

ABSTRACT OF THE HABILITATION THESIS WITH THE TOPIC
CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE HERMENEUTICAL INVESTIGATION OF
THE ROMANIAN LITERATURE PERTAINING TO THE IDENTITY PERSPECTIVE
WITHIN THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL CONTEXT

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PREAMBLE. *On self-defining vocation **in** and **within** culture*

In an attempt to summarize the main stages of our professional development during the period carried out from the awarding of the scientific title of Doctor of Philology (2002), we propose this habilitation thesis as a project of questioning and re-evaluation of some aspects of the evolution of taste and value judgments applied to canonical benchmarks of the Romanian culture in a European context.

We start from the premise that, as the current Romanian culture is imperatively required to take responsibilities and rules infused by the evolutionary mechanisms of European cultures and meet the expectations of receptors specialized on a post-culturalism globalizing dimension, the new literary paradigm seems to require a trans-exploratory hermeneutical option that protects and potentiates the domestic product value, but also allows some epistemological flexibility. In a consumerist society by excellence and tempted to promote an axiological grid far too relaxed, estranged from the references of the authentic cultural memory, we asked ourselves which are the adaptive masks and forms of protection that are assumed in synchrony and diachrony, the actors of the culture institution (be they creators and receptors of the cultural phenomenon), in an attempt to emancipate from any given identity blockage pertaining to the new European cultural paradigm.

One of the thematological research directions that we have undertaken in recent years starts just on this threshold: we intended to follow to what extent is relevant the validation of **within value solitude** category (applied to the Noica's bridge concept). It is manifested in both the individual destiny and of the work of the writers, regardless of ages or different membership to philosophical and aesthetic paradigms. I opted for the exegetical instrumentation specific to Romanian cultural history and literature, to literary hermeneutics, comparative studies, philosophy of culture, history of mentalities, archetypology, literary aesthetics and theory.

I. SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Professional development and teaching career

The first extensive sequence of the habilitation thesis presents synthetically the entire career path during 2002-2014, with analysis of the teaching career and responsibilities within the Faculty of History and Philology of "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia. After defending, in 2002, the doctorate thesis with the topic *The literature of A.E.Baconsky - from utopian lyricism to counter-utopia* (under the supervision of Professor Cornel Ungureanu, PhD), I became Lecturer with Tenure (2003) and then in 2007, Associate professor (tenured in disciplines like *The history of Romanian literature and civilization, Romanian culture and*

civilization, *Special Course - Mihai Eminescu, Comparative Literature – The Poetry and prose of the twentieth century, Cultural identity and literary discourse*). My teaching career was favourably impacted also by the quality of scientific reviewer appointed in 20 committees to supervise the defending of the doctoral thesis (in Universities from Bucharest, Timisoara and Alba Iulia), by the status of expert-evaluator within the type A national grant, with the topic "*Excellence Doctoral Training for the knowledge society - PREDEX*", coordinator of over 30 scientific methodological papers to obtain teaching rank 1st in secondary education system and Executive Director of the Centre for Philological Research and Multicultural Dialogue.

2. Relevant scientific Contributions

The habilitation thesis presents in detail the main stages, guidelines and results of the scientific research activity within the two major interpretive directions that have been the focus of interest: *ROMANIAN CULTURE AND LITERATURE IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT*, respectively *COMPARATIVE AND WORLD LITERATURE* with examination of the main papers developed during 2002-2013 (7 volumes as author, 2 coordinated volume, 21 studies or chapters in collective volumes, 13 forwards, more than 100 studies and articles in scientific journals and journals in the field of Philology).

The publication of the doctorate thesis (*Gâtul de lebedă. Utopiile răsturnate și confesiunile mascate ale lui A.E.Baconsky*, Cluj-Napoca, Dacia Publishing House, 2003) has not constituted the completion of exegetical approach applied to Baconsky's work, as I intended to capitalize a rich inventory of materials related to the fundamental research (conversations, interviews and personal correspondence with Petru Dumitriu, Max Demeter Peyfuss, Mircea Martin, Octavian Paler, D.R. Popescu, Aurel Rău, Petre Stoica, Mircea Tomuş, Leon Baconsky, Theodor Baconsky, Mircea Braga, M. Cimpoi, C. Cubleşan, Ovidiu Drimba, Pavel Ţugui, Cornel Ungureanu, Dimitrie Vatamaniuc, etc.); therefore, I have continued the hermeneutical investigation of A.E.Baconsky's work, the monographic study being followed by the publication, in 2013, at the Romanian Academy Publishing House, of the volume Diana Câmpan *A.E.Baconsky - – solitarul de catifea*.

Complementary, I have extended the research on the **memoirs and travel journals** of some contemporary Romanian writers (from C. Noica, E. Cioran, Petru Dumitriu, A.E.Baconsky, to Alexandru Paleologu, Octavian Paler, Zoe Dumitrescu-Buşulenga, Eugen Simion, Bartolomeu Anania, Andrei Pleşu, Gabriel Liiceanu, etc.). I have published numerous studies (in national and international journals) on the construct of identity and cultural memory, the theory of values circulation, the status of writer-traveller and regulatory functions of aristocratic culture.

In 2005, I have completed a larger decryption project, from thematological perspective, of the principle of *loneliness within wisdom*, perceived as Eminescu's personal myth, the studies resulting in the volume *Solitudine întru înțelepciune. Eseu asupra poeziei singurătății eminesciene* (SC IMAGO Publishing House, Sibiu, 2006). Our intention was to propose an active re-reading of Eminescu's work and to reopen the analytical perspective on some support concepts to tempt the logos with poetic tools. Each of the exegetical sequences of the volume focuses on the recovery of the lesser known and insufficiently hermeneutical accessed registers of Eminescu's work, at the direct recommendation of the late researcher and specialist in Eminescu's work, Acad. Zoe Dumitrescu-Buşulenga. The volume was awarded with the Prize of Writers' Union of Romania, Section *Literary Criticism* - 2007 (Sibiu Branch).

In the area of comparative literature, the volume *Singurătăți suprapuse. Studii de literatură comparată* (Sibiu, SC IMAGO Publishing House, 2004) brings together studies focused on some major topics that cross the novel, the essay and short fiction in the twentieth century: the crisis, the diseases and the identity traumas (migrating from society towards the individual-character), the existential codes of the peripheral character, the traumatic location between the utopian and dystopian uncertainties, etc.

At the end of 2015, I finished a personal research project relating to comparative literature, by publishing the book *Utopias, dilemmas, solitudes – the thresholds of poetics in the XXth century*, Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2015. The work consists of studies on comparative literature, mainly centered on the universal lyrics of the XXth century (with the inevitable characteristics specific to the end of the XIXth century), setting out from the premise that the new poetic consciousness maintains, irrespective of the affiliation to one theoretical framework or another, a constant dimension: that of being a “superimposed reality” (as A.E. Baconsky would call it) over the codes of solitude. The focal point of our interest relates to a few major themes, tackled from both an interdisciplinary and a transdisciplinary point of view, with extensive interpolations from the history of art, from the theory of mentalities and from the philosophy of culture: dilemmas and utopias of the XXth century and their reflections in poetry; the thresholds of suffering literature; the codes of extended decadence; the poetry of the states of crisis, of negation and of hazard; the hermetism and „the pure poetry”; the liberation of the imagination; the intellectualist poetry; the lyrics of boundaries and of synthesis (with analysis applied to lyric poets such as G. Apollinaire, L. Aragon, Ion Barbu, Gottfried Benn, L. Blaga, Ana Blandiana, A. Breton, Rubén Darío, P. Éluard, S. Esenin, G. Heym, J. R. Jiménez, Federico García Lorca, Antonio Machado, Eugenio Montale, Cesare Pavese, Fernando Pessoa, Salvatore Quasimodo, R.M. Rilke, Nichita Stănescu, Marin Sorescu, Georg Trakl, Tristan Tzara, Giuseppe Ungaretti, César Vallejo, P. Valéry, etc.).

All other author books and the most numerous of the studies published in professional journals had as line of research the aspects of the history of Romanian culture in the European context, namely the comparative literature. The favourable factor for our career was the work in the research groups within the Romanian Academy grants or of CNCSIS: *Geografia literară a județului Alba. Scriitori, reviste, biblioteci, cărți rare, case memoriale*, grant awarded by the ROMANIAN ACADEMY, 2007-2008, *Presa românească și ideea națională. Dicționar, antologie, studiu, dosar critic*, grant by CNCSIS, 2005-2006: *Istoria presei din România în date*, project under the patronage of Romanian Association of History of the Press – Bucharest, etc.), but also in European projects (SOPHRD Type) oriented towards the performance of doctoral schools („*Pregătire doctorală de excelență pentru societatea cunoașterii - PREDEX*” (“*Excellence in Doctoral Training for the Knowledge Society - PREDEX*”).

The dissemination of research results was done by participating in numerous symposia and national and international scientific conferences (in Malaysia, Poland, Spain, Republic of Moldova and Romania).

We enjoy teaching and scientific contributions recognition confirmed by USR awards obtained at the "Literary Criticism" section, *Prize "Professor Bologna"* - 2009 designated by ANOSR; *Diploma of gratitude* for the socio-cultural work on behalf of Oklahoma State – USA; invited professor status in prestigious scientific events in the country and abroad (Malaysia, Poland, Spain, Republic of Moldova); executive director of the Centre for Philological Research and Multicultural Dialogue; deputy editor-in- chief or reviewer for recognized scientific journals and publishers (in Romania and Poland).

II. EVOLUTION AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC CAREER

The last sequence of the *habilitation* thesis presents briefly the research projects in the field of interest and the teaching career development plan, on short, medium and long term, directly related to research areas previously shown.

As of January 2016, at the request of the Romanian Academy Publishing House, I have been under contract in order to deliver (as an anthologist and as a creator of an ample critical study and of a selection of diachronic, exegetic references) one of the books pertaining to the collection brought about by the anniversary of the Romanian Academy, *One hundred and one poems by...*; the personal project focuses on the poetry of A.E.Baconsky, consequently, the book falls into the ensemble of my constant preoccupations regarding the life and the work of the mentioned author.

I carry out currently a major research project on the topic *Identități culturale românești în context european. Vocația confesivă a scriitorului român contemporan, călător prin Europa*. The main objective is the analysis of how, in writing memoirs and travel journals of some contemporary Romanian writers, they are relate - as active-contemplative courts – to the European cultural matrix (*the topos* and *settlements established as major cultural symbols, the monument and the monumental* of national culture in a European context, *the wandering as a cultural institution, the dialogue, the introspective exercise and the confession* as fundamental strategies of meetings in the area of culture, *the identity crises and balance through art, the culture of edges vs the culture of the centre, the matrix-spaces into the flow of history*, etc.

As a long term project, we intend to achieve a comprehensive analysis (completed by the publication of several author volumes) on the evolution of meanings such as the **archetype of solitude** in Romanian culture (perceived as spiritual background and ontological specific to the Romanian people), not only in line of the *obsessive metaphors* from the theory lines of Charles Mauron, but regarding the its incarnation in concrete forms of creative imagination. In our approach we focus on the analysis as a varied instrumentation (extracted from the theory of mentality, the cultural anthropology, the philosophy of culture, aesthetics, religion, archetypology, comparative studies, art history) of nuances of the **major archetype of solitude**: from refined human withdrawals of the Renaissance man and the escapes of the romantic man into the specific compensative spaces up to undertaking the absolute philosophical loneliness (with the variables suggested by Lucian Blaga, Vasile Pârvan, Nichifor Crainic, Mircea Vulcănescu, E. Cioran, Nae Ionescu, C. Noica, Ernest Bernea, Petre Țuțea, Andrei Pleșu, Gabriel Liiceanu, Sorin Dumitrescu, Neagu Djuvara, Al. Paleologu, Octavian Paler, etc.). A comprehensive sequence of the paper will focus on decrypting the **circles of solitude in Romanian poetry**, from the first philosophical poem to postmodern poetry, our view being that including in poetry of the eighties and the present one, despite appearances imposed by displaying an exuberant spontaneity and an absolute power of seduction by un-limiting the creating imaginary, it is proposed, as an alternative, a **re-mythicization of solitude** according to the postmodernism canon. Naturally, a part of the study that we propose aims at analytical accessing of solitude's hypostasis in Romanian memoirs and exile literature, with specific hues rendered by the migration between cultural geography, mentality, homeland or identity; not least,

we plan an analytical stop on the symbolic constant of solitude as a state of grace and booster for the creative imagination for the great Romanian artists from the Brâncoveanus to Constantin Brâncuși and H. Bernea.

A long-term academic project started this year and in the stage of identifying and highlighting the nuclei of joint research is the collaboration with researchers from the Institute IKON - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia). Following the conference held in Malaysia at the invitation of IKON Institute staff (2013), it has been created the perspective of developing some comparative studies on thematological, archetypological and imagological aspects specific to European and Asian literatures. We plan the involvement of PhD and MA students in this project resulted in the publication of a volume at a publishing house in Malaysia.

The prospect of achieving habilitation and subsequently the status of professor and the quality of doctoral supervisor, I intend to develop and expand these research directions and start cultural projects involving the staff of the Centre for Philological Research and Multicultural Dialogue and of the PhD students, the research topics being oriented towards exegetical levels mentioned in the thesis.

All these results of my teaching and scientific activity in recent years and the impulses received from some prestigious academics, researchers and scholars motivated me to submit this habilitation thesis to the Expert committee of the National Council for Attestation of Titles, Diplomas and University Certificates.

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