

Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Iași
Facultatea de Filosofie și Științe Social-Politice

Habilitation Thesis

Philosophical Paradigms and Languages on Ultimate Reality

ABSTRACT

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Ph.D. in Philosophy

The Habilitation Thesis, having as title *Philosophical Paradigms and Languages on Ultimate Reality*, presents the main achievements in scientific, didactic and institutional plan, as well as the future research strategy.

First part of the *Thesis* describes the research subsequent to the Ph.D. defense, entitled *Virtue Issue with Plato*, where I discussed the connotations of the *virtue* concept. The research I did on the meaning that Plato gave to *virtue* in his doctrine, proved that this aspect of his thinking had a major influence in the formation and development of an entire tradition. This rooting of the philosophical reflection manifested in at least two horizons: in the school that Plato founded, in its three diachronic stages, yet no less in the constitution of the new cultural and philosophical horizon, that one called *Byzantine*. The terms in which Plato articulated his thought are those used not only by the Patristic authors, but also by the entire subsequent Byzantine philosophy.

The further development of my research had as its topic the Byzantine concept of *person* in relation to the scientific research, within the *Templeton Foundation Grant* (2007-2009). Among the aspects targeted by this research was the evaluation of the conceptual vocabulary used in asserting aspects related to *human person*. The research done under the Templeton Grant on debating *person* at the confluence of the Patristic Tradition with the current science has opened a fruitful perspective for my further research. It turned out that the analysis of the origin and the semantic alterations that the *person* notion received in the Patristic horizon must be carried forward, being of a high significance for the current debates in anthropology, phenomenology, but no less in humanities or sciences. In the 2000-2010 decade, as indicated in the first part of the thesis, I was *Visiting Scholar* in the United States, at the *University of North Carolina*, which also included

researches at *Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard University*, in order to evaluate the latest approaches and interpretations on the Byzantine philosophy. These researches also constituted the framework for writing a monograph, *Landmarks in Byzantine Philosophy*.

Second part of the *Thesis* presents the scientific activity from 2010. The 2010s brought further development of my previous research, which materialized in several directions, including: international and national research projects, the establishment and coordination of *The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy Iași Center*; giving lectures in the United States, Australia, Lebanon (the last two through the Erasmus program); conducting research internships (Greece, Portugal); holding communications and organizing panels at the World Philosophy Congresses (Athens, Beijing), as well as at a large number of international and national conferences. I published three monographs and numerous studies in internationally renowned journals, chapters in volumes, such as those in *Springer* and *Routledge*. I have developed two national projects within the grants of the *Romanian Academy* and two international grants under the *Council for Research in Values and Philosophy*. I co-founded and developed *St. Gregory Palamas Seminar: International Research into the Philosophical and Theological Work of St. Gregory Palamas*, organizing conferences in Romania and abroad.

Third part of the *Thesis* presents the future research projects and the field in which I intend to coordinate Ph.D. Thesis. Future research objectives include the deepening of the Eastern-Christian philosophy investigations, evaluating comparative philosophy paradigms, assessing the meanings and stakes of the intercultural experience. Given the research experience gained, I intend to coordinate doctoral theses in Byzantine philosophy, but as well a wider area, philosophy in the whole

Christian East. The coordination of doctoral theses in this field has implications in understanding the assumptions coming from the Byzantine cultural model and philosophy, which influenced the identity contour of the Modern Eastern Europe, including the Romanian space. Ph.D. students can also benefit from the advice of the professors and experts I work with in the projects I coordinate, on the topic of philosophy in the Christian East, such as *Gregory Palamas International Seminar*.

Another direction in which I intend to coordinate doctorates is *intercultural philosophy*, my experience so far in this kind of investigation offering arguments in this regard. The Iași Center of CRVP, which I am coordinating, has been working on this topic since 2014, the team of collaborators of the Center - over forty teachers from all meridians and cultural areas, contributing in gaining results that brought novelty and impact. Future Ph.D. students on this research topic will be able to benefit from this expertise, will be able to participate in the research activities within the CRVP Iași Center, and take part in the international workshops and conferences that the Center will organize.

I aim to coordinate doctoral research also in *comparative philosophy*, the comparison of paradigms and philosophical traditions offering an accurate and reasoned analysis of their assumptions, stakes and influence. Doctoral researches can be undertaken to elucidate motivations for which certain philosophy paradigms have decided the social and cultural trends of an epoch or cultural area, and to investigate how these paradigms outlined the limits of a cultural horizon or a social behavior. This kind of investigation does not focus as much on the interpretation of a philosophical paradigm, but on contact, intersection, parallelism, opposition, etc., in which philosophical paradigms can be found.