

HABILITATION THESIS
SUMMARY

ISTORIOGRAFIE, CULTURĂ, RELAȚII
INTERNAȚIONALE

HISTORIOGRAPHY, CULTURE, INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS

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Field : HISTORY AND CULTURAL STUDIES

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A. Summary

The habilitation thesis entitled *Historiography, culture, international relations* deals with the synthesis of my main accomplishments in point of teaching and scientific research, starting with 1999, the year I obtained a PhD in History as a result of defending my doctoral thesis, "V. A. Urechia— *Historiographic Profile*", supervised by Professor Alexandru Zub, PhD, member of the Romanian Academy, which focuses on the main research directions and my plan of career evolution and development.

The research in this border field combining the study of history and culture, the framework and the active factor of change at this stage characterized by globalization (global threats, global markets, global mass-media), where security and prosperity depend on the proper perception of the other, including the soft dimension of the power potential, the pertinent analysis of the international framework, and also the efficient intercultural dialogue, enable a better understanding of the international system and its mechanisms.

One of the main issues is the interdisciplinary perspective of the approach, the continuity of objectives and the connection between the teaching and the research activity, in the sense of mutual creative influence. At certain stages, I sacrificed the intensity of the pace of the research activity for creating and leading since 2005 to the final accreditation and the satisfactory 12th place in the national university hierarchization in 2011 of the newly-created, young faculty where I chose to do research in the field, simultaneously laying the foundations of the entire system of international relations in the university where I have been working all that time.

From a structural point of view, the thesis is divided into two main parts, followed by the bibliography section, the first part focusing on the presentation of *the scientific and professional achievements*, and the second part devoted to *the evolution and development plan of the professional and scientific career*.

In a distinct section of this first part I highlighted the important points in outlining the research direction, and subsequently presented a synthetic view of the most relevant scientific results obtained after becoming a PhD in History, classified into two main research topics: 1. *Historiography* and 2. *The cultural dimension of international relations*.

This synthesis focuses in either case on the scientific relevance, the originality degree of the approach in relation to the present state of scientific research in the areas concerned, as well as on the vistas created for future investigations.

For the thematic area referring to *Historiography* I mention my major contribution in the restitutive approach of V. A. Urechia's activity as a historian, resulting in the 2001 publication, on the celebration of 100 years since the historian's death, of the volume *V. A. Urechia the historian*, which enjoyed positive reviews, being included in the fundamental bibliography of the topic. Starting from the value of V. A. Urechia's historical writings, the new historiographic accumulations and putting to good use unpublished archive information, our approach of the historiographic image of the second half of the Romanian 19th century is novel and nuanced. It evinces elements necessary in understanding the true value of the work of this historian, grasping the suggestions and detecting the means it provides to contemporary research. The second partition of this section emphasizes the thematic suggestions that I assumed starting from my historiographic approaches. I have written about V.A. Urechia's concerns about the reorganization of Europe, about his contribution on the historiography of the Ottoman Empire's relations with the Romanian Countries etc. Furthermore, starting from my contribution to the study of Gh. Brătianu's research activity and assuming his interest in the research of the Black Sea Area, in 2001 I investigated and published one of the first monographical approaches of the new regional organization created since 1990 in this area, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

The importance of the privileged perspective granted by the analysis of *The Cultural dimension of international relations* to the study of the characteristics and mechanisms at the basis of the international system, the role of the international intellectual/ cultural cooperation, the internationalization of universities and higher education, as source of soft power for states as main actors of international relations, accounts for my contributions to the field, presented in detail for my second research interest. They were published in internationally indexed journals, presented in international conferences or used as scientific foundation for the university's strategy of internationalization and taking an ever more active role adapted to the social needs in the context of European integration and globalization.

The first part also deals with *the stages of my professional formation* (B.A. studies graduated as valedictorian of the 1987 class at the Faculty of History-Philosophy of the "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iasi, the post-university studies assimilated to Masters studies at the Faculty of International Relations and European Integration of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest, between 1992 and 1994, PhD studies at the "Al. I. Cuza"

University of Iași finalized in 1999 with a PhD in History, as well as the postuniversity specialization studies in the "Practice of International Relations and Euro-Atlantic Studies", organized by the Romanian Diplomatic Institute under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2006-2007, the B.A. studies in English-French at the Letters Faculty of the "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați (2011-2014) as per the Graduation certificate no. 01/January 6th 2015, and the many short-term qualification and professional competence courses, graduated from in Romania and abroad.

The didactic trajectory initiated in 1987, with the compulsory practice period in the pre-university education, the activity as a specialized referent in the International Relations Direction of the Ministry of Education (1995-1996), the collaborations and tenure in university education obtained in 1997, as well as climbing the hierarchical ladder to the title of university professor in 2015, the courses taught, the managing and administrative tasks performed (department head, scientific secretary, dean of the Faculty of International Relations and European Studies created in Danubius University, Galați, which I led until accreditation of the program in 2011, the activity of Erasmus institutional coordinator and Head of the Department of International Relations at university level), the cooperation with the Cross-border Faculty of Humanities, Economic and Engineering Sciences within the "Dunărea de Jos" University, are all mentioned in the first part of the thesis, as they helped me acquire knowledge and develop important interpersonal abilities and intercultural competences by working with people from various environments, from all levels of the educational system to the ministry level.

The activity of scientific research is presented in accordance with the following coordinates: *initiation, organization and participation in international and national scientific manifestations* (initiation of the International Conference *European Integration, realities and perspectives*, participation as *keynote speaker* in 6 international conferences), *participation in research projects, professional recognition* (presence in international databases, reviews and citations of my papers, prizes won (3), affiliation to scientific and professional associations (especially as the European representative of the International Committee of the US Society for Cross-Cultural Research in 2009), *teaching mobilities in foreign universities* (4), *editing activity* as the editor-in-chief of the *Acta Universitatis Danubius. Relationes Internationales*, indexed in 4 international databases specific to the field, and as member of the scientific editing committee of several publications (Challenges of the future, in Slovenia, ISSN 2463-9281, EIRP Proceedings, DAEI Proceedings etc.).

The second part of the thesis, dealing with the *plan of career evolution and development*, is divided, in its turn, into two sections: the first focuses on *Research directions* and the second on *Teaching directions and the means of using the results of research in the didactic activity*. My aim was to point out in the first section the intention to initiate new research projects (forming a research team and preparing an application on *interbellum international intellectual cooperation*, under the aegis of the Horizon 2020 Project), to research the Paris and Geneva-based archives of the International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation and the UNESCO archives, to organize and participate in scientific conferences (the international conference “*European Integration-realities and perspectives*” which I started in 2006 and has already had 12 editions, the conference “*The Danube –Axis of European Identity*”, the international conferences organized in partnership with Selcuk University - “*International New Tendencies Congress in Ottoman Research*” and “*International Conference on the Changing World and Social Research*”, etc.), to publish single-author volumes (*The Historiography of Romanian Emigration. Vlad Georgescu*), as well as to continue research on V. A. Urechia’s historical work, and to put together an index of the volumes of *The History of Romanians* published by V. A. Urechia in order to provide ease of access to the information and suggestions about the 1775-1821 period, and to publish a volume of memories of the historian mentioned above.

The second section mainly deals with the elaboration and publication of courses at Masters level, as well as the coordination of scientific manifestations dedicated to B.A. and M.A. students, and doctoral candidates.