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Contexts, Socio-Readings, and Dynamics df The Romanian Literary Field

- **Habilitation Thesis Report –**

The research interests defining my academic trajectory bring together the conditions of the *literary fact*'s production, circulation, and reception – both immediate and across varying sociocultural contexts in 20th and 21st century Romania. This is a concept broadly construed to encompass the text itself – with its specific characteristics long deemed ineffable – and the dynamics of its presence (alongsideits author, its circulation, its reception) within the literary space. These specific areas of focus are best clarified through enumeration: (1) a closer examination, both in my doctoral thesis and in subsequent work, of the literary pamphlet (a genre straddling the boundary between literature and journalism) and, more broadly, of the history of the Romanian press; (2) attempts to adapt the theory of the literary field (as articulated in Bourdieusian and post-Bourdieusian sociological thought)to the socio-historical conditions of a literary space operating under constraint (ideological constraints during the final decade of Romanian communism, and economic ones in the immediate post-revolutionary years); (3) an analysis of generational cohesion and sociability forms in the 1980s and 1990s literary history; (4) an interest in the importationof socio-literary theoretical ideas in communist Romania and their circulation.

These scientific interests are complemented by research conducted within several research project teams:
(1) the European project COST Action 16213 – New Exploratory Phase in Research on East European Cultures of Dissent (NEP4DISSENT, 2017–2022), which aimed to study the various ways in which the legacy of resistance and dissent reshape the present in the former socialist Europe and to facilitate research in a transnational, multidisciplinarynetwork;
(2)two national projects (LIRCO: Romanian Literature in the Age of Globalization: Literary Values as a Vehicle for a Cultural Brand, 2007–2011, and MARIS: Migration and Reshaping Identities in Romanian Travel Writings). The projects aimedat studyingthe multitude of practices in exporting symbolic capital in post-war Romanian literature (circulation of translations, reconfiguration of domestic literary values, etc.) and literary forms of travel

writing between 1960 and 2010, respectively. In the context of the MARIS project, my individual research focus centered on travelogues from the Romanian communist era and on the positioning strategies of travel prose authors within the domestic literary field.

This latter interest paved the way to a line of research that I expanded upon in subsequent years through individual articles as well as teaching activities (topics within the curricula ofa practical course taught in the framework of the Literary Studies MA program,"Text and Context: Sociocultural Perspectives"): namely, postural analysis – a term coined by J. Meizoz (2007, 2012) that has gained considerable traction within contemporary theories of authorship.

The present thesis is divided into two main sections: the first outlines my research inthe history of the pamphlet genre following the defense of my PhD thesis (2009), as well as my socio-historical studies of the final decade of the communist regime; the second focuses on career planning, highlighting thematic areas from which doctoral candidates may select topics to match their individual scientific interests.

In subsection I.1, *The Relevance of a Genre: The Literary Pamphlet*, I describe the main approaches taken to revise my PhD thesis for publication in a book form (2013), the structure and objectives of the anthology of Romanian literary pamphlets (2017), and the new possibilities for research into the Romanian journalistic landscape of the interwar and post-war periods offered by the volumes collecting Ion Vinea's journalistic writings – a project on which I have been collaborating with Professor Elena Zaharia-Filipaș since 2012.

Subsection I.2, *Socio-readings: The History of a Discipline and the Dynamics of the Romanian Literary Field in the Post-War Period*, is the most extensive part of the thesis; it reconstructs my research trajectory in sociology of literature – specifically, the study of the Romanian literary field during the final decade of communism. In order to define more precisely the scope of this topic, it was necessary to broaden my research interests so as to include the sociology of groups (literary sociabilities and generations, sociology of intellectuals, sociology of artistic professions), literary field theory (incorporating more recent reflections from the French Bourdieusian school), the socio-history of Eastern European communism and the transition in the former Eastern Bloc, among other areas.

After a survey of my own articles and conference papers – which focus on the history of the discipline and the ways sociological ideas have been theoretically imported over recent decades – I outline the two main areas of interest in my research on the socio-history of literature: (1) a critical examination of the concepts of autonomy and heteronomy(as defined within Pierre Bourdieu's theory of the literary field) and their applicabilityto the Romanian

literary space; (2) a reconstruction of the legitimation process for the '80s Generation' during the final decade of communism, through an analysis that integrates methods from the sociology of generations, studies of how the era's political control was refracted in literature, and methodological tools of postural analysis.

In subsection I.3, *Sociology in the Classroom*, I briefly outline the elective courses and MA-level practical courses in which I incorporated topics related to the sociology of literature, ranging from contextualized readings of post-1900 Romanian prose and literary representations of memory, nostalgia, and socio-history in the contemporary Romanian novel, to themes of a more pronounced theoretical nature at the MA level, such as recent studies on the writer's responsibility, literary stance, social reading practices, and so forth.

The second chapter of the thesis, *Projecting an Academic Career: Research and Teaching Activities*, also comprises two parts: the first one outlines a book project on the socio-history of literature during the 1980s and 1990s;the second one details the thematic areas proposed for further independent doctoral research within the Faculty of Letters' Doctoral School: (1) contextualized readings of post-war Romanian literature; (2) analyses of the literary *postures* adopted by post-war writers; (3) mappings of literary *enquêtes*in the cultural press of the final two decades of communism; (4) biographical contextualizations—monographic studies of women writers after 1945; and (5) a study of the sub-field of literary translations from French (1945-1989).