Call for Papers

Researching, Documenting, and Preserving Mountain Cultures

In the past several years researchers have discovered real historical connections between two extended mountain regions, the Carpathian and the Appalachian mountains, resulted due to the beginning of the 20th century migration from Transylvania to the mining areas of the Appalachian Mountains. Between 1870 and 1920 thousands of immigrants from the Carpathian region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire have migrated towards the West Virginia, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania mines. This history and the cultural heritage that these people have transported to America, as well as their general immigrant experience is described by such recent research as Deborah R. Weiner, *Coalfield Jews: An Appalachian History*, University of Illinois Press, 2006 and Brian Ardan, *The Anthracite Coal Region's Slavic Community*, Arcadia Publishing, 2009. Also, Louis C. Martin’s intervention titled *From Transylvania to West Virginia: New Directions in Coalfield History* at the National Conference of the Appalachian Studies Association, *New Appalachia: Known realities and imagined possibilities*, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, March 2014 where he described and interpreted with the help of New York Immigration Registry, his personal archives, and his recent Transylvania field research, this very migration from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to United States.

The general framework of this cultural phenomenon was laid down by Donald Edward Davis in *Where There are Mountains: An Environmental History of the Southern Appalachians*, University of Georgia Press, 2000, a book that is focused on changes brought upon the Southern Appalachian mountains cultural landscape by external factors like the modernization process and the intermentling of immigrant culture groups. The historic dimension of his research starts with defining culture as a product of social and environmental forces, but he nuances it further towards analyzing the way in which everyday life practices are influencing the relation between man and environment. This means that there is a two-way relation between environment and community, and that for this relation the practice of everyday life matters more than the structural changes decided by the governing power.

Given these recent research trends we find that a comparative analysis of the Appalachian and Carpathian mountain cultures shows itself to be extremely pertinent, even if these geographical
regions are situated at a huge distance on a global scale. The connections between these regions are not only the result of a direct influence (through immigration) but also the result of the fact that they have been submitted to similar cultural factors: modernization, industrialization, de-industrialization, thus being forced to develop specific and similar survival strategies. Generally regarded as a wild and primitive area of United States, the Appalachian Mountains were progressively transformed in the 20th century under the pressure of modernization, and even radically modified due to the mining methods also known as “mountaintop removal.” The communities living in this area enjoyed a relatively prosperous situation in the 1950s because of this mining industry, while at the same time the environment in which they lived rapidly changed. Obviously, their improved economic situation was not permanent, not being a sustainable process, and so, beginning with 1990s an equally rapid process of de-industrialization ensued. The strategies of survival developed by the Appalachian communities in this post-industrial landscape were analyzed as a case study by Dan Shope in *Shattered Glass and Broken Dreams: Utilizing the Works of Michel de Certeau to Analyze Coping Mechanisms and Overt Forms of Resistance among Glass Workers in Huntington, West Virginia*, PhD dissertation, Bowling Green University Ohio, 2007. In this work he successfully deconstructs the usual representation of Appalachian communities as backwards people, incapable to find mechanisms to cope with these new challenges.

Given the proposed topic and the extended case study presented, we also welcome other similar comparative approaches about socio-cultural influences on mountain cultures.

We therefore invite contributors to submit articles on one of the following topics or any other topic related to the study of mountain cultures:

- immigration, community development, and history
- critical representations of mountain cultures in literature and arts
- cultural preservation and folklore
- patterns of communication in mountain cultures
- discourse analysis of mountain cultures’ representations in the media
- modernization, industrialization, and de-industrialization in mountain areas
- sustainable agriculture and forestry
- ecological tourism
- other issues related to mountain life
Submission guidelines

Languages accepted
The language of the submitted articles is English.

Calendar and protocol to evaluate the contributions

Deadline for the submission of the articles is March 15, 2016.
Notification to authors after peer-review: April 15, 2016.
Final submission of revised articles: May 1, 2016.

Recommendations:
Articles should be written directly in B5 (JIS) format (all margins 2.5 cm). They should be at least 6 pages long, using Times New Roman 11 pt, single spaced, and have an even number of pages.

The current issue is edited by Dr. Cristian Pralea and Dr. Georgeta Moarcăș.

The articles are to be sent at the following addresses:
cpralea@gmail.com
georgeta.moarcas@gmail.com