

Habilitation Thesis

ABSTRACT

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Abstract:

This habilitation thesis summarizes the research activity that I have developed after obtaining my Ph.D., in the year 2006.

In recent years, my research activity has materialized in the publication of 16 articles in peer-reviewed journals (ISI and BDI), the participation in 24 national and international conferences, the publishing of two books in prestigious publishing houses, as well as the development of four chapters in volumes published abroad. Also, a recognition of my work's prestige is that I am a member of the „European Network on Regional Labor Market Monitoring“. Within this body I partake in the research activity on labor market dynamics in Europe. One of the beneficiaries of the results is the European Commission. Since the year 2014 I have been a member of the Scientific Committee of the project „Job outlook and the employment needs of Romanian businesses“, developed by Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini and Obiettivo Lavoro, Italy.

In addition to my teaching and research activity, in 2009 I initiated and organized an M.A. program in Development Sociology. In the last four years this program has attracted about 200 students and it is still active. Since 2012 I have been editor in chief at the “European Review of Applied Sociology”.

The paper is structured in two parts: one comprising my scientific, professional and academic achievements, and one that includes plans for the evolution and development of my professional, scientific and academic career.

The first part is structured so as to highlight the main areas of research that I have addressed in recent years: international migration, labor economics and social security. Most of my publications also address these areas. Moreover, these concerns overlap with my didactic activity. At the Department of Sociology of the West University of Timisoara, where I develop my activity, I teach „Sociology of Migration“, „Economic Sociology“ and „Labour Economics“. For each of these fields I have chosen to briefly present four publications that reflect the research activity I conducted. Therefore, in

total, this thesis contains extracts from 12 papers published by myself, as sole author or co-author.

The entire exposure was created by connecting to the current stage of scientific research on migration, labor force and social security at international and national plane. The order of display of the research directions corresponds with the order in which my interest has moved from one field to another. Thus, if my interest was initially directed towards international migration, I then focused mainly on the international migration of the labor force. I then found the profound effects on the sustainability of social security systems, so that this field was added in my portfolio of concerns. Finally, the last research direction towards which I directed my attention comprises studies on population, mainly the statistical and mathematical analysis of population and population projections. This part of the paper contains a brief overview of a research that is currently underway. Finally, I believe that my concerns, as also results from the presentation made, represent a whole in which all fields studied (migration, labor force, social security, population) are interrelated and generate a homogeneous professional orientation.

The second part of the paper contains a description of my professional career development plan. Since I believe that the PhD supervisor activity, asside from its didactic dimension, is one positioned rather in the research plane, this section holds emphasized my future projects in the research field. Thus, as an extension of the research activity conducted so far, on a medium and long term I wish to specialize in the field of computational sociology and to utilize computational methods in the study of international migration. In fact, I have already initiated a series of concrete activities in this direction, one of which is a project considering the using of agent based modeling to simulate the phenomenon of international migration. As such, this section contains a brief description of the mentioned project, considering that it highlights my future plans from a professional viewpoint. Given the topicality of this field, a specific direction of action is aimed at the collaboration with the specialized European institutes already developing such research programs.

The paper concludes with some final considerations comprising my plans in the academic area, whether I will get the habilitation.

The references refer only to the papers mentioned in this material.

I must mention that the present paper is not of scientific character and will not be published.