Dr. Lorena Anton is Marie Curie-CIG fellow in social anthropology at the University of Bucharest (Faculty of Letters), where she is developing the REPROAB research project on the relationships between past and present when dealing with biopolitics in a post-totalitarian regime. Her current research interests include social and cultural memory of state socialism in Europe, European politics of reproduction and ageing, memory and wellbeing.

Is Traumatic Memory Linguistically Conscious?

The banning of abortion (1966-1989) in Ceuşescu’s Romania is considered one of the most repressive reproductive politics of the 20th century. Is the traumatic memory of this recent past linguistically conscious, when interrogated? Starting from M. Bakhtin’s theory of dialogism and re-analyzing some memory-narratives collected during my anthropological fieldwork on ‘the memory of abortion in communist Romania’ (2004-2009), I reflect upon the way past trauma(s) can restructure individual memory-narratives as well as cultural memory and consciousness.