

**BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY CLUJ-NAPOCA**  
**DOMAIN: SOCIOLOGY**

**Social Work Practice in Family and Child Welfare**  
**ABSTRACT OF THE HABILITATION THESIS**

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Having a solid theoretical and practical training in social work obtained at School of Sociology and Social Work from Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, I wish that in the future to contribute at the institutional development of the school that invested in my training. The interest and dedication toward the social work profession and toward continuous learning is proved by my educational and professional path. Professional competency is sustained by a master degree in the area of child and family welfare (Children and childhood in changing societies. An interdisciplinary approach), a master degree that allowed me to develop and practice my research skills and knowledge (Research design and data analysis in social sciences) and a PhD. degree in Sociology with a thesis focusing on Child abuse and neglect in Romanian families.

The current habilitation thesis will summarize the main scientific, academic and professional results so far, and also will describe my future development plans in the area of teaching and research. The structure of the thesis follows the instructions of the *Guidelines of the habilitation thesis*:

#### **A. Scientific, academic and professional results**

In this section of the thesis, the main research interests are described and analyzed. The main time-lines are being granted the PhD. title by Babeş-Bolyai University (2010) and starting my academic career as an assistant professor at the Social work department from BBU (2013). During the last 5 years, the scientific interest focused on the research themes relevant in the social work area:

(1) *Social work practice* summarizes the main contributions especially in the evidence-based social work practice (EBSWP). EBSWP refers to the conscious, explicit and reflective use of the existing evidences in supporting social work interventions delivered to clients. Considered a quality standard in some social work services from the west, in Romania the debate is relatively new and it's determined by the socio-economic context in which the social services have fewer financial resources to support interventions. The specific interest toward this domain emerged when I started working at the social work department and noticed the challenges of placing students in their field-placement institutions. Therefore, I have starting asking different research questions in my trial to understand the level of preparation of students to work in the field and the

needs of the professional already working as social workers. Several papers were published, but the thesis will focus only on six studies (1 ISI article, 1 ISI Proceedings and 4 articles indexed in international data bases, out of which 3 were published in international journals and 1 in a Romanian journal). My research interest in this area is also supported by several oral presentations delivered at international social work conferences.

(2) *Family and childhood welfare* was a focus since my bachelor studies. The outputs that will be mentioned throughout the thesis will focus on two complementary directions: child maltreatment and emerging adulthood. Child abuse and neglect was the main focus during my doctoral and postdoctoral studies. Therefore, an important part of the habilitation thesis will summarize the main results concerning the extent of the phenomenon and explaining why this behaviors occurs within the families living in urban areas. Research outputs are operationalised in one single-author book, one ISI article and one entrance in an international encyclopedia on sexual abuse in Central and Eastern Europe countries. The second direction I was focusing was determined by the opportunity of participating at a longitudinal study regarding transition to adult life for Romanian adolescents. The themes I researched were future plans of youth and how they imagine their future. Several studies were published, but only six will be described here (1 ISIS article ISI, 1 ISI Proceedings and 4 articles indexed in international data basis out of which one in published in an international journal).

## **B. Future development plans in teaching and research**

The second part of the thesis explains the mission and the objective I am assuming in building future academic career. The mission that I have already accepted by taking the assistant professor position at the department is continuing training students using the best available data and teaching methods in order to gave them best chances to work in the social work field upon their graduation, but also to continue my learning in order to be perceived by students as a tutor or mentor. Through my teaching mission I will contribute to the institutional prestige of the social work department within the educational market. For achieving this mission, my goals are:

- a. Developing teaching skills that will allow me to supervise students and young researchers;
  - b. Future research plans that include motivations and attitudes of students to enroll in a social work program and social work students' employability, socio-professional wellbeing of social workers and children's rights in contemporary societies.
- C.** The last part includes **the reference list** that is used in writing the present thesis.