

## Diana Elena Popa, PhD

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School of World Languages and Cultures  
University of Vermont  
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### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

#### **Senior Lecturer (2018–Present)**

Linguistics Program, School of World Languages, University of Vermont

#### **Lecturer (2014–2018)**

Global Gateways, University of Vermont

#### **Lecturer (2013–2014)**

English Department, University of Rhode Island

#### **Full Professor (Tenure-Track, 2009–2013)**

English Department, Dunărea de Jos University of Galați, Romania

#### **Associate Professor (2006–2009)**

English Department, Dunărea de Jos University of Galați, Romania

#### **Assistant Professor (2001–2006)**

English Department, Dunărea de Jos University of Galați, Romania

### EDUCATION

#### **Ph.D. in English Applied Linguistics (2005)**

Al. I. Cuza University of Iași, Romania

#### **TESOL Certificate: Developing an Online Teaching Program (2018)**

TESOL International Association

#### **TESOL Certificate (2013)**

Trinity College London, U.K.

#### **Observation in Ethnography Practice (2022)**

Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Community (EPIC)

#### **MA Course in Media Studies (2010)**

Oslo International Summer School, Oslo, Norway

**MA in Translation Studies (2003)**

Dunarea de Jos University, Romania

**BA in English & French (2001)**

Al. I. Cuza University of Iasi, Romania

**AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS****EU-Funded Scholarship for Young Researchers (2003)**

DGÜD Ph.D. Prep School, School of Business, Aarhus, Denmark

**EU-Funded Project TOPACADEMIC (2012)**

Short-term expert, European Top Academic Project, POSDRU/107/1.5/S/76822, project dedicated to high quality and continuing education for Ph D students.

**EU-Funded Project TOPACADEMIC (2013)**

Short-term expert, European Top Academic Project, POSDRU/107/1.5/S/76822, project dedicated to high quality and continuing education for Ph.D. students.

**CEEX Project DISCORPS (2006–2008)**

Discourse and Communication in the Romanian Public Sphere  
Romanian Ministry of Education, PD 17/2006–2008

**Stage au Département des Langues Vivantes Pratiques (2006)**

Université Bordeaux 2, Bordeaux, France

**Invited Lecture, University of Salamanca, Spain (2006)**

“The Translation of Humor and the Concept of Equivalence,” delivered as part of the Ph.D. Program in Translation and Methodology, Department of Translation and Interpreting

**Project Coordinator, MECT Project M28/2008 (2008)**

Humor and Laughter: Research and Theory (2008). Romanian Ministry of Education (event funding related to the 8th International Summer School and Symposium on Humor and Laughter)

**Summer Schools on Humor and Laughter (2002, 2003, 2007)**

Attended training in theory and applications at Queen’s University Belfast, University of Edinburgh, and University of Aberdeen.

**Stage au Département des Langues Vivantes Pratiques (2006)**

Université Bordeaux 2, Bordeaux, France.

**Information literacy and cultural context: Chinese ELL student’s understanding of authority**

Global Gateway Program, University of Vermont (2016 – 2020)  
Diana Popa (PI) & Emily Crist

**Optimizing communicative competence for EFL students through competitive debate**

Global Gateway Program, University of Vermont (2017 – 2018)  
Diana Popa (PI) & Helen Morgan Parmett.

## EDITORIAL WORK & REVIEW ACTIVITIES

### **Founder & Editor-in-Chief, European Journal of Humour Research (2012–Present)**

- Established the journal's scope and editorial policies
- Oversee the peer-review process, editorial board recruitment, and issue publication

### **Collection Editor, Culture in Code: Intercultural Competence in the Age of AI and Globalisation, Springer Nature (2024–Present)**

- Oversee the editorial process for this multi-author volume, shaping chapter outlines and coordinating peer reviews
- Collaborate with contributors and publishers to ensure thematic cohesion, scholarly rigor, and timely publication

### **Reviewer, Journal of Pragmatics (2010–Present)**

- Evaluate 3–5 manuscripts annually on pragmatics, discourse analysis, and language use
- Provide feedback on theoretical frameworks, methodology, and clarity of scholarly writing

### **Reviewer, Pragmatics & Cognition (2023–Present)**

- Review manuscripts exploring intersections of pragmatic theory and cognitive processes
- Offer critical insight on methodological design and theoretical underpinnings

### **Reviewer, Text & Talk: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Language, Discourse & Communication Studies (2023–Present)**

- Assess scholarly work on discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, and communication
- Advise on research quality, argumentative coherence, and potential impact within the field

### **Editorial Board Member, Humor (2008–2016)**

- Provided expert reviews for humor studies submissions
- Contributed to editorial decisions regarding journal scope and directions

### **Editorial Board Member, EuroAmerican Journal of Applied Linguistics & Languages (2014–Present)**

- Advise on editorial policy, including thematic calls and special issues
- Oversee manuscript selection and offer guidance on publishing standards and ethical guidelines

### **Reviewer, The Asian EFL Journal (2015–2023)**

- Evaluate 2–4 manuscripts per review cycle, focusing on TESOL, EFL methodologies, and cross-cultural language teaching
- Recommend revisions and furnish detailed commentary to enhance scholarly rigor and clarity

### **Book Reviewer, Palgrave MacMillan (2024)**

- Provided an in-depth critique of John Charles Simon & Jennalee Donian's *Why We Laugh: A New Understanding*

- Evaluated theoretical grounding, research methodology, and contribution to humor studies

## SELECT PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS

2020

Crist, E., & **Popa, D.** (2020). Information literacy and cultural context: Chinese English language learners' understanding of information literacy. *College & Research Libraries*, 81(4).

2016

Lockyer, S., & **Popa, D.** (2016). "I like the metamorphosis of the characters": Dynamics of transnational television comedy engagement. *International Journal of Communication*, 10, 20–41.

2015

**Popa, D.** (2015). Multimodal metaphors in political entertainment. In M. J. Pinar (Ed.), *Multimodality and cognitive linguistics* (pp. 79–95). Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

Scripnic, G., & **Popa, D.** (2015). From hostile humour to stereotyping in televised satire Les Guignols de l'Info. *Language and Dialogue*, 5(1), 90–106.

2014

**Popa, D.** (2014). Culture. In S. Attardo (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Humour Studies* (pp. 189–191). Los Angeles/London/New Delhi/Singapore/Washington DC: SAGE.

2013

**Popa, D.** (2013). Medical discourse and ESP courses for Romanian nursing undergraduates. *Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 83, 17–24.

**Popa, D.** (2013). Multimodal metaphors in political entertainment. *Review of Cognitive Linguistics*, 11(2), 303–319.

**Popa, D.** (2013). Televised political satire: New theoretical introspections. In M. Dynel (Ed.), *Developments in Linguistic Humour Theory* (pp. 367–396). Amsterdam & New York: John Benjamins.

2011

Tsakona, V., & **Popa, D.** (2011). Humour in politics and the politics of humour: An introduction. In V. Tsakona & D. Popa (Eds.), *Studies in Political Humour* (pp. 1–30). Amsterdam & New York: John Benjamins.

**Popa, D.** (2011). Political satire dies last: A study on democracy, opinion formation and satire. In V. Tsakona & D. Popa (Eds.), *Studies in Political Humour* (pp. 137–165). Amsterdam & New York: John Benjamins.

Tsakona, V., & **Popa, D.** (2011). Postscript: A final (?) note on political humour. In V. Tsakona & D. Popa (Eds.), *Studies in Political Humour* (pp. 271–278). Amsterdam & New York: John Benjamins.

## 2009

**Popa, D.** (2009). Public sphere and computer-mediated communication in a globalized world: The case of political blogging. In B. Kortas et al. (Eds.), *La globalization communicationnelle. Enrichissement et menace pour les langues* (pp. 331–344).

Proyer, R., et al. (2009). Breaking ground in cross-cultural research on the fear of being laughed at (gelotophobia): A multinational study involving 73 countries. *Humour*, 22(1/2), 253–279.

## 2008

**Popa, D.** (2008). TV viewing and the Romanian popular culture. In **D. Popa** & A. Gâță (Eds.), *Discourse and verbal interaction in the Romanian public sphere*. Galați: Galați University Press.

**Popa, D.** (2008). The affective and cognitive dimensions of the cultural public sphere. In **D. Popa** & A. Gâță (Eds.), *Discourse and verbal interaction in the Romanian public sphere*. Galați: Galați University Press.

**Popa, D.** (2008). Media and public sphere. In **D. Popa** & A. Gâță (Eds.), *Discourse and verbal interaction in the Romanian public sphere*. Galați: Galați University Press.

Ruch, W., Proyer, R., & **Popa, D.** (2008). The fear of being laughed at (gelotophobia) and personality. *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie "G. Barițiu" Cluj-Napoca, Humanistica Series*, 6, 53–68.

## 2007

**Popa, D.** (2007). Media and the public sphere. In Y. Pasadeo (Ed.), *International dimensions of mass media research* (pp. 493–503). Athens: ATENIER.

**Popa, D.** (2007). The ritual of television viewing in the contemporary Romanian popular culture. In Individual and specific signs paradigms of identity in managing social representations (pp. 442–446). Bacău: University of Bacău.

**Popa, D.**, & Gâță, A. (2007). Dissociation as strategic maneuvering: Reflections of culture in the Romanian public sphere. In Colocviul internațional de științe ale limbajului "Eugen Coșeriu". *Limbaje și comunicare IX* (Vol. 2) (pp. 266–271). Suceava: Suceava University Press.

## 2006

**Popa, D.** (2006). The who and why in ethnic humor: A brief theoretical introspection. In *Translation studies: Retrospective and prospective views* (pp. 136–142). Galați: Editura fundației universitare "Dunărea de Jos."

**Popa, D.** (2006). Abusive creativity in humorous literary translations. In *Translation studies: Retrospective and prospective views* (pp. 129–135). Galați: Editura fundației universitare "Dunărea de Jos."

## 2005

**Popa, D.** (2005). Jokes and translation. *Perspectives: Studies in Translatology*, 13(1), 48–57.

**Popa, D.** (2005). Mark Twain's humour and its corrective rhetoric. In *Cultural Matrix Reloaded*. 7th International of RSEAS (pp. 302–312). București: Editura didactică și pedagogică.

**Popa, D.** (2005). Humor, language modeling and social context: A systemic functional approach. In *Tradition, modernity and postmodernity* (pp. 671–679). Iași: Universitas XXI.

#### 2004

**Popa, D.** (2004). Humour: From humours to the basic human quality. An etymological study of the term. *Dunărea de Jos University Annals of Philology*, 13(16), 102–106.

**Popa, D.** (2004). Language and culture in joke translation. *Ovidius University Annals of Philology*, 15, 153–159.

#### 2003

**Popa, D.** (2003). The language of humour and the social context: English vs. Romanian. *ANTARES*, 6(09), 53–60.

**Popa, D.** (2003). Humor and the concept of incongruity. In *Mélanges de terminologie et sémantique* (pp. 136–147). Galați: Academica.

**Popa, D.** (2003). Belly laughter every day keeps the doctor away. *Review of Life'n'Sport*, Mongabiti.

#### 2002

**Popa, D.** (2002). The absence of reference in Romanian joke translation. In *ANTARES*, 5(07–08–09).

**Popa, D.** (2002). Humour, a new science? *Dunărea de Jos*, 7, 14.

### SELECT PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PAPERS

#### 2024

**Popa, D.** (2024). Success Guaranteed: The Role of the Growth Mindset in the Community of Learning. Peer-reviewed roundtable discussion presented at the *American Association of Colleges and Universities – Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Student Success: "What Unites Us!"*, Philadelphia, PA, March 21–23.

#### 2023

**Popa, D.** (2023). Cultural Heritage & Second/Foreign Language Teaching: Pedagogical Considerations. *IConSES Conferences*, Las Vegas, NV, October 19–22.

#### 2022

**Popa, D.** (2022). The Magic of Fungi: A Semiotic Investigation into Contemporary Mushroom Art. *Semiotics in the Lifeworld: 15th World Congress of Semiotics (IASS/AIS)*, August 30–September 3.

**2019**

**Popa, D.** (2019). Humour as a Catalyst: Awakening the Collective. The Case of Late-Night Comedy Show. *Comedy and AI Conference*, St. Pete's College, Oxford, U.K.

**2018**

**Popa, D.** (2018). Cultural Competence & Contextualized Language Teaching through Competitive Debate. *7th Meeting on Language Teaching (MeLT)*, University of Quebec, Montreal, May 24–25.

**Popa, D.** (2018). Beyond Speaking Competence – A Multimodal Framework for Assessment. *CLIC Conference – Assessing Speaking in Context*, Rice University, TX, May 4–5.

**2016**

**Popa, D.** (2016). Developing the Communicative Competence through Oral Monologues and Learning Technology. *3rd International Conference of the American Pragmatics Association (AMPRA)*, Indiana University, November 4–6.

**2012**

**Popa, D.** (2012). Multimodal Metaphor in Political Entertainment. *24th International Society for Humour Studies (ISHS) Conference*, Krakow, Poland, June 25–29.

**Popa, D.** & Scripnic, G. (2012). Controversial Humour in Political Satire: From an Institutionalized Humorous Genre to Public Insults and Negative Stereotyping. *24th International Society for Humour Studies (ISHS) Conference*, Krakow, Poland, June 25–29.

**Popa, D.** (2012). [Title not provided]. Paper presented at the AAG Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

**2011**

**Popa, D.** (2011). Multimodal Humour in Blogging. *International Conference on Paradigms of Ideological Discourse: Discursive and Metadiscursive in Communication*, Universitatea Dunărea de Jos Galați, May 5–6.

**Popa, D.** (2011). Multimodal Metaphors and Entertaining Politics. *International Society for Humour Studies (ISHS) Annual Conference*, Boston University, MA, July 5–9.

Waters, C. & **Popa, D.** (2011). Satire Online: A Cross-Cultural Study of Political Humour on Internet Blogs. *23rd International Society for Humour Studies (ISHS) Annual Conference*, Boston University, MA, July 5–9.

**Popa, D.** (2011). Microspaces of Power in Imagined Spaces: The Case of Romania. *Northeast Texas Humour Research Conference*, Texas A&M University-Commerce.

**Popa, D.** (2011). A Paremiological Approach to National Identity. *International Conference Creativity & Tradition in Polish and Estonian Cultural Communication*, Krosno, Poland, October 28–29.

**2010**

**Popa, D.** (2010). Humour in Political Blogs: An Introspection. LAFAL Linguistic Approaches to Funniness, Amusement and Laughter: 1st International Symposium, Łódź, Poland, March 24–26.

**2008**

**Popa, D.** (2008). Political Humour in the Mediated Contemporary Romanian Public Sphere. 20th ISHS Humour Conference, Alcalá de Henares, Spain.

**2007**

**Popa, D.** (2007). Contemporary Political Humour in the Romanian Public Sphere. *7th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter*, Aberdeen, U.K.

**Popa, D.** (2007). Media and the Public Sphere. *International Conference on Media and Communication*, Athens Institute for Education and Research, Athens, Greece.

**Popa, D.** (2007). Computer-Mediated Communication and the Informal Public Sphere. *9th IASS/AIS World Congress of Semiotics*, Helsinki–Imatra, Finland.

**Popa, D.** (2007). Computer-Mediated Communication and the Informal Public Sphere in a Globalized World. *Globalization and Communication: Enrichment or Threat*, Gdansk, Poland.

**2006**

**Popa, D.** (2006). Humour and the Celebration of Death. *18th International ISHS Humour Conference*, Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Popa, D.** (2006). The Discourse of Culture in the Romanian Public Sphere. *Thinking and Speaking a Better World: International Conference on Argumentation, Rhetoric, Debate and the Pedagogy of Empowerment*, Koper, Slovenia.

**2005**

**Popa, D.** (2005). Abusive Creativity in Humorous Literary Translation. 5th Portsmouth Translation Conference, School of Languages and Area Studies, Portsmouth, U.K.

**2004**

**Popa, D.** (2004). Linguistic Choice Determination and Conventional Paradigms Breaking in Literary Humorous Texts. *16th Conference of the International Society for Humour Studies*, Institut Universitaire de Technologie de Dijon, France.

**Popa, D.** (2004). Humour in Translation: Language Choices and Cultural Identity in Joke Translation. *Approaches and Objects in Translation Studies Today*, Copenhagen University, Faculty of Humanities, Copenhagen, Denmark.



## 2003

**Popa, D.** (2003). The Language of Humour—Lexical Choices and Social Context: English vs. Romanian. *15th Euro-International Systemic Functional Workshop*, School of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Leeds, U.K.

**Popa, D.** (2003). Systemics, Humour and the Social Context: English vs. Romanian. *3rd International Summer School on Humour and Laughter: Theory, Research and Applications*, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K.

## 2002

**Popa, D.** (2002). The Absence of Reference in Romanian Joke Translation. *2nd International Summer School and Colloquium on Humour and Laughter: Theory, Research and Application*, Queen's University of Belfast, U.K.

## RECENT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of Vermont (2013–Present)

#### Linguistics:

- LING 095 – HCOL Deconstructing Humor
- LING 096 – FYS: Deconstructing Humor / WLS: Deconstructing Humor
- LING 081 – Structure of the English Language
- LING 168 – Introduction to Pragmatics
- LING 170 – TESOL and Applied Linguistics
- LING 270 – Techniques & Procedures in ESL
- LING 296A – Semiotics
- LING 2000 – Multimodal Communication (HCOL)

#### Public Speaking & Interviewing:

- SPCH 011 – Effective Speaking
- SPCH 096 – Effective Interviewing

#### English Composition:

- ENGS 001 – Written Expression

#### ESOL / Academic Skills:

- ESOL 095 – Graduate Oral Communication
- ESOL 096 – Academic Writing 2
- EDSS 055 – U.S. Academic Culture

### Heritage Language Teacher (2023–Present)

Path to Biliteracy Program, Champlain Valley School District

- Provide heritage language instruction to bilingual and multilingual students.
- Develop culturally responsive curricula and promote biliteracy skills.
- Collaborate with program administrators to track student progress and community engagement.

### **Senior Lecturer, Introduction to Research Methods (Spring 2024)**

Community College of Vermont (CCV)

- Designed and delivered a foundational course on research design, quantitative and qualitative methods, and critical analysis.
- Guided students in developing literature reviews, formulating research questions, and applying data collection techniques.

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION & COMMUNITY**

### **Membership in Professional Associations**

- American Pragmatics Association (AMPRA), 2016–present
- International Pragmatics Association (IPrA), 2016–present
- International Association of Semiotics (AIS), 2022–present
- International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS), 2002–present
- Massachusetts Educators of English Language Learners (MATSOL), 2013–present
- Linguistics Society of America (LSA), 2018–present

### **Service to the University**

- **Chair, Doctoral Fellowship Committee (2023)**

College of Nursing & Health Sciences

Proposal: "Here and This or There and That: An Examination of Autistic Indexical Use"  
(Student: Stasha Medeiros)

Committee Members: Prof. Dr. Patricia Prelock & Prof. Dr. Reuben Escorpizo

- Guided research design, ensured ethical standards, and secured necessary resources
  - Monitored project milestones, maintaining academic rigor and adherence to departmental protocols.
- **Institute of Interfaith Excellence (CAS Team) (2023-2025)**
    - Served on the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) team to advance interfaith dialogue and intercultural understanding.
    - Participated in strategic planning sessions, workshop facilitation, and collaborative events promoting inclusion and excellence across diverse faith traditions.
  - **UVM Honors College–UVM Multimedia Library Project – HCOL Course Multimodal Communication (2023-present)**
    - Collaborated with Honors College (HCOL) and the university library to introduce virtual reality (VR) technologies into classroom settings.
    - Led pilot demonstrations, designed course integrations, and assessed pedagogical impact of VR modules.
    - Expanded student engagement with immersive media, fostering innovative learning experiences across disciplines.

- **TESOL Certificate Program Capstone – UVM Graduate School (2020-2024)**
  - Led and supervised the capstone component of the TESOL Certificate, guiding undergraduates through hands-on teaching engagements with international students.
  - Facilitated real-world classroom experience, enhancing trainees' pedagogical, linguistic, and cultural competencies.
  - Oversaw curriculum design, program facilitation, and assessment to ensure meaningful, applied learning outcomes.
  
- **UVM Graduate School - Academic Communication Workshops for International Graduate Students (2019-2023)**
  - Organized and facilitated a series of interactive workshops on academic and cross-cultural communication for international graduate students at UVM.
  - Provided individualized feedback sessions, fostering clarity, coherence, and confidence in scholarly discourse.
  - Collaborated with faculty and administrative staff to align workshop topics with departmental needs.
  
- **Fulbright Nominating Committee (2021–2022)**
  - Participated in screening and interviewing candidates applying for prestigious Fulbright awards.
  - Assessed applicants' academic merit, project feasibility, and alignment with Fulbright's mission of international exchange.
  
- **Study Abroad Photo Competition, SWLC (2023-2024)**
  - Contributed to planning and promotion of the School of World Languages and Cultures' annual photo competition.
  - Evaluated submissions for creativity, cultural insight, and photographic quality.
  - Collaborated with colleagues to highlight and celebrate students' global experiences.
  
- **Multimedia & CMD Advisory Group – Committee Member (2024-Present)**
  - Collaborated with colleagues to shape strategies for integrating multimedia resources across curricula.
  - Offered expertise in communication design (CMD) tools, fostering innovative, technology-enhanced learning experiences.
  - Participated in regular evaluations of new media initiatives, ensuring alignment with institutional goals.

- **Member, Defense Committee – Honors Theses**

- 2022: Paige Roussel, There's Three Stores in the Whole Picture: On the Use of English Existential Construction in Task-Based Interactions
- 2020: Katie Esser, To Flip or not to Flip? Individual cognitive differences and L2 Russian Acquisition of verbal Morphology in a Flipped Class

- **Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT) Committee Member (2024)**

- Reviewed faculty portfolio for teaching and service contributions.
- Collaborated on evaluations and recommendations, ensuring consistent application of institutional criteria and standards.

- **UVM Mentor & Course Host**

- Cui Wu, English Language Lecturer at Shandong University of Science and Technology (Spring 2024)

## **Community Outreach & Engagement**

### **Vermont Council on World Affairs (2023-Present)**

- Designed and facilitated several interactive workshops on public speaking, integrating cross-cultural communication strategies with a focus on entrepreneurship, community building, resilience, and peace-building as part of the International Young Leaders Exchange Program
- Engaged participants in practical exercises to strengthen presentation, persuasion, and leadership skills.

## **Conference & Event Organization**

- Organizer, *1st International Conference on Humor in Conventional and Unconventional Politics (ICHCUP)*, Dunărea de Jos University of Galați (2012)
- Local Organizer, *8th International Summer School and Symposium on Humor and Laughter*, endorsed by ISHS (2008)
- Co-organizer, *International Conference Communication and Argumentation in the Public Sphere*, Dunărea de Jos University of Galați (2007)
- Co-organizer of the *International Workshop a New Approach to Psychotherapy: Art-Therapy*, Dunărea de Jos University of Galați (2005)
- Co-organizer of the *International Conference on Specialized Discourse: Theory and Practice*, Dunărea de Jos University of Galați (2005).