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DEVELOPING LABORATORY AND FIELD STUDIES IN EXPERIMENTAL,
WORK AND TRANSPORTATION PSYCHOLOGY

HABILITATION THESIS

ABSTRACT

The present habilitation thesis is focused on emphasizing the author's professional, academic and scientific evolution after obtaining the title of doctor in Psychology presenting the professional, academic and scientific accomplishments and highlighting the published sources and also the brief presentation of the obtained results. The presentation is chronologically organized from the points of view of the events and also of the scientific thematic which have been approached during the past years.

The former part of the paper presents the professional and scientific development plan and also the innovative teaching techniques focused on active teaching and applying simulations.

Starting with the year of 2010 my professional career evolved from two points of view: firstly, at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Bucharest where I have passed through several professional ascension steps, from being a university assistant professor to becoming an associate professor in the autumn of 2013. Also, following the opening of the Work and Transportation Laboratory "Petre Pufan" in 2008, being a co-founder and after starting the collaboration project with the Schuhfried psychological testing company from Austria, which resulted in publishing tens of scientific experimental articles conducted both in the laboratory and the field I have been named the laboratory coordinator in the end of 2011. As a result of the high applicability of these tests for the work, transportation, educational and experimental psychology I was able to develop both experimental research studies and field studies in the use of the undergraduate and master students also for the practicing psychologists. Therefore, the second plan of professional evolution was represented by the consecutive change of specialization steps as a work and transportation and services psychologist, simulated

behavior, educational psychology, clinical psychology and cognitive-behavioral therapies as a result of graduating a specialization master's program. My interest was strictly to evolve professionally in these domains specific to the practicing psychologists in order to facilitate the conduction of laboratory research experiments both in the laboratory and in the field study.

Moreover, I also had the chance to work with the biofeedback instrument in different research designs described in the present paper. The scientific development related to the dimension of experimental psychology has been fulfilled with publications which assess the effects of noise of the reaction time and attention, experimental studies which sight the subliminal visual perception, studies which present or emphasize gender and age differences related to the reaction time, short time visual memory and inductive reasoning.

A special part is played by the studies which investigate the physiological reactivity of the participants put in different situations involving visual and acoustic stimuli, aggressive or non-aggressive, following the findings of the violence exposure from mass-media model as studied by Carnagey, Anderson & Bushman (2007). Being involved a post-doctorate program centered of applied experimental psychology in the study of physiological reactivity of youngsters and also regarding the cognitive processes, attention, visual perception I had the chance to gain important experience in coordinating and publishing together with the students of several innovative experimental articles. My becoming as a researcher and as a university associate professor gained value during the one month stage at the University of Leipzig, the Institute of Psychology where I was given the possibility to interact with remarkable researches and gain experience in developing experimental designs concerning the study of attention by EEG assessment. Once finalizing the post-doctorate studies I found myself motivated to finish other experimental studies applied in the work and transportation psychology and publish the first volume of the “Handbook of Work Psychology” at a prestigious Romanian publishing house, “Editura Trei”. As a result of the collaboration with the Schuhfried GmbH, Austrian company and presenting several studies and research projects in countries like Singapore, Macau, Bangkok, Honk Kong, Maldives I came in contact with a multicultural perspective of the experimental psychology and I was determined to finalize other two volumes, “Experimental Psychology” and “Transportation Psychology”. Because of the cultural diversity I came in contact with, my interest is slowly passing from studying gender and age differences to cultural differences regarding several constructs which can be assessed such as: driving behavior, organizational behavior, etc.

The development plan presented following my scientific and professional evolution is focused firstly on the continuing of research directions, publishing scientific articles in international prestigious journals, continuing to publish several volumes and chapters, participating to scientific committees and coordinating National and International Conferences in the country and abroad, presenting section papers and posters, etc.

One other role I am motivated to be involved is facilitating and stimulating students and master candidates to conduct experimental research studies and participate to international and national conferences.

As innovative teaching methods I have chosen a combination between practical examples lecture, role playing, scenarios and simulations in order for the theoretical information to be properly assimilated.

One other research and rise of international visibility direction consists of obtaining research or development projects which will contribute to increasing the number of international publications, financing the Work and Transportation Laboratory and also opening the possibility of communication and information exchange, both at a national and international level.