



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ
SCOSAAR

Anexa nr.6

REZUMATUL TEZEI DE ABILITARE*

**TITLUL: HUMAN COMMUNITIES IN THE CARPATHIAN-DNIEPER
FOREST-STEPPE WITHIN THE NETWORK OF REGIONAL AND
SUPRA-REGIONAL CONNECTIONS DURING THE LATE PRE-
ROMAN IRON AGE (2nd–1st CENTURIES B.C.)**

Domeniul de abilitare: ISTORIE

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*în cazul în care teza va fi redactată într-o limbă străină, textul în limba română va fi adaptat



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1.1.2. *The Settlements of the Poienești-Lucașeuca Culture. Archaeological Study of Settlements in the Carpathian-Dniester Region from the End of the 3rd to the 1st Century BC.*, Verlag Marie Leidorf, Rahden/Westf. 2020, ISBN 978-3-89646-529-0

1.1.3. *Fibulae loquuntur. Mobilitate și conectivitate în Europa Centrală și de Est la răscruce de milenii (o istorie a circulației agrafelor în spațiul pruto-nistrean)*, Editura Bons Offices, Chișinău-Berlin 2025, ISBN 978-5-36241-685-0 (co-autor O. Munteanu).

1.1.4. *Die Chronologie der vorrömischen Eisen- und Römischen Kaiserzeit in Mittel- und Südosteuropa: Probleme und Perspektiven. Humboldt-Kolleg – Chronologie in den archäologischen Forschungen Chișinău, 08.-09. November 2018*, Editura Bons Offices, Chișinău-Berlin 2021, ISBN 978-9975-87-101-3 (co-autori E. Sava, A. Zanoci, M. Băț & O. Munteanu).

1.1.5. *Regional and Interregional Connections across Central and Southeastern Europe in the Pre-Roman Iron Age*, Plural: History. Culture. Society, vol. 13, nr. 1, 2025, Seria archaeologica IV, Centrul Editorial al Universității Pedagogice ”Ion Creangă”, Chisinau 2025 (co-autor Octavian Munteanu).

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3. Bibliography

The habilitation thesis is structured into three chapters, each containing a number of subchapters, in accordance with current legislation. The first chapter includes a summary of the main achievements of the author's scientific and teaching career since being awarded a Ph.D. in archaeology in 2014 by the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. The second chapter outlines plan for the development of the academic and teaching career, including the main research directions to be further developed and their connections to current international scientific debates. Finally, the last chapter contains the bibliography cited in the thesis.

1. Human Communities in the Carpathian-Dnieper Forest-Steppe from an Archaeological Perspective. A Synthesis of the Scientific Career

The selection presented and summarized below from my publications (see the attached list of publications) focuses, in particular, on issues related to the evolution of human communities in the Carpathian-Dnieper forest-steppe during the late pre-Roman Iron Age (late 3rd century – 1st century BC) and their regional and supra-regional connections with other “ethnic groups” and/or contemporary cultural groups. This topic has always been at the centre of my scholarly interest. Other contributions (see the complete list of publications) address other aspects of the La Tène period, as well as the Roman era, and are mentioned only briefly in this analysis.

Since completing my doctorate, I have published five monographs, two of which I authored alone, one as a co-author, and two as an editor.

All of the books have been well received by the academic community, receiving favorable reviews from specialists in both Southeast and Central Europe. Of the two books I authored



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alone, the one titled *Conectivitate și mobilitate la est de Carpați în epoca preromană recentă a fierului (studiu în baza necropolei de la Borosești)*, is an expanded version of the doctoral dissertation defended in 2014 at the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, titled *Migrația bastarnilor în silvostepa carpato-nistreană (în baza studiului necropolei de la Borosești)*. As a result of the research conducted, we were able to provide a comprehensive picture of the necropolis, compiling a complete inventory of the site that details all the information gathered by the author of the Borosești investigations. The recovered archaeological material, along with the funeral rites and customs practiced by the community buried here, provided us with important analytical material. This enabled us to propose solutions for several of the problems identified in the historiographical analysis, including chronology, origin, and the phenomenon of human mobility and supra-regional connections in the late pre-Roman Iron Age.

The second book, *The Settlements of the Poieniști-Lucașeuca Culture. Archaeological Study of Settlements in the Carpathian-Dniester Region from the End of the 3rd to the 1st Century BC*, is the result of research conducted between 2015 and 2017 as part of a postdoctoral fellowship awarded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology of the Free University of Berlin. The monograph provides a detailed analysis of the settlements of the Poieniști-Lucașeuca culture.

The third monograph, *Fibulae loquuntur. Mobilitate și conectivitate în Europa Centrală și de Est la răscruce de milenii (o istorie a circulației agrafelor în spațiul pruto-nistrean)* (co-authored with Octavian Munteanu), is a comprehensive analysis of the fibulae that circulated in the Prut-Dniester region during the late pre-Roman to the early Roman Age (late 3rd century BC – early 1st century AD), contributing to the elucidation of issues of connectivity and human mobility during a period characterized by radical transformations in Southeast Europe. Our focus was on a collection of 132 fibulae discovered at 22 archaeological sites in the Prut-Dniester region. In terms of the context from which the finds originate, there is a clear predominance of pieces from funerary complexes over those discovered at settlement sites. This distribution reflects, on the one hand, the differing levels of archaeological research between burial sites and settlement sites, and on the other hand, the special function of fibulae as distinctive elements of clothing.

The two books I edited are the result of research projects in which I participated, as well as conferences that I organized.

Thus, the volume titled *Die Chronologie der vorrömischen Eisen- und Römischen Kaiserzeit in Mittel- und Südosteuropa: Probleme und Perspektiven. Humboldt-Kolleg – Chronologie in den archäologischen Forschungen Chișinău, November 8–9, 2018*, contains the majority of the



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papers presented at the Humboldt-Kolleg conference. The central theme of this volume concerns the establishment of the relative and absolute chronology of the Iron Age and Roman periods in the European Barbaricum. Particular emphasis is placed on evaluating new perspectives for analyzing and synchronizing chronological frameworks in Central Europe with those in Southeast Europe.

The second edited volume, titled *Regional and Interregional Connections across Central and Southeastern Europe in the Pre-Roman Iron Age*, includes most of the papers presented at the symposium organized as part of the DFG-funded project *Ausgrabung der Siedlung der Poienęsti-Lucașeuca von Ivancea-sub Pădure*. The contributions address various aspects related to the impact that individual or collective mobility had on community social dynamics, the organization of settlements and territory, and communication and trade networks in Central and Eastern Europe during the late pre-Roman Iron Age.

1.2. Main Areas of Scientific Research, Based on Published Monographs and Articles

1.2.1. Settlements

The first group of articles/papers included in this work focuses on pre-Roman Iron Age settlement sites in the Carpathian-Dniester forest-steppe. Archaeological investigations conducted to have documented more than 420 settlement sites attributed to the Poienęsti-Lucașeuca and Zarubincy cultures. The nature of the economic life of the human communities that inhabited the Carpathian-Dniester forest-steppe at the end of the 1st millennium BCE was closely linked, as it was in other periods, to the specific characteristics of the region's geographical environment. The bearers of the Poienęsti-Lucașeuca culture most likely practiced an economy based on agricultural production, with its two fundamental branches—plant cultivation and animal husbandry—which was combined with other household crafts such as pottery, weaving, woodworking, and metalworking, etc.

1.2.2. Chronology and Periodization of the late Pre-Roman Iron Age

The second group of articles included in this volume focuses on the chronology and periodization of the Late La Tène period in the Carpathian-Dnieper forest-steppe. Although they have been known for more than eight decades, the chronological framework and the delimitation of the evolutionary phases of the Poienęsti-Lucașeuca and Zarubincy cultures are still the subject of intense debate in the specialized literature.

In our opinion, four phases can be distinguished within the Poienęsti-Lucașeuca culture, which can be synchronized with LT C1b (Group I); LT C2 (Group II); LT D1 (Group III); LT D2



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(Group IV). Therefore, the chronological limits of this culture should be placed between the end of the 3rd century and the last quarter of the 1st century BC.

With regard to the chronology and periodization of the Zarubincy culture, we believe that it emerged at the beginning of the 2nd century B.C., and we have set its end date at the end of the Augustan period, which in absolute chronology corresponds to the first decade of the 1st century A.D.

1.2.3. *Hellenistic and Late Republican “imports” in the Poienești-Lucașeuca Culture*

The third group of studies concerns the so-called Hellenistic and Late Republican “imports” from the Poienești-Lucașeuca cultural context finds, which alongside clothing accessories, constitute the most relevant artifacts for the chronological classification and periodization of the culture. In our opinion, such “imports” reached the region east of the Carpathians through various channels—trade relations, “looting,” gifts, etc.

1.2.4. *Connectivity and Mobility*

The fourth group of articles included in this volume focuses on connectivity and human mobility in the Carpathian-Dnieper forest-steppe at the end of the 1st millennium BCE. The mobility of individuals, groups, and societies is a phenomenon that is not limited solely to the so-called period of the Great Migrations, but has accompanied humanity since its earliest days. Such a picture can be observed in the Carpathian-Dnieper forest-steppe during the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age, where both group and individual human mobility, as well as connectivity with other regions of the European Barbaricum, can be traced. Among the categories of artifacts reflecting such a phenomenon, the following can be highlighted: clothing accessories, certain ceramic forms, as well as specific categories of tools and household items.

1.2.5. *“Clothes make the man”: Clothing and Identity in the late Pre-Roman Iron Age*

The fifth group of articles included in this volume focuses on clothing and identity in the late Pre-Roman Iron Age. “Clothes make the man”—this proverb is just as true today as it was for prehistoric and protohistoric societies. In addition to its purely practical function of covering and protecting the body, clothing also has a social component and can convey relevant information about the person wearing it. “Costume/clothing,” in other words, it plays a fundamental role in shaping both personal and collective identity.

As has been emphasized in the specialized literature, “costume” is an indicator of a social group, a distinguishing feature. Identities characterize all social groups. Accordingly, the analysis of clothing and the identities of population groups can highlight customs specific to age, gender, and social status in their historical evolution.



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Another aspect we discussed in this context concerns the peplos (Greek: Πέπλος, Latin: peplum). The peplos was a Greek women's garment that first appeared in the Archaic period but remained in fashion in Europe until Antiquity. This garment consisted of a thick fabric, usually wool, of rectangular shape, which enveloped the entire body. The upper part was draped outward over the chest, waist, and, sometimes, over the hips. Consequently, the peplos was a suitable garment for human communities in the colder regions of the ancient continent. The grave goods from the Poienеști-Lucașeuca and Zarubincy necropolises provide substantial evidence of the peplos-type garment in the Carpathian-Dnieper forest-steppe during the late pre-Roman Iron Age.

2. Career Development Plans

My future career development plans include two complementary areas: scientific research (including field research) and the training of students, as well as the supervision of master's and doctoral theses for young researchers.

2.1. Scientific Research

With regard to scientific research, my career development plans include continuing and expanding ongoing projects, while simultaneously developing new ones that build upon the experience and scientific results already achieved, as well as organizing new scientific colloquia and conferences. Therefore, these plans include:

- Continuation of interdisciplinary archaeological investigations by a joint Moldovan-German-Polish team at the late pre-Roman Iron Age settlement of Ivancea sub Pădure to clarify important aspects regarding the origins, chronology, and evolution of the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture, as well as the connections between these communities and Central Europe;
- Expanding interdisciplinary archaeological investigations, conducted by a joint Romanian-Moldovan-German team, at the Roman Age necropolis in Cașunca (Florești District, Republic of Moldova) to clarify important issues regarding the cultural realities of the Eastern Carpathian region in the 2nd–3rd centuries AD, such as: connectivity, identity, and acculturation;
- Developing an international archaeological project (Romanian-Moldovan-German-Polish) aimed at establishing connections along the Baltic Sea–Black Sea axis from the late Pre-Roman Iron Age to the beginning of the Migration Period (2nd century BC – early 5th century AD);
- Developing research partnerships with academic institutions in other countries—Norway (University of Oslo), Denmark (Universities of Copenhagen and Aarhus), Germany (Free University of Berlin, Leiza Institute Mainz), Poland (Universities of Poznan, Warsaw, and



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Lublin), etc. – with a view to integrating the scientific results obtained into major international scientific debates in the field;

- Organizing scientific sessions and conferences on topics related to the La Tène and Roman periods in Central and Southeastern Europe.

2.2. *Teaching Career*

With regard to my teaching career, I propose the following:

- Continuing my teaching collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology at the Free University of Berlin and the State University of Moldova to train future specialists in archaeology and related fields at the bachelor's and master's levels;
- To continue and expand the training of doctoral students at the Faculty of Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań;
- As a potential doctoral advisor, I possess the necessary expertise in the following fields: archaeology of the Late Iron Age, Roman archaeology, funerary archaeology, human mobility and identity, etc.;
- In the future, the establishment of a mixed interdisciplinary archaeological research team composed of young researchers from the Institute of Archaeology and Art History of the Romanian Academy (Cluj-Napoca branch), the Free University of Berlin, the Leiza Institute in Mainz, the State University of Moldova, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, and Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin.