

Abstract

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My habilitation thesis, *New Approaches to Comparative Literature: Between National and International Contexts*, comprises an outline of my academic achievement (1999-2014), both as a university teacher and as a scholar, in the national and international context of comparative literature studies, a plan of my future professional activities and a select bibliography of relevant titles. The main body traces the evolution of my research and teaching career, from my early days as a tutor (1999-2002) through my days as a junior lecturer and a Japanese Government scholar (2002-2008) to my days as a senior lecturer and a post-doctoral scholar (2008-2014). My intellectual profile as a comparatist will thus become clearer. Special chapters deal with the national and international reception of my work, including its presence in prestigious university libraries, at home and abroad. This scientific account is completed with a brief outline of my future career, as I perceive it from my current vantage point.

Each chapter deals with a number of different, yet related, issues. I have included, in each particular phase of my professional evolution, both details concerning my profile as a researcher and details concerning my profile as a university teacher (various courses and seminars which I have taught throughout the years, as well as my role in the activity and development of the literature departments to which I have had the privilege of being affiliated so far).

I have published 8 scientific books (one as a co-author), have edited 2 volumes and have published more than 60 peer-reviewed book chapters and articles in academic books and

journals in Romania and abroad (France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain and UK). I have published 170 non-peer-reviewed articles and reviews in literary journals. I have also been invited to read more than 25 papers at various national and international scientific conferences, most notably at British, German and Japanese universities.

As regards my scientific contributions to the development of literary research, both nationally and internationally, my main innovations in the field of comparative literature have focused on four main areas: visionary poetry, European romantic poetry and its relationship with the East, terror and horror fiction and the aesthetic relationship between literature and film.

In the context of visionary poetry, I have offered a pioneering systematization of the subject (in European poetry from its inception to Romanticism) by defining and examining three main factors which are essential in the elaboration of visionary scenarios: the creative self, the vision-inducing agents and the result of the influence exerted by the latter upon the former, vision proper. The inter- and trans-disciplinary character of the approach is visible at the level of the connections established between literary criticism and other fields of study, such as the history of religions, psychology, philosophy etc. My research is unique in the context of Romanian culture by proposing extended typologies of various classes of poets, including Heliade-Rădulescu, Eminescu, Macedonski, Arghezi, Goga.

In the case of European Romantic poetry and its relationship with the East, I have furnished an elaborate interpretation according to which Western poets have been seduced by the radical ontological alterity of the Oriental world, perceived as the epitome of exoticism. Among the names discussed in this (neo)thematic exegesis, one may mention Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Southey, Lamartine, Musset, Vigny, Hugo, Heliade-Rădulescu, Alecsandri, Bolintineanu and Eminescu.

Insofar as terror and horror fiction is concerned, I have coined my own term, *deimography*, the writing of terror, which is a flexible concept meant to elucidate the substance of terror aesthetics as opposed to what is commonly perceived as pertaining to the aesthetic category of horror. I have, therefore, offered innovative definitions of terror and horror respectively, as well as a typology of Romanian narrative patterns (Negruzzi, Caragiale, Galaction, Mihăescu, Philippide, Cezar Petrescu and Eliade).

As regards the aesthetic relationship between literature and film, I have advanced an interpretation of the two forms of artistic expression, having as a starting point Barthes's and Deleuze's theoretical suggestions. I have thus sought to identify the complex connections which may be established between literary and film discourses at various levels (drama, comedy, horror).

By taking part in numerous scientific conferences and colloquia both at home and abroad, I have permanently sought to be involved in inter-cultural and inter-disciplinary exchanges, by ensuring both the dissemination of my research results in specialized media and the setting-up of various research networks and projects with foreign universities and institutes. Currently, I am project leader with the prestigious group of research Inter-Disciplinary.Net, Oxford, being organizing chair of the *1st Global Conference Fears and Anxieties in the 21st Century: The European Context*, Mansfield College, University of Oxford, 29-31 July 2014. Since 2012, I have been co-opted in the research project *European Critical Traditions: The Reception of British and Irish Authors in Europe*, financed by the British Academy and The Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB), which reunites specialists from several European universities and is aimed at organizing conferences and producing on-going publications of high academic standard focusing on the European reception of British and Irish authors.

I have also held various visiting positions abroad. In addition to my position as a Japanese Government scholar at the prestigious Tohoku University, Japan, I was Visiting research scholar at Otto-von-Guericke-Universität, Magdeburg, Germany; the Faculty of Letters, University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria; University of Reading, United Kingdom; and visiting lecturer at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany.

Thanks to two competitive research projects, I have received two distinguished grants: a prestigious research scholarship awarded by the Japanese Government (Monbusho), which enabled me to undertake research at the prestigious Tohoku University, and a postdoctoral scholarship awarded by the European Social Fund through the University of Craiova (2010-2013).

In recognition of my work, I have been elected member of 6 research institutions and organizations both in Romania and abroad and have been awarded 4 literary prizes. Numerous citations of my works and the reviews of my published volumes testify to the national and international reception of my research efforts. I can thus mention 45 quotes and bibliographical notes and 80 reviews of my main books, as well as their presence in several international databases and prestigious universities and institutes at home and abroad.