



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ
SCOSAAR

Anexa nr.6

REZUMATUL TEZEI DE ABILITARE

Titlul:

Λόγος πολύτροπος
Despre o disciplină *sine qua non*: filologia clasică

Domeniul de abilitare:

FILOLOGIE

Autor:

Cș. II/conf. univ. dr. **Simona NICOLAE**

Simona NICOLAE

Institute of South-East European Studies

Λόγος πολύτροπος
On a sine qua non discipline: classical philology

Abstract

The paper describes my academic journey, detailing the studies I have authored and the projects in which I have participated. Equally, it outlines my prospective career development in classical philology and Byzantine studies, my primary academic fields of interest.

I have structured this paper into seven chapters, followed by a "Bibliography." The initial four chapters detail my activities to date, encompassing my research interests as reflected in published books and studies, my teaching contributions, the grants I received, and both individual and institutional projects in which I have been involved. This includes my work at the Institute of South-East European Studies of the Romanian Academy and the University of Bucharest. The fifth chapter focuses on future career plans. The sixth chapter briefly touches on the significance and role I attribute to classical philology. The final chapter presents an ongoing project: the editing and translation of the *Discourses* of Manuel II Palaiologos. Concluding this excursus, the "Bibliography" addresses my research and provides a succinct overview of essential works in the fields of Greco-Latin philology and Byzantine studies.

The history of the translation of Homer's *Iliad* into Romanian—a significant endeavor in any culture—was completed relatively late within Romanian literature, as only a century has elapsed since the publication of Murnu's translation. This topic constituted the first subject of my exploration. I outlined a chronological overview of the various attempts to translate the Homeric poems, ranging from the interlinear concordances of the 17th century to the fragments translated by Eminescu, Dulfu, and Iorga, thereby offering a concise history of the evolution of literary language. Following this research, I focused on Murnu's translation and created a critical edition of its variants. I reference this work in the present paper as I am revisiting it with the intention of creating a catalog of all documents from the Princely Academies, aimed at providing a valuable resource for the study of philological education. Many of these notebooks include interlinear translations and brief analyses of Homer's *Iliad*.

Another ongoing endeavor has involved the study of the parenetic texts and manuscripts of Basileus Manuel II Palaiologos, dating from the 15th to 16th centuries, which have yet to be edited or translated into modern languages. The only existing edition was published in the 16th century by Leunclavius and subsequently reproduced in the 19th century by Jacques Paul Migne in the *Patrologia Graeca*. The critical edition I developed, titled *Sfaturi pentru educația împărătească*, is based on the collation of all seven known manuscripts and was awarded the 'Hurmuzaki' prize by the Romanian Academy.

The second volume, which contains the seven moral discourses, is now prepared for publication. In studying the texts of Manuel II within the broader context of the entire parenetic genre, I also authored a monograph on the Byzantine *mirrors for princes*, in which I have cataloged, analyzed, defined, and commented on this literary corpus.

The third area of my current interest is the *Palatine Anthology*. Translated and edited in all major cultures worldwide, this revealing collection of over 4,000 Greek poems, dating from the 6th century BCE to the 9th century CE, has yet to be translated into Romanian. Alongside colleagues in classical studies, I aim to edit, comment on, and translate the entire anthology while preserving the original prosody. One volume (the fifth book of the *Palatine Anthology*), comprised of love poems, has already been published, while two additional volumes (Christian poems and homoerotic poetry) are prepared for publication. The *Observator Cultural* prize awarded for the volume of love poems serves as evidence that ancient and medieval poetry continues to resonate with readers today.

I offer courses in Greek and Latin language and literature, Byzantine studies, and paleography at the University of Bucharest, where I have been teaching continuously for thirty years. I assess the outcomes of my teaching activities based on the achievements of my students, the best of whom are now abroad. Currently, there is no master's program specifically dedicated to classical philology at the University of Bucharest, and the doctoral training program is too general, encompassing all foreign languages and literatures, with insufficient emphasis on the study of classical disciplines. Certain fields are not at all addressed in Romania, or at best, they are treated incompletely due to the absence of specialized programs, such as Byzantine studies, paleography, epigraphy, codicology, and textual criticism. Through the submission of this habilitation file, I aim to guide PhD students within the Doctoral School of the Romanian Academy in these disciplines, focusing on both theoretical philological research and the preparation of critical editions of manuscripts that have never been published, sourced from national and international library collections.

I believe that participating in competitions for project funding serves as a valuable assessment of any research endeavor within a particular field. Accordingly, within the constraints of the time available to me outside of my responsibilities at the university and the institute, I have applied individually, established new teams, or joined colleagues in existing ones to secure grants. I have successfully obtained study and research grants, as well as funding for the publication of works. Furthermore, I coordinated the PN-II project titled *Mythical European Toponymy* (under the directorship of Professor Florica Bechet), participated in international projects conducted through the Institute of South-East European Studies, and contributed to the submission of projects to UEFISCDI.

In both institutions where I am employed, I have actively engaged in organizational and managerial activities, including preparing files for ARACIS accreditation, developing curricula, creating timetables, and participating in various administrative tasks. I am also a member of the Scientific Council of the Institute of South-East European Studies.

The path I envision for the coming years aligns closely with my previous activities. In terms of research, I intend to continue the project on the *Palatine Anthology* and the editing of Manuel Palaiologos' writings. I also aim to author a paleography

manual based on Greek codices from the Romanian manuscript collection, create a catalog of documents from the Princely Academies, and complete a monograph on the vocabulary of colors in the Greek language. Drawing upon my university teaching experience, I plan to focus on providing individualized guidance to PhD students, assisting them in developing and directing their own research.

At this moment of reflection, I wonder why I pursue classical philology and what this discipline can offer others. The apothegmatic answer is that classical philology is a *sine qua non* discipline. It provides a profound and nuanced understanding of the languages we speak; it offers clean and accurate texts of the classics we read; it bridges the ancient and medieval culture with the contemporary world, presenting it paradigmatically; it equips people with tools for communication that transcend language, space, and time, thereby offering a classical dimension to man, society, and culture. The discourse of Manuel Palaiologus, addressed to his *porphyrogenitus* son, serves as living evidence of the truth of these assertions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Simona Hidas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial 'S'.