

## UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC MILIEU IN MODERN ROMANIA

### ABSTRACT OF THE HABILITATION THESIS

The habilitation dissertation entitled *University and Academic Milieu in Modern Romania* summarizes the research and academic management activities accomplished after having defended the doctoral thesis (*Byzantinology in Romania until 1918*) at the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi and having obtained in 2004 the Ph.D. degree in Historical Sciences. A career development plan is enclosed, projecting future research and recording as priority research areas the history of universities and the history of the academic milieu.

In the first part of the thesis, the most substantial one, we presented the main achievements of the research activity carried out on the following three thematic directions, as reflected in the books and studies published, as well as in the conferences attended in the country and abroad:

- a. The dimensions of student life in modern Romania
- b. The studies done abroad and their role in the formation of the intellectual elite
- c. The academic milieu and its main characters

I should mention that the research of student life in modern Romania (the first thematic axis) was, paradoxically, a rarity in the Romanian historiography of the last half-century, although the subject had a strong propaganda potential during the communist years. Nevertheless, even after 1990, the number of investigations did not increase considerably, as we would have expected. As far as I am concerned, I started to investigate the issue in 2009, researching the student population of Iasi University. I published the results in a study entitled *Studentii universităţii 1860-1914* [Students of the University 1860-1914] included in a 2010 tribute volume, otherwise a very complex one, edited by Gh. Iacob and Alexandru-Florin Platon – *Istoria Universităţii din Iaşi (History of the University of Iasi)* [Iaşi, Editura Universităţii “Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, 2010, p. 177-229].

In the same year, I published a volume of documents dedicated to the first female students at the Faculty of Letters in Iaşi, preceded by a generous introductory study (*Primele studente ale Universităţii din Iaşi. Vol. I Facultatea de Litere şi Filosofie* [The first female students of the University of Iaşi. Vol. I Faculty of Letters and Philosophy],

Iași, Editura Universității “Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, 2010, 504 p.). I focused on the University of Iași and the student population hereabouts, a choice that is explained not only by the proximity of the archives, but also by the proper organization of the University's archival collection, compared to that of the University of Bucharest, for instance. However, of course, the sources in Iași had to be supplemented, over numerous research trips, with the archive collections hosted by the Bucharest headquarters of the National Archives and in other locations.

After 2010, I published several articles and case studies in scientific journals or collective volumes (a total of seven studies) and presented the results of my research in 13 conferences organized in the country and especially abroad (Iasi, Targu Mures, Budapest, Geneva, Helsinki, Thessaloniki, etc.).

The second thematic area was also the most difficult to investigate, but perhaps the closest to my scientific interests and curiosities. The investigations started just before receiving the title of doctor; the focus was on the young Romanians from the mid-19th century who studied in Athens (at the Gymnasium or the University).

In 2007, I published in Cluj a large study in which I narrowed the subject of my research to the Romanian scholarship holders in Athens. At the same time, I took the opportunity to investigate the archives in Athens more thoroughly, on the occasion of an Onassis personal research grant won through an international competition. I then extended these thorough investigations to the archives in Iași and Bucharest. The paper in question was entitled *Bursierii români de la Universitatea din Atena în secolul XIX: portretul unui grup* [*The Romanian Fellows at the Athens University in the 19th century. Portrait of a Group*], published in “Anuarul Institutului de Istorie G. Barițiu”, Cluj-Napoca, no. 46/2006, p. 183-212.

Other case studies followed (about Gheorghe Cioran, Demosthene Russo, Constantin Erbiceanu) and research papers, published mainly in the country (8 in number). Here, I only mention a study on the phenomenon of academic peregrination of the mid-19th century, perhaps the most effervescent period of Romanian modernity, which involved a considerable effort of documentation and investigation: *Studentii și profesorii ai Universității din Iași la studii în străinătate (deceniul șapte al secolului XIX)* [Students and Professors of the University of Iași Studying Abroad (Seventh Decade of the 19th Century)], in “Historia Universitatis Iassiensis” 1 (2010), p. 37-113 and 2 (2011), p. 9-59. Also, I have presented 19 papers since 2007 in university centres such as Athens, Iasi, Targu-Mures, Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Copenhagen, Sibiu, Perugia.

The third thematic area, *The academic milieu and its main characters*, includes probably my most valuable achievements. Perhaps because it allowed for a wider field of development of my explorations, depending on the available sources. The very work for my doctoral thesis had already helped me prepare for this thematic field. The theme was the crystallization - with substantial difficulty - of a new historiographical discipline at the turn of the 19th-20th centuries, namely Byzantinology. Following the works and careers of

leading characters such as A.D. Xenopol, N. Iorga, C. Litzica, Demosthene Russo, and others, I was able to develop the necessary skills and abilities, which helped me a lot in later research.

Besides the 14 studies in this thematic area, I am bringing up here the volumes I published between 2008 and 2020: Ariadna Camariano-Cioran, *Studii filologice și istorice (Secolele XIV-XIX)* [Philological and Historical Studies (14th-19th Centuries)], edition, introductory study, chronology, the translation of Greek texts and notes by Leonidas Rados, București, Omonia Publishing House, 2008, 766 p.; V.A. Urechia, *Din tainele vieții. Amintiri contemporane (1838-1882)* [The Secrets of Life. Contemporary Memories], edition, introductory study, chronology and notes by Leonidas Rados, Iași, Polirom Publishing House, 2014, LXXI + 472 p.; *Fragmente de pe un câmp de luptă: studii în istoria universității*, [Excerpts from a Battlefield: Studies in the History of the University], a volume edited by Florea Ioncioaia and Leonidas Rados, Iași, Editura Universității "Alexandru Ioan Cuza", 2018, 377 p. Finally, I could also mention a monograph on which I worked for more than a decade, dedicated to Constantin Erbiceanu, the academician who had, in the 80s of the nineteenth century, the initiative to study in a thorough and professional way the Phanariot Regime and the Greek influences: *Un cărturar de altădată: Constantin Erbiceanu (1838-1913)* [A Scholar of Yesteryear: Constantin Erbiceanu (1838–1913)], București, Editura Academiei Române, 2020, 475 p. Many papers (23 in number) from this thematic area were presented in Iași, Bucharest, Târgu-Mureș, Cluj-Napoca, Berlin, Copenhagen, Paris, Thessaloniki, etc.

Thus, after having defended the doctoral thesis, I have published in those three thematic directions a monograph, two collections of documents, two coordinated volumes (in collaboration), two critical editions of the works of some academics, 30 studies and papers mostly in the country but also abroad, and I have had dozens of presentations of scientific papers in prestigious academic centres.

As far as academic management is concerned, I must mention that I covered for two mandates the role of coordinator of the Department of Cultural History of "A. D. Xenopol" Institute of History of Iași (2009-2018), including the research program "Culture and Modernization in 19th-20th Centuries Romania". Starting with 2010, I edited as deputy editor-in-chief, together with Florea Ioncioaia (editor-in-chief) and other colleagues, the first Romanian scientific journal dedicated to the history of universities, "Historia Universitatis Iassensis". The publication has reached today its tenth issue and is included in several international databases.

I must add my participation as principal investigator or a team member in several research projects (in the country and abroad), as well as my affiliation in two international academic societies relevant to the field of Greek studies (where I started my career), as well as to the area of the history of universities, which coagulates my scientific efforts today: *European Society of Modern Greek Studies* and the *International Commission for*

*the History of Universities / Commission Internationale pour l'Histoire des Universités (ICHU-CIHU).*

In the following years, I intend to strengthen my contributions in the three thematic areas, first of all by editing the huge amount of correspondence of Demosthene Russo, the famous professor of Byzantinology at the University of Bucharest (1915-1938), and by writing his monograph. Secondly, by publishing a volume of documents on the medical students at the University of Iași and another one dedicated to Romanian scholarship holders abroad during the Union period. The materials are collected and partially selected, waiting only for the proper moment to be reviewed and published.

Finally, the habilitation thesis also contains a section of selective bibliographical references, from which my own contributions were deliberately removed, to eliminate redundancy.