

ROMANIAN COMMUNISM AND POST-COMMUNISM BETWEEN HISTORY AND MEMORY

Summary of The Habilitation Thesis

This habilitation thesis represents, on one hand, a summary of the research activities I have realized since defending my doctoral thesis in 2008, as well as the principal directions in which I intend to concentrate my research projects in the coming years.

In the first part of the thesis, I present my major scientific and professional realizations, on disciplinary and interdisciplinary themes, including postdoctoral studies, participation in stages of research, and professional prestige, with emphasis on my principal realizations since obtaining my doctorate in history in 2008. This doctorate was structured on five themes, each in turn with its own subthemes. In each case I dedicate space to a general presentation of the problem, for better contextualization of the results and activities presented thereafter.

I call the first of these themes, generically, *The Communist Regime in Romania*, and I divide it into five subthemes: *Institutes, Events, and Destinies; Armed Anti-Communist Resistance; Metamorphoses of the Rural World during the Communist Period; Repression and Political Detention; and The Effects of Repression and Families of Former Political Detainees*. For each of these, as appropriate, I present the respective grants, conferences organized, volumes, studies and articles published, science communications held, exhibitions organized and other significant research activities, for the most part without going into too much detail.

The second theme presented is *The Image of German Ethnicities among Transylvania Romanians after 1918*, and was effectively generated by the subject of my doctoral research, begun in 2001. In 2008, I defended my thesis, but my preoccupations with the field continued. In 2016, I published an abridged version of my thesis with the *Cetatea de Scaun* publishing house in Târgoviște, entitled *The Image of German Ethnicities among Transylvania Romanians after 1918. Case Study: Hunedoara, Alba, and Sibiu Counties. Oral History Research*. Besides, I also have published other studies and articles, or have submitted scientific communications.

One of the themes on which I focused my attention for a very long period of time (starting as far back as 2000) addressed *The German Minority in Romania during the Communist Period*. In this direction, complementing research regarding the image of the German ethnicities, I concentrated especially on the communist and post-communist period. In this regard, I published studies and articles, and I held science communications at national and international conferences. I would especially mention here the post-doctoral scholarship which I received from 1 September 2011 to 28 February 2013, at “Babeş-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca, having the theme of *The Role of the*

Elites in the Socio-Demographic Transformations of the German Communities of Transylvania in the Second Half of the 20th Century. This scholarship offered me the opportunity to delve deeply into the history of the Germans in Romania after the Second World War.

One desire I have had even from the beginning of my career is to always try to disseminate the results of research (and not only my own) to as extensive a public as possible. With this in mind, I call the fourth theme *Politics of Memory Regarding Communism in Romania*, and I divide it into four subthemes, each of which has played a major role in my activities over the years. These four are: *Oral History Research; Steps in Museumization / Memorialization of Recent History; Investigation of Communist Crimes and Forensic Archaeology; Educational Programs Regarding Romanian Communism and Other Activities in This Domain.* This time, I succinctly present the principal directions, activities and results obtained: grants / projects coordinated or in which I was involved, museumization / memorialization projects, educational programs for students, preparation courses for professors and museographers, conferences and workshops organized, criminal cases against certain commanders and employees of the penitentiary system during the communist period guilty of crimes and abuses, campaigns for special archaeological campaigns, studies and articles published, science communications, exhibitions, films and, not least, mentoring and scientific counseling.

The last of the five themes is *Monographic Studies; Local History*, which, even if it is less substantial than the preceding, is, in its own right, illustrated through volumes and other research.

My professional activity has been strongly influenced by the two institutes in which I have carried out my work over the last 19 years: The Oral History Institute, within the History and Philosophy Department at “Babeş-Bolyai” University in Cluj-Napoca, where I worked for 6 years, and The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania / Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile (since 2009), where I have been working since 2006 without pause. Through the concentrations of these two institutes, my research preoccupations were subsumed in the communist period, and, as can easily be noted based on the results obtained and their consistency, I endeavoured to assume, with utmost seriousness, this professional direction. It is also very true that both institutes have offered me multiple opportunities both to be involved in national and international projects and to fully exploit the results of my work. My personal pursuits outside of these institutes are not, however, without importance, through which I have obtained scholarships and grants, been co-opted in various projects, and carried out research abroad, all of this offering me the chance to grow professionally and benefit from extraordinary interdisciplinary openness.

The quality of the research carried out during my career, largely dedicated to the history of communism, is attested to by citations in studies and articles published in prestigious journals and

volumes published by important publishing houses here and abroad, as well as my being coopted in research projects and the editing teams of certain specialist journals.

I have proven my capacity to coordinate complex teams of researchers through numerous relevant projects, which can be seen both from the present habilitation thesis and throughout my Curriculum Vitae.

To conclude this habilitation thesis, I elaborate on my plans for the short, medium and long-term future, as well as the research themes I intend to continue, to explore more deeply, and to initiate, as well as other projects which also include educational aspects, indispensable for a doctorate program coordinator. This because, in my view, as has been proven with time, research and educational activities are necessarily complementary.