



Working Group Witnessing (MSA)

Virtual Book Presentation Session, Summer 2025

June 5, 2025, at 09:00 am EST via Zoom:

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/87697106647?pwd=T3NXb1NSc0YxbmNPMFR3QzNkOXILZx09>

Presenter: Dr. **Stefan Cristian Ionescu** on his book
***Justice and Restitution in Post-Nazi Romania*, Cambridge University Press, 2024**

Abstract: On 23rd August 1944, following the collapse of the pro-Nazi dictatorship of Ion Antonescu, Romania changed sides and abandoned the Axis to join the Allies. Justice and Restitution in Post-Nazi Romania explores the hopes, struggles and disappointments of Jewish communities in Romania seeking to rebuild their lives after the Holocaust. Focusing on the efforts of survivors to recuperate rights and property, the book demonstrates how the early transitional government enabled short term restitution. However, from 1948, the consolidated communist regime implemented nationalizations which dispossessed many citizens. Jewish communities were disproportionately affected, and real estate and many businesses were lost once again. Drawing on archival sources from government documentation to diaries and newspaper reports, this study explores both the early success and later reversal of restitution policies. In doing so, it sheds light on the postwar treatment of Romanian Jewish survivors, and the reasons so many survivors emigrated from Romania.

Bio: Stefan Cristian Ionescu is currently the Leon and Sophie Weinstein Associate Professor in Holocaust History and the Associate Director of the Rodgers Center of Holocaust Education, History Department, Chapman University. He held teaching and research positions at several academic institutions, including Northwestern University and Uppsala University. He is the author of several book chapters and articles in such journals as *Central European History*; *Eastern European Holocaust Studies*; *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*; *Nationalities Papers*; *Journal of Genocide Research*; *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of History and Culture*; *Yad Vashem Studies*; *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*, and *Culture and Psychology*. His academic interests cover European modern history, Holocaust and genocide studies, transitional justice, and minority studies. Ionescu authored two books: *Jewish Resistance to 'Romanianization,' 1940-1944* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) and *Justice and Restitution in Post-Nazi Romania: Rebuilding Jewish Lives and Communities, 1944-1950* (Cambridge University Press, 2024).