

SUMMARY OF THE HABILITATION THESIS

HYPOSTASES OF SUSTAINABILITY IN A TURBULENT BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT:

PARADIGMS, CONTROVERSIES AND CHALLENGES

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The habilitation thesis entitled *Hypostases of sustainability in a turbulent business environment: paradigms, controversies and challenges* integrates an overview of my academic background (teaching and scientific research strands) after the public defense, in 2008, of my PhD thesis in the field of Economics, under the supervision of Professor Ion Pohoăță PhD at "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iași, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (as confirmed by the Order of the Romanian Minister of Education in November 2008).

The thesis outlines the stages of my professional development so far, the areas of scientific interest and a number of relevant scientific research results. At the same time, the thesis delineates some of my future scientific research projects and the guidelines for my scientific, professional and academic development, including the coordination of young researchers and the creation of research teams.

The structure of the thesis is divided into three sections and a list of references. In the first section I summarize the most relevant scientific and professional achievements in my academic portfolio. They are highlighted both from a teaching perspective (disciplines of interest, collaboration with students in the elaboration of undergraduate/dissertation or scientific papers, involvement in projects aimed at students, involvement in the activities of the Faculty/Department where I am tenured) and from a scientific perspective (relevant results, visibility in the academic community, etc.). Another relevant aspect refers to the collaboration with the Doctoral School of Socio-Humanities of the "Ștefan cel Mare" University of Suceava, which has

materialized through the supervision of doctoral students in the early stages of doctoral training (as tenure of a discipline within the advanced study program), publication of co-authored papers, but also participation in various committees for the supervision of doctoral theses in the field of Business Administration.

Section two introduces in an interdisciplinary approach the main results of the scientific research I have achieved after my PhD thesis in the broader perimeter of sustainability in a turbulent business environment. The research directions I have explored so far shape an interdisciplinary focus, grounded in a bibliography that includes authoritative titles from national and international scientific literature. The main directions that underpin this approach are:

- Turbulence as the new status of normality in business;
- Paradigms, controversies and challenges of sustainability in chaotic business environments;
- The impact of chaoticism on some conceptualisations in the contemporary scientific discourse within the context of sustainability.

Overall, through my scientific, conceptual and empirical contributions, I have aimed to open new research niches in the comprehensive field of sustainability.

The environment in which various categories of firms/companies currently operate has become fluctuating and increasingly unmanageable; this trend characterises both the business environment of small and medium-sized firms and the corporate business environment. Chaoticism has become a feature of the business environment both locally/nationally and globally. The deep interdependence that describes the world economy, globalisation and technology have become springs of a synchronised fragility that can trigger change at any time. This is all the more so as technological progress is the catalyst for the rapid propagation of all transformations; with the market always on the move, business organisations are constantly having to adapt, to redesign their management strategies and their exclusively economic vision. The metaphor of the kinetic corporation portrays more and more an objective state of

affairs, as companies are, under the force of circumstances, in a continuous process of reorganisation, redesign and redefinition.

In this context, what is the meaning of sustainability? What is at the heart of this word? A thematic register, which is wide-ranging in its problematisations, which struggles to define its own physiognomy and which, at the same time, faces an array of challenges and crises arising from the complexity and dynamism of a globalised world. Over the years, such issues have generated considerable interest in academic circles, and this interest has been reflected in a considerable body of literature, grounded in many investigations and studies in which the apparently elusive concept of sustainability encompasses a wide range of meanings. However, most approaches have linked sustainability to reduced negative environmental impact and paid less attention to its economic and social facets.

The third section sets out my future projections of my two core areas of my academic career, namely teaching and scientific research.

Assuming that we have to prepare graduates who will evolve in an environment of uncertainty and change, in which the concept of long life learning acquires significant value, it is obvious that future projections must also be articulated on developments observed in the national and international educational environment. My involvement in this area is governed by the objective of adapting the teaching profile to the challenges and opportunities that are shaping the space of university education.

The prevailing philosophy in academia worldwide integrates scientific research activity into the pattern of the academic profession. In general, in the period so far and in the future, I have pursued as a fundamental objective to approach scientific research in a quality-focused and ethical manner. Going forward, I aspire to further develop new skills that will lead to an increase in the novelty and visibility of my scientific research output.

My key scientific interest and focus will remain in the field of Business Administration, which, although it seems to be a "beaten ground", continues to reveal many avenues for further exploration. I intend to continue the research initiated in recent years, seeking to explore and exploit other perspectives.

In the end, a list of bibliographical references is provided, including my own scientific results on which the habilitation thesis was developed and also a vast corpus of reference works from the national and international literature that have been an important source of inspiration in my scientific endeavour so far.