
MARIUS ION BENȚA, PhD



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born in Cluj city, Romania, 6th January, 1971

+ 40721845458 marius.benta@acad-cj.ro bentza@gmail.com

EDUCATION

PhD, Sociology: University College Cork, Ireland (2014)

MA, Theology: Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania (2019)

BA, Theology: Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj (2023)

BA, Sociology: Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj (1997)

Pastoral: St John the Evangelist Seminary, Cluj (2024)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Modernity, media, social theory, phenomenology, political anthropology,
anthropology of religion, Biblical hermeneutics

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow in Sociology, *George Barițiu History Institute*, Romanian Academy,
Cluj, Romania, 2018-present

Invited 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; 2007-present

Research Fellow, *Polish Institute of Advanced Studies*, Warsaw, Poland, 2020-2021

PhD Student, University College Cork (Ireland); tutorials (seminars) for the
undergraduate course in *Classical Social Theory*, 2001-2004

ACADEMIC BOOKS

- The Technologisation of the Social: A Political Anthropology of the Digital Machine*, Routledge, London, 2022 [collected volume co-edited with Paul O'Connor; ISBN 9780367511661]
<https://www.routledge.com/The-Technologisation-of-the-Social-A-Political-Anthropology-of-the-Digital/OConnor-Benta/p/book/9780367511661>
- Walling, Boundaries and Liminality: A political anthropology of transformations*, Routledge, London, 2019 [collected volume co-edited with Agnes Horvath and Joan Davison; ISBN 9781138096417]
<https://www.routledge.com/Walling-Boundaries-and-Liminality-A-Political-Anthropology-of-Transformations/Horvath-Benta-Davison/p/book/9781138096417>
- Experiencing Multiple Realities: Alfred Schutz's Sociology of the Finite Provinces of Meaning*, Routledge, London, 2018 [research monograph, ISBN 978-0-415-79332-2]
<https://www.routledge.com/Experiencing-Multiple-Realities-Alfred-Schutzs-Sociology-of-the-Finite/Benta/p/book/9780415793322>

ACADEMIC PAPERS, BOOK CHAPTERS & ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- Biblical liminality*, in: Arpad Szakolczai and Paul O'Connor, "Elgar Encyclopedia of Political Anthropology", Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, UK, 354-358, 2024, ISBN 9781035310487, DOI 10.4337/9781035323265
- Boundaries*, in: Arpad Szakolczai and Paul O'Connor, "Elgar Encyclopedia of Political Anthropology", 369--371, 2024, ISBN 9781035310487, DOI 10.4337/9781035323265
- The Multiple Realities of Paul's Mystical Experience: A Phenomenological Perspective in the Anthropology of Religion*, in: International Political Anthropology, 16(2), pp.127-143, 2023 [DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.10447721]
https://www.politicalanthropology.org/images/PDF_IPA/2023-2/_IPA3206Benta.pdf
- Emmanuel Falque – Edith Stein: Empathy as a Problem. Phenomenology and Personalism*, translated from French by Marius Ion Bența, in: International Political Anthropology, 16(1), pp.53-79, 2023 [DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.8163794]
https://www.politicalanthropology.org/images/PDF_IPA/2023-1/_IPA316Falque.pdf
- 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', Routledge: London, pp. 124-136, 2022 [reprint of a 2021 paper; ISBN 9781003265344]
- 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, 2022 [DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.6774430]
- 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, pp. 172-175, 2022 [chapter, ISBN 9780367511661]

- The Firefighter Effect: Social pathology and corruption in liminal occupations*, in: 'International Political Anthropology', 14(2), pp. 103-111, 2021
https://www.politicalanthropology.org/images/PDF/2021_2/IPA_28_4_Benta.pdf
- Introduction to the Special Issue on Disease and Politics by Its Editors*, in: 'International Political Anthropology', 14(2), pp. 85-90, 2021 [co-author: Agnes Horvath]
https://www.politicalanthropology.org/images/PDF/2021_2/IPA_28_2_Introduction.pdf
- 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, 2021 [chap., ISBN 9780367511661]
- The Gospel and political modernity: The theological dimension of permanent liminality*, in: 'International Political Anthropology', 13(1), pp. 13-28, 2020 [DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.3763246]
https://www.politicalanthropology.org/images/PDF_IPA/2020-1/2020_1_Benta.pdf
- Special Issue: Crisis, liminality and performance*, in: 'International Political Anthropology', 13(1), pp. 3-4, 2020 [co-author: Tom Boland; DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.3766274]
https://www.politicalanthropology.org/images/PDF_IPA/2020-1/2020_1_Boland_Benta.pdf
- 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, pp. 51-71, 2019
- Fluid Identity, Fluid Citizenship: The Problem of Ethnicity in Postcommunist Romania*, in: 'Nationalism and Ethnic Politics', Vol. 23, Issue 1, pp. 52-65, 2017
- Studying Communication Networks with Agna 2.1*, in: 'Cognition, Brain, Behavior', September 2005, Vol. 9 No. 3, pp. 567-574, 2005
http://www.academia.edu/751430/Studying_communication_networks_with_AGNA_2.1
- 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, 2004
- 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, 2002

REVIEWS

- Mihaela Gligor and Elisabetta Marino (Eds.), Tagore beyond Borders: Essays on His Influence and Cultural Legacy*, Routledge: London, 2023, in: 'Romanian Journal of Indian Studies', No. 7, pp. 171-174, 2023
- José Lopez, Society and its Metaphors: Language, Social Theory and Social Structure*, in: 'Irish Journal of Sociology', 'Vol. 13.1/2004, pp. 142-144

CONFERENCES AND KEYNOTES

- Identity-Shaping Creativity in the Greek-Catholic Community of Transylvania*, "Dinamica socio-culturala a creativitatii si cadrele sale epistemice", Symposium at George Barițiu History Institute, 22nd May, 2025, Cluj-N.
- Subtle Shades of Unreality: Voegelin, Schütz, and the Problem of Modernity*, International Conference "The deformation of language in politics and the critical role of literature today and in the work of Eric Voegelin" organised by Eric Voegelin Gesellschaft, 4-5 October 2024, University of Trieste
<https://www.eric-voegelin-gesellschaft.de/tagungen/voegelin-and-literature-2024.html>
- When the Crisis is your Teacher: Learning and Resilience in Liminal Times*, International Conference "Public order in Europe", 'Septimiu Mureșan' School of Police Agents, May 2023, Cluj-N.
- Creativitate și adaptare în vremuri de criză. Proiecte de afaceri în pandemie*, Zilele Academice Clujene, October 2022, DCSU, Cluj-N.
- Notes on the Commodification of Security and Order*, International Conference "Public order in Europe", 'Septimiu Mureșan' School of Police Agents, 2022, Cluj-N.
- 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, 2018
- Finite provinces of modernity: Walls, windows, and liminal spaces*, International Political Anthropology Summerschool, Acquapendente (It.), 26th June – 2nd July, 2016
- 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-N. (Romania), 2014
- Știrea, manipulare sau construcție a realității?* [News writing: reality manipulation or reality construction?], National Journalism Symposium, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-N. (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-N. (Romania); joint author: Alina S. Rusu, 2007
- Latent vs. manifest social networks: A psychophysiological and sociometric empirical investigation*, 13th World Congress of Psychophysiology, Istanbul (Turkey), Poster session; joint authors: David I. Opreș and Alina S. Rusu, 2007
- The Place of Selfness and Otherness in Life-World's Ontological Structure*, Irish Philosophical Society Postgraduate Colloquium, 19th – 20th April, Galway (Ireland), 2002

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Creativitate și reziliență în practicile identitare ale comunităților românești din Transilvania, George Barițiu History Institute, Cluj; position: Research Fellow (CS III); funding: Romanian Academy; position: project coordinator, 2024-2025

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, 2022-2023

Corruption, religion, and political modernity, Polish Institute of Advanced Social Studies, Warsaw; position: Research Fellow; funding: Polish Academy of Sciences; position: sole researcher, 2020-2021

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, 2020-2021

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, 2018–2019

Identity Project, University College Cork (Ireland); funding: Higher Education Authority of Ireland and University College Cork; position: Doctoral Researcher, 2001–2004

AGNA (Applied Graph & Network Analysis); developing a scientific and educational desktop application for social network analysis and sequence analysis; position: Author & Sole Developer, 2000–2004

Audience research for Seltron S.A. (CATV), Cluj; position: Proj. Coordinator, 1998

Anthropological fieldwork, Cluj; project: Dr Margit Feischmidt's doctoral research (Humboldt University, Berlin) on the construction of ethnic identity in Transylvania; position: Interview Operator, 1998

PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

Digi24 TV Cluj, BBC World Service Bucharest, Transilvania Live TV, Radio Guerrilla Cluj, Radio Cluj, Pro FM Cluj, EBS Radio Cluj, *Sinteza* magazine, *Contributors.ro*, various positions 1998-2018

SKILLS: LANGUAGES

Fluent: English, French, Romanian

Very good: Italian, Portuguese

Reading competence: German, Spanish

Basic/Intermediate: Ancient Greek, Ancient Hebrew

SKILLS: IT

Microsoft Office, Java, Python, SPSS, WP, HTML, Adobe Audition/Premiere/After Effects/Photoshop

SKILLS: PERSONAL AND SOCIAL

Interpersonal communication, teamwork, creativity, attention to details,
self-organisation, fast learning

AFFILIATIONS (PAST & PRESENT)

International Political Anthropology Association

Romanian Sociological Society

Center for Applied Research in Phenomenology, Cluj-N.