

FOREWORD

The second issue of *HEROS Journal* offers a rich and diverse collection of articles exploring Romanian language, society, and culture from multiple, often intersecting perspectives. The contributions span a comparative examination of the codification and standardization of Romanian and Finnish, analyses of urban multilingualism in Timișoara (Romania), and reflections on the challenges of teaching Romanian as a foreign language in Serbia, all anchored in discussions of language history and dynamism. Further articles engage with contemporary themes such as the language of LGBTQ communities on Romanian social media, discourse networks and the transformation of Romanian journalism from print to digital formats, as well as diary discourse that frames memory as individual heritage. The hereby issue is further enriched by two book reviews: one examining a volume focused on endangered languages in Italy and the Balkans, and the other exploring the Security (Sigourantza) files of the renowned Romanian novelist Panait Istrati. Together, these studies offer fresh and thought-provoking insights while fostering dialogue between Romanian and broader linguistic and cultural contexts.

A part of the contributions included in this issue were first presented at the International Conference *BORDERS – Romanian Across Borders: Identity, Migration, Culture, and Linguistic Change in the Romance Family*, held at the University of Helsinki, Finland, on 5th-6th May 2025. Organised in partnership with CoCoLaC (Comparing and Contrasting Languages and Cultures), the Romanian Language Institute (Bucharest, Romania), the Romanian Cultural Institute in Stockholm (Sweden), Tekstin Talo (Helsinki), and Sivualo Platform, the conference created a vibrant space for scholarly exchange across disciplines and borders, all featuring Romanian studies.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the speakers and contributors who have honoured *HEROS Journal* with their invaluable work. We also extend our deepest appreciation to the peer reviewers for their thorough evaluations and insightful feedback, which have been essential in maintaining the academic rigor and integrity of this issue. Their dedication significantly contributes not only to the quality of the journal but also to the cultivation and strengthening of the *HEROS* community—a vibrant network of researchers committed to advancing Romanian Studies. It is our hope that this issue will provoke further reflection and foster meaningful dialogue amongst scholars, students, and readers engaged with the intricate relationships between language, identity, and culture.

The Editors