

Summary of the habilitation thesis in International Relations and European
Studies

Doctoral School of International Relations and Security Studies

**SOCIETY, IDENTITY AND SECURITY IN A CONSTANTLY
CHANGING WORLD**

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This habilitation thesis, entitled *Societate, Identitate și Securitate într-o lume în continuă schimbare* (in Romanian) and *Society, Identity and Security in a Constantly Changing World* (in English), presents a synthesis of the candidate's most significant scientific, professional, and academic achievements since obtaining her PhD. At the same time, the thesis outlines the scientific trajectory that the candidate intends to pursue in her future role as a doctoral supervisor.

This thesis is more than a supporting document for the habilitation process, it represents a critical assessment of the candidate's previous achievements and personal contributions to the field of International Relations and European Studies, with a focus on four main topics brought together under the theme of society- identity- security relation, namely: (1) the analysis of the concept of societal security, from theory to practice, (2) the dynamics of migration and its effects on society and security, (3) security as a multidimensional concept; and (4) the geopolitics of minorities: concept, identity and specific rights. The relevance of the candidate's research derives from the chosen topics, the positioning within the field of political science, the use of International Relations theories (constructivism and socio-constructivism), the application of geopolitical analysis (human geography and cartography), the methods of analysis and their triangulation in research. The uniqueness of the research lies in both the methodology employed and the conclusions reached, even when the topics addressed were not entirely new.

The structure of the habilitation thesis reflects the development of an interdisciplinary scientific profile in the field of International Relations and European Studies. This academic trajectory began with undergraduate studies in History, International Relations and European Studies, continued with a Master's degree in the Management of International Relations and European Policies and was further developed through doctoral studies within the Doctoral School of International Relations and Security Studies at the Faculty of History and Philosophy, Babeş-Bolyai University, in co-supervision with Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis, Institut Français de Géopolitique, École Doctorale Sciences Sociales, Paris, France. The doctoral thesis, entitled *Rethinking (In)Security in the European Union: Migration–Identity–Security Nexus. Case Study: “L’Affaire des Roms” between Political Stake and Social Issue, France 2007–2012*, led to the award of a PhD in International Relations and European Studies from Babeş-Bolyai University and a PhD in Social Sciences from the Paris institution. In 2020, the doctoral thesis was published as a book under the title *Rethinking*

(In)Security in the European Union: The Migration-Identity-Security Nexus and in 2021 the volume was acquired by the Library of the European Council for research and analytical purposes.

The section dedicated to scientific, professional, and academic achievements takes into account the candidate's scientific activity over the last fifteen years, her seventeen years of experience in writing and implementing grant-funded projects, and her teaching activity within the Faculty of History and Philosophy over the past decade. It also includes collaboration with the "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy, as well as selected achievements in academic management, including her activity as a Jean Monnet project director, organizer of international conferences, tutor, entrepreneur, trainer, external evaluator for European projects, coordinator of study programmes, supervisor of bachelor's and master's theses, and coordinator of collective volumes.

The brief overview of the research conducted during the doctoral stage anticipates the methodological approaches employed in subsequent studies, particularly the analysis of the interdependent relationship between migration, identity and security within the European Union. The following sections present the research carried out during the first stage of the candidate's academic career, structured around the four main research directions. For reasons related to the structure and coherence of the text, not all books, articles, chapters or reviews published during the last thirteen years are discussed in detail. Instead, based on the four principal research directions and the three core dimensions reflected in the thesis title - identity, society and security - the candidate selected the works considered most relevant and most frequently cited in the specialised literature.

The second part of the thesis presents the plan for the future development of the candidate's professional, scientific and academic career. The general objective of this plan is to deepen research in the fields of security, international relations and geopolitics, while continuing to develop and apply an interdisciplinary methodological approach integrating mixed methods into International Relations and European Studies research. Building on the candidate's expertise and areas of interest, future research will focus on four scientific directions: *The Geopolitics of identity*, *The cultural-civilisational and religious dimension of contemporary conflicts*, *Contemporary cultural diplomacy* and *The role of projects with non-reimbursable funding for the development of the 21st century society*.

The third part of the thesis, in accordance with methodological recommendations, includes the bibliographic references upon which the present work is based.

This habilitation process is intended to represent the beginning of a complex activity that combines scientific and practical expertise with mentorship, with the purpose of transforming future doctoral students into independent and upright researchers, well connected to cutting-edge subjects from the field of International Relations and European studies.