

ABSTRACT

The thesis, titled **Interrogationes de arte historica. Towards a Multidisciplinary Approach to the History of Ancient and Vernacular Societies**, submitted for the habilitation certificate, is structured into two parts. The first addresses the academic activities undertaken during the postdoctoral period (2003-2024), while the second outlines future directions for our professional and research development.

The first part begins with an overview of the courses and seminars conducted during the discussed period at the Faculty of History and Faculty of Letters at the University of Bucharest. It emphasizes the methodological approach to courses design, the teaching-learning process, and evaluation methods. This part also provides thematic details for various course categories, highlighting the distinctive features based on specializations and programs of study. We have also included activities that support students' professional development, such as supervising final theses across study cycles, tutoring, and organizing research within the *Centre for the Comparative History of Ancient Societies* (CICSA). In this regard, over the past eleven years we have implemented numerous initiatives to explain and facilitate the research of students within our Department, including documentation visits, methodological seminars and workshops, research and educational projects, scientific events, and opportunities for publication of the research result in the pages of *CICSA Journal online*, new series. Additionally, we highlighted our efforts to develop research tools, publish textbooks, and enhance the secondary bibliography resources. These efforts include Romanian translations of important works and compiled volumes that make the research of renowned specialists and members of our faculty accessible.

The scientific research conducted during the postdoctoral period encompasses two distinct areas: studies on Roman Antiquity and ethnological (anthropological) approaches related to contemporary Romanian society. Each area is introduced with an explanation of the methodological standards applied in our demonstrations, which have been shared publicly through participation in scientific events and publications. Obviously, the ancient Roman world constitutes the primary focus of our research. Through the methodologies and tools employed, our approaches align with multidisciplinary perspectives for interpreting social al cultural themes. The topics addressed include aspects of daily life, human interactions, and socio-cultural practices, reflected

in the materiality of the dwellings or in literary and artistic representations, whose analysis has been structured according to gender, rank, and social status criteria. Our exploration of the feminine statute encountered in art, legal, and literary discourses, which builds upon doctoral research, has highlighted the value judgments constructed by ancient authors during the imperial centuries. These authors used the concept of *effeminacy* to convey notions of excess, decline, and otherness, while political leaders emphasized the complementarity of the feminine world – a feature both essential and ancestral – in relation to the masculine domain when crafting comprehensive ideological discourses. The codification of the human body, as a cultural concept, have been explored either through comparative study of literary and philosophical texts from the late Republic and early Imperial eras, as well as through funerary representations of domestic groups (the so-called *family scenes*).

The section dedicated to ethnology-anthropology presents the fieldwork campaigns conducted between 2014 and 2020 in the counties of Prahova, Sălaj, Buzău, and Vrancea, with a focus on rural architecture, alongside references to the papers published after processing the material collected during these research. Studies on multiethnic cohabitation (in Dobrogea and Bucharest) have illuminated the complex processes of cultural interferences intertwined with efforts to preserve ethno-cultural identities.

The second part of this thesis includes, on one hand, proposals of new courses and collaborations on related topics (such as the concept of *crisis* and the relationship between *memory* and *forgetting* in the Roman world, among others), and on the other hand, outlines our future research directions in Roman Antiquity, which continue and expand upon some previous studies.

These aspects, combine with the experience gained as a member of doctoral advisory committees or thesis defense committees, are seen as prerequisites for considering the potential capabilities as a coordinator of doctoral research in Roman antiquity, gender studies, cultural history, and historical anthropology.

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