

## Habilitation Thesis Summary

The habilitation thesis *Romanian Literature as a Relational System. Transnational Networks and Quantitative Literary History* presents my scientific, professional, and teaching activity since the defense of my doctoral thesis in 2019. This activity is organized around two major directions. The first examines transnational networks, interperipheral contacts, and relations among the cultures of Central and Eastern Europe. The second develops a program of quantitative literary history based on digital corpora, metadata, and large-scale methods of analysis. Their unity derives from an understanding of Romanian literature as a relational system constituted through connections among texts, authors, translators, periodicals, publishers, institutions, and cultural spaces. Quantitative analysis does not replace reading and interpretation; it makes visible phenomena that cannot be reconstructed through isolated case studies alone, including the circulation of translations, the distribution of subgenres, the geography of publishing, the formation of networks, and the mechanisms of literary prestige.

The first part presents the main results of my activity. The book *Internaționala periferiilor. Rețeaua avangardelor din Europa Centrală și de Est* [*The International of Peripheries. The Network of Avant-Gardes in Central and Eastern Europe*], developed from my doctoral dissertation and published in 2020, provides the starting point for the transnational direction. It examines the Romanian, Hungarian, Czech, and Polish avant-gardes through the relations among periodicals, groups, and aesthetic programs, replacing the linear model of Western influence with a history of interperipheral transfers and transformations. Subsequent research has explored the regional circulation of Dada techniques, the methodological cosmopolitanism of the avant-gardes, and the mechanisms through which international prestige is reused in national contexts. My second monograph, *Literatura română în metadata. Producție și transfer* [*Romanian Literature in Metadata. Production and Transfer*], published in 2026, synthesizes five years of research on literary production, translation, and reception. It converts Romanian dictionaries and bibliographies into analyzable corpora and examines the evolution of novelistic subgenres, interwar theoretical reflection, the formation of the translation canon, foreign literature in periodicals, the Romanian reception of F.T. Marinetti, and the post-millennial mechanisms of literary reviewing. The datasets underlying these analyses

have been published in open access, while the selection, normalization, and limitations of the sources are treated as part of the literary-historical argument.

The first part also discusses my contribution to the construction of digital archives of the Romanian novel, the revision of the *Dicționarul cronologic al romanului românesc* [*Chronological Dictionary of the Romanian Novel*], and collective research on literary geography, subgenres, rurality, naturalism, and the relation between canon and archive. The individual projects I directed addressed the curation of an interwar corpus, the stylometric analysis of one hundred novels, and the statistical study of literary reviews published between 2007 and 2017. These projects led from heritage digitization to a methodology for working with metadata based on provenance, manual validation, and the reproducible publication of results. A complementary direction concerns the inter-imperial history of Romanian comparatism, illustrated by my research on the legacy of Hugo Meltzl and Thomas Frühm's concept of *Weltliteratur*. An exploratory study of distant viewing tested the transfer of quantitative analysis to film and audiovisual material.

My research is complemented by four individual grants, participation in five national and international projects, and editorial work related to *Metacritic Journal for Comparative Studies and Theory*, thematic journal issues, scholarly editions, and lexicographical works. The organization of conferences, collaboration in research infrastructures, and recognition through awards, reviews, and citations document the institutional dimension of this trajectory. My teaching activity combines the courses *Romanian Critical Culture in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* and *European Cultural Spaces* with seminars on Romanian poetry and prose from 1900 to 1950. In teaching, I integrate comparative contextualization and quantitative findings while preserving close reading, the analysis of the history of criticism, and the development of philological argumentation.

The second part outlines my career development plan. I will continue in parallel the transnational study of Romanian literature, research on translation and the mediation of foreign literatures, and the construction of a data-rich literary history adapted to the local documentary infrastructure. My main ongoing project, *Romanian Literature in Data. A Pilot Infrastructure for Production, Translation, and Reception*, will correlate information from dictionaries of the Romanian and translated novel with bibliographical data on foreign literature published in periodicals between 1859 and 1944. Its outputs will

include a documented database, controlled vocabularies, authority tables, and reproducible protocols. A second project will develop a comparative anthology of Central and Eastern European avant-garde manifestos, complete with contributions from specialized scholars in the field. The teaching component will involve undergraduate, MA, and doctoral students in pilot projects hosted by the Metacritic Centre for Advanced Literary Studies, bringing together philological training, responsible attribution of contributions, and reproducible research in preparation for future doctoral supervision.