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- Photo #22 Putin & Medvedev, 2008
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Noemi Marin (Photo by her husband, John Malmrose)

Dedication

Noemi Marin (1954-2023)

We dedicate this volume to our friend, colleague, and collaborator Dr. Noemi Marin, who passed away June 19, 2023.

Noemi Marin was a Professor of Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida, where she established herself as a prolific and influential scholar of communication and rhetorical practices in the Soviet and post-Soviet worlds. Her major works include *After the Fall: Rhetoric in the Aftermath of Dissent in Post-communist Times* (2007)³ and *Rhetorics of 1989: Rhetorical Archaeologies of Political Transitions* (a special volume of *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*, co-edited with Cezar Ornatowski).⁶ She also co-edited two separate “Collocutio” on rhetoric in post-communist regimes with Cezar Ornatowski (2006/2007 and 2009)^{5,7} and one special issue of *Controversia: An International Journal of Debate and Democratic Renewal* on “Democracies’ in Transition” (with M. Lane Bruner).⁴ Noemi edited the *Journal of Literacy and Technology*, an international academic journal, from 2005 until her death. She published more than thirty articles, book chapters, and translations, and she presented more than one hundred academic conference papers, plenary session papers, or keynote addresses. In her spare time, she published poetry, including the volume *Apa Timpului-Poezii* (Water of Time) (1995).²

She was President of the Romanian Studies Association of America from 2016 through 2018 and was a frequent guest on both Romanian National Radio and Television. Romanian TV created a documentary on Noemi including her research and her activities both as professor at FAU and as president of Romanian Studies Association of America. The documentary was rebroadcast for several months.

Noemi spent most of her academic career at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, where she arrived in 1999 as a Visiting Assistant Professor but quickly moved up through the ranks to Assistant (2001), Associate (2007), and Full Professor (2012). She served as Director of

Florida Atlantic’s very active Peace Studies program from 2007 through 2012 and as Director of the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies from 2011 through 2014. In 2010 she received the FAU Presidential Leadership Award, largely in recognition of her work as University Program Coordinator bringing the Dalai Lama to campus for a talk and scheduling thirty-two related events for a special “Peace Week” culminating in the Dalai Lama’s public presentation. Noemi also was recognized as Distinguished Teacher of the Year for the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters in 2009 and as FAU Researcher/Creative Scholar of the Year in the Associate Professor Category in 2009.

Noemi was particularly well known for her work on Communist and post-Communist discourse in her native Romania. She was born in Bucharest on December 2, 1954, to a well-known and widely celebrated musical family. Her “world-famous father,” Marin Constantin, was “creator and conductor” of the Madrigal Chamber Choir and a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador; her mother Bernanda Marin was an engineer but also a member of the Choir; and her brother Maestro Ion Marin is a world-renowned conductor.¹ Noemi chose an academic rather than a musical path. After graduating from the University of Bucharest with her undergraduate degree, Noemi continued her studies there and received a Master of Arts in English and Spanish Languages and Literatures. She was Valedictorian of her class.

But the world was changing, and Noemi was changing along with it. The Berlin Wall came down in 1989. Having “lived the first act of her life behind the Iron Curtain,” Noemi was eager to see what other possibilities existed. In 1990, before all the legal niceties were in place for immigration, Noemi abandoned Romania and the Soviet Union, leaving behind her family, including her young daughter Oana, with whom she would not re-unite for many years. Noemi “arrived in America on February 5, 1990, adopting this date as her second birthday—the date she left behind the Communist regime and all her loved ones in hopes to secure a better future.”¹ She started over in California, earning her second advanced degree, a Master of Arts in Communication from California State University, Northridge. She also met and, on July 4, 1993, married the love of her life, John Malmrose. They moved together to Maryland, where Noemi earned her doctorate in Rhetoric and Communication from the University of Maryland in 1999, and then they moved to south Florida, where Noemi began her career at Florida Atlantic University.

In November 1993, Noemi organized and led a preconference seminar on the “Fall of Communism and the Impact of Democracy on Global Discourse: Ten Years After” at the National Communication Association annual convention in Chicago. Both Marilyn and David attended the seminar. That initial meeting became more important in 2003 when NCA met in Miami Beach, inasmuch as David was on the market that fall: FAU was advertising a position, and Noemi was chairing the search committee. David was not familiar with FAU and had not read the advertised position as primarily a rhetoric position, but since he and Noemi were already acquainted, he asked her about it. Noemi assured him it was, indeed, a rhetoric position. David had planned to stay a couple of extra days in Florida after the NCA conference in order to visit relatives, and Noemi convinced him to meet her on campus and look around before leaving. The rest, as they say, is history. David started at FAU in August 2004.

There was an immediate synergy between Noemi and David, and that soon spread to include Marilyn and Michael. David and Marilyn were already co-editing *Controversia*, and Michael served as the journal’s translation editor. Noemi joined the Editorial Board in 2005, and soon thereafter co-edited a special issue on “Democracies in Transition.”⁴ She also joined ICAPCA as an advisor (see the Preface to this volume). From there, the collaboration only expanded. David submitted an article to the “Collocutio” that Noemi and Cezar Ornatsowski were preparing for *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*. In that manner, Noemi was an editor for the article “Instant Democracy,” which is included as Chapter Twenty-Two of Volume Two of this book series.⁸ In addition, Noemi was an editor for Marilyn and David’s article in a subsequent special issue of *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*, “Echoes of Berlin, 1989,” which is also included in Volume Two of this book series, as Chapter Twenty.⁹

Noemi and David co-authored several conference papers (one was the keynote address for the International Conference of the Russian Communication Association in June 2006 in St. Petersburg, Russia). They published two chapters together, one of which (“Citizen Putin: Presidential Argument and the Invitation to (Democratic) Citizenship”) is reprinted in this volume. David presented papers in programs that Noemi arranged, and Noemi presented papers in programs David organized. From 2004 onward, David and Noemi worked together formally and informally, analyzing the rhetorical and argumentative postures, appeals, and programs of leaders of Soviet and post-Soviet nations, and they constantly bounced

off of each other their ideas about and interpretations of changes they saw in the rhetoric and the arguments. Noemi understood the “inside perspective” of how Soviet discourse and its cloaked successor rhetoric worked, both in the public sphere and in the personal realm. Simply put, Noemi understood the Soviet world, as well as the struggles involved in breaking free from that world. When David traveled during these years to Eastern Europe or Russia, which he did with some frequency, Noemi would be in his ear, explaining social norms and practices as well as relevant political, economic, and social histories.

Noemi has a visible presence in the volumes of this book series as an author and as an editor. But her influence far exceeds that. For all of us, but perhaps particularly for David, there are traces of Noemi shimmering through much of what we write and think about post-Soviet rhetoric. We thank Noemi for sharing her knowledge, understanding, and wisdom with us, and in appreciation we dedicate this volume to her.

David Cratis Williams

June 28, 2023

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Note to Readers

To facilitate the reading process—and for economy of space—all citations within the text have been referenced to a numbered comprehensive bibliography placed at the back of this volume. Citations are presented by number alone, by number and page(s), or by author(s), number and page(s).

Also, within the text of the individual chapters, place names (e.g., Moscow), proper names (e.g., Yeltsin), and familiar terms (e.g., glasnost) have been rendered in spellings that are familiar to Western readers.

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