

Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai din Cluj-Napoca
Facultatea de Istorie și Filosofie
Departamentul de Istorie Modernă, Arhivistică și Etnologie

Teză de abilitare

***Noi abordări în cercetarea „mișcării naționale”
a românilor din Transilvania și Ungaria***

- Rezumat în limba engleză / English Abstract -

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Cluj-Napoca, 2023

English Abstract

The habilitation thesis entitled *New Approaches in Researching the "National Movement" of Romanians in Transylvania and Hungary* is structured in three sections, preceded by an "Argument" and accompanied by the "Bibliography". Its main objective is to provide an overview of the author's scientific and professional achievements, as well as his intended career aims, with the ultimate goal of being able to coordinate doctoral research that will in turn contribute to the historiographical and epistemic advancement of the topic.

The first section, "Scientific and professional achievements", outlines the career development of the author after defending his Ph.D. thesis (2009). In the didactic field, he has been teaching at Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca since 2015, and has held a wide range of courses and seminars at BA and MA level. Teaching topics included History of Romania and History of Transylvania, Research Methodology, Digital Humanities, Social History. In the administrative field, the author is coordinating an MA program in History, is member of several internal bodies of UBB Cluj-Napoca with attributions related to the didactic policy of the University, and has extensive experience in project management.

In terms of research, the history of the "national movement" as well as the social history of Transylvania in the modern period have constantly been the author's main topics of interest, including: the prosopography of the leadership of the Romanian national parties in Transylvania and Hungary, the members of the Hungarian Parliament elected in the constituencies of Transylvania, Banat and Eastern Hungary, the construction of historical databases, the analysis of political groups within the "national movement" and their social contextualization, the Romanian civil society, and the Romanian officer corps in the Habsburg Monarchy. Research has been financially supported through projects awarded in national and international competitions, either as principal investigator (three national projects) or co-director (one international project), or as member of the research team (four national and four international projects). The research results include books and chapters published at home and abroad by prestigious publishers (e.g., Brill, De Gruyter, Böhlau), and studies published in international journals. The research path of the thesis author has connected him with international groups studying the history of the Habsburg Monarchy – a solid premise for

further developments in the same direction, both his own and those of future PhD students under his coordination.

Envisioned research developments are illustrated in “Section II. Directions of evolution and development of teaching, scientific and academic careers”. In teaching and administrative activities, the emphasis will fall on familiarizing students with digital methods and tools, and adapting teaching methods to the challenges posed by the accelerated development of artificial intelligence. From a scholarly point of view, the possibilities of extending research into the history of the “national movement” are illustrated (non-exhaustively) by three case studies.

Firstly, an analysis of the impact of the Dualist Compromise of 1867 on Romanian society in Transylvania and Hungary shows how topics considered “settled” can be approached through a critical re-reading of sources, even without appealing to new methods or tools. In the particular case of the Compromise, the research underlines the fact that not the act itself, nor the dualist political system, but its main effect at the provincial level (loss of Transylvanian autonomy), was the keystone of Romanian political discourse in Hungary until 1918; it also highlights the difficulty for Romanian political leaders to connect to imperial political networks, and to correctly assess their own situation and possibilities in relation to high politics.

A second case study employs prosopography and quantitative analysis in investigating the relationship between ethnic Romanian parliamentary candidates in early 20th century Hungary, the Romanian electorate, and election success. Although in more than 50% of the cases a direct relationship can be established between the presence of a Romanian candidate (either nationalist or governmental) and increased voter turnout, a large percentage of cases (30-40%) still lack such an effect. More importantly, however, the increased turnout of the Romanian electorate was only accompanied by favorable electoral results for nationalists in a minority of cases, thus questioning the historiographical tropes of the “national movement”’s political reliance on the broad support of the Romanian public.

The third case study is focused on the career of Solomon Haliță, a senior ministerial official in Bucharest before 1918 and prefect of Iași (1919) and Bistrița-Năsăud (1922-1926) counties. Approaching the topic from the social networks’ standpoint helps assessing the role played by the social milieu of origin, and by the relationships of ideological affiliation and political patronage in developing a successful professional and public career.

Finally, the “Conclusions” section argues how the author’s scientific and professional achievements, together with the envisioned career development, constitute solid premises for his ability to continue research on the topic, to link it methodologically to the international state of the art, and to coordinate doctoral research on sub-topics and related research themes.