

Habilitation Thesis. Abstract

The career path that I present in this text covers mainly the research activity that I have carried out since the defense of the doctoral thesis in 2005. Where it was necessary in order to highlight and explain the dimensions, domains and forms in which this activity took place, we briefly presented elements regarding the period prior to 2005. Several stages of evolution are identified; the domains of knowledge related to my competence are presented and a few manners of writing and thinking are described. The stages can be identified as three. The first would be a phenomenological period (the concept names the main philosophical influences, but also the method of analysis) that covers the period from my debut (in 1994) and until the publication of the doctoral thesis in 2008 under the title *The Sign of Four. A Poetics of Interpretation*. A second period, partly intersecting with the end of the first one, exposes the influences coming from the radical mutations in philosophy and theory after 1965 in French culture. All these led to a mutation of my theoretical vision as well as conceptual universe by extending it beyond the strict and traditional understanding of literary theory and aesthetics towards cinema, contemporary art, anthropology, discourse theory, etc. The main body of the work was published in 2016 under the title *The Theory of the Phantom-Fish. Ten Studies and Seven Short Films on Theory* can be connected to this period and manner of thinking. A third period would be characterized by the influence of critical theory (starting with the Frankfurt School) and contemporary authors like Jacques Rancière and Georges Didi-Huberman. A majority of my studies published during the last five years - which I intend to gather in a volume under the title *Ethics of the commons* - can be considered to be relevant to this period of thinking.

The paper also presents the areas of competence in which my research activities have taken place: literary theory, critical and cultural theory, aesthetics, contemporary art, cinema, criticism of ideology and philosophy. However, my studies are not limited to one area or another, but they concern the crossing of disciplinary boundaries, the forms of intersection and mutual discovery. The paper details in certain cases how this interdisciplinarity works and why it has a positive effect and it is especially desirable in the landscape of doctoral research.

I have identified three manners of thinking and writing through which my activity can also be read and interpreted. A genealogical manner that constantly articulates the question - and the urgency - of the present with the forms through which the past attains us. An archaeological

manner that considers objects in their poliphonical structure, made of numerous levels and strata delicately intertwined. A political manner (where the concept is used in the definition of Jacques Rancière) in which aspects, objects and subjects of knowledge are always connected to the effect in the real and the possible opening of a form of commons.

The thesis presents the future projects in two ways. The concrete projects of certain books are presented first: an analysis of the Romanian political novel between 1965 and 1989; a revisitation of the inventivity of literary theory through the work of Marguerite Duras; a book about the figural explorations and inventions of the form of the novel; an analysis of Jean Luc Godard's way of thinking through images and montage, especially between 1968 and 1980. Attention is also offered to the domains of interest that appear to be important in the immediate future of my research. Along the already established ones, several new areas will be explored, tested and interpreted, amongst them, for example, the political and aesthetic relevance of jazz music.

In addition to the presentation/ description of my career path, the paper tries to permanently connect my activities and area of interest to the current state of research in those areas of competence and to justify the way in which my concerns have not only a time and a history of their own, but are relevant in the present world, and also from the perspective of future openings.