

Rezumatul tezei de abilitare

***Texts and Traditions: between Language and Metalanguage
Towards a Creative Hermeneutics***

The current habilitation thesis offers an overview of the results and contributions in the area of research and teaching activities, after being awarded the PhD title in 2004, *summa cum laude*, at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Philosophy (PhD thesis title: *Imagination and Prophecy in Moses Maimonides*). At the same time, it provides an outline of my professional evolution and involvement in institutional development at the University of Bucharest.

The thesis is structured into three parts (preceded by an introductory *Argument*, and followed by *Final Considerations*, as well as by an additional *Selected Bibliography* meant to illustrate the horizon of the research and teaching activity as described in the first two sections of the present work).

The three main chapters of the thesis present my activity as a researcher and a teacher at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest, where I was employed as an instructor in 2002, as a lecturer in 2005, as an associate professor in 2009, and I am currently working, since 2015, as a full professor within the framework of the Jewish Studies B.A. Program and Religious Studies M.A. Program.

The first part of the thesis summarizes the scientific approaches, results and contributions of the teaching and research projects developed in the area of Jewish Studies, and more specifically, in the fields of Biblical Hebrew, Biblical Literature, and Hebrew Medieval Literature, by placing them in the general research context of the three fields, by describing the state of the art, by introducing the relevant published and submitted papers, and by presenting the courses taught in the three fields of expertise. The main projects approached in this section are: 1. The Hebrew Bible translation project; 2. Imagination and prophecy in Moses Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*; 3. Imagination and prophetic authority in Maimonides and Spinoza; 4. Giovanni Pico Della Mirandola and the Jewish tradition. Christian Kabbalah: landmarks for a metadiscipline; 5. Theophany in the Hebrew Bible: translation, discourse, interpretation.

The second part of the thesis concentrates on outlining, in a similar way, the scientific approaches, results and contributions of the teaching and research projects developed in the

area of Religious Studies, from an interdisciplinary perspective, laying emphasis on the following interface fields: Philosophy of Religion, Comparative Religion, Religion and Science. The main projects described in this section are: 1. On divine hierarchies and the fascination of monotheism; 2. On interreligious communication: the critique of ecumenism and the peace of religions; 3. Hasidism and hesychasm: a comparative perspective; 4. Identity and person: the problem of the self in religious discourse; 5. Elements for a creative hermeneutics; 6. On emergence and synchronicity; 7. On light in religious and scientific discourse; 8. Religion and education.

The third part of the thesis describes the evolution of the academic career and the particular contribution to institutional development at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, by referring to the following aspects: 1. didactic activity, research grants, presentations in national and international conferences, professional affiliations; 2. the founding of study and research programs and infrastructure within the framework of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures: the Jewish Studies B.A. Program (<http://www.unibuc.ro/facultati/limbi/studii-iudaice/>), the Religious Studies M.A. Program (<http://www.unibuc.ro/facultati/limbi/stud-reli/>), and the Center for Transdisciplinary Research in Religion and Science (<http://ctr.rs.ro/>); 3. the organizing of academic events (conferences, lectures, round tables); 4. new courses introduced at B.A. and M.A. level.

The *Final Considerations* underline the strategic plans for enhancing, reshaping and continuously updating the profile, contents and methodologies of the research and teaching activities, as well as for efficiently contributing to institutional development in the areas of curricular and management activities.

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