

“Woman”, “Man”, and National Identity among the Romanians
(Abstract)

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Keywords: nationalism, gender norms, history, Romania.

This essay provides a gender analysis of the ways in which “woman” and “man” are defined in Romanian as gendered categories of historical agency. Examining both the definition of the two words in the dictionary as well as a number of case studies among history textbooks, the article argues that the gender ideology that identifies patriotism and nationalism exclusively with men and masculinity can be viewed in the ways national pantheon of heroes was initially developed and has been reaffirmed since the nineteenth century without much change. This ideology continues to be upheld in the highest echelons of the intellectual life, such as the leadership of the Romanian Academy. At the same time, feminist contributions critical of this position continue to be marginalized and a sexist gender regime to be rearticulated in textbooks and the classroom.

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