

PROTECȚIA COPILULUI CA DOMENIU AL ASISTENȚEI SOCIALE LA NIVEL MICROSOCIAL

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Abstract

Having a solid theoretical and practical training in social work obtained at School of Sociology and Social Work from Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, I wish that in the future to contribute at the institutional development of the school that invested in my training. Moreover, from the current position as the Head of doctoral program in Sociology I strongly believe in the need of developing a PhD. program in Social Work aiming at developing a high trained work force. The current habilitation thesis is a personal and institutional response supported by several outcomes in this area. The interest and dedication toward the social work profession and toward continuous learning is proved by my educational and professional path. Professional competency is sustained by bachelor in social work, a master degree in the area of child and family welfare (Children and childhood in changing societies. An interdisciplinary approach), a master degree that allowed me to develop and practice my research skills and knowledge (Research design and data analysis in social sciences) and a PhD. degree in Sociology with a thesis focusing on Child abuse and neglect in Romanian families, pursuing two postdoctoral trainings in USA and Germany in the area of children's rights, and by obtaining the habilitation title in Sociology, all these being contextualized in next chapters.

The current habilitation thesis titled "Child Protection in Micro SocialWork Practice" will summarize the main scientific, academic and professional results so far, and also will describe my future development plans in the area of teaching, research, and administration. We should also notice that the main results were already summarized in the habilitation thesis in Sociology defended in 2016. This is because at that time there was no opportunity to have habilitation in social work (an area more closely related to my training), although the publications and their results were in the social work domain. The structure of the thesis follows the instructions of the *Guidelines of the habilitation thesis*:

A. Scientific, academic and professional results

In this section of the thesis, the main research interests are described and analyzed. The main key-points are being granted the PhD. title in Sociology by Babeş-Bolyai University (2010), starting my academic career as an assistant professor at the Social work department from BBU (2013), and lately being elected as the director of the PhD. program in Sociology at BBU (2017). Upon starting my teaching career, the scientific interest focused three research topics, strongly related to the research projects I was involved and relevant for the social work field:

- (1) *Child protection* is a transversal topic starting from my bachelor studies. Child maltreatment occupied most of my doctoral and postdoctoral training. Therefore, an important section of the thesis will be dedicated to presenting results relevant in the field. The main outcomes are one authored book, 1 ISI Thompson article 5 articles indexed in international databases (IDBs), one entry in an international encyclopedia on sexual abuse and 2 entries in Social Work Encyclopedia from Romania.
- (2) *Youth and delinquents as beneficiaries of social work services* is a topic that evolved around my involvement in several research projects focusing on investigating psycho-social factors that influence successful transition to adult life. The theme that I formally engaged in the projects was evolving around education, hopeful future expectations and psychological construction of the future. A special section was dedicated to persons who are involved in crime and explaining the delinquent behavior focusing on targeted interventions. The outputs of this topic may be summarized in 2 ISI Thompson articles, 9 IDBs articles and 4 ISI Proceedings.
- (3) *Training in social work* evolved as a research topic upon starting my teaching career. Within it, the focus is on evidence-based social work practices. Already considered a quality standard in some social work services from USA and Western Europe, in Romania the debate is relatively new and mainly theoretical. Still, the training of future workforce does not fully take it into account when designing learning plans. Therefore, I got involved in a series of personal studies focusing on understanding the level of training for students and professionals to deliver evidence-based intervention programs, and understanding the motivation in pursuing a social work degree. Several studies are discussed in this thesis (1 ISI Thompson, 1 ISI Proceedings, 5 IDBs

articles and a co-authored book), although my interest in this topic is supported by several conference attendances.

B. Future development plans in teaching and research

The second part of the thesis focuses on my personal construction of the future. the mission and the objective I am assuming in building future academic career. The mission that I have already accepted by taking the associate professor position at the social work department and also by the administrative position at the doctoral program doing my best in continuing training students using the best available data and teaching methods in order to gave them best chances to work in the social work field upon their graduation, but also to continue my learning in order to be perceived by students as a tutor or mentor. Through my teaching mission I will contribute to the institutional prestige of the social work department within the educational market. For achieving this mission, my goals are:

- a. Developing teaching skills that will allow me to supervise students and young researchers;
- b. Future research plans that include competency-based education in social work, employability and socio-professional wellbeing of social workers and children's rights in contemporary societies.
- c. Institutional development by establishing a PhD. program in social work.

C. The last part includes **the reference list** that is used in writing the present thesis.