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### ABSTRACT

This habilitation thesis demonstrates that Monica Matei-Chesnoiu is fully qualified to conduct research in the general domain of English literature, with specific reference to the field of the Renaissance, Shakespeare, and early modern studies. Monica Matei-Chesnoiu's academic career and publications have been focused on Shakespeare and early modern drama, Renaissance cultural studies, production history, and the theory of translation with reference to this particular period. The doctoral thesis defended in 1997 was entitled *Problems of Knowledge in Shakespeare's Plays* and was subsequently published in a book entitled *Shakespeare: Knowledge and Truth*.

Monica Matei-Chesnoiu is the author of books such as *Re-imagining Western European Geography in English Renaissance Drama* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012); *Early Modern Drama and the Eastern European Elsewhere: Representations of Liminal Locality in Shakespeare and his Contemporaries* (Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2009); *Shakespeare in the Romanian Cultural Memory*, with a Foreword by Arthur F. Kinney (Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2006). The books were reviewed and cited in academic journals indexed in the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (ISI), such as: *Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance*, *Cahiers Élisabétains*, *Gramma*, *PMLA*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *Shakespeare*, *Shakespeare Survey*, as well as in journals indexed in the ERIH database: *Folio* (University of Utrecht), *The Shandean* (London: Laurence Sterne Trust), *Shakespeare Yearbook*, etc. Matei-Chesnoiu's books were also cited in books by other authors in the field of Renaissance studies, published at prestigious international publishing houses (London: The Modern Humanities Research Association; New York: Columbia University Press; London: Continuum International Publishing Group; New York: Edwin Mellen Press; Toronto: University of Toronto Press, etc.)

HABILITATION THESIS  
Monica Matei-Chesnoiu

Monica Matei-Chesnoiu has published 40 essays in international academic journals (some of which are indexed in ISI), as well as three published courses and an academic writing handbook for students. In addition, she is the editor of three collections of essays about *Shakespeare in Romania* (Editura Humanitas 2006, 2007, 2008), with forewords written by prominent personalities of international Shakespeare studies; and the editor and translator of a collection of nineteenth-century Romanian critical texts about Shakespeare (Editura Academiei Române, 2009). Monica Matei-Chesnoiu is the recipient of a *Fulbright Visiting Scholar Fellowship* (*World Shakespeare Bibliography*, Texas A&M University, 1998-1999), a *Humboldt Research Fellowship* (*Shakespeare Library*, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, Germany, 2009-2011), and a *SCIEX Fellowship* (University of Basel, Switzerland, 2013-2014).

Monica Matei-Chesnoiu participated with research papers in 53 international conferences in the domain of Shakespeare and early modern studies, among which the *World Shakespeare Congress* (Los Angeles, 1996; Valencia, Spain, 2001; Prague, The Czech Republic, 2011) and the *International Shakespeare Conference* at the *Shakespeare Institute* in Stratford-upon-Avon (2000; 2002; 2004; 2006; 2008; 2010; 2012), where participation is by invitation only. The conferences organized by the *European Research Association* (ESRA) are another highlight demonstrating Matei-Chesnoiu's integration in the international research community.

In the period 2005-2008, Monica Matei-Chesnoiu was the director of the CNCSIS-funded project entitled *Shakespeare in Romania*; a comprehensive database was created as a result of this project and four academic books were published. In point of highly focused international research, Monica Matei-Chesnoiu is a member of the International Committee of Correspondents for *World Shakespeare Bibliography*, which is an international database published for *Shakespeare Quarterly* by Folger Shakespeare Library and John Hopkins University Press. This journal is indexed in the Thomson Reuters, Arts and Humanities Citation Index (ISI). In addition, Matei-Chesnoiu is research associate for the *Compendium of Renaissance Drama* (CORD), University of North Georgia (USA), and research associate for the *European Thematic Network Project ACUME - Cultural Memory in European Countries*, co-ordinated by the University of Bologna under the Socrates Programme and the European Commission.

During the twenty years of teaching English Literature at Ovidius University of Constanta, Monica Matei-Chesnoiu has been teaching a survey course in British Literature

HABILITATION THESIS  
Monica Matei-Chesnoiu

to 1780 (Shakespeare and early modern drama, the Metaphysical poets, John Milton, and the early English novel); British Civilization; the optional British Literature course entitled “Shakespeare Alive!” and the course of Academic Writing, entitled “Text Typology and Writing in English” to undergraduate students, English Major, as well as a post-graduate course (Master’s degree) in British literature, entitled “Cultural Landmarks in Elizabethan Drama,” focused on British cultural studies, and a Master’s course on Shakespeare in the Romanian culture. All these courses are taught by making pedagogical use of computer technology and employing the latest bibliography up-to-date.

As a recognition of extensive publishing and research in the field of Shakespeare and early modern studies, Monica Matei-Chesnoiu is a member of prestigious international professional associations, such as the *International Shakespeare Association* (ISA), the *Shakespeare Association of America* (SAA), *The European Shakespeare Research Association* (ESRA), and *The Renaissance Society of America* (RSA), as well as the *Romanian Society for English Studies*, affiliated to the *European Society for the Study of English* (ESSE). Matei-Chesnoiu's teaching, research, and publishing in the field of Shakespeare and early modern studies certify academic commitment and extensive networking.