

support from central planning, the stagnation of the railways in the 1980s could not have been reversed.

The main contribution of the work is a thorough and in-depth analysis of the historical, economic, and political contexts of the development of socialist railways in Czechoslovakia. It presents a unique probe into the workings of this sector and enables an understanding of the historical development of the railway in the context of the political and economic development of socialist Czechoslovakia.

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## Parvulescu, Anca, and Manuela Boatcă. *Creolizing the Modern: Transylvania across Empires*

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Innovative, boldly interdisciplinary, and conceptually ambitious, Anca Parvulescu and Manuela Boatcă's *Creolizing the Modern* defies easy classification. But that's only fitting for a book all about fracturing categories and dissolving borders. It fuses literary/critical theory, sociology, and history to bring Transylvania—and, by implication, East Central Europe—into methodological realms well explored by scholars of Latin American, Caribbean, and Asian post- and de-colonialism, but less familiar (in my experience) to Habsburg-area specialists. Taking as their analytical lodestar Laura Doyle's concept of inter-imperiality, Parvulescu and Boatcă present Transylvania as a European case study in a larger global history of coloniality and capitalism: a zone forged by the contestation of multiple empires and economic systems, which generated an intricate creolization of ethnicity, language, confession, and exploitation.

Though the book's aims are many, they coalesce around the deep reading of a single text, Liviu Rebreanu's novel *Ion* (1920). Regarded as a landmark work in the Romanian canon, it is scarcely known to outsiders. The novel takes place in a Transylvanian village in the early twentieth century and centers on the travails of its ethnically Romanian title character. Parvulescu and Boatcă summon from the novel a stunning galaxy of thematic investigations, and every chapter is its own constellation. Chapter 1 teases from *Ion*'s land-lust the contemporaneous politics of nationalism and the agrarian question in a globalized context. Chapter 2, propelled by Immanuel Wallerstein's world-systems theory, assesses Transylvania's integration into global capitalism and uses that frame, linked to *Ion*'s Jewish publican, to make sense of antisemitism. Chapter 3 argues for the overdue recognition of Romani music in labor history, tying it both to specific characters in the novel and the long but glossed-over record of slavery in the region. For chapter 4, the authors coin the term *interglottism*—essentially “multilingualism” with a critique of imperial power relations baked in—to parse the politics of language use in *Ion*, as well as to illuminate Transylvania's status as the birthplace of the comparative literature discipline. Chapter 5 examines the intensely gendered nature of nationalism, landownership, and the family through the plight of *Ion*'s oppressed, battered wife Ana. This flows compellingly into chapter 6, in which Parvulescu and Boatcă deftly evince the tension between nationalism and women's liberation in the late Habsburg Empire out of the novel's demonization of feminism as “poison” (139). The book terminates in chapter 7, where the authors knot all its thematic strands around that of religion, which likewise circumscribes *Ion* itself.

Taken at least on the merits of its adventurous vision and sorcerous analytical complexity, *Creolizing the Modern* is an outstanding contribution to the study of East Central/Southeastern Europe. For a field that has been only fitfully globalized, and one in which the historiography of empire is imbued with a kind of stodgy (if not always unbeguiling) Austrian *Schlamperei*, this volume points the way to excitingly original, more academically cosmopolitan horizons.

However, this higher-order brilliance comes at the cost of recurring frustration in the details. First, despite their constant invocation, the really key terms of art—*inter-imperial*, *coloniality*, and *creolization*—are defined largely by inference. It was only after consulting Doyle's source text that *inter-imperial*, the most important concept by far, was functionally meaningful to me. This posed a genuine problem because so much of the book depends on ascribing inter-imperiality to so many phenomena; yet an esoteric shroud, combined with overuse, dimmed its explanatory power. Second, there are, frequently, too many lines of argument in play at once, such that the authors' lessons muddle one another. The chapter on interglottism, for instance, takes on inter-imperiality, world systems analysis, creolization, a critique of literary modernism, *plus* introduces the authors' own neologism—but it delivers no truly cohesive, durable takeaway for the aggregate. Third, the book behaves as if it takes for granted that its readers already know the plot and cultural significance of Rebreanu's *Ion*. It is dispensed piecemeal and exegetically, with some chapters offering more direct access to the text than others, inspiring a certain sense of incoherence. Fourth, the historical evidence on offer is, at times, spotty and even perplexing. The discussion of Transylvania's place in the global economy in chapter 2, for example, relies more on the dates of railway completions and Wallerstein's schema than on specific data; the composer Franz Liszt, without explanation, is leaned on as the main source for stereotypes about the Roma; Georges Clemenceau is quoted as an authority on 1890s Hungarian education policy. In short, there are aspects of *Creolizing the Modern* that, in my view, still require further empirical trial before their conclusions are ready for broader application.

But such, perhaps, are the flaws that attend a pioneering work—as this certainly is. Professors, place it on your seminar syllabi and comps lists; it is a book built to thrive in the vanguard action of graduate study.

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## Scaglia, Ilaria. *The Emotions of Internationalism: Feeling International Cooperation in the Alps in the Interwar Period*

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It is well known that emotions and their history not only play a role in the interpersonal sphere but can also be profitably analyzed in the field of international politics. Since the publication of *The Emotions of Internationalism*, we also know in which environmental relationship emotions can sometimes be interwoven to achieve certain political goals. Using a wide range of previously unpublished English, French, Italian, and German source material, Ilaria Scaglia's book is a captivating exploration of the role of emotions in the field of internationalism.

Against the backdrop of the Alpine panorama of the interwar period—that is, the mountains on the border between Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and the former Yugoslavia—Scaglia examines the people and institutions that were interested in and committed to internationalism in