

Abstract

The habilitation thesis *Istoria. Între mituri și realități ale României moderne* (History. Between Myths and Realities of Modern Romania) is structured into two main parts: **the first** of them has in view **the main original scientific results obtained after having been granted the title of Doctor in History (2008-2017)**, while **the second** refers to the **individual capacity to coordinate research teams, to organize and manage teaching activities, to explain and facilitate teaching and research**, and, at the end of all these, one can find the bibliographic references. Thus, **the first part** of this habilitation thesis is structured in its turn **into two chapters**: the **first** approaches, in brief, the evolution of the academic career and of its main directions of development before having obtained the title of Doctor in History (2000-2008) and, **in a more detailed manner, the evolution of the academic career and its main directions of development after having been granted the title of Doctor in History (2008-2017)**. **The second chapter** of the first part presents **the main original scientific results** obtained by the candidate during the period 2008-2017 (works, studies and articles published in specialized reviews and collective volumes) structured according to the main research directions: *Relațiile româno-franceze de la începutul războiului Crimeii la dobândirea independenței de stat a României (1853-1878)* (The Romanian-French Relations since the Beginning of the Crimean War until the Obtaining of the State Independence of Romania (1853-1878)); *Personalități ale istoriei Românilor. De la epoca medievală la epoca contemporană (Mihai Viteazul, Victor Slăvescu)* (Personalities of the History of the Romanians. From the Middle Ages to the Contemporary Era (Michael the Great, Victor Slăvescu)), *Istorie locală* (Local History), *Istoria modernă a Românilor (1821-1918)* (Modern History of the Romanians (1821-1918)), *Călători occidentali despre români în secolul al XVIII-lea* (Western Travelers about the Romanians in the 18th Century).

The candidate's academic career began in the year 2000, before being granted the title of Doctor in History (2008), when he joined the Romanian education system at Valahia University of Târgoviște. Until the year 2008, he went through the following stages of the university career: university *preparator* (Teaching Assistant) (2000-2002), *asistent* (Junior Lecturer) (2002-2004), *lector* (Lecturer) (2004-2008) as a member of the Chair of History Archeology / the Department of History and Letters, Faculty of Humanities, Valahia University of Târgoviște, holding a series of seminars and courses with a special accent on the Modern History of the Romanians and Universal Modern History. During the same period, 2000-2007, in parallel with the teaching activity, the candidate completed his doctoral studies, at the University *Alexandru Ioan Cuza* of Iași, Faculty of History and at the University *Stefan cel Mare* of Suceava, Faculty of History-Geography, specialization: Modern History of the Romanians (Domain: *Political Life and International Relations of Romania*) under the guidance of Univ. Prof. Dr. Dumitru Vitcu. At the same time, during the academic year 2000-2001, the candidate completed a Master's Degree at Valahia University of Târgoviște, Faculty of Humanities, specialization *Unitatea Istoriei Europene* (Unity of the European History), graduating in the year 2001, and during the academic year 2004-2005 he participated at and met the requirements of the course *Construcția și extindere Uniunii Europene. Studiu de caz: politicile comunitare* (Construction and Extension of the European Union. Case Study: the European Community Policies), lasting 5 months. At the same time, during the period March-June 2004 and March-June 2006, to go deeper into the study for the doctoral research and especially into the study of

the French sources regarding the Romanian-French relations of the period 1853-1878, the candidate carried out two research and documentation internships at the University of Poitiers, France (Faculty of Humanities and Arts) after having won internships. In this context, the candidate's research activity took place, during the period 2000-2008, in parallel with the teaching activity, at the *Center for the Research of the History of the International Relations and Cultural Studies "Grigore Gafencu"* (Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Valahia University of Târgoviște) being in close connection and collaborating with a series of modern history specialists.

The results of the research undertaken by the candidate, especially regarding the Romanian-French relations (1853-1878), have been presented at communications sessions or other scientific events and later on published in specialized reviews or volumes dedicated to these events (during the period of the years 2000-2008 the candidate published a number of 18 studies and articles). At the same time, as author, co-author, coordinator or editor, the candidate published, during the period of the years 2000-2008, 8 specialized works (one of them being precisely his doctoral thesis). Practically, until the year 2008, when he was awarded the title of Doctor in History, the candidate's research domains were already defined: *French-Romanian Relations in the 19th Century*, *Modern History of the Romanians*, *Romania in the international relations during the Modern Epoch*, *Diplomacy and international relations during the Modern Epoch*, research domains that will be extended and amplified during the subsequent period, in parallel with the opening of other research lines. The candidate is a member, since the year 1997, of the Association for Balkan and Slav Studies of Romania (*Asociația de Balcanistică și Slavistică din România*), since the year 2007 becoming its secretary-general, during the period 2005-2008 he was a member in the Scientific Council of the *Center for the Research of the History of the International Relations and Cultural Studies "Grigore Gafencu"* (as part of the Faculty of Humanities, Department of History-Letters, Valahia University of Târgoviște – Director: Univ. Prof. Dr. Ion Stanciu), but also editing secretary of the review *Analele Universității Valahia, seria Arheologie-Istorie* (Annals of Valahia University, series: Archeology-History) (2005-2008).

After having defended the doctoral thesis entitled *România în politica orientală a Franței (1866-1878)* (Romania in the Oriental Policy of France (1866-1878)), **in the year 2007, and after having obtained the confirmation of the title of Doctor in History in the year 2008, in the year 2017**, the candidate's teaching and research activity has continued in the framework of Valahia University of Târgoviște, Faculty of Humanities, Department of History. Thus, since the academic year 2008/2009 until the year 2013/2014, the candidate continued to fill in the position of Lecturer at the same department, and since the academic year 2014/2015, following the contest organized by the Department of History of the Faculty of Humanities, Valahia University of Târgoviște, the candidate has been appointed Associate Professor (*conferențiar*). During this period, 2008-2017, to continually improve his teaching activity, the candidate has participated in a series of professional training courses. After the year 2008 the candidate has been holding a series of courses but also seminars, especially of Modern History, for Bachelor and Master's Degree students. The candidate has obtained and has benefited of teaching mobilities abroad, Socrates/Erasmus (during the period 2008-2017), at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Faculty of Letters and Philosophy, Department of Humanities, Italy (19-25 May 2008), University of Castilla - La Mancha (Ciudad Real), Faculty of Letters, Department of History, Spain (2-9 March 2013), University of Castilla - La Mancha (Ciudad Real), Faculty of Letters, Department of History, Spain (12-16 December), and, on these occasions, there have

also been established new relations of collaboration concerning the teaching and research activity. At the same time, during the same period, the candidate was a member of the Professors' Council of the Faculty of Humanities, Valahia University of Târgoviște (2008-2012; 2012-2016), where he has been active since the year 2016.

The research activity has taken place, during the period 2008-2017, in parallel with the teaching activity, evidently in the framework of the *Center for the Research of the History of the International Relations and Cultural Studies "Grigore Gafencu"* (Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Valahia University of Târgoviște) but also in the framework of various institutions in Romania and abroad, being in close connection and collaborating with a series of modern history specialists of Romania (Dan Berindei, Ion Stanciu, Dumitru Vitcu, Sorin Liviu Damean) but also from abroad (Francesco Leoncini - Italy, Porfirio Sanz Camañes, Spain). The results of the research undertaken in different directions and domains, especially that of the *Romanian-French relations in the epoch of the Romanian national renaissance* (1853-1866), and that of the *Romanian-French relations during the first part of Carol I's reign* (1866-1878) have been initially presented at communications sessions or other scientific events in Romania and abroad and then published in specialized reviews or in volumes of studies.

Thus, during the period 2008-2017, the candidate has participated in 33 communications sessions or other national events organized by various academic and research institutions and 14 international events (organized abroad and in Romania). During the same period of time, 2008-2017, the candidate has published as author, co-author, coordinator or editor 17 specialized works and a number of 39 studies and articles published in specialized reviews, in volumes of studies of different scientific events or in homage volumes, holding several conferences at the *Center for the Research of the History of the International Relations and Cultural Studies "Grigore Gafencu"* (Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Valahia University of Târgoviște), but also abroad (Italy, Spain). We shall mention here that, in the year 2010, based on the doctoral thesis and the work published in the year 2007, the candidate realized a new work, *România în politica orientală a Franței (1866-1878)* (Romania in the Oriental Policy of France (1866-1878)), completed and reviewed, which, in the year 2012, was awarded the *Nicolae Bălcescu* prize by the Romanian Academy (for the year 2010), as a token of high appreciation for his research activity.

Since the year 2008, the candidate has continued his research activity, going deeper into the research of his previous domains of interest (*French-Romanian relations in the 19th century*, *Modern history of the Romanians*, *Romania in the international relations in the Modern Epoch*), at the same time initiating new directions in other research domains such as: *Personalities of the history of the Romanians. From the Middle Ages to the Contemporary Epoch*, *Local history*, *Western travelers on the Romanians in the 18th century*.

As membership in various scientific, professional and research societies, the candidate has been a member and secretary-general, since the year 2008 and at present, of the Association of Balkan and Slav Studies of Romania (*Asociația de Balcanistică și Slavistică din România*); since the year 2008 and at present, a member of the Association Dobrogea – History and Civilization (*Dobrogea - Istorie și Civilizație*), (Constanța); since the year 2010 and at present, a member of the Romanian Association for Nordic and Baltic Studies (*Asociația Română Pentru Studii Nordice și Baltice*); since 2010 and at present, a member of the Romanian Association for The Promotion of Value (*Asociația Română Pentru Promovarea Valorii*) (being also one of its founding members); since 2011 and at present, an associate member of the Center of History of the International Relations (*Centrul de Istorie a Relațiilor Internaționale*) – Faculty of History,

Al. I. Cuza University of Iași; since 2008 and at present, a researcher in the framework of the *Center for the Research of the History of the International Relations and Cultural Studies "Grigore Gafencu"* (since 2012 – in charge of the international relations laboratory) at the Faculty of Humanities, Department of History, Valahia University of Târgoviște – Director: Univ. Prof. Dr. Silviu Miloiu); since the year 2009 and at present, member of the editorial board of the review *Valahian Journal of Historical Studies* (Târgoviște). Continuing his academic training but also going deeper into the study of a new scientific research domain, in the year 2014, the candidate was admitted and has been working on a new Doctorate at the International Doctoral School, University of Castilla La Mancha - Ciudad Real, Spain, Faculty of Letters, Department of History with the theme *Românii în memorialistica de călătorie a occidentalilor (secolul XVIII)/Los rumanos en las memorias de viaje de los occidentales (siglo XVIII)/The Romanians in the Westerners' Travelogues (18th century)* under the guidance of Univ. Prof. Dr. Porfirio Sanz CAMAÑES. In this sense, to go deeper into the research initiated regarding the foreign travelers, in general, and especially the Western ones, in the Romanian area in the 18th century, but also regarding other related aspects on travelers, travels, the mutual image, in the year 2015 the candidate took part in a contest and obtained a research internship from the Romanian Cultural Institute (*Lucian Blaga* internship), for a period of three months in Spain, where he carried out, during the period October 2015 - January 2016, an activity of research and documentation at several academic and research institutions.

The second part of the habilitation thesis refers to the candidate's **individual capacity of coordinating research teams, of organizing and managing teaching activities, of explaining and facilitating learning and research**, being structured into two chapters: **the first**, which refers to the research grants he participated in, and **the second**, referring to the activity of coordination of: Bachelor Degree theses, Master's Degree dissertations and student's practice groups, and pre-university teachers' Excellence Degree theses. The candidate had the joy to participate, before the year 2008, as a member, in the research team of the CNCSIS grant, *Europe Viewed from the Margin. A Central-European Perspective (19th-20th century)* (*Europa dintr-o perspectivă periferică. O viziune central-europeană (sec. XIX-XX)*) – project director: Univ. Prof. Dr. Ion Stanciu and in the year 2012, as director/coordinator, he had the joy of coordinating a cultural project entitled *Gemenea 500 (1512-2012). The Anniversary of 500 Years since the First Documentary Mention of Gemenea Village (Dâmbovița County)* (*Gemenea 500 (1512-2012) Aniversarea a 500 de ani de la atestarea documentară a satului Gemenea (jud. Dâmbovița)*), a cultural project funded by the Administration of the National Cultural Fund. During the period of the years 2000-2008, but especially during the period of the years 2008-2016, the candidate has been a scientific advisor for a series of Bachelor Degree theses and Master's Degree dissertations in his specialty domain but also for some Excellence Degree theses of pre-university teachers. At the same time, after the year 2008, the candidate has been a member of various examination commissions of all levels for pre-university teachers. The candidate's academic teaching activity during the period 2008-2016 also included the coordination of the practice activity of the students of the specialty *History*, second year, an activity undertaken as part of the practice internships. At the same time, since the year 2008 until the year 2016, the candidate encouraged the students' participation in scientific communications sessions for students, but also in other events such as book launches, being as well the organizer of the scientific sessions for students of the History Department, Faculty of Humanities, Valahia University of Târgoviște. Since the year 2008 and at present, the candidate has been part of the commissions guiding the doctoral students of the specialty *History* of the Doctoral School of

Valahia University of Târgoviște and since the year 2014 and at present he has also been a (member) specialist advisor in several commissions for the defense of a doctoral thesis in the framework of the same institution.

Along the line of the evolution of his future academic career, the candidate aims to improve his teaching activity by using attractive methods for his students, by publishing new course materials, by attracting a number of students as high as possible at the specialization *History* of the Faculty of Humanities of Valahia University of Târgoviște, by stimulating the students' interest in the participation in Erasmus mobilities, by academic collaborations with colleagues from Romania and from abroad, by coordinating Bachelor Degree theses, Master's Degree dissertations and pre-university teachers' theses and by participating in a contest in the framework of the History Department, Faculty of Humanities, Valahia University of Târgoviște, to fill in a position of Full Professor, **while in point of his scientific research,** the candidate would like to publish more papers, studies and articles in the research domains preoccupying him at present, especially that of the Romanians' modern history, and participate in as many national and international scientific events as possible, organize national and international scientific events, coordinate collective volumes, continue the activity of editing documents but also local history works, and collaborate with specialists of Romania and from abroad in the framework of various projects and common actions.