

COST Action 23137

Print Culture and Public Spheres in Central Europe (1500–1800) | PCPS^{CE}

Call for Applications:

Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI) Summer School 2025

Turning a New Leaf. Unexplored Central-European Bookscapes (1500-1800)

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania | 21–25 July 2025

Important Dates

Deadline for applications: **May 23, 2025**

Successful applicants will be contacted by **June 6, 2025**

Dates of Summer School: **21–25 July 2025**

About this Action

PCPS^{CE} investigates interactions between the early modern media revolution, sparked by the rise of printing, and the emergence of public spheres in Central Europe. The Action aims to build a European and global network of stakeholders from education, research and cultural institutions with a special focus on Young Researchers and Innovators. It works towards an integrative methodology that brings together experts from different national and disciplinary backgrounds. The Action includes work on joint publications such as a compendium on the book history of Central Europe and the development of an annotated catalogue of digital data and tools. The initiative aims to promote a new scholarly and public historical awareness of the diverse, non-national pasts of Central Europe. More information can be found in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) available in the following web page: www.pcps-ce.eu.

General information

We invite applications to participate in the YRI Summer School 2025; a week-long academic training event dedicated to the vibrant and multifaceted world of early modern print culture and public communication in Central Europe. This Summer School, held in the historically rich city of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, offers an immersive and exploratory experience that seamlessly combines scholastic rigor and the appeal of cultural exploration.

Organized as part of the COST Action CA23137 – PCPS^{CE} and hosted by Faculty of History and Philosophy of the Babeş-Bolyai University, the Summer School aims to bring together young researchers (YRIs) and established scholars, offering theoretical training, field visits, and an engaging forum for interdisciplinary dialogue.

The theme of the Summer School *Unexplored Central-European Bookscapes* is deeply embedded in the research priorities of the two COST Action working groups co-organizing the event: *WG4: Materialities* and *WG5: Texts&Ideas*. WG4's focus on the interme-

duality of print genres and the socio-economic dimensions of book production in exploring book-related material culture aligns naturally with the Summer School's training sessions in paper, binding, typography, and provenance research. At the same time, WG5's interest lies in the emergence and decline of genres, production and circulation/transfer of knowledge, the role of printed books in school and university milieu and translations in printed culture. The school's emphasis on transitional zones (between manuscript and print, elite and vernacular literacy, private and institutional book ownership, comparison of various cultures and religions) provides fertile ground for a dialogue between material narratives and intellectual discourses, echoing the broader aims of both working groups.

Key Facts

Dates: 21–25 July 2025

Location: Cluj-Napoca, Transylvania, Romania

Participants: 30 attendees (approx. 70% COST members, $\frac{3}{4}$ YRIs)

Application Deadline: May 23, 2025

No virtual participation possible - on-site only.

Programme Overview

The Summer School will span five days, featuring a structured rhythm designed to stimulate learning and discussion. Mornings will be devoted to training sessions led by experts in their respective fields. In the afternoons, participants will have the opportunity to engage in practical exercises, attend lectures delivered by established scholars, present their own projects, or exchange ideas in thematic panels. Guided visits to significant heritage sites in Cluj-Napoca (University Library, Academy Library, and Saint Michael's Catholic Parish Church collections) will round up the training programme.

Training Sessions (3 Days) by experts in book history (9:00–12:30)

General topics for lectures or training sessions:

Paper history, bookbinding, decoration, typographic technologies, handwriting in the age of printing culture, provenance research, materialities of the library (buildings, furniture, historical catalogues etc.), emergence and decline of genres, production and circulation of knowledge, the role of printed books in school and university milieu and vernacular languages in printed culture

Specific topics for lectures or training sessions:

- Exhibitions involving books, exhibition catalogues
- Coexistence of manuscript and print cultures
- Printing music
- Provenance and private book ownership
- Regional variations in literacy and book circulation

- Book patronage
- The role of various genres across the (Central) Europe
- Corpus linguistics methods and usage of AI
- Transylvania as a multilingual and multi-confessional bookscape

A detailed list of lectures and training sessions will be available online by the end of the submission period.

Participants' Panels (2 Days)

Participants can contribute with short presentations, followed by thematic discussions. These sessions will spotlight current research in:

- Material culture of the book
- Texts and communication
- Libraries and educational contexts
- Cultural transfers and local adaptations of print

Field Trip (1 Day)

Guided visit to major heritage libraries and historical collections in Transylvania (Sibiu & surrounding area).

Conclusions & Certificates / Local guided tours (Day 5)

Who Should Apply?

We welcome Young Researchers and Innovators (YRIs), including MA students, PhD candidates, and early postdocs, as well as established scholars working in book history, historical communication, textual scholarship, archival studies, and related fields. Applicants affiliated with the COST Action CA23137 are especially encouraged, though a limited number of external participants might also be accepted. All courses will be conducted in English.

For participants who are members of the COST Action CA23137, travel will be reimbursed following COST rules; accommodation (incl. breakfast) and any meals are covered by the daily allowances.

How to Apply

Applicants will be asked to submit:

- A short CV (1 page)
- A letter of motivation, underlining the professional interest in the Summer School's topics (max. 300 words)

- A brief proposal for a presentation (optional, 300–500 words)

Applications should be submitted via email. Please send all required documents as a single PDF attachment with the subject line: **“Application PCPS^{CE} YRI Summer School 2025”** to:

- Stefaniia Demnchuk – WG4 Co-leader: stephanierom07@gmail.com or
- Ivan Almes – WG5 Co-leader: ivanalmes@ucu.edu.ua

Selection criteria will prioritize academic relevance, geographic and disciplinary diversity, and a balance of experience levels.

Why Attend?

The YRI Summer School offers a rare opportunity to engage with the lived material and textual culture of early modern books in a region central to the development of European literacies. Participants will gain critical and theoretical insights, practical skills, form new scholarly networks, and enjoy Transylvania’s landscapes, libraries, and layered histories.

For more information, visit our website <https://pcps-ce.eu/> or contact us at:

- Livia Potop – local contact: livia.potop@ubbcluj.ro
- Ștefania Ghișa – local contact: stefania.ghisa@ubbcluj.ro
- YRI Team – yriteam.pcpsce@gmail.com

Organizing Committee:

Adinel C. Dincă (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca) – WG4 Leader

Martin Holý (Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences) – WG5 Leader

Stefaniia Demnchuk (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv) – WG4 Co-leader

Ivan Almes (Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv) – WG5 Co-leader

Veronika Čápská (Faculty of Humanities, Charles University) – YRI Coordinator

**Join us this July as we turn over a new leaf into
the unexplored chapters of Central European book culture!**

Acknowledgement

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COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

www.cost.eu