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FACULTY OF HISTORY, LETTERS AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES**

Valences of Romanian culture within a European context

**HABILITATION THESIS SUMMARY
DOMAIN: PHILOLOGY**

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**VALENCES OF ROMANIAN CULTURE
WITHIN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT**

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This habilitation thesis presents the directions of my research and teaching activity, the achievements of a long professional career with numerous accomplishments, as well as the means by which I can provide academic support to young virtual researchers in the field of Romanian literature. My academic career and publications have focused on Romanian and comparative literature, Romanian language for foreigners and translation. The volume *Valeriu Anania. The Writer* represents a first systematised attempt to depict the most relevant aspects of the intellectual Bartolomeu Valeriu Anania's personality. I focused mainly on his position as a writer, but, complementarily, on that of theologian as well. I structured my work formally according to the criteria of a monographic study, following, in distinct sections, the polyphonic profile of the intellectual Bartolomeu Valeriu Anania. *An Autobiographical Portrait; Poetry; Prose; Dramaturgy; Memoirs, Essay, Publicism, Diary; The Translation of the Holy Bible*. I aimed to underline both the completion of the creative spirit of the author in each of the domains he acted, and the echo his writings determined in the public conscience. However, beyond the canonical circumstances of the configuration and receptivity of the writer's work, I tried to propose an interpretation key, which would emphasize the associating or dissociating manner in which the work relates to the intentionality of the author or to the tradition of the myth. *Lucian Blaga and the theater. Essay on the aesthetic absolute* analyzes each of the ten plays written by Lucian Blaga, with an emphasis on Romanian mythology/history/cultural identity, as well as on European influences (such as philosophical - Spengler, Nietzsche, etc., psychological - Jung, Freud, literary - Wedekind, Strindberg). All the plays are related to the overall work of Lucian Blaga - poetry, philosophy, essay, memoirs. *On Sebastian, Sorescu, Dosoftei, Derrida and Romanian language* is a collection of studies in literary criticism and linguistic research. For the character Ștefan Valeriu of *Holiday Game* the study aims to identify the genesis of the first dramatic protagonist Mihail Sebastian imagined, both the autobiographical and the literary earlier experiences and expressions of his playwriting philosophy of the evasion, a philosophy that is to be regarded as a prototype for his future drama. The feminine character Corina institutes both the accomplishment and the deletion of the erotic game, for an elementary reason: suppressing the game for as long as it belonged to the evasion from reality the woman interferes at the proper time, before the reality would ruin the chimera. *Dosoftei and the translation of the Psalms or the autochthonization of the poetic expression of the sacred* involves a thorough comparison between four translations of the Psalter in Romanian, with the aim of highlighting the remarkable achievement of Dosoftei's version. *Marin Sorescu, "The Verger": iter perfectionis* points out that the hero's ambiguous status in the forgotten cathedral must be considered an iter perfectionis through an incomprehensible labyrinth that is life itself. In *Mihail Sebastian, "The city of acacias": the escape into the utopian space* I revealed how, in his first written novel, Mihail Sebastian institutes an integrative source-fiction for his entire literary work, the escape into an ineffable imaginary utopian space. In *Mihail Sebastian – "For two*

thousand years...” : *the labyrinth of an individual consciousness* I analyze how the realism of the traditional style is contested in the novel. In Eugen Curta’s “*The other worlds*” or *the labyrinth of narrative metalepsis*, I reveal how the author proves a very good knowledge of the most subtle and diverse narrative methods up to the suspicion of affectation in writing: he seems to like to elaborate the most fanciful frames of the construction of a novel. During my time as a guest lecturer and later as tenured senior lecturer at the Lund University, Sweden, I secured no less than thirteen travel grants, some to invite six Romanian academics (from Bratislava, Skopje, Bucharest, Iasi, Alba Iulia) to offer conferences in English and in French. In 2019, I edited a volume entitled *Romania at Lund University*, which includes their conferences on various topics: linguistics and etymology, the specifics of the literary world, contemporary Romanian literature and Romanian folklore. In the five textbooks I have published my main concern was a practical approach to various subjects concerned with Romanian literature and modern dramaturgy for Romanian students and with Romanian language for foreign students. The study *The fantastic, the strange and the miraculous in “Aranca, the pixy of the lakes” by Cezar Petrescu* follows the theoretical framework of the fantastic established by Tzvetan Todorov and aims to identify the place of the Romanian short story in this classification. In other studies I have examined the literary work through its artistic language. Thus, in a 2018 article, *The Indo-European voice of Barbarians*, I focused on the analysis (cum grano salis) of the etymology of a limited number of words from the introductory pages of the novel *Barbarians*, as designated in the *Etymological Dictionary of the Romanian language* by Mihai Vinereanu. In 2021 I tackled Liviu Rebreanu’s last novel, and, among others, in the article *Amândoi by Liviu Rebreanu: multicultural settings and sources of suspense* I meticulously recorded no less than forty archaisms and local words of the artistic language, these being examined in terms of use, etymology, linguistic connectivity. The last published article, also written in English, *Death and immortality in Dracula’s Diary: readings through Corpus Hermeticum*, proposes an original decoding of Marin Mincu’s novel. Following the interpretation of the actions and thoughts of the historical figure Vlad the Impaler, the essay selects from the complex narrative construction two topics, death and immortality, in an attempt to interpret by comparing them with the philosophy of *Corpus Hermeticum*. The article *Yukio Mishima, “The Sound of Waves”* aims at the decoding of the novel in relation to Mishima’s biography, politics and aesthetic theory, arguing that his most serene artistic achievement is ultimately a desperate self-delusion for various inner contradictions. The essay *Lawrence Durrell, “Justine”* focuses on setting up the city of Alexandria as the main character of the novel by reflecting and accumulating the other characters, events, feelings. My main editorial activity has been, since October 2016, the role of manager (and editor) of *Swedish Journal of Romanian Studies*. As a member of scientific grants I pursued excellence in research.