

Marius Ion BENȚA, *PhD*



Personal information

Born in Cluj city, Romania, 6th January, 1971
+ 40 721 84 54 58 · marius.benta@academia-cj.ro

Education

PhD, Sociology	University College Cork (2014)
MA, Theology	Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj (2019)
BA, Sociology	Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj (1997)

Research interests

- social theory, political anthropology
- phenomenology, religion, St Paul
- technology, modernity, communication
- social network analysis

Google Scholar bibliometrics

Citation indices	All	Since 2018
Citations	97	40
h-index	4	3
i10-index	3	2

Academic positions

- 2018–present Research Fellow in Sociology, **George Barițiu History Institute**, Cluj (Romania)
- 2006–present Associate Lecturer, **Journalism Department, Babeș-Bolyai University**, Cluj (Romania); modules and workshops in English and Romanian for the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Journalism and Digital Media: *Introduction to Social Sciences, News Writing, Introduction to Reporting, Verbal and Nonverbal Expression, Radio Broadcasting*; undergraduate dissertation supervisor; advisor for student UBB Radio
- 10.2020–02.2021 Research Fellow, **Polish Institute of Advanced Studies**, Warsaw (Poland)
- 2001–2004 PhD Student and Tutor, University College Cork (Ireland); tutorials (seminars) for the undergraduate course in *Classical Social Theory*

Books

- 2021 *The Technologisation of the Social: A Political Anthropology of the Digital Machine*, Routledge, London [collected volume co-edited with Paul O'Connor; ISBN 9780367511661]
- 2018 *Walling, Boundaries and Liminality: A political anthropology of transformations*, Routledge, London [collected volume co-edited with Agnes Horvath and Joan Davison; ISBN 9781138096417]
- 2018 *Experiencing Multiple Realities: Alfred Schutz's Sociology of the Finite Provinces of Meaning*, Routledge, London [research monograph, ISBN 978-0-415-79332-2]

Papers & book chapters

- 2022 *Corruption and the Firefighter Effect: On the Commodification of Liminal Professions*, in: Agnes Horvath & Paul O'Connor (eds.), 'Liminal Politics in the New Age of Disease Technocratic Mimeticism', London: Routledge, pp. 124-136 [reprint of a 2021 paper; ISBN 9781003265344]

- 2022 *Of Bricks and Freight Containers: Notes on the Genealogy of Symbols in the Experience of the Moderns*, in: 'International Political Anthropology', 11(1), pp. 27-35 [DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.6774430]
- 2021 *The Firefighter Effect: Social pathology and corruption in liminal occupations*, in: 'International Political Anthropology', 14(2), pp. 103-111.
- 2021 *Introduction to the Special Issue on Disease and Politics by Its Editors*, in: 'International Political Anthropology', 14(2), pp. 85-90 [co-author: Agnes Horvath].
- 2021 *The Smart Womb: Digital technologies and the maze of trickster politics*. In: O'Connor, Paul; Bența, Marius Ion, 'The Technologisation of the Social: A political anthropology of the digital machine', Routledge: London, pp. 112-127 [chap., ISBN 9780367511661].
- 2021 *Conclusion: Is there a way out of the technologisation of the social?.* In: O'Connor, Paul; Bența, Marius Ion, 'The Technologisation of the Social: A political anthropology of the digital machine', Routledge: London/New York, pp. 172-175 [chapter, ISBN 9780367511661].
- 2020 *Gospel and political modernity: The theological dimension of permanent liminality*, in: 'International Political Anthropology', 13(1), pp. 13-28 [DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.3763246].
- 2020 *Special Issue: Crisis, liminality and performance*, in: 'International Political Anthropology', 13(1), pp. 3-4 [co-author: Tom Boland; DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.3766274].
- 2018 *Oppressive walling: Babel and the inverted order of the world*. In: Agnes Horvath, Marius Ion Bența, Joan Davison (eds.): 'Walling, Boundaries and Liminality: A political anthropology of transformations', Routledge: London/New York, pp. 51-71.
- 2017 *Fluid Identity, Fluid Citizenship: The Problem of Ethnicity in Postcommunist Romania*, in: 'Nationalism and Ethnic Politics', Vol. 23, Issue 1, pp. 52-65
- 2005 *Studying Communication Networks with Agna 2.1*, in: 'Cognition, Brain, Behavior', September 2005, Vol. 9

No. 3, pp. 567-574

- 2004 [Book review] José Lopez, *Society and its Metaphors: Language, Social Theory and Social Structure*, in: 'Irish Journal of Sociology,' Vol. 13.1/2004, pp. 142-144
- 2004 *Identity, from Hospital to Kitchen*, in: Copoeru, I. et al. (eds): 'Beyond Identity: Transformations of Identity in a (Post-) Modern World,' House of the Book of Science, Cluj, pp. 43-52
- 2002 *Dolly in the Wonderland of the Identity Constructionism, or: The Ontological Structure of Space and Being in the Natural Attitude*, in: Copoeru, I. et al. (eds): 'Cartografii ale modernității,' House of the Book of Science, Cluj, pp. 152-159

Conferences and keynotes

- 2022 *Creativitate și adaptare în vremuri de criză. Proiecte de afaceri în pandemie*, Zilele Avadernice Clujene, October 2022, DCSU, Cluj-Napoca
- 2022 *Notes on the Commodification of Security and Order*, International Conference Public order in Europe, 'Septimiu Mureșan' School of Police Agents, Cluj-Napoca
- 2018 *The smart maze: Liquid surveillance in a world of political confusion*, Living in a Liquid Society – Romanian Sociological Society Conference, Timișoara (Romania), 14th – 15th September
- 2018 *Trickster, fiddlers, and trolls: Benchmarks for a genealogy of the media*, International Political Anthropology Summerschool, Acquapendente (Italy), 24th June – 1st July
- 2018 *How to build walls that sell. Notes on the commodification of national identity*, Nationalism and the Market international Conference, La Sapienza University (Italy), 20th – 23rd June
- 2016 *Finite provinces of modernity: Walls, windows, and liminal spaces*, International Political Anthropology Summerschool, Acquapendente (It.), 26th June – 2nd July

- 2014 *Didactica jurnalismului și dilemele ei morale în contextul relativismului axiologic al unei realități construite social* [Moral dilemmas of teaching Journalism in a socially constructed axiological relativism], National Journalism Symposium, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj(Romania)
- 2007 *Știrea, manipulare sau construcție a realității?* [News writing: reality manipulation or reality construction?], National Journalism Symposium, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj (Romania)
- 2007 *Expériment vs. expérience: l'analyse socio-anthropologique d'un cas d'autoisolation en cave*, 'Latini Dies' International Congress of Cognitive-Behavioural Therapies, Cluj (Romania); joint author: Alina S. Rusu
- 2006 *Latent vs. manifest social networks: A psychophysiological and sociometric empirical investigation*, 13th World Congress of Psychophysiology, Istanbul (Turkey), Poster session; joint authors: David I. Opriș and Alina S. Rusu
- 2002 *The Place of Selfness and Otherness in Life-World's Ontological Structure*, Irish Philosophical Society Postgraduate Colloquium, 19th – 20th April, Galway (Ireland)

Research projects

- 2022–2024 *Reconfigurarea traseului: planificare și creativitate antreprenorială în perioade de criză*, George Barițiu History Institute, Cluj; position: Research Fellow (CS III); funding: Romanian Academy; position: project coordinator
- 2020–2022 *Norms and social practices in local public institutions: corruption and counteracting corruption*, George Barițiu History Institute, Cluj; position: Research Fellow (CS III); funding: Romanian Academy; position: project coordinator
- 2018–2019 *Romania's Unification Centennial in the media: The structuration of public agenda*, George Barițiu History Institute, Cluj; position: Research Fellow (CS III);

	funding: Romanian Academy; position: project coordinator
2001–2004	<i>Identity Project</i> , University College Cork (Ireland); funding: Higher Education Authority of Ireland and University College Cork; position: Doctoral Researcher;
2000–2004	AGNA (Applied Graph & Network Analysis); developing a scientific and educational desktop application for social network analysis and sequence analysis; position: Sole Author
1998	Audience research for Seltron S.A. (CATV), Cluj; position: Project Coordinator
1998	Anthropological fieldwork, Cluj; project: Dr Margit Feischmidt's doctoral research on the construction of ethnic identity in Transylvania (Humboldt University, Berlin); position: Interview Operator

Affiliations

From 2016	International Political Anthropology
2018	Romanian Sociological Society
2010	European Journalism Centre
2001	Center for Applied Research in Phenomenology, Cluj

Skills: Languages

Fluent speaker	English, French, Romanian
Proficient reader	Italian, German, Portuguese, Spanish
Beginner	Ancient Greek, Russian, Hungarian

February, 2023