

GABRIEL FLORIN MOISA

HISTORY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY IN CONTEMPORARY ROMANIA

HABILITATION THESIS

Abstract

After graduation and employment as a curator at Tării Crișurilor Museum of Oradea, I pursued a research activity in the field of Romania's contemporary history, focusing on the issue of Transylvanian history, and the history of Romanian historiography, especially the one during the Communist regime. The results of my research were published or presented at scientific communications sessions, both in the country as well as abroad. My research activity has also been accompanied, since 1996, by a didactical one, carried out at the Faculty of History-Geography within the University of Oradea.

In 2002 I presented my doctoral thesis on a novel topic in Romanian historiography, work which appeared a year later, the book – entitled *Istoria Transilvaniei în istoriografia românească 1965-1989 (The History of Transylvania in Romanian Historiography 1965-1989)*, Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca, 374 p. – being the first synthesis-type contribution in the Romanian historiography dedicated to the historical writing in Romania during Nicolae Ceaușescu's regime, with reference to Transylvania.

Both in the period preceding the presentation of my thesis, and afterwards, I was part of collectives of academics and researchers involved in the elaboration of synthetic works focused on the history of Romania, especially the history of Transylvania.

In 2004, after passing the examination for academic positions, I became a tenured lecturer at the University of Oradea, Faculty of History-Geography, Department of History, teaching several courses at undergraduate, and later masters, level, both in the field of history, as well in that of historiography.

My research activity continued even after I started tenure at the University of Oradea, my area of interest and the covered topics being more complex and diversified, given the expansion of the topics I was dealing with during my teaching activities. I continued the series of publications on Romania's contemporary history and on the history of historiography.

Even during the period when I was working as a curator and researcher, I completed (by publishing two books, *Colectivizare, rezistență și represiune în vestul României (1948-1951)/Collectivization, Resistance and Oppression in Western Romania (1948-1951)*, Editura Muzeului Țării Crișurilor, Oradea, 1999, 176 p. and *Istorie și propagandă istorică în România 1945-1989/History and Historical Propaganda in Romania 1945-1989*, Editura Muzeului Țării Crișurilor, Oradea, 2002, 232 p.) two investigations which announced even then the main research directions I have subsequently undertaken in several volumes, studies, articles and research projects. In the first investigation I discussed, for the first time in Post-Communist Romanian historiography, on a wider scale, the issue of the peasant uprising which occurred in the counties of Bihor and Arad in 1949. The second book tackled the thorny issue of the Romanian historical writing's ideologization during the years of the Communist regime. It is a piece of work which investigates the dialogue of the historical writing with the politics, and of the politics with the historical writing, in the context of an equation based on the party documents, the ideological directives and their reverberations on historians.

In 2005 I was included into the team of research and elaboration of a volume dedicated to the history of Oradea city, activity completed by the publication in 2007 of the work *Istoria orașului Oradea (The History of the City of Oradea)*, Oradea, 2007, 510 p., the first work of such a scale in Romanian historiography.

Continuing my research on the Romanian historiography, which I had started during my PhD, in 2007 I published the book *Direcții și tendințe în istoriografia românească 1989-2006 (Directions and Tendencies in Romanian Historiography 1989-2006)*, Editura Universității din Oradea, Oradea, 2007, 218 p., a work that takes the analysis on the Romanian historiography beyond 1989, the year I completed my doctoral research. During the following years, I went in-depth with the analysis of the ideological intrusion into the sphere of historical writing, and of culture in general, during the years of the Communist regime. To this end, in 2012 I published in English a work that vertically analyzes certain segments related to the specified area of interest, entitled *History, Ideology and Politics in Communist Romania 1948-1989*, Eötvös Lorand Kiadó, Budapest, 2012, 492 p. A synthesis of this work, much abbreviated, was also published in Romanian: *Clio în zodia ideologizării (Clio under the Sign of Ideologization)*, Editura Mega, Cluj-Napoca, 2013, 304 p.

My research options continued and developed in the area of the history of Communism in Romania. Thus, I analyzed in two volumes the onset period of the Communist regime in Romania. The first book investigated the activity of the anti-Communist group led by Adrian Mihuț, *Structuri anticomuniste din vestul României. Grupul Adrian Mihuț/Anti-Communist*

Structures in Western Romania. The Group of Adrian Mihuț, Editura Mega, Cluj-Napoca, 2012, 320 p., and the second one focused on the activity of the Plowmen Front/Frontul Plugarilor, one of the North-Western Romanian Communists' "fellow travellers" on the way to their complete conquest of power, *Frontul Plugarilor din Regionala Crișana-Maramureș (1945-1953)/The Plowmen Front in Crișana-Maramureș Region*, Editura Universității din Oradea/Editura Muzeului Țării Crișurilor din Oradea, 2012, 355 p.

In recent years, my scientific investigation also focused on the history of the Romanians living abroad, specifically on the Romanians in Hungary, which I discovered through the works of their own elite while I was working on my doctoral thesis. This explains my first work dedicated to the Romanian community in Hungary, entitled *Istoriografia românilor din Ungaria 1920-2010. Între deziderat și realitate (Historiography of the Romanians in Hungary 1920-2010. Between Desideratum and Reality)*, Editura NOI, Giula, Ungaria, 2010, 318 p., in which I analyzed the historical writing of the Romanian elite in Hungary in close connection with the political environment in which it evolved. It is a unique work in Romanian historiography. The book was very well received by the Romanian community in Hungary, and not only, a context in which I set up a team of researchers of Romanian origin in Hungary, which I coordinated and together with which we have developed a historical synthesis dedicated to this community, entitled *Cultura și istoria românilor din Ungaria (The Culture and History of the Romanians in Hungary)*, Romanian Academy. Center for Transylvanian Studies, Cluj-Napoca, 2013, 350 p.

During this entire period I coordinated the volumes of several conferences organized by me, both as chairman of the organizing committee, as well as a member of such committees. In the following, I will mention only a few of them, selectively: **Gabriel Moisa**, Sorin Șipoș, Igor Șarov, *Statutul istoriei și al istoricilor în contemporaneitate (The Status of History and the Historians in Contemporary Times)*, Editura MEGA, Cluj-Napoca, 2013, 414 p., Sorin Șipoș, **Gabriel Moisa**, Dan Octavian Cepraga, Mircea Brie, Teodor Mateoc, *From Periphery to Centre. The Image of Europe at the Eastern Border of Europe*, Romanian Academy, Center for Transylvanian Studies, Cluj-Napoca, 2014, 292 p. and Sorin Șipoș, **Gabriel Moisa**, Florin Sfrengeu, Mircea Brie, Ion Gumenăi, *The Historian's Atelier. Sources, Methods, Interpretations*, Romanian Academy. Center for Transylvanian Studies, Cluj-Napoca, 2012, 280 p. The list of my works includes all these contributions.

Many studies, articles, reviews were added to the volumes I have published either as author, co-author or coordinator.

As a tenured member of the teaching staff, my activity was not just about teaching and doing research, but also included other activities specific to our occupational field. I took part in

teams of national and international research and teaching projects, and I was a member in the organising committees of national and international conferences.

Since 2010 I have been involved in a series of international academic activities “On the teaching programme of the teaching staff. In the framework Lifelong Learning Programme/Erasmus Teaching Assignments”, namely especially in activities of a didactic nature at several universities in the European Union: Paris X, Nanterre, Coimbra, Padova, Amiens, Reims, Venice.

Given the tradition of the Romanian history education in Oradea, the need of continuing it at all levels, and especially due to the increasingly insistent demands from students of History, and also from those of International Relations, Political Sciences and Journalism within our faculty, it is necessary to maintain the number of Professors in the History Department able to coordinate doctoral theses, while the mature generation of doctoral supervisors leaves the scene. Perpetuation of a Romanian doctoral school in history at the Western border of Romania is more than necessary.

Besides my teaching activity and own research, the prospect of being a doctoral supervisor, will also direct my projects towards the students' research activity, facilitating the start of academic projects addressed to those enrolled in different levels of study. In this sense, I'm thinking of initiating new courses and new research themes with interdisciplinary character, which would involve students from several majors, both from the University of Oradea, as well as from the country or from abroad.

In conclusion, summarizing the above, we can say that all the specific academic activities fall on a line of continuity with the concerns addressed so far, the future activities aiming to diversify and expand already existing academic interests – primarily those of a didactic nature, but also those of research.