeches and panel discussion

Chair: Carl Henrik Fredriksson (*Eurozine*)

#### Speakers and panellists:

Catalin Avramescu (political scientist, University of Bucharest; Romania)

Alexander Kiossev (cultural theorist, Sofia University; Bulgaria)

Elena Trubina (philosopher, Ural State University, Ekaterinburg; Russia)

13.15

### Lunch

*Astra Library  
Str. Mitropoliei 2, Sibiu*

15.00–18.30

### Conference session 2

*The Contemporary Art Gallery of the Brukenthal Museum  
Str. Tribunei 6, Sibiu*

#### **Exilit**

Text collage, reading

Samplers: Marie Luise Knott and CHF

#### **Writing in exile**

Speeches and panel discussion

Chair: Marie-Luise Knott (author, editor, curator; Germany)

#### Speakers and panellists:

Chenjerai Hove (writer; Zimbabwe-born, lives in Norway and the US)

Seloua Luste Boulbina (writer and philosopher, Collège International de Philosophie, Paris; France)

Zinovy Zinik (writer and broadcaster; Russian-born, lives in the UK)

19.30

### Dinner

*Spiegelsaal des Deutschen Forums  
Str. G-ral. Magheru 1-3, Sibiu*

## Sunday September 23

10.00–13.00

Internal session

*The Contemporary Art Gallery of the Brukenthal Museum  
Str. Tribunei 6, Sibiu*

### **Eurozine – Past, present, and future**

Network discussion

Chair: Carl Henrik Fredriksson (*Eurozine*)

Eurozine partners

### **"Diagnosing the present"**

Project presentation

Dimitar Vatsov (*Critique and Humanism*, Bulgaria)

13.15

Lunch

*Astra Library*

*Str. Mitropoliei 2, Sibiu*

15.00

Museum tour

*Brukenthal Museum*

*Piata Mare 4–5, Sibiu*

### **Art in Sibiu**

Guided tour of the Brukenthal Museum and the Brukenthal Palace

17.00

Excursion

*ASTRA Open Air Museum*

*Padurea Dumbrava (Outside the city of Sibiu. The bus will leave from the Piata Mica.)*

### **ASTRA**

Guided tour and extra-curricular walks and talks

19.00

Closing dinner

*ASTRA Open Air Museum*

### **Closing speech**

**"Bathroom tales. How we mistook normality for paradise"**

Slavenka Drakulic (writer; Croatia/Sweden)

### **Dinner**

22.00

Bus back to Sibiu

## Monday September 24

Morning

Departure

## Changing places (What's normal, anyway?)

This year's Eurozine conference will address the challenges facing cities and states as well as art, literature, and the media as the need for change meets the urge for normality.

The phrase *changing places* can refer to the act of moving to another (geographical and/or symbolic) location, but also to the act of altering a specific (geographical and/or mental) space. In the major conference sessions, featuring intellectuals, writers, and scholars from different fields, with different geographical and cultural backgrounds, two aspects of the main theme will be addressed separately.

### **Normality: the obscure object of desire?**

The point of departure of the first session is the **concept of normality**. All over central Europe, new stability, freedom, and security seem to be accompanied not only by a hope for prosperity but also by a longing for "normality". Not only as something to be experienced, but as something to be recovered. The hope that the "new Europe" can endure obviously goes with a certain longing for myths of the past and for visible, reassuring symbols. But what is this precious normality? Is it simply to be like everyone else? If so, "everyone else" probably refers to western Europe rather than to the eastern neighbours. Is it to leave concepts like "transition" and "change" behind? But is normality today not constant change (flexibility) rather than stability and "ordered states"? Not limiting the discussion to a post-communist context, this panel will address questions ranging from politics to culture.

### **Writing in exile**

The second session focuses on **literature in exile**. Writers fleeing from fascist or communist dictatorships in the twentieth century have come to form our concept of the experience of writing in exile. However, authors have been forced or have chosen to go into exile throughout literary history, from Ovid, Tu Fu, and Dante to James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, and Orhan Pamuk. Furthermore, political oppression is not the only reason for an author to go into exile; aesthetic and social considerations are often important when decisions are made about leaving a certain cultural context – or staying. This panel provides an opportunity to historicize and contextualize the diverse experiences of writing "out of place".