

## “Children of the Night” International Dracula Congress 2022

### Keynote Speakers’ Biographies

**Dacre Stoker** (Canada) is the great grand-nephew of Bram Stoker and the international best-selling co-author of *Dracula the Un-Dead* (2009), the Stoker family endorsed sequel to *Dracula*. Dacre is also the co-editor (with Elizabeth Miller) of *The Lost Journal of Bram Stoker: The Dublin Years* (2012). Released in October of 2018, *Dracul*, a prequel to *Dracula*, co-authored with JD Barker, was the UK’s # 1 Bestselling Hardcover Novel in Horror and Supernatural in 2018, and a top 5 finalist by the Horror Writers Association for the Bram Stoker Award® for Superior Achievement in a Novel. Film rights for *Dracul* have been optioned by Paramount Studios.

Dacre’s recent work includes *Dracula’s Bedlam* (2021) with Chris McAuley and John Peel and *The Virgins Embrace* (2021) with Chris McAuley, a graphic novel adaptation of Bram Stoker’s short story *The Squaw* (1893). Additionally, short stories with Leverett Butts, *Last Days*, appeared in *Weird Tales Magazine* January 2021, *The Tired Captain*, featured in *FX Sherlock Holmes Anthology*, and *Enter the Dragon* in *Classic Monsters Unleashed Anthology* January 2022 and upcoming *The Lost Warrior*, in *Dracula UnFanged Anthology* coming out in the summer of 2022. Dacre has also collaborated with Scottish writer Mike Shepherd on *Slains Castle’s Secret History* (Wild Wolf 2022) a novel of historical fiction written in narrative non fiction style.

A native of Montreal, Canada, Dacre taught Physical Education and Sciences for twenty-two years, in both Canada and the U.S. He has participated in the sport of Modern Pentathlon as an athlete and a coach at the international and Olympic levels for Canada for 12 years. He is also an avid player and coach of the unique game of Real Tennis. In September of 2022, an athlete he had been coaching for the past 8 years, Camden Riviere, won the World Championships of Court Tennis.

Dacre has consulted and appeared in recent film documentaries about vampires in literature and popular culture. *The Real Vampire Files* (2010 History Channel), *The Tillinghast Nightmare*, (2014 Historical Haunts), *Secrets of the Dead* (2015 PBS), *Mysteries at the Museum*, (2017 Travel Channel) *Legend Hunter* (2019 Travel Channel) He currently hosts tours to Dublin Ireland, Whitby England, and Cruden Bay Scotland, to visit places where Bram Stoker lived, was educated, worked, researched, and wrote *Dracula*. He also leads groups to Transylvania to explore both the life and times of the historic Vlad Dracula III and also the locations where Bram Stoker set his famous novel.

**Enrique A Palafox** (Mexico) is a Doctor in Modern Literature & a Creative Designer based in Mexico City. He has experience working as a designer in Entertainment and as Part-time Lecturer. He also has a Master's degree in Communications and he is currently working on the adaptation of *Dracula* by Bram Stoker into media content & Merchandising items.

**Hans Corneel de Roos** (The Netherlands/Germany/The Philippines) studied Political & Social Sciences at the University of Amsterdam and the Free University, Berlin; graduated cum laude in 1975. He made a career in Public Administration and in the financial field; his true passions, however, were (and are) Art, Art History and Photography. He got involved in *Dracula Studies* in 2010 while preparing a photo-illustrated *Dracula* edition. Since then, he has made a series of groundbreaking discoveries about the true locations of *Castle Dracula*, the *Scholomance* and *Carfax*, the lifetime identity of *Count Dracula*, the Icelandic and Swedish versions and the first US serialization of *Dracula*. De Roos is the translator/editor of *Powers of Darkness* (New York: Overlook, 2017), and contributed to *Dracula—An International Perspective* (ed. Marius Crişan, Palgrave, 2017). He was the Acting Editor of *Letter from Castle Dracula*, the bulletin of the Transylvanian Society of *Dracula* (2013-2016) and is the author of numerous articles about Stoker’s novel. He received the Research Award from the Transylvanian

Society of Dracula and the Lord Ruthven Special Award 2018. He is the initiator of the Fourth World Dracula Congress in Dublin (2016) and the “Children of the Night” International Dracula Conference series. In 2021, he won the Golden Bat Award for his video documentary about Philippine vampires. Website: [www.vampvault.jimdofree.com](http://www.vampvault.jimdofree.com).

**John Edgar Browning** (USA) (Ph.D., SUNY-Buffalo), Professor of Liberal Arts at the Savannah College of Art and Design, has appeared as an expert guest on or consulted for such documentary programs as National Geographic’s *Taboo USA* (2013), Discovery Channel’s *William Shatner’s Weird or What?* (2010), AMC’s *Eli Roth’s History of Horror* (2018), History Channel’s *The UnXplained* (2020), Disney+’s *The World According to Jeff Goldblum* (2021), and Netflix, as well as numerous radio programs. He has contracted or published 20 academic and popular trade books and at least 100 articles, chapters, and reviews on subjects that cluster around Dracula, vampires, zombies, horror, and the Gothic, including: *The Forgotten Writings of Bram Stoker* (Palgrave, 2012) and the forthcoming *Dracula—An Anthology: Critical Reviews and Reactions, 1897–1920* (Edinburgh University Press), as well as critical editions of Montague Summers’s *The Vampire: His Kith and Kin* and *The Vampire in Europe* (Apocryphile Press, 2011, 2014); with Caroline Joan S. Picart, he co-edited as well *Speaking of Monsters: A Teratological Anthology* (Palgrave, 2012) and co-wrote *Dracula in Visual Media* (McFarland, 2010); with David R. Castillo, David Schmid, and David A. Reilly, he co-wrote *Zombie Talk: Culture, History, Politics* (Palgrave Pivot, 2016); and, with Darren Elliott-Smith, co-edited *New Queer Horror Film and Television* (Horror Studies) (University of Wales Press, 2020). He is also co-editor of the second Norton Critical Edition of *Dracula* (2021) with David J. Skal.

**Laura Loguercio Cánepa** (Brasil) is PhD in Multimedia (Unicamp, Brazil, 2008). She has published several works on Brazilian horror films, including “Erotic Brazilian Movies of Female Killers” (in *A Panorama of Brazilian Porn*, Baltar, 2018); “José Mojica Marins versus Coffin Joe: auteurism and stardom in Brazilian cinema” (in *Stars and Stardom in Brazilian Cinema*, Bergfelder; Shaw; Vieira, 2017); “Panorama histórico del horror en el cine brasileño (in *Horrofilmico - Aproximaciones al cine de terror en Latinoamérica y el Caribe*, Diaz-Zambrana; Tome, 2012).

**Leslie S. Klinger** (USA) is the editor of the highly-acclaimed *New Annotated Dracula*, *New Annotated Frankenstein*, and the two-volume *New Annotated H. P. Lovecraft* as well as the anthologies *In the Shadow of Dracula* and *In the Shadow of Edgar Allen Poe*, featuring 19th- century supernatural fiction. Together with Lisa Morton, he’s also edited the anthologies *Ghost Stories*, *Weird Women*, *Weird Women II*, and *Haunted Tales*, all with extensive selections of Victorian horror. He co-edited (with Eric Guignard) the HWA’s *Haunted Library of Horror Classics*. His latest book, out October 15 from Mysterious Press, is *New Annotated Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

**Marius-Mircea Crişan** (Romania) (dr Habil, PhD 2008 University of Turin, Italy) is Associate Professor at the Teacher Training Dept., West University of Timişoara. He is the editor of *Dracula: An International Perspective* (Palgrave Macmillan, Springer Nature 2017), coordinator of the special issue of *Biblioteca Nova Bulletin* “Speculative Fiction and the Frontiers of the Possible” (2019), author of *The Birth of the Dracula Myth: Bram Stoker’s Transylvania* (2013) and *The Impact of a Myth: Dracula and the Fictional Representation of the Romanian Space* (2013), and co-editor of the volume *Beliefs and Behaviours in Education and Culture: Cultural Determinants and Education* (2017). He was the manager of the research project *The impact of a Myth: Dracula and the Image of Romania in British and American Literatures* (2011-2013). For more information, see: <http://www.themythoftransylvania.ro/>

**Simon Bacon** (Poland) is a writer and film critic based in Poznań, Poland. He has written and edited 20+ books on various subjects including *Gothic: A Reader* (2018), *Horror: A Companion* (2019),

Transmedia Vampires (2021), Spoofing the Vampire (2022) and Nosferatu in the 21st Century (2022), 1000 Vampires on Screen (2023), The Palgrave Handbook of the Vampire (forthcoming), and co-edited Growing Up with Vampires (2019 with Katarzyna Bronk). He has also published a series of books on vampires in popular culture: Becoming Vampire (2016), Dracula as Absolute Other (2019), Eco-Vampires (2020), Vampires From Another World (2021), and is working on the next Unhallowed Ground: Imminent Terror and the Specter of the Vampire on Screen.

Updates on new and forthcoming projects can be found at his website: <https://simonjbacon.wordpress.com/about/> or Facebook page: [Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/Vampires-Vampires-Everywhere-102814468507429/](https://www.facebook.com/Vampires-Vampires-Everywhere-102814468507429/). or Twitter @baconetti, or Amazon author page: [https://www.amazon.com/Simon-Bacon/e/B07MWB5FVK?ref=sr\\_ntt\\_srch\\_lnk\\_1&qid=1658399832&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Simon-Bacon/e/B07MWB5FVK?ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1&qid=1658399832&sr=1-1)

**Yuri Garcia** (Brasil), Doctor in Social Communication in the Communication Post-Graduate Program at the University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). Master in Social Communication in the Communication Post-Graduate Program at the University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). Holds a postgraduate degree in Higher Education Teaching from Universidade Cândido Mendes (UCAM-IAVM) and a degree in Social Communication from Faculdades Integradas Hélio Alonso (FACHA). He held a Post-Doctoral internship at the University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ) with research on Transpositions of Comics in Cinema (2019-2020). Post-Doctoral Researcher at Universidade Anhembi Morumbi with research on the reconfigurations of the vampire image in contemporary cinema since 2022. Coordinator of the research group "POPMID: Reflections on Gender<sup>2</sup> and Trends in Media Productions" and Deputy Coordinator of the research group "Cinema expanded, from stereoscopy to web footage: new regimes of visuality in the 21st century". Scholarship researcher at the Research and Productivity program at Universidade Estácio de Sá (UNESA). Also works in the research group "Technological Cultures: medialities, materialities and temporalities" coordinated by prof. Dr. Eric Felinto. Member of the Red Latinoamericana de Investigaciones en Prácticas y Medios de la Imagen. Member of the ACCRJ - Association of Film Critics of Rio de Janeiro between 2018 and 2021 and Curator of the Silvia Oroz Cineclube of the Estácio de Sá University, Tom Jobim campus between 2019 and 2021. Author of the book "Drácula: o vampiro camaleônico" (2014), conducts research on Cinematographic Genres (especially Horror) and cinematographic transpositions of literary works and comics. Professor of the Postgraduate Program in Communication at the University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (PPGCom-UERJ) and Professor at the Estácio de Sá University (UNESA) in the graduations in Social Communication, Cinema, Audiovisual Production, Advertising and Journalism.

## Speakers' Biographies

**Adam Owsinski** (Australia) is a future academic in the field of philosophy/anthropology. He specialises in the areas of culture transmissions and cultural evolution. He researches how cultural evolution and biological evolution can co-operate with each other. He has special interests in Slavic folklore, mythology and narrative. Philosophically, he examines how language, especially meta-language or narrative can impact cultural evolution and in turn effect biological evolution.

**Alessandra Vallim da Silva Villela** (Brasil) is an actress graduated in Performing Arts at Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO) and undergraduate cinema student at Estácio de Sá University (UNESA), where she got a scientific initiation scholarship from CNPq. Participates of the research group "POPMID: Reflections on Genre and Trends in Media Productions". Her field of interest is producing researches in Cinema, Horror Studies, Dracula and vampires.

**Bogdan-Alin Imbri** (Romania) was born in Oravița and fell in love with school at the earliest age. Consequently, he became a teacher at the same high school he graduated from, exactly as he has always dreamed and planned. He studied Letters (English and French Languages and Literatures) at the West University of Timișoara, where he did an MA in American Studies. Currently, he is a PhD student preparing a dissertation about Batman.

**Brian Forrest** blogs and vlogs as Toothpickings, and has been writing about the intersection of vampires in fiction, folklore, and history for several years. He has a paper on Blacula forthcoming in the new journal *Dracula Beyond Stoker* (November 2022), has spoken about Blacula as both Blaxploitation and Gothic at CONvergence 2022, and is currently working on a short documentary about Blacula, director William Crain.

**Brooke Cameron** (Canada) is an Associate Professor of English at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. She is the author of *Critical Alliances: Economics and Feminism in English Women's Writing, 1880–1914* (University of Toronto Press, 2020) and co-editor (with Lara Karpenko) of *The Vampire in Nineteenth-Century Literature: A Feast of Blood* (Routledge, 2022). She has published peer-reviewed articles on Dracula and is currently coediting a special issue on "Vampires: Consuming Monsters and Monstrous Consumption" for *Revenant: Critical and Creative Studies of the Supernatural*.

**Camila Dutra** (Brasil) is currently finishing her MA degree in Language Sciences. Her research is focused on the film adaptation of "Interview with the Vampire", specifically how the female monster Cláudia was translated into cinema. She has MA degree in Development and Environment and publications on the subject environment. Currently, her research involves gender, women, literature, feminist movements and film adaptation. Between 2018 and 2020 she worked as a teacher of law, accounting and administration.

**Cathleen Allyn Conway** (USA) is a poet and scholar at Goldsmiths, University of London, where she is completing her doctoral studies on intersections of Sylvia Plath and the Gothic in experimental poetics. She has published on Dracula in *The Transmedia Vampire: Essays on Technological Convergence and the Undead* (McFarland, 2021) and *Ghostbusters in Toxic Cultures: A Companion* (Peter Lang, 2022). She is the author of the poetry collections *Static Cling* (Dancing Girl Press, 2012), *All the Twists of the Tongue* (Grey Book Press, 2018), *American Ingénue* (Broken Sleep Books, 2021), and the forthcoming *Bloofer* (Broken Sleep Books, 2023). Originally from Chicago, she lives in London.

**Cristian Pralea** (Romania) has a PhD in American Culture Studies from Bowling Green State University with a thesis building a philosophy of cyberspace. He now teaches in the American Studies program of the Literature and Cultural Studies Department at Transilvania University of Brasov. His interests lie in

the fields of digital culture, popular culture at large, and the way they intersect with contemporary politics.

**David MacDowell Blue** (USA) is a theatre critic, director and playwright in Los Angeles. A graduate with a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of West Florida, and the National Shakespeare Conservatory, he has adapted *Carmilla* by J. Sheridan Le Fanu as well as being a former contributor to the online magazine *vampires.com*.

**Dax Stokes** (USA) is an academic librarian and instructor at North Central Texas College. He also hosts the Lord Ruthven Award winning podcast "The Vampire Historian." He was the organizer of "There Are Such Things! Vampire Studies Symposium 2015" and the "World Dracula Day Symposium 2017," both held in Texas. His published works can be found in *IndieJudge* magazine, at *vamped.org*, and in the *Fantastika Journal*. He has spoken on various Vampire topics frequently since 2011, including at the 2018 Children of the Night Dracula Congress. Related to his topic, he is also an ordained Deacon in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

**Florin Nechita** (Romania) received his PhD in Marketing in 2012. Florin's research and teaching interests are oriented towards Marketing, Advertising and Brand Management. He is an experienced marketing and trade marketing executive with a broad expertise in FMCG industry, marketing, trade marketing, strategy planning and event management. Other activities: coordinator and initiator of three editions of International Summer Schools on Creative Destinations and Heritage Interpretation (2014, 2016, 2018); co-organizer of the International Dracula Congress (2018, 2021); project member in European funded projects: I was Citizen of Stalin Town (Europe for Citizens - 2017), Active Telling, Active Learning (Europe for Citizens - 2019), E-Entrepreneur (Erasmus+ - 2019-2020), UniCulture (Erasmus+ - 2019-2021), E-PSY (Erasmus+ - 2020-2022); member of European Association for Heritage Interpretation; Erasmus Mobility Teaching Exchange at University of Macerata, Marche Polytechnic University, and Salerno University (Italy), University of Zadar (Croatia), University of Extremadura (Spain), Laurea University (Finland), Aegean University (Greece), Christian University Ede (the Netherlands), Université Lumière Lyon 2 (France), University of Madeira (Portugal), Federal University of Minas Gerais and Grupo UNIS (Brazil) and one month teaching mobility; 10 books (author or coordinator) and more than 70 journal articles, book chapters and conference papers on marketing, consumer behaviour and brand management, tourism and destination marketing topic.

**Gabriela-Marinela Hlușcu** (Romania) is teacher of English and freelance translator and a PhD Student in the Doctoral School of Humanities, West University of Timișoara, Romania.

**Georgeta Moarcăs** (Romania) is an Associate Professor at the Department of Literature and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Letters, Transilvania University of Brașov. She has an MA in Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology from Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca and a PhD in Literature from University of Bucharest. Her research interests are at the intersections of Romanian ethnology and folklore, Romanian literature, and Comparative literature. She published research on Contemporary Romanian Literature: *Disonanțe. Studii asupra expresionismului în poezia română contemporană—Dissonances. Studies on Expressionism in Contemporary Romanian Poetry*, 2011 and *Rituri de tranziție: 10 studii asupra prozei românești postbelice și contemporane—Rites of Transition: 10 Studies on Postwar and Contemporary Romanian Prose*, 2020.

**Gustavo Alberto Garcia Vaca** (USA) is an interdisciplinary visual artist/writer and arts educator. His artwork is in the Collections of MoMA New York, LACMA and the Bibliotheque Nationale de France. His writing has been published in literary journals including *Strange Horizons*, *Bilingual Review* and manga magazine *Shonen Jump/Aoharu*. Gustavo collaborates visually with Detroit Techno producers *Underground Resistance* and *Jeff Mills*, comic creator *Kenny Keil* and others. Gustavo holds a BA from

Hampshire College, Certificate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Certificates from the Architectural Association London and is currently a MA candidate at California State University Northridge. Gustavo's website is: <http://www.chamanvision.com>.

**Ian Clark** (Canada) is a PhD student in the Department of English Literature at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. His research focuses on the intersection of queerness and medicine in the monstrous or transformational body, particularly in nineteenth-century gothic British literature. Other interests include Victorian queer culture, the supernatural, and depictions of the metaphoric Other in contemporary film and television. His current work centres on the literary and historical genealogy of homoerotic vampirism.

**Ildikó Limpár** (Hungary) is a Senior Lecturer of English, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest (Hungary), has a Ph.D. in English, and a special interest in the monstrous. Her monograph titled *The Truths of Monsters: Coming of Age with Fantastic Media* (McFarland, 2021) focuses on the use of monsters as literary tools addressing life challenges in coming-of-age fantasy and science fiction. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on the monstrous and is editor of *Displacing the Anxieties of Our World: Spaces of the Imagination* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017) and a Hungarian anthology of essays in *Monster Studies* (Athenaeum, 2021).

**James McCreia** (USA) is a semiotician and art historian with a strong thematic interest in iconographies of death and undeath, as well as materialities of the human corpse. Currently, he is in the final year of doctoral studies in Manchester Metropolitan University's Gothic Studies department researching a cultural history of the animated skeleton. In contrast to restricting himself to studying a single era in time, he enjoys following the certain trends in visual and material culture over the course of history to determine how they engage with the socio-cultural masses that produced them throughout. His independent research often pertains to funerary art, video-game design, and monster theory.

**Jared L. Schmidt** (USA) holds a PhD in Folklore Studies from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He currently teaches humanities and art courses at two rural, coastal community colleges in Oregon, USA. He is also a co-founder and contributor to the social media brand, Folkwise. Since 2020, Schmidt has taught multiple undergraduate courses about vampires. His vampiric research heavily focuses on the legacy of Bela "Dracula" Lugosi, with multiple upcoming publications about the actor in popular culture, as well as a forthcoming work on vampires in Norwegian cinema and television.

**Kyria Van Gasse** (Belgium) has only just started her academic career, having just started her second year of the Art History course at the University of Ghent. She has always been interested in anything related to vampires, ever since she was quite young. Thus, it was very easy for her to decide that Vampire LARP will be a subject she'll write about. She is trying to find time to finally edit her first (vampire) novel and start her second one, and switches hobbies almost every few weeks, be it knitting, TikTok videos or random longform Youtube videos.

**Magdalena Grabias** (Poland) is an Assistant Professor and a Deputy Head of the Institute of Cultural Studies at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. She received her PhD in Cultural Studies in 2012. She specialises in Film Studies, Gothic Studies, Dracula Studies, literary translation and music journalism. She was the co-organiser of the Fourth World Dracula Congress in Dublin (2016) as well as numerous conferences in Poland. She is a co-founder of the international organisation "Children of the Night" and a co-organiser of International Dracula Congress series. Her academic publications include books: *Songs of Innocence and Experience: Romance in the Cinema of Frank Capra* (UK, 2013), *Visual Culture: Art, Popular Culture and Digital Media* (ed.) (Poland, 2020), as well as numerous articles in English, Polish and Romanian propagating film, music and theatre viewed from the perspective of philosophy, semiotics, anthropology and popular culture. Over the last decade, her

academic interest has been focused on Dracula and Vampire Studies, which resulted in a series of articles discussing the subject of literary and cinematic vampires and their meaning in contemporary culture. In 2019 she received the prestigious “International Helion Award” from the science fiction cultural association “Helion” in Timișoara, Romania.

**Mike Shepherd** (Scotland) is a local historian living in Cruden Bay, and is a founder member of the Port Erroll Heritage Group. When he started researching Bram Stoker’s visits to his home village six years ago, he discovered a topic untouched by academics. His findings are in his book “When Brave Men Shudder”, and are updated in “Slains Castle’s Secret History”, co-written with Dacre Stoker. Something unusual about Mike: the property deeds to his house in Cruden Bay are signed by a real-life character in one of Bram Stoker’s novels - namely, the 20<sup>th</sup> Earl of Erroll, resident of Slains Castle.

**Nancy Rosenberg England** (USA) earned a PhD in English Literature from The University of Texas at Arlington. Her dissertation was “Establishing a Dracula Film Genre: Key Texts, Antecedents, and Offspring.” She earned an M.A. in Humanities from Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia. Her thesis was “The Early Female Gothic Novel and Charlotte Dacre’s Zofloya.” She presently teaches Composition and Rhetoric at The University of Texas at Arlington. She is the author of “Untangling Late Victorian Anxieties: Hair Symbolism in Dracula” in the Journal of Dracula Studies.

**Nina Trzaska** (Poland) works as an academic teacher at University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poznań and at University of Warsaw. In her Master’s thesis, she focused on Greek vampire folklore and currently she is conducting further research on this topic for her PhD thesis. She spoke about Greek vampires on many different conferences such as ‘A Cross-Platform Dracula Conference’ (Braşov 2018 & virtual event 2021), ‘Α’ Διεθνές Συμπόσιο Νέων Ερευνητών Νεοελληνικών Σπουδών’ (Granada, 2022) and ‘Upiory, duchy, zjawy. Widmowe reprezentacje w popkulturze’ (Katowice 2015). She also published two scientific articles about vampires – ‘Protowampiry antycznej Grecji’ (‘Protovampires of Ancient Greece’) in journal ‘Nowy Filomata’ (XIX, pp.80-93) and ‘Elementy greckiego folkloru w europejskiej literaturze wampirycznej’ (‘Elements of Greek folklore in European vampire literature’) in monography ‘NaoKoło Migracji’ (Poznań 2018, pp.79-91). She translated a few Greek pieces such as: novel ‘Murdress’ by Alexandros Papadiamantis, short story ‘Frappe’ by Petros Markaris and poems by Kyriakos Charalambidis.

**Patricia Hradec** (Brasil) holds a PhD in Letters from Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie (UPM). She conducts research in the field of Gothic literature and fantastic universes, more specifically with literary vampires. She has been a member of ABRALIC - Brazilian Association of Comparative Literature since 2019 and she is a member of the Gothic Studies Group at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). She worked as a teacher in Letters and Pedagogy courses at several renowned colleges, but currently works with basic education in the areas of Portuguese and English in private schools.

**Peadar O’Dea** (Ireland) is an Irish disability activist, born with a visual impairment, he has over seven years of experience with disability organisations in the Republic of Ireland and the UK. He obtained an MA in Disability Studies from the University of Leeds; he is a lifelong Dracula fan.

**Penelope Goodman** (UK) is an academic Classicist at the University of Leeds. She is also a member of the London Dracula Society, and presented a paper on Dracula and Classical Antiquity at the 2018 Dracula Congress in Braşov. She regularly publishes academic work on receptions of Classics, such as on the films of Ray Harryhausen or concerning the emperor Augustus. Publications: <https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/languages/staff/52/dr-penelope-goodman>

**Peter Gözl** (Canada) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. Peter studied in Germany, England, and Canada, where he

completed his MA at the University of Waterloo and his PhD at Queen's University. He has published on computer-assisted language learning, Cyberpunk, German literature and film, and vampires. Peter continues to offer his course "A Short History of Vampires in Literature and Film" which normally attracts about 300 students. There will be a special event to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the course this fall.

**Ruxandra Ivăncescu** (Romania) is an Associate Professor at Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania. She graduated from the Faculty of Letters, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj, Romanian-English section. She has a PhD in Literature from the same university. She works at the Department of Literature and Cultural Studies of the Faculty of Letters in Braşov where she teaches Literature, Folklore, Cultural Anthropology and Creative Writing for the Master class students. At the Creative Writing course she teaches Literary Prose, especially Fantasy and Historical Literature. She published studies in Romanian Literature (*O nouă viziune asupra literaturii române contemporane—A New Vision on the Romanian Contemporary Literature*, 1999), cultural anthropology (*Paradisul povestirii – The Paradise of The Tale*, 2004) and also novels such as *Maranon or the Real History of the Discovery of the New World*, published in 2008, *Ochiul dragonului – The Eye of the Dragon* (2012, 2017) and *Cavalerii doamnei in negru, The Lady in Black and her Knights* (2017), a prequel to her earlier novel *The Eye of the Dragon*. As History was always her hobby, she writes historical novels, adding a mythical touch to her plot and her characters. *The Eye of the Dragon* develops its action around the family of Vlad Dracula. Her interest in History also triggered her studies of the mythology of Dracula, Bram Stoker's novel, and of the unfolding of vampire stories till the present, in both Film and Literature.

**Roberto Cavalcante Rodrigues** (Brasil) is an art historian, graphic designer and digital artist. Owns a bachelor degree in Graphic Design by Universidade Paulista (2014) and in Art History by Universidade Federal de São Paulo (2022). Currently researching in Art History's field at Universidade Federal de São Paulo, preparing his Master thesis about post mortem sexuality in vampiric cinema and working as an Art Director in the Municipal Secretariat of Human Rights and Citizenship of São Paulo. Regular member in the International Committee of Marketing and Public Relation and International Committee for Museums and Collections of Costume, ICOM Brazil.

**Zsolt Bojti** (Hungary) is lecturer at the Department of English Studies, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), and external lecturer at the Institute of English Studies, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary. He obtained a PhD degree in modern English and American literature and culture from ELTE. His doctoral dissertation, *Wilde, Stenbock, Prime-Stenvenson: Homophilia and Hungarophilia in Fin-de-Siècle Literature* (2022), deals with the connection between the beginning of German sexology and the English literary history of sexuality. As research fellow in the New National Excellence Programme (2019/2020), he published the first Hungarian translation and critical edition of *Imre: A Memorandum* by Edward Prime-Stevenson. His research interests include Gothic literature and sexology, "literary music," and the life and oeuvre of Edward Prime-Stevenson.

**Vitor Henrique de Souza** (Brasil), from Florianópolis in the south region of Brazil, Vitor has a Master's degree in Cultural Studies issued by the Federal University of Santa Catarina. In his dissertation he analysed five of the nine films of the Dracula franchise by Hammer Films, tackling issues of gender and sexuality in Dracula's relations with his female victims. Additionally, he conducted researches in the fields of Horror Cinema and queer studies, with emphasis in merging both areas in his analysis. Currently, he is investigating the construction and depiction of violence against queer characters in contemporary queer films.



## Film and Literature Presenters

**Alexander Williams** (UK) fiction writer, winner of Gold Stake Award 2020.

Presented work: Poverty, Parasites and Psychic Vampires. Gold Stake-winning author on his bestselling novel "Eternal Youth".

Alexander Williams grew up in rural Norfolk where he spent his childhood exploring old farmhouses and abandoned churches. He remembers nothing of his time in boarding school as he spent all his time in the library with his nose in a book. He was homeless between the age of seventeen and twenty-five and kept busy during the day by volunteering in an Oxfam bookstore, by night he worked on his first novel "Eternal Youth" sitting in a twenty-four MacDonalDs with a notebook and pen. He is now a grown man who shares a small cottage with a black and white cat named Woobie and stays up every night writing by candlelight. He is diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome. "Eternal Youth" won the Gold Stake Award for best vampire novel at the International Vampire Film and Arts Festival in 2020.

**Chloe Hammond** (Wales) fiction writer, the winner of the Gold Stake Award 2022.

Presented work: "The Caretakers" (a short story) and extract from "Darkly Dreaming" (a novel).

Chloe Hammond is an Aquarius, and she's very Aquarius. Born in Liverpool in 1975, she grew up in rural West Wales. She now lives in Barry, South Wales, with her husband and rescue cat and dogs. She studied Creative Writing as part of her degree always planned to write, but life got in the way. Chloe worked in homeless hostels, particularly with vulnerable teenagers for twenty years, and saw too many of the world's uninvited monsters. She developed extreme anxiety and depression, which caused terrifying nightmares and sleepless nights. In her typically contrary way, she used this to her advantage and the nightmares became this novel, and the sleepless nights were when she found time to write it. She created her own monsters to deal with the memories.

Her best friend, and number one cheer leader, was her inspiration and the person she could spin other worlds with. When her friend died suddenly of a brain haemorrhage, Chloe struggled to overcome her grief to start writing again. She had just found her rhythm again, when the worldwide pandemic hit, and she was gripped in the terror of losing more loved ones. She dug deep, and is currently working on the third book of the "Darkly Vampire Trilogy", as Rae and Layla are booting her brain, demanding their story is written, they have adventures to live.

Chloe has had several poems and short stories published in various charity anthologies. She was nominated for both Best Paranormal Author and Best Horror Author in Reality Bites 2018 Book Awards. Chloe won a Gold Stake award at the International Vampire Film and Arts Festival 2022, for her short story, "The Caretakers".

<https://www.facebook.com/chloehammondauthor/>

**Marton Nagy** (Hungary/Romania) filmmaker, the winner of the Gold Stake award 2022.

Presented work: "How My Girlfriend Ignited on Our Third Date".

Marton Nagy is a 24 year old filmmaker based in Cluj-Napoca, Romania and has been studying Film since 2017 at Sapientia University. He usually works as a writer, director or Director of Photography.  
<https://filmfreeway.com/MarciNagy>

**Sean Rourke** (USA) filmmaker, film editor, initiator of “The Vampire Castle” YouTube channel

Presented work: “Lucy X Mina”

Sean Rourke has a thing for vampires. By day, he’s an editor in the Hollywood Film Industry with credits on such projects as “Avengers Infinity War”, “Loki”, “Hawkeye”, “The Suicide Squad”, and “Red Notice”. By night, he runs a YouTube channel about the vampire genre, called “The Vampire’s Castle.” He writes books, drinks iced tea, has a dog that’s a little too smart, and every once in a while he gets together with some very talented friends to make movies. Born in Omaha, schooled in Santa Fe, and shed blood in Los Angeles. Also, if we’re being honest...a bit of a chocolate chip cookie habit.

<http://lucyxmina.com/>, <http://thevampirescastle.com/>