



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ

SCOSAAR

ABSTRACT OF THE HABILITATION THESIS

TITLE: Historical and epistemological coordinates of the development of cultural anthropology in Romania (1964-2024)

Habilitation domain: HISTORY

Author: Marin CONSTANTIN

In the period after the defense of my doctoral thesis (2007) until now, I have carried out three research projects with the support of the Fierbird Foundation for Anthropological Research, of which a first project (2010) related to the anthropological perspective on ethnic diversity in Romania, and the other two projects (2015-2016 and 2022-2023) regarding the ethnographic investigation of three Romanian communities in Mărginimea Sibiului (see *infra* [ii] Second section: Field experience).

These projects provided me with the necessary documentary basis for a theoretical development (in the first section of the habilitation thesis) of the study referring to the historical and epistemological coordinates of the development of cultural anthropology in the 60 years of existence of this discipline in Romania (1964-2024). Thus, I located my field data (examined and valorized through specific publications) in the broader perspective of the conceptual and methodological evolution of Romanian socio-anthropological research from a predominantly "self-referential" theme on some Romanian communities or population groups, to an "inter-referential" agenda for the analysis of different ethno-linguistic communities in Romania. Such a "paradigm shift" is relevant for the historical contextualization of the Romanian anthropological practice before and after the change of the political regime in 1989 and has an ethnocentric or (on the contrary) cultural-relativist content, by establishing some intra-ethnic and inter-ethnic correspondences between the groups of population examined (see *infra* [i] First section: I. *Self-referentiality and anthropological inter-referentiality in Romania*, and II. *Ethnocentrism and cultural relativism in the study of ethno-cultural identity in Romania*).

The specification of these "coordinates" of the Romanian anthropological development is accompanied by two sub-chapters dedicated to the categories of analysis and defining case studies for the research I pursued on some Romanian and, respectively, minority-ethnic

communities in Romania. "Self-referentiality" and "inter-referentiality" are thus presented not only as historical stages of professionalization of Romanian cultural anthropology, but also as "phases" of a process characteristic of my own postdoctoral professional training (see *infra* [i]) First section: III. *Economy and society in pastoral communities in Romania*, and IV. *Ethnic self-identifications in minority communities in Romania*). The two anthropological research perspectives are also significant for the monographic methodology of studying communities with the same ethno-cultural identity as myself and, respectively, for the comparative approach of different ethno-cultural groups (in terms of their matrimonial behavior and their folk art).

The second section of the habilitation thesis first includes information regarding my field experience during the three mentioned research projects (2010, 2015-2016, 2022-2023) and the materialization through national and international publications of these projects . In the same section, I described my participation in the *Ethnology / Cultural Anthropology University Program* of the Faculty of Letters of the University of Bucharest (in the years 2019-2024), within the bachelor and master groups of this institution, highlighting the importance of this collaboration for the systematization my knowledge of anthropology and, above all, for the active and informed training of students in the subject specific to this discipline. Finally, I mentioned the main ideas of the *Managerial Program of the Francisc I. Rainer Institute of Anthropology*, developed and supported by me (as director of this institution) for the period of 2022-2026, under the "Management of research activities" report. "Financial - accounting management", "Human resources management" and "Relational management" (see *infra* [ii]) Second section: *Field experience, Valorization of research projects, The University program of ethnology / cultural anthropology* and *The Managerial program of the Institute of Anthropology*).

In the following years, I will continue the work of scientific exploitation (through publications) of my research projects as well as the program of teaching anthropology in higher education. In particular, I have the responsibility of fulfilling the objectives of the Managerial Program of the Francisc I. Rainer Institute of Anthropology, in all that they involve in managing the research work of my colleagues and engaging new generations of students in ethnology, anthropology and history in participating in projects of research, in the analysis, processing and publication of field data and (mainly) coordination of doctoral theses of graduates of the Bachelor and Master programs, within the Rainer Institute.

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