

**SCIENTIFIC REPORT FOR 2018**  
**(MAY - DECEMBER 2018)**

Research project: **PN-III-P1-1.1-PD2016-1766**

Grant funded by **UEFISCDI**

Project title: *The Power of Words. Propagandistic or Conspirational Manuscripts and Printings in Moldavia and Wallachia (1769–1812)*

Acronym **POWORDS**

Contract **No. 84 of 02/05/2018**

Website: <http://history.uaic.ro/research/powords/>

Project manager: **Lect. Ioan-Augustin Guriță, PhD** (“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Iași)

In the pre-modern and modern Romanian society the written word was, alongside the other expressions of power, one of the latter's easiest means of manifestation, whether communicated through ritual (in solemn manifestations, proclamations, princely and/or religious ceremonies etc.) or circulating in various endemic media (elite groups or families, monastic communities, secret societies etc.). Thus, the present project proposal focuses on several manuscript and prints, with different functions, which are part of the phenomenon of cultural transfer, in order to 'proselytize' and support ideas, new or old ones aroused for certain purposes. The Russian-Turkish wars, the Orthodox movements from the Balkans or the French Revolution were just a few of the main events that also fundamentally affected the Romanian Principalities. Moldavia and Wallachia were placed at the intersection of the great ideological movements manifesting in that period, the meeting place of Russia's Greek project with the Greek nation's Megali Idea, Panorthodoxy as a unique form of identity (the 'Orthodox Nation') and as a link between peoples, 'presented' as a new 'crusade' (sanctioned by the 'Slavic peoples') to which ideas of the French

revolutionaries were added. Russia and Austria, powers reclaiming the Byzantine heritage, had no doubts about taking specific propaganda actions to create solidarity between the sides involved in the entire ideological ‘display of forces’. On the other hand, conspirational acts also took place, especially under the coordination of ‘initiates’ (fascinated by the new ideas promulgated at the dawn of the French Revolution), in possession of texts or manuscripts, through networks, with the new Western ideas. In the meantime, the Church, through its representatives, played a significant part, supporting either one faction or the other, favouring or blaming movements, ideas, thought paradigms.

A thorough analysis of the texts which can be defined as *propaganda* or *conspirational* that circulated under different forms in the Principalities does not exist, either exclusive to this time period or through the general analysis of the sources. Furthermore, neither was the *fundamental role of the Church*, whose networks and administrative structures distributed and promoted texts and ideas considered, in the post-Byzantine period, ‘*consolation books*’, but they were, even more, the effects and/or tools of propaganda! From my research I noticed that these manuscripts were copied particularly after the fourth decade of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, mostly between 1769 and 1812. There must be a reason why the histories of Constantine the Great’s life, the accounts of the fall of Constantinople, as well as the eschatological excerpts or prophecies are imminently tied to the sphere of post-Byzantine ideology and the anti-Ottoman ‘crusade’, the protagonists of which, in politics and in the age’s prophecies, were Russian tsars. It is even more significant that, alongside the writings mentioned above, there are several versions of Constantine’s life and will found in a few tens of unpublished manuscripts that were translated and circulated in the Romanian territory after 1750. One must also trace where and in which context these copies were found in this territory. Researching the periods of occupation, I remarked the rise in numbers of texts with specific topics intrinsically tied to Russia and its policies in the Orthodox world. The *effects of propaganda* materialized through the *spreading of ideas*, through their distribution under forms accessible to anyone, but also under mystically and eschatologically codified forms, with a strong message in consonance with *religious feeling*.

The contextualization of the *emergence* and *distribution* of such texts, the identification of their authors or the sources they were inspired by, the impact they had in the society of the

time and in the prosopography of the people tied to these materials (*translators, scribes, typographers, clergymen, teachers* etc.) are just a few of the elements that will be the basis of our research in addition to editing these texts. From this point of view, the difficulty of the chosen topic is high, since the responsible approach and careful distribution of the interest for each of these constitutive elements of the research project are required. The project's topic is also a challenge, especially since the required information is scattered in studies and volumes partially concerned with some aspects of the issues I wish to analyse in my research.

We will consider all the aspects that have characterized the historiography of the last decades, both in terms of theorizations, chronologies or interpretations, as well as in the sense of demystifications, restorations or re-configurations and historiographical reinterpretations. The main objectives are: the publication of a volume of studies and sources, critical edition of a manuscript, publishing excerpts from Russian chronicles, as well as participating in national and international scientific events. By reaching these objectives I will bring new contributions and information in the national and international circuit which will contribute to a better understanding of some general or particular aspects in pre-modern and modern Romanian history, the history of the Orthodox Church in the Romanian Principalities, the history of political thought in the Romanian area. Through the sources and studies published and the approach used, the research I am putting forth will open new paths in the research of the political, cultural and Church history of the eighteenth century so necessary in our historiography.

The research of the various texts in library, archive and museum deposits or in private collections can contribute to them becoming more familiar to the academic community, encouraging their research from different, inter-disciplinary perspectives. The editing and publishing of sources fits a direction appreciated and followed by many historians, especially since the introduction in the field of research of elements of originality in the approach of topics is insisted on. Interpretations of any kind can only be made through the unconditional reliance on sources, while the objectives outlined above, once fulfilled, bring new and original aspects to research in this field.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT IN 2018

In the period related to the current report (2018), the objective of the project was fully attained. The objective included activities provided in the research plan, such as research and documentation in libraries, research institutes, and archives. An important activity was represented by the documentation and analysis of sources. I analysed some of the main sources I had considered when drafting up the project proposal. I have conducted research and documentation activities especially at the Academy of Sciences in Bulgaria, at the National Library “Saints Cyril and Methodius” in Sofia, at the Romanian Academy Library, at the Central University Library in Iași, at the Romanian National Library, at the State Archives in Bucharest and Iași, as well as at the “N. Iorga” History Institute in Bucharest.

Aware of the challenges entailed by such research and of the time I had, the results included in the plan were the publication of a paper in a collective volume or in an IDB-indexed journal, as well as the presentation of a scientific paper during a national or international event. These results were fully attained and even exceeded; I will detail it in the following lines.

Within the project, I had **two papers** accepted for publication (one in an IDB-indexed journal, the other in a collective volume) and I presented **four scientific papers**, one scientific paper abroad, an international paper in the country, and two national papers. All these scientific contributions focus on the project topic or on very similar topics. At the end of the year, it may be stated that all the results have been delivered.

I also mention that – in this stage of the project – I developed the web page, accessible online at: <http://history.uaic.ro/research/powords/>.

## DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

### Papers

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Încercările unei generații. Putneni în administrația bisericească din Moldova (a doua jumătate a secolului al XVIII-lea) [The Trials of a Generation. Monks from Putna Monastery in the Ecclesiastical Administration of Moldavia (Second Half of the 18th Century)]*, in “Analele Putnei” [The Annals of Putna], XIV, 2018, 1 (**CEEOL, Index Copernicus**).
2. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Contribuții la istoria relațiilor bisericești româno-ruse. Un document recuperate [Contributions to the history of Romanian-Russian ecclesiastical relations]*, on Gabriel Leanca (editor), *Politică și relații internaționale în istoria românilor. Omagiu profesorului Gheorghe Cliveti [Politics and international relations in the history of Romanians. Homage to Professor Gheorghe Cliveti]*, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Press Iași (**CNCS B**).

### Paper presented at international scientific events

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Between Empires and Ideologies. Political Projects, Cultural Transfer and Propaganda in Moldavia and Wallachia during the Russo-Turkish Wars (1768-1774, 1787-1792)*, Balkan Worlds IV, The ‘Great Ideas’ of the Balkans (18th – 20th c.), organized by the Dept. of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia in collaboration with Association Internationale d’Études du Sud-Est Européen and Laboratory of History of the Department, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, November 29th – December 1st, 2018 (<https://balkanworlds.edu.gr/final-programme/>).
2. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Un arhieru putnean uitat: episcopul Antonie al Romanului [A Forgotten Monk from Putna: Bishop Anthony of Roman (I)]*, “Colocviile

Putnei” [Putna Colloquia], 21<sup>st</sup> edition, 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July, Putna Monastery.  
(<https://www.centrulstefancelmare.ro/ro/activitati/colocviile-putnei-editia-a-xxi-a/>)

### **Paper presented at national scientific events**

1. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Un text polemic din a doua jumătate a veacului al XVIII-lea și semnificațiile sale [A polemic text from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and its meanings]*, Simpozionul „Artă și civilizație medievală”, ediția XXV, Colocviul *Scris și scriitură în Evul Mediu românesc* [“Medieval art and Civilisation” Symposium, 25<sup>th</sup> edition, Colloquium *Written and writing in the Romanian Middle Ages*], Suceava History Museum, 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (<https://muzeulbucovinei.ro/arta-si-civilizatie-medievala-editia-a-xxv-a-8-9-noiembrie-2018/>).

2. **Ioan-Augustin Guriță**, *Lămuriri privind înființarea, evoluția și competența unei instituții din a doua jumătate a veacului al XVIII-lea: Dicasteria Mitropoliei Moldovei [Clarifications on the constitution, evolution, and competence of an institution of the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century: the dikasterion of the Moldavian Metropolis]*, Zilele Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, simpozion național, Sesiunea de comunicări a cadrelor didactice și a cercetătorilor [Days of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, national symposium, Paper session for didactic personnel and researchers], 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (<http://history.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/program-zile-univ-A5-2018.pdf>).

For the effective unfolding of the research and for the attainment of the objectives proposed, I had regular meetings with Prof. Laurențiu Rădvan, PhD, who has been involved constantly in this project.

The funds were used correctly, in a balanced manner, according to the objectives, activities, and budget categories within the project plan.

The scientific activity unfolded throughout the project has enabled the attaining of the results proposed and of the objectives set, respectively for 2018, creating firm premises for the development, with good results, of the scientific activity in 2019.

**03. XII. 2018**

Project manager,  
**Lect. Ioan-Augustin Guriță, PhD**