

“OVIDIUS” UNIVERSITY OF CONSTANȚA

DOMAIN OF RESEARCH - PHILOLOGY

**ABSTRACT OF THE HABILITATION THESIS**

***ROMANIAN STUDIES IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT***

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## Romanian Studies in an International Context

### Abstract

This habilitation thesis describes, based on documents, my scientific and professional postdoctoral achievements and my teaching and research activity in the field of Romanian Studies in an International Context. It demonstrates the relevance and originality of my contributions and documents their visibility in the national and international academic community. My scientific contributions focused on the following thematic directions: 1. *Modern Romanian Literature*, 2. *Romanian and Universal Theatre* and 3. *Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization in an International Context*.

The thesis is structured in two sections, I. *Scientific and professional achievements* and II. *Evolution and career development plans*, followed by the bibliography used in this work.

The first section presents the synthesis of my didactic and scientific activities, the most relevant contributions and academic recognition and is structured in several chapters:

I.1. *National and international didactic experience in the field of Romanian language and literature*. After graduating from the Faculty of Philology (1986), at the University of Bucharest, an institution from which I also obtained my PhD (1998), I was affiliated, by contract, to four universities: “Ovidius” University of Constanța (tenured in 1992), University of Bucharest (2008-14), University of Washington, Seattle (Fulbright scholar, 2001-02) and Indiana University, Bloomington, (professor for SWSEEL (Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European and Central Asian Languages), with ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) scholarship, three editions: 2009, 2011 and 2012. I was also a guest professor at: Indiana University (2002), Università di Pisa (2013), Columbia University (2016) and Ankara University (2018).

I.2. *Scientific activity. National and international grants and research centers*. My scientific research activity has resulted in individual or collective post-doctoral grants and research centers memberships: 2001–02: Senior Fulbright Grant at University of Washington, Seattle (project: *Romanian Language and Civilization*); 2005-08: NURC (CNCSIS) Grant for the project *Shakespeare in the Memory of Romanian Cultural Space: a Model of European Cultural Integration* – member; 2007-09: NURC (CNCSIS) Grant for the project *Romanian Studies in the World: the Cultural Dimension of European Integration* – director; 2009-10, 2011-12: biannual

grants ACLS (project: *Romanian Language and Literature* for SWSEEL – IU); 2009-12: Comenius Grant *European Music Portfolio – A Creative Way into Languages* – national director; 2010: English Speaking Union/Shakespeare's Globe Scholarship for the Education Cultural Seminar *Shakespeare and his stage* (London); 2013: Erasmus Teaching Grant, Università di Pisa; 2014: Erasmus Staff Training Grant, Católica Porto University; 2018: Grant Erasmus Teaching, Ankara University; 2016-18: Manager for Romania/academic expert in Romanian culture and civilization for the international cultural project *An Occupation of Loss* (New York, London); 2016-18: Contractor/Language consultant for NFLC (National Foreign Language Center) at the University of Maryland (project: *Romanian Language Tests*).

In 2005 I was a founding member of the NURC (CNCSIS) Research Center *Cultural Interferences*, and in 2011, I founded the Center for Research and Professional Development *Romanian Studies in International Context* (STUR), where we organized seven scientific conferences and coordinated six volumes: *Caragiale's Actuality, 1912-2012*, (2012); *Junimea and its impact after 150 years* (2013), *Literature, Theater, and Film – in Honor of the Dramatist Matei Vişniec* (2015), *Eastern European cultures and civilizations. In memoriam Aida Todi* (2016), *Romanian studies in an inter- and transdisciplinary context. In memoriam Marin Mincu* (2017) and *Ovidius in Romania. In memoriam magistri Stephani Cucu* (2018).

I.3. *Expertise and consultancy experience.* I am permanent Romanian Language consultant for the NFLC (Maryland, since 2016), evaluator for ARACIS (since 2013) and AFCN (since 2013), scientific referent for: Routledge Publishing (2002-08), *Balkanistica* (University of Oxford, Mississippi, din 2007), *Annals of the University of Bucharest, Language and Literature Series* (since 2014), *Intertext* (Chişinău, since 2009) and a jury member for the competitions: *Graduate Student Essay Award Committee* of the SRS (2018, 2019), *Fulbright Junior Projects* (2002), *Speak Out – EDAR* (2010-11).

I.4. *Relevant scientific contributions in the field of Romanian Studies in an International Context.* My research, materialized in the publications, has been carried out on the three axes of interest.

My interest for I.4.1. *Modern Romanian Literature* started with the Ph.D. thesis titled *Real and Fantastic in Caragiale's work*, conducted under the guidance of Prof. Univ. Dr. Marin Mincu (1992-98), and published with the title *Mirrors within Mirrors. A Study on I.L. Caragiale's Works* (1998). The volume *Between the Absurd and the Fantastic. Voyages into the Mirage Waters*

(2001), brought an original theoretical and critical contribution to the research of the literary fantastic, illustrated by its canonical models (Eminescu, Macedonski and Caragiale). Other contributions can be found in volumes: *Critical Essays* (2003), *Literature of the Great Classics*, *The Critical Spirit of Junimea between Literary Theory and Practice* (2003), *Junimea*, Textbook (2007) and *Romanian Literature under the Sign of Modernity*, (2014). Illustrative of the international dissemination of Romanian literature are the studies included in the volume *Criss-Cross: Essays in Romanian and Comparative Literature* (Munich, 2006), containing studies about Creangă, Eminescu, Caragiale and Nichita Stănescu.

I have written many studies about the I.4.2. *Romanian and Universal Theatre*, discussing playwrights like: I.L. Caragiale, Eugen Ionescu, William Shakespeare and Matei Vișniec.

Subchapter I.4.3. *The Romanian language, culture and civilization in international context* gathers the didactic studies on Romanian as a foreign language, the researches from the project *Romanian Studies around the World* and studies and multimedia materials of Romanian culture and civilization.

Subchapter I. 5. *The recognition and impact of these contributions* selectively presents citations and reviews of my books, membership in professional associations and the quality of Board member of the Society for Romanian Studies.

Section II. *Evolution and career development plans* includes future research and teaching directions and scientific and editorial projects associated with doctoral guidance, thematically organized on the same three axes of interest.