

HABILITATION THESIS

Abstract

The present Habilitation Thesis represents the summary of the research work done since the doctoral thesis submittal (2005) and so far, as well as a description of the research projects that I want to focus upon during the following years. The first part structures the scientific research work into four chapters, summarizing the main personal contributions to historiography, revealing both the ability to initiate and develop personal research projects and the ability to work in research teams:

1. The problem of the Hungarian minority in the Romanian Parliament during the interwar period
2. The Romanian Electoral System, „Electoral Traditions” and the Chances of the National Hungarian Party in Parliamentary Elections in the Interwar Romania
3. Hungarian Elites in the Romanian Parliament during the Interwar Period
4. The relationship between the Hungarian Party and Hungarian peasants in Romania: election campaigns in rural areas and the involvement of Hungarian peasants in the interwar elections

Before publishing my book and my studies – *Partidul Maghiar și problema minorității maghiare în parlamentul României în perioada interbelică* (The Hungarian Party and the problem of the Hungarian minority in the Romanian Parliament during the interwar period) (2008), *Organizațiile politice ale minorităților din România interbelică – colaborare sau concurență? Studiu de caz: minoritățile maghiară, germană și evreiască* (2006), *Problema funcționarilor publici maghiari în dezbaterile parlamentare din România interbelică* (2012), *Relațiile dintre organizațiile politice ale minorității maghiare, germane și evreiești din România în perioada interbelică* (2010), Romanian historiography did not record significant contributions in the Hungarian minority in the interwar period field area. The previous mentioned works were

very well received by historians and political scientists. The book represents the first synthesis in Romanian regarding the problem of the Hungarian minority in the Romanian Parliament during the interwar period.

In the electoral system field area I brought new contributions to understanding this phenomenon through the following studies: *The Romanian Electoral System, „Electoral Traditions” and the Chances of the National Hungarian Party in Parliamentary Elections in the Interwar Romania* (2012), *Politikai pártok és választási csalások a két világháború közötti Romániában* (2016), *Traditii comunitare si comportament electoral la alegerile din mediul rural din Romania-cazul comunitatii maghiare din Olteni* (2011), *„Választási hagyományok” a két világháború közötti Romániában és a magyar szavazók viselkedése e választások alkalmával* (2012), *Incidente sângeroase la alegerile parlamentare din 1928 la secția de votare din com. Olteni (jud. Trei-Scaune)* (2008), *A választási csalások ritmikussága a két világháború közötti Romániában* (2015), *Campania electorală a Partidului Maghiar în zona rurală cu ocazia alegerilor din România interbelică* (2016). The previous mentioned studies were very well received by historians and political scientists.

As for the research work related to the political parties and elites, I published the first and only synthesis published in Romania regarding this problem: *Hungarian Elites in the Romanian Parliament during the Interwar Period*. Through this study I have brought new additions to this theme tangentially treated by: Mikó Imre, Ligeti Ernő, Grandpierre Emil, Jakabffy Elemér, Bernády György, Paál Árpád, Bárdi Nándor, György Béla, K. Lengyel Zsolt, Horváth Sz. Ferenc, Csucsuj Istvan. I also contributed with other specific studies to this issue: *Oberding József György* (2004), *Bernády György și strategia politică a Partidului Maghiar* (2011).

In the *Politics and Peasants* field area I brought new contributions through a comprehensive study about the relationship between the Hungarian Party and Hungarian peasants in Romania: *„The relationship between the Hungarian Party and Hungarian peasants in Romania: election campaigns in rural areas and the involvement of Hungarian peasants in the interwar elections”*. This research was part of a large-scale project initiated by Sorin Radu and Oliver Jens Schmitt on *Politics and Peasants in Interwar Romania*, and the results of research were published in the collective volume ***Politics and Peasants in Interwar Romania: Perceptions, Mentalities, Propaganda*** (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017). The results of

research were published also in Romanian and Hungarian: *Az Országos Magyar Párt és az erdélyi parasztság viszonya: sajtókampány és ennek eredményessége a két világháború közötti magyar falusi közösségekben* (2017), *Partidul Maghiar și țărănimea maghiară din România interbelică: campania electorală din zona rurală cu ocazia alegerilor din România interbelică* (2017).

The work also includes the presentation of the academic and scientific research and career plans, underlining the research directions taken into consideration for the future, as well as the bibliographic references associated to the first two sections. The fundamental principle according to which I designed this career development plan is the need for the coherent joint between research and teaching, aiming at the complementary development of both.