

The graduate school “History, Civilization, Culture” continues the tradition of the older School of History which has affirmed itself as a distinct discipline in the Romanian academic landscape. The beginning of the years 2000 has brought a paradigmatic change in European academia, by establishing new standards of excellence, by accommodating cultural diversity and by encouraging interdisciplinarity and multilingual communication. These new tendencies have determined the adaptation of all study programmes and all thematic areas to new challenges and perspectives in the development of knowledge and scholarly endeavours. Consequently, PhD supervisors have been compelled to offer broad expertise in a variety of fields providing a diversity of research topics. In these circumstances the graduate school has taken a step towards change by adopting a new and suggestive name: “History, Civilization, Culture”. The name was intended to reflect the specific nature of the programme undertaken by supervisors at that time and the intention to conform to the highest scholarly standards.

Within the threefold name, **history** stands for tradition and continuity within the graduate school. History has been one of the fields privileged by the first Romanian university in modern Transylvania, the University “King Ferdinand I”, who received its name in 1927. At that moment, the connection with the academic tradition of higher education in the Kingdom of Romania, established by the laws of education issued in 1932 and 1938 was harmonised with the interest in medieval, modern and contemporary universal history. Thus, the Institute of National History, under the direction of Alexandru Lapedatu and Ioan Lupaş, which had as its main concern the study of Transylvania’s history, was paralleled by the Institute of Universal History, founded by Ioan Ursu and later directed by Silviu Dragomir and Constantin Marinescu, as well as the Institute of Classical Studies, founded by Vasile Pârvan and Vasile Bogrea.

This interest in national history integrated into universal history was taken over and perpetuated by the next generations, by the professors trained in the interwar period, such as Mihail Macrea, András Bodor, Francisc Pall and Zsigmond Jakó, and later, with much greater effort, by those educated after 1950, such as Camil Mureşan, Pompiliu Teodor and Beatrice Daicoviciu, as well as the generation formed between 1965 and 1970, for example Ioan Piso, Mihai Bărbulescu and Mircea Țoca.

At present, the supervisors intend to continue this prestigious tradition, by trying to maintain the international flux of information and by integrating a European dimension into

their research and their educational endeavours. On the other hand, the departments which functioned within the “King Ferdinand I” University in the interwar period undertook a didactic process alongside a scholarly one, aiming to stimulate original research through the creation of institutes.

The tradition of intergrating research into the university, initiated in the interwar period was continued after 1990 by the numerous research institutes founded and directed by members of the graduate school, who, benefiting from the active contribution of their PhD students, have formed research teams and have initiated prestigious collaborative frameworks, taking part in important international projects. Thus, former and actual members of the graduate school “History, Civilization, Culture” have founded *The Centre for Interdisciplinary and Digital Archaeology* (Gelu Florea), *The Institute of Classical Studies* (Florin Fodorean), *The Centre for Roman Studies* (Ioan Piso), *The Institute for Central European Studies* (Ovidiu Ghitta), *The Institute of Oral History* (Doru Radosav), *The Seminar of Historical Anthropology* (Toader Nicoară), *The Centre for the Study of the Middle East and the Mediterranean* (Alexandru Diaconescu), and *TRANSSCRIPT - The Centre for Diplomats and Medieval Documentary Palaeography* (Adinel Dincă).

Civilization, the second term of this tripartite manifesto outlines the global dimension deployed in approaching research topics that are sustained by the members of the graduate school. The geographic position of the territories that form today’s Romania, perpetually placed in zones of fracture, but also of transborder communication, between the Roman Empire and the “Barbarians”, between the Holy Roman Empire and the Byzantine one, between the Kingdom of Hungary and the Golden Horde, between the Habsburg Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire, favour a global, contextualised approach to local history. This approach is appropriated by the members of the graduate school both in their own research and the suggestions given to their students.

The **cultural** component included in the name of the graduate school is relevant for the interdisciplinary and multiethnic spirit it fostered, which is specific to this department in the local academic environment. The willingness of the supervisors to accommodate new directions of research, specific to the field of history but also to neighbouring areas, have created an auspicious medium for multi, inter and transdisciplinary work. This has encouraged the writing of PhD theses situated on the border between disciplines, where history has appropriated methods from other fields, such as geography, sociology and anthropology, an endeavour that has been pioneered by the Annales School, or has integrated more recent stimuli from literary and film studies, ethnology, art history and the study of material culture.

Due to the multilingual profile of the Babeş-Bolyai University, where the didactic process takes place in two native languages, Romanian and Hungarian, the graduate school offers the perfect environment for studies undertaken in international languages, such as English, Italian, German and French. The linguistic component has contributed significantly to the graduate school's international visibility, as both professors and students have published their research results in Romanian and Hungarian, but also in international languages. At the same time the international reputation of some professors has attracted PhD students from abroad (Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Chile, India, Israel, Hungary and the Republic of Moldavia), who have opted to pursue a PhD at Babeş-Bolyai University. In equal measure, synchronicity between local and international research priorities has encouraged members of the graduate school to integrate the most competent international scholars in examining committees and as external supervisors. This has been stimulated by the international contacts of the members of the graduate school.

Finally, the graduate school offers its members a stimulating environment for active participation in current historiographical debates with the help of the two programmes it has initiated, *Ex Cathedra: Lectures of the Graduate School "History, Civilization, Culture"* and the *Graduate School Workshops*, which have gradually become a proper discussion forum for the PhD students' research in progress. In order to foster wider dissemination of research results, the graduate school has initiated the publication of an Annual and intends to edit a supplement to *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai. Historia* on a regular basis.