

Narrative Report

Graduate Travel/Research Grant provided by funding from the European Commission and Carleton University's Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and administered by the Centre for European Studies at Carleton University

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Thanks to the financial guarantee provided by the Centre for European Studies, I was able to travel to Romania this past summer in order to conduct archival research for my MA thesis. My project explores the relationship between the press and nationalism in the Romanian province of Transylvania following its incorporation into the Romanian national state following the end of World War One. This research will explore the language of nationalism and how it was used by the press in its attempt to construct a national consciousness in the minds of its readers.

My primary sources for my project consist of six Romanian newspapers published in the interwar period in the cities of Cluj, Alba-Iulia, Blah and Sfintu Gheorghe. The newspapers were all located within the municipal archives of each of the aforementioned cities and consultation was only permitted in person. I therefore travelled to each of those four cities and spend approximately a week in their archives combing through the newspapers in order to photograph and photocopy the most relevant articles to my project. The staff at each of the archives were extremely helpful and knowledgeable and their advice helped me track down rare editions of the newspapers which were located either in smaller municipal libraries or in the archives smaller libraries located in the dusty basements of local high schools.

Valuable knowledge and material was gained by travelling to each city and manually sorting through each individual newspaper. Since the newspapers are not available online, my trip to Romania was necessary, insightful and educational for my personal and academic understanding of how the newspapers portrayed and encouraged various forms of nationalism in the emerging nation-state of post-World War One Romania.

I would like to thank the Centre for European Studies for their support and generosity in particular Professor Joan DeBardeleben and Brigid Bedard-Hinz. Without the CES financial assistance, my research trip would have been impossible to undertake this past summer. I would also like to thank my supervisor professor James Casteel for his support, guidance and advice regarding my MA project.