

## VLAD NAUMESCU

Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology  
Central European University  
Nador Utca 9 Budapest, Hungary 1051  
Tel.: (36) 1-327-3000 Ext. 2315 (W);  
email: [naumescuv@ceu.edu](mailto:naumescuv@ceu.edu)

### Current position

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, CEU.

### Education

2003 - 2006 PhD in Social Anthropology (*magna cum laude*)  
Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and Martin Luther University,  
Halle/Saale, Germany

2000-2002 MA in Social Anthropology  
National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest, Romania.

1995-2000 BA in Psychology (Clinical/Organizational)  
Titu Maiorescu University, Faculty of Psychology, Bucharest, Romania.

### Further academic training

2007-2008 SIAS Summer Institutes: *The Vision Thing: Studying Divine Intervention* organized by Some Institutes for Advanced Studies (SIAS) at the Center for Advanced Studies in Behavioral Sciences, Palo Alto CA and Collegium Budapest. Convenors: William Christian, CASBS and Gabor Klaniczay, Collegium Budapest.

2007 SUN Summer course *Cognition and Culture*. CEU's Summer University  
Course directors: Dan Sperber, CNRS and György Gergely, Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

2003 Ukrainian Language Summer School, L'viv Ukraine.  
Ukrainian Catholic University and University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

2001 SUN Summer course *The Plight of the Roma and Gypsy People: The culture and politics of ethnic transformations in post-communist societies*.  
CEU's Summer University, Budapest. Course director: Michael Stewart UCL.

## **Grants and fellowships**

2016-2020 Social Mind Area Scholarships ([SMASH](#)) - to design a new interdisciplinary PhD training program between Social Anthropology and Cognitive Science, CEU.

2014-2020 [Visual Studies Platform](#) funded by the Humanities Initiative at CEU, together with colleagues in History, Film and OSA - to establish a cross-disciplinary university-wide platform on visual research, training and methodologies.

2012-2014 Social Science Research Council grant in the frames of New Directions in the Study of Prayer. Co-investigator in the comparative project '*Sensory Spirituality: Prayer as Transformative Practice in Eastern Christianity*'.

2012- 2013 CEU Research Support Scheme grant for the project 'Sensory Spirituality', supporting fieldwork in Kerala (India) and Romania.

2011 Standard Grant from the International Visegrad Fund for the Documentary and Anthropological Filmmaking Summer School, CEU Summer University (21,000 euro).

2009 CEU Research Support Scheme grant for a pilot study on St. Thomas Christians in Kerala, India.

2008-2009 SAIA teaching scholarship in the framework of the Slovak National Scholarship Programme for the Support of Academic Mobility.

July 2008 Short-term Visiting Fellow at the Collegium Budapest in the frames of 'The Vision Thing' SIAS Summer Institute.

2007-2008 SIAS grants for SIAS Summer Institute workshops at the Center for Advanced Studies in Behavioral Sciences, Palo Alto (CA) and Collegium Budapest. Sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon and Alexander von Humboldt Foundations.

2007 Film development grant from the Media programme of the EU and the Romanian Center for Cinematography (70,000 euro).

2007 Research grant from the Center for Urban History, L'viv, Ukraine.

2003-2004 Research grant MPI for Social Anthropology for 15 months fieldwork in Western Ukraine.

## **Professional experience**

Member of CEU's Strategic Development Committee (2016-2017)

Chair of CEU's Ethical Research Committee (2015-).

Fellow of the Center for Religious Studies (since 2009)

Fellow of the Social Mind Center (since 2016)

2015- Founding member of the Open Learning Initiative (OLIVE) weekend program for refugees and asylum seekers in Hungary. Co-coordinator of the academic courses (Human Rights, Culture, media, politics, Globalization, Social Justice, Participatory Video, Voice Matters: Media, Communication and Society)

2015 Course Director CEU Summer University '*The City Uploaded: Urban Intersections of Film and New Media*' in cooperation with Open Society Archives, Contemporary Architecture Center Budapest, Institute of Documentary Film Prague, International Visegrad Fund.

2014-2015 Director of the **Marie Curie Networks Film School**, CEU Budapest. Filmmaking workshop and project development for INTEGRIM and CHANGING EMPLOYMENT Marie Curie Networks.

2010- 2014 Book Review Editor for *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale*, Journal of the European Association of Social Anthropology (4 issues/year)

2009-2013 Co-organizer and core faculty for the **V4 Summer Schools**, organized by the Institute of Ethnology, Warsaw University, Institute of Anthropology, Comenius University (Bratislava), the Department of Ethnology, Charles University (Prague) and CEU, sponsored by the International Visegrad Fund.

2011 Course Director CEU Summer University 'Documentary and Anthropological Filmmaking' supported by the CEU SUN and the International Visegrad Fund.

2008-2010 Faculty resource for Marie Curie Socanth - International PhD Programme Promoting Anthropology in Central and Eastern Europe

2007 - 2008 Associate Researcher – Center for Urban History, L'viv, Ukraine. Urban research project: *Sykhiv: from microraiion to macrohistory*.

2007 Research consultant for the External EU Land Border Monitoring Project, part of the Friendly EU Border project of Stefan Batory Foundation, Poland. Final report: [http://www.batory.org.pl/doc/gateways\\_to\\_europe.pdf](http://www.batory.org.pl/doc/gateways_to_europe.pdf)

Referee for the European Research Council, Hungarian Research Council (NKFI) and peer-reviewed journals:

*Civilisations, Cultural Anthropology, Gradhiva, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Journal of East Central Europe, Journal of Contemporary Religion, History and Anthropology, Social Anthropology, Studia Sociologia, Religion and Society: Advances in Research, Intersections: East European Journal of Society and Politics, Religion, State & Society, World Art, HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory.*

## Fieldwork

2013- 2014 Six months fieldwork in Kerala (India) within the frames of the SSRC and CEU funded project '*Sensory Spirituality: Prayer as Transformative Practice in Eastern Christianity*'

2010-2012 Archival research in Romania for the project 'Memories of an unwanted modernity: the paradoxes of Old Believers accommodation in socialist Romania'; funded by IICCMER Romania and CEU RSS.

2009 Research on 'Religious transmission in St. Thomas Christian monasticism' - one month pilot research in Kerala, South India; funded by CEU's Research Support Scheme (RSS).

2007-2009 Research and filming on Old Believers in the Danube Delta for a documentary film (Birds' Way 2009) sponsored by the Media Programme of the EU and the Romanian Center for Cinematography.

2003-2006 PhD field research 'Modes of religiosity in Eastern Christianity: Religious Processes and Social Change in Ukraine' (15 months) funded by the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology Halle/Saale, Germany

## Teaching experience

2007- Graduate courses at CEU: Anthropology of Religion, Social Memory, Visual Anthropology, Ethnographic Methods, Rethinking Ethnography, Secularism and Religion in Comparative Perspectives: Islam and Christianity; Social and Cognitive Approaches to Religion, Key Issues in Social Anthropology.

2013 Director and main tutor for the international Ethnographic Filmmaking Summer School, organized by the Dept. of Anthropology, University of Western Bohemia, Pilsen July 15 - 27 funded by the International Visegrad Fund.

2012-13 Core faculty for the ReSET school "*Anthropological Approaches to Religion and Secularism*" 2010- 2013, International Higher Education Support Program, Open Society Foundation.

2011-2013 Faculty for CARTI Summer Schools and Workshops, International Higher Education Support Program, Open Society Foundation. Teaching theory and research methods workshops: 'Social memory, identity and the politics of the past', 'Ethnography beyond description', Visual analysis.

2009- Faculty for CEU's Curriculum Resource Center courses: Multiconfessional Societies in a global world - New Challenges to the Study of Religion and

Society (2011); Religious Geography. Symbolic Landscapes and Religious Movements (2010); Religion in Multiconfessional Societies (2009)

2007-2009 Visiting lecturer, Institute of Ethnology, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia. 3rd year and MA courses: Anthropology of Religion, Ethnographic Methods.

2006-2008 Visiting lecturer, MA program in cultural anthropology. Faculty of Political Sciences, National School of Political Sciences and Administration, Bucharest, Romania. MA course: Anthropology of Religion.

### **Languages**

Romanian (native)

English (fluent)

French, Hungarian, Ukrainian (advanced)

### **Membership in professional bodies**

EASA – European Association of Social Anthropologists

AAA / SAR – American Anthropological Association/Society for Anthro. of Religion

SIEF - Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore

SACR - Romanian Society of Cultural Anthropology (Secretary, 2001-2002)

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books, edited volumes**

Mahieu, Stephanie & Vlad Naumescu eds. 2008. *Churches In-between: Greek Catholic Churches in Postsocialist Europe*, Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia Bd.16, Berlin: Lit Verlag.

Naumescu, Vlad. 2007. *Modes of Religiosity in Eastern Christianity: Religious Processes and Social Change in Ukraine*, Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia Bd. 15, Berlin: Lit Verlag.

#### **Journal articles (peer-reviewed)**

(revise & resubmit) Pedagogies of Prayer: Teaching Orthodoxy in South India. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*.

2016. The End Times and the Near Future: Old Believers' Ethical Engagements. *JRAI* 22(2): 314–331.

2012. Learning the 'Science of Feelings': Religious Training in Eastern Christian Monasticism. *Ethnos* 77: 227-251.

with Halloy, Arnaud. 2012. Learning Spirit Possession: an Introduction. *Ethnos* 77: 155–176.

2011. The case for religious transmission: time and transmission in the anthropology of Christianity. *Religion and Society: Advances in Research* 2: 54-71.

2010. Le vieil homme et le livre : la crise de la transmission chez les Vieux-Croyants. *Terrain* 55 (*Transmettre*): 72-89.

### **Book chapters**

(forthcoming 2017) Becoming Orthodox: the mystery and mastery of a Christian tradition. In Luehrmann S. (ed.) *Sensory Spirituality: Prayer as a Transformative Practice in Eastern Orthodoxy*. Indiana University Press.

2013. Old Believers' Passion Play: The Meaning of Doubt in an Orthodox Ritualist Movement. In *Ethnographies of Doubt*. Pp. 85-117, Edited by M. Pelkmans. London: I.B.Tauris.

--- 2010. Exorcising demons in post-Soviet Ukraine: a monastic community and its imagistic practice. In Hann, Chris & Hermann Goltz (eds) *Eastern Christians in Anthropological Perspective*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 155-176.

- 2010. Encompassing religious plurality: The Orthodox Imaginary of Ukraine. In Paul D'Anieri ed. *The Contest for Social Mobilization in Ukraine: From Revolution to Civil Society?* Washington D.C.: Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 274-299.

-- 2010. The Religious Imaginary of Western Ukraine: Understanding social change through religious apparitions. In Valtchinova G.(ed) *Religion and Boundaries; Studies from the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Turkey*, Istanbul: Isis Press. Pp. 227-246.

-- 2009. Learning Religion in Eastern Christian Monasticism. In Christian Jr., W. & G. Klaniczay (eds) *The Vision Thing: Studying Divine Intervention*. Collegium Budapest Workshop Series No. 18, pp. 419-438.

-- 2009. Continuities and Ruptures of a Religious Tradition: Making 'Orthodoxy' in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. In Mahieu S. & V. Naumescu (eds.) *Churches In-between: Greek Catholic Churches in Postsocialist Europe*. Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia, Berlin: Lit Verlag, pp. 157-182.

--. 2006 Religious pluralism and the imagined Orthodoxy of Western Ukraine in Chris Hann and the Religion and Civil Society group (eds). *The Postsocialist Religious Question: Faith and Power in Central Asia and East-Central Europe*. Münster: Lit Verlag, pp. 241-268.

### **Encyclopedia entries**

(forthcoming) with Natalie Sebanz. Embodied cognition. Entry for the *International Encyclopedia of Anthropology* edited by Hillary Callan. Wiley-Blackwell.

### **Work in progress**

“A World to be Transfigured’: Cold War pedagogies from South India” for a collective volume on *Bordering Religions in (Post) Cold War Worlds*

‘The iconic economy of Old Belief: towards an aesthetics of transmission’ to be submitted to *American Ethnologist*.

### **Documentary films**

*Bread of Life: The Word* (17')

*Bread of Life: The Silence* (17') dir. Klara Trencsenyi & Vlad Naumescu, CEU, SSRC 2014, India/Hungary. on [Reverberations](#)

*Birds’ Way*, 56 min. Romania 2009, creative documentary co-directed with Klara Trencsenyi, produced by Libra Film, sponsored by Media Programme of the EU and the Romanian Film Fund. [www.drumulpasarilor.ro](http://www.drumulpasarilor.ro)

Awarded Best Romanian Documentary at Astra Film Fest 2009; nominated for the Romanian Film Awards 2010; awarded Best Directors at Mediawave International Film and Music Festival 2010, Special Mention RAI Film Prize 2011; screened at over 15 festivals worldwide.

### **Media**

*Iconic Books* - published June 17, 2013 on [Reverberations](#), SSRC forum on New Directions in the Study of Prayer.

permanent link: <http://forums.ssrc.org/ndsp/2013/06/17/iconic-books/>

*Pedagogies of Prayer among St. Thomas Christians in South India* published August 14, 2014 permanent link: <http://forums.ssrc.org/ndsp/2015/08/14/pedagogies-of-prayer-among-st-thomas-christians-in-south-india/>

### **Reviews**

Larsen, Timothy. 2014. *The Slain God: Anthropologists & the Christian Faith*. Oxford University Press published in *American Anthropologist* September 2016

Kürti, Laszlo & Peter Skalník eds. 2009. *Postsocialist Europe: anthropological perspectives from home*. Oxford and New York: Berghahn Books published in *JRAI (N.S.)* 17(3): 648–649, September 2011.

Rewakowicz Zaleska, M. L. & Onyshkevych, Maria G. eds. 2009. *Contemporary*

*Ukraine on the Cultural Map of Europe*. Armonk, NY.: M.E.Sharpe, for *H-Net Reviews* and H-SAE list published online Feb. 2011: <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=25327> (permanent link)

Pine, Frances & Joao de Pina-Cabral eds. 2007. *On the Margins of Religion* Berghahn Books for *Religion and Society: Advances in Research* 1, September 2010.

Wanner, Catherine. 2007. *Communities of the Converted. Ukrainians and Global Evangelism*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press. *Anthropological Notebooks* XIV/3, 2008.

### **Invited lectures and seminars (since 2010)**

2017 A Cross-Disciplinary Approach for the Study of Human Social Behavior', Radcliffe Exploratory Seminar at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Cambridge, MA, July 10-11.

2016. *Pedagogies of Prayer: Teaching Orthodoxy in South India*. Invited lecture at the Institute of Cultural Anthropology, Warsaw University, Dec. 21.

2016. *What comes next? The afterlife of digital memories*. Lecture given at the SUN course 'Screened Memories', CEU Summer University July 1- 9.

2015 *Pedagogies of Prayer: Teaching Orthodoxy in the Malankara Church*. Center for Religious Studies and Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies Joint Lecture, CEU May 6.

2014 *Pedagogies of Prayer in the Malankara Church, South India*. Anthropologie à Bruxelles (ABBA) seminar, LAMC- ULB, November 28.

2013 *Documenting Social Reality: Imaginations of the Everyday* lecture given at the SUN course 'Documentary Cinema in the Digital Century', CEU Summer University, June 23-July 6.

2013 *The End Times and the Near Future: Old Believers' ethical engagements* lecture at the Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, June 20.

2012 *Approaching ethics as anthropological subject: the view from religion* invited workshop and lecture at Nazarbayev University, Astana Nov 29-Dec 1.

2011 *The Power of Images: Capturing the Social in Documentary Film* The Visual Laboratory, Verzio Film Festival, Budapest, Nov. 8-10

2011. *The End Times and the Near Future: the temporalities of Old Believers' ethics* History Department Scholarly & Social Meeting, CEU, Oct. 11.



- 2010 *Temporality, ritual and belief among the Old Believers - issues of religious transmission*. UCL Seminars In Anthropological Theory, London, Nov. 24.
- 2010 *Messianism in Contemporary Religious Movements*. **CEU Summer** University Course 'Messianism: Jewish and Christian Perspective' convened by Michael Miller and Matthias Riedl (CEU), Budapest July 5-16
- 2010 *'Religion and the Public Sphere, V4 Social Anthropology Summer Schools 'Rethinking Anthropological Engagement in Central-Eastern Europe'*, Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Warsaw University, funded by the International Visegrad Fund.

### Conference papers (selection)

- 2016 *Praying through the church: cultivating an Orthodox interiority in South India* for the panel 'Interiority, Politics and the Study of Religion' at the 115th AAA conference, Minneapolis, November 16-20.
- 2016 *Pedagogies of Prayer: Teaching orthodoxy in South India* for the panel 'Pedagogy: Ethnographic and Cognitive Engagements' at the 14th EASA Conference, Milan, July 20-23.
2016. *A World to be Transfigured': Cold War pedagogies from South India*. Wenner Gren workshop 'Bordering Religions in (Post-) Cold War Worlds' St. Petersburg, June 16-18.
- 2015 *Pedagogies of Prayer: Teaching orthodoxy in South India*. SOMICS workshop 'Ostensive communication, social learning and cultural transmission in small- scale and large-scale societies'. Social Mind Center, CEU, October 15-16.
- 2015 *The afterlife of micro-utopias: monastic experiments and pedagogical models in South India* for the panel Micro-Utopias: exploring connections in anthropology, relationality and creativity, 12th SIEF Congress June 22-25
2015. *Attending to God in prayer: the changing rhythms of Orthodox worship*. SSRC's New Directions in the Study of Prayer capstone conference, Columbia University, Feb. 5-6
- 2013 *The iconic economy of Old Belief: towards an aesthetics of transmission* International Workshop: Mediating Religion – Emotional, Material, and Ideological Practices, Schloss Hohentübingen, Tübingen, April 5-7.
2012. *Prayer as play, play as prayer: pretence as basis of religious development* Research workshop at ICS Lisbon PragRel: Discipline, Imagination and Aesthetics funded by PHC Pessoa 2012 (Parteneriat Hubert Curien).

- 2012 *Learning Possession: a pragmatic approach* (with Arnaud Halloy)  
Spirit Possession: European contributions to comparative studies  
sponsored by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, Pecs (Hungary), September  
14-16.
- 2011 *The nostalgia of suffering: apocalypticism as everyday practice*. Panel:  
Ethnographies of Nostalgia/Ethnography as Nostalgia, American  
Anthropological Association Annual Meeting Montreal, Nov. 14-16.
- 2011 *Secular missionaries or phonies? Old Believers' moral dilemmas in  
(post)socialist Romania*. Atheism and Anthropology: Researching Atheism  
and Self-searching Belief and Experience', UCL, London Sept. 21.
- 2011 *Serious play: religious learning in an Eastern Orthodox community*  
Children and Religion, University of Århus, Copenhagen, Denmark, May 18-19.
- 2010 *The Vision Thing* workshop at the Center for Advanced Study in  
Behavioral Sciences, Stanford (CA), convened by William Christian and  
Gabor Klaniczay, July 19-26.
- 2010 *Alternative models of change: Eastern Christianity and the problem of  
transmission*. 'Religious Hegemony and Religious Diversity in Eastern  
Europe: Postsocialism vis-a-vis Longue Durée' Conference, MPI for Social  
Anthropology Halle/Saale Germany, June 24-25.

### **Panel and Conference Organizer**

- 2016 Pedagogy: Ethnographic and Cognitive Engagements. Panel at the 14th  
EASA Conference, Milan, July 20-23.
2012. 'Grappling with uncertainties: ethnographies of the imagination'.  
Panel at 12<sup>th</sup> EASA Biennial Conference Nanterre University, France, July 10-  
13.
2011. 'The pragmatics of religious transmission: contexts, case studies and  
theoretical departures', SIEF International Congress Lisbon, April 17-21.
- 2009 'Eastern Christianity in Post-Imperial Societies', organized by the  
Religious Studies Program, CEU, March 27-8.
- 2009 'Rethinking spirit possession', Panel at the 10<sup>th</sup> EASA Biennial Conference.  
Ljubljana, Aug. 26-30.