

BETWEEN THE DANUBE, THE BALKANS AND THE BLACK SEA. A
PLURIDISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATION OF SCYTHIA MINOR

-abstract-

Candidate: Assoc. prof. Valentin-Victor Bottez

The habilitation thesis presents the results obtained by the candidate after the defence of his PhD thesis (2009), including published works, research projects and the development of institutional research structures, followed by future plans for the continuation and development of his research projects and the institutional research framework he is in the process of establishing.

Thus, as far as published works are concerned, the thesis summarizes the main results obtained in the research of the imperial cult (the monograph based on the PhD thesis, plus three articles), in epigraphic studies (10 articles), the publication of field research results (26 articles covering the candidate's research in *Istros* and the *Beidaud Archaeological Microzone*), Roman urban development (one article), geoarchaeology (two articles), Greek and Roman religions (contributions to a dictionary and two articles), as well as different other subjects (two articles). The thesis also lists the volumes that were edited (one)/coedited (two) by the candidate.

Two interdisciplinary research projects, both started and directed by the candidate, and both ongoing (the UB sector in *Istros* and the *Beidaud Archaeological Microzone*) are then described in detail – objectives, methods used and results.

Finally, the thesis presents the efforts undertaken by the candidate to develop a dedicated archaeological research framework at the Faculty of History, through the creation of the *Dinu Theodorescu Laboratory of Archaeology* (since 2016), as well as that of a team made of specialists from the University of Bucharest, as well as from other Romanian or foreign institutions. The state of the research infrastructure and logistics is also approached, as is the involvement of students and young researchers in the two projects.

In the second part, concerning future developments in the candidate's research career, all directions approached in the first part are addressed, with the stress falling on the publication of excavation results in *Istros* (at least 10 volumes) and the *Beidaud Archaeological Microzone*, the synchronized development of the two field projects and the development of the institutional research framework – with a special mention on the research infrastructure, namely a new field base.