

**Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai**  
**Şcoala Doctorală de Studii Lingvistice şi Literare**

**HABILITATION THESIS**  
**PHILOLOGY**

**LITERARY FORMS AND SOCIAL FORMS**  
**IN 19TH CENTURY ROMANIAN CULTURE**

**Candidat:**

**CS I dr. ADRIAN TUDURACHI**

**2024**

After 1990, interest in 19th century studies in Romanian culture declined significantly. On the one hand, this was due to the concentration on topical issues concerning the re-evaluation of post-war literature and the politics of literature in the context of the change of political regime. On the other hand, there has been a significant methodological lag, mainly through the poor reception of post-Bourdiesian sociological reading models and the limited understanding of nationalist politics in the Romantic era. I am convinced that a return to the 19th century and its reassessment from contemporary perspectives is necessary in Romanian culture because, in a profound sense, many of the forms of today's society were elaborated in 19th-century attempts to accommodate modernity to the forms of Romanian society. From this point of view, to revisit the literature of the Romantic century today is an act of knowledge with implications that go beyond the historical-literary field. Such a perspective can only be achieved through a complex methodological and disciplinary approach, capable of representing the multiple terrains on which social forms are established and exchanges with the field of literature take place.

The research carried out after the publication of the doctoral thesis, even if it was oriented in several directions, sometimes far from the 19th century, constantly pursued issues related to the forms of modernity in Romanian culture and the constitution of literary ideas in relation to social, affective or aesthetic realities. From the perspective of the literary disciplines concerned, I have chosen from the beginning a combination of theory and literary history, a theoretically consolidated style of historiography in the tradition of the Cluj school of literary studies. Elements of literary sociology, ethics and critical theory were later added to this approach.

The habilitation thesis presents the results of the research I have conducted from the defense of my PhD thesis in 2005 to the present, focusing on contributions to the knowledge of the social functions of literature in the 19th century. The thesis is organized in three sections. The first corresponds to the preparatory work for my doctoral thesis on the evolution of literary ideas in the writings of Mihail Dragomirescu, articulating a critique of literary ideas with a phenomenology of aesthetic experience. I have applied the same analysis to other interwar literary critics: E. Lovinescu, G. Ibrăileanu, D. Caracostea, D. Popovici. The latter, postdoctoral stage involves, on the one hand, a series of researches on the forms of nationalism in modernity and, on the other hand, a sustained reflection on local ways of interrogating contemporary Western theory. What I sought was a way of engaging literary studies with the local problematics of literary cultures.

The second section concerns the development of research on the 19th century. Since 2014, the focus on 19th century issues have been illustrated on a few axes. Firstly, through a research on the symbolic economy and the production of literary values in the 19th century, based on a corpus constituted by romantic regimes involving the use of genius. The research was the scope of a monograph published in 2016, as well as several studies. Secondly, I have undertaken a study of social dissensions and the capacity of 19th-century comic forms (theatre, satirical press, comic prose) to design reconciliatory solutions. What I was looking at was the function of literature as a resource of form for rethinking social relations within a real, not “imagined” community that experienced social division and conflict. Third, I have engaged in a research on the emerging forms of subjectivity in the 19th century, starting from the premise that literature, through some specific devices, is mobilized in the processes of formation and recognition of the subject in the context of Romanian society. Finally, to these analyses of the 19th century I am adding an investigation of forms of transmission, focusing on filiation and inheritance as figures of mourning and separation. This research provides a perspective on the processes of modernization capable of restoring the subconscious flows, the discontinuities, the dynamics of the disappearance and reappearance of forms in Romanian culture.

The third section presents career development directions in relation to teaching and research training activities, institutional and individual projects. The career development plans are determined by the roles I have assumed in institutional research at the Romanian Academy: by its specificity, doctoral research in the institutes of the Romanian Academy is closely linked to collective projects, through the involvement of doctoral students in ongoing research programs. I have also highlighted, from the perspective of the collective dimension of the reflection I propose, the Group for Reflection and Study of the 19th Century that I founded within the Centre for Modern Philology of the Babeş-Bolyai University, and the scientific journal of literary studies I coordinate, as editor-in-chief, “*Dacoromania litteraria*”.

My proposal concerns the importance of returning to a thorough knowledge of the 19th century, not as an object of erudition and positive knowledge of historiographical facts, but as an investigation of problematic issues related to the elaboration of social forms in the process of the emergence of modern Romanian culture. I am interested in understanding the role of literature in the representation and resolution of these issues, and in recovering the forces (affective, ethical, political) that mobilize literary forms in the social debate. The main focus of my long-term reflection is, in this respect, trying to identify the position we occupy in the dialogue with the values, forms and emotions of the 19th century.