

HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGY:

METHODS OF URBAN INVESTIGATION / RESEARCH

Adrian Majuru

Abstract

This habilitation thesis combines a hybrid approach involving both a prospective and retrospective analysis. The retrospective analysis highlights the main stages of career development, emphasizing key research lines, associated projects, and the primary elements of recognition within the academic and research communities. It also highlights the main research directions, originality, and the impact on the academic community. The prospective approach focuses on identifying future development lines and trends, not only providing a comprehensive evaluation of the research activities under investigation but also underlining continuity and evolution, integrating multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. This demonstrates the broader significance of these studies within the academic field's evolution, offering insights for future developments.

Furthermore, this habilitation thesis applies both inductive and deductive analysis to the research activity I have conducted over the past 20 years. Inductive analysis identifies recurring themes and the evolution of interests while also highlighting methodological developments over time. Based on this, conclusions are drawn regarding the research style, contributions to the field, and their relevance within the academic knowledge sphere. Deductive analysis starts from specific studies and projects by the researcher, which are evaluated using relevant criteria for the field and then correlated with the broader domain to discuss the implications for research development. Combining both approaches allows for an understanding of the value of my studies, emphasizing not only the major lines of investigation but also the originality, impact, and relevance of the results within the knowledge domain.

The structure of this habilitation thesis combines a narrative approach with an argumentative one, organized into seven sections. The introduction presents the purpose of this habilitation thesis, emphasizing its relevance to the field of urban anthropology. It is followed by a presentation of the researcher, including both academic and professional trajectories. The approach to the habilitation thesis and the structure chosen for specific analysis are then discussed.

Chapter 2 analyzes the current state of knowledge in the broader field of urban anthropology, with current research trends and challenges in the researcher's areas of expertise, providing a relevant context for understanding the contributions under investigation. It then details the researcher's contributions to scientific development, focusing on urban anthropology, with an emphasis on originality and the value of the results obtained. This section also discusses the researcher's major projects to date. Research projects, publications, and conferences in

which the researcher participated are critically analyzed, assessing their impact and relevance. The final part of Section 2 highlights the main awards and recognitions the researcher has received throughout their career.

Chapter 3 is dedicated to the impact of my research over the past two decades, since completing my doctorate. It starts with an analysis of citations to identify the influence of studies on the academic community, followed by a discussion of the practical applicability of the research. The chapter highlights how historical and urban anthropological studies, focused on Bucharest, can contribute to solving contemporary urban issues. The final part of this chapter addresses interdisciplinary connections, particularly the links with other disciplines and researchers, emphasizing the benefits of integrating interdisciplinary perspectives into urban anthropology.

The next section, Chapter 4 – Research Projects: Coordinating Research Teams, presents in detail the main research directions I have led. The analysis of these projects and their results, both in terms of research and practical outcomes, highlights the efficiency in managing complex interdisciplinary teams. Three long-term research directions and a set of four subfields have been defined and developed in specialized articles. These topics were chosen based on their scope and the medium- to long-term impact, including their potential for further diversification into subtopics and the specialized references made to the published works, representing the final output of the research projects.

Chapter 5 focuses on editorial projects. Three major editorial directions have been identified, based on their impact on specialized audiences and the interest shown by the general public. These directions are: editorial projects on urban history, editorial projects on urban anthropology, and editorial projects with broader appeal, aimed at adults and adolescents. Relevant editorial projects are presented in each direction, with detailed descriptions of each, highlighting their contribution to the development of the researched field, their impact on the scientific community, and their practical relevance within communities. The importance of these projects for the researcher's career and the team is also discussed.

Section 6 focuses on future research plans. The research directions I plan to pursue are discussed, arguing their relevance from both a personal career perspective and for the development of the investigated field. Upcoming projects are presented, outlining their objectives and importance for the scientific community and for solving urban issues, including social and cultural sustainability in Bucharest communities and possible forecasts regarding the re-professionalization of younger generations for better social and professional adaptability. The final part of this section presents strategies and approaches for building research teams.

The final section of the thesis is dedicated to "Conclusions". It summarizes the main achievements, emphasizing my contributions to the field of urban anthropology and the development of an urban anthropology school both in the academic environment and

institutionally, with broad public outreach. The importance of my research in this field is highlighted, and future perspectives are presented, outlining potential development directions and their anticipated impact.

Specifically, the purpose of this habilitation thesis is to demonstrate my ability to design and conduct relevant research in the fields I have focused on over the past two decades, namely urban anthropology, urban history, and urban social peripheries, with an emphasis on the innovative elements associated with these studies. The work highlights my significant contributions to the history of urban mentalities and behaviors, urban anthropology, and the history of social peripheries.

This work also aims to showcase my ability to coordinate interdisciplinary research teams, based on past experiences and results achieved. It demonstrates my capacity to train specialists in the fields under investigation, beyond my direct teaching contributions as an associate professor at the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucharest, where I have been teaching a course on urban anthropology since 2009 for second-year master's students. Since 2016, I have taught a course on Management and Urban Anthropology at the Doctoral School of the Faculty of Urbanism at the same university. Between 2015 and 2017, I taught courses in cultural marketing and management at the master's level at the Faculty of Business and Administration – University of Bucharest, and the Faculty of History – University of Bucharest. These latter courses, on cultural marketing and management, are built from the perspective of urban anthropology, filtered through local specificities, depending on the community to which the subject refers in the preparation of its project.

This analysis, undertaken in the habilitation thesis, is important for the research field. As both the urban historian and urban anthropologist are vital for a better understanding of the complexities of urban life, and the economic, social, and cultural evolution of cities, the combination of these two research approaches can lead to rigorous interdisciplinary results, contributing to excellence in research. These studies can thus serve as a basis not only for deepening the knowledge domain but also for shaping urban policies, including those related to the preservation of material and immaterial heritage or urban planning.

Adrian Majuru

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