

## Summary of habilitation thesis

### *O istorie intelectuală alternativă a Mitului Mircea Eliade* *An Alternative Intellectual History of Mircea Eliade's Myth*

During these almost ten years since I defended my doctoral thesis on the subject *Mircea Eliade și extrema dreaptă românească (Mircea Eliade and the Romanian Right Extreme)*, I have been trying to focus on as many as possible aspects of Mircea Eliade's personality and to bring to light novel documents (letters, manuscripts, testimonies) and details about the life and work of this great creator. By all my achievements, I have intended to release Mircea Eliade's figure from any mythical boundaries and thus to capture his human side. I truly wanted to go beyond the myth of Eliade and so I did especially by the recovery and the publication of a significant part of his correspondence and by the discussions with former students and collaborators from the period of his scientific maturity. My aim was to provide the complete portrayal of the one who made a major change in various important domains of humanistic research, consequently putting together the multiple facets of Mircea Eliade's character. Fantastic elements, religious symbolism, the fascination of the sacredness and the search for *homo religiosus*, India and religious pluralism, devotion to his projects or to his students and correspondents, the magic of literary writings or the boldness and enthusiasm of youth, these are only some of the aspects I have examined during this period of own intellectual quest and growth.

By studying and writing on different topics (starting from the political perception of inter-war reality, continuing with the realm of myths, be they religious or of other nature, hidden in literary or press writings, or the various approaches to the religious phenomenon, the way it is displayed in the things and places apparently devoid of any sacredness, and ending with the comprehension of folklore as an instrument of knowledge), I have also learned a lot about my abilities to coordinate relevant projects and / or research teams, to organize and manage didactic activities and scientific events (seminars, conferences, round tables), as well as cultural ones, to explain and facilitate learning, teaching (chiefly by the courses I have held) and interdisciplinary research (on the borderline among philosophy, history and religion). Moreover, I have become aware of the necessity to be objective in what regards the subject of my interests.

My next goal is now to present, in a clear manner, the main scientific, professional and academic attainments, on disciplinary and interdisciplinary thematic directions, all having, in

one way or another, a direct connection with the topic of Mircea Eliade. Such attainments represent my entire postdoctoral activity, as it developed during the last ten years of my scientific career (2006-2015), thus after I obtained the academic title of doctor in Philosophy from Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, in July 2006.

I have organized the materials presented in this habilitation thesis both chronologically and thematically, comprising all my interests during the above-mentioned period of time and the manner I have contributed, by each of them, to my main domain of activity. I have primarily focused on the published scientific papers, i.e. author volumes, (co-)edited volumes, translations, articles and studies in specialization journals and collective volumes, both national and international. At the same time, I have taken into account the research projects and the postdoctoral grants, international scientific research and the organization or the participation to national and international conferences. Furthermore, I have mentioned some important individual (and independent) projects, such as the founding of *Cluj Center for Indian Studies* within Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca or the journal of humanistic studies I established – *International Journal on Humanistic Ideology*. I have structured my presentation taking into consideration the symbolic topography of my recent interests (India, Romania and Israel), demonstrating, each and every time, the common element uniting and drawing close these apparently different spaces: comprehension of Mircea Eliade's life and work and the mythologies associated to such comprehension, as well as clarifying the contexts initiating such interests.

To conclude with, the habilitation thesis entitled *O istorie intelectuală alternativă a Mitului Mircea Eliade (An Alternative Intellectual History of Mircea Eliade's Myth)* draws on the most significant research directions I have approached throughout these recent years. During this time, my scientific inquiry and my press-related events, as well as the historical (the recovery of various documents), philosophical, didactic or cultural activities have continued and complemented one another, the consequences and the results proving, most of the times, unparalleled. Each, taken as a part, and everything, taken as a whole, have contributed to the development of knowledge in the sphere of Romanian cultural studies and, particularly, to a better comprehension of Mircea Eliade, the man and the creator.

Mihaela Gligor

Cluj-Napoca, 24 March 2016