

SUMMARY

Literatura evreiască. Între concept și aplicații

Teză de abilitare în domeniul Filologie

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During the fifteen years that have passed since the defense of my doctoral dissertation *Between Marginal Rebels and Mainstream Critics: Jewish Romanian Intellectuals in the Interwar Period*, dedicated to the process of modernization and acculturation to Romanian language of the Jewish intellectuals in Romania from the second half of the XIXth century until Holocaust, my activity has expanded, taking my previous research to a new level of complexity. Also, a new direction was initiated, namely the research on the Yiddish culture in Romania, more precisely the reception of Yiddish classic literature and the study of the history of Yiddish theatre. This way, my approach to the history of Jewish culture in Romania became more complex, taking into account both sides of the coin, namely the process of acculturation to the language of the majority of the population and the preservation of the Jewish tradition and cultural identity. Given the solid theoretical background in analyzing the specificity of concepts such as „Jewish intellectual” and „Jewish literature”, relatively new and controversial for many literary and social sciences scholars, as well as a significant and necessary comparative approach which was able to show the particularities of the „Jewish literature in Romanian language” as well as of the „Jewish authors of Romanian language” as a part of the „Jewish literatures in non-Jewish languages”, I consider that I acquired the theoretical instruments to grasp the larger topic and to apply them on the Romanian case. The concept of „Jewish literature” is finally making its entrance to the local scholarship and my habilitation thesis is explaining it both conceptually, but also practically due to a number of examples.

My research management experience, largely acquired because of a series of various administrative tasks, from writing institutional grant applications to coordinating team projects, and from organizing conferences to creating the first Center for Research of Yiddish Culture in

Romania at the Jewish State Theatre, represents the first pillar of my current argumentation in favour of my habilitation thesis. Also, my *research experience*, acquired by publishing over twenty books that I authored, edited or translated, by writing dozens of book chapters and articles in journals and reference works and, eventually, by participating in countless conferences as well as delivering public lectures to an international public, also qualifies me to coordinate PhD students interested in my field of expertise. Finally, my extensive *teaching experience*, spanning over two decades in three universities, in Romania and abroad, while implementing numerous courses in the area of Yiddish literature and culture, Romanian and comparative literature and Romanian-language Jewish literature, where I also coordinated students at various academic levels and for various degrees, from BA and MA theses to PhD defenses and job competitions, allowed me to improve also the educational component of my activity and eventually decide to write my habilitation thesis. Eventually, I added a section dedicated to my work in the field of Yiddish *cultural heritage promotion*, more specifically to my work as a specialist addressing to the larger public, less familiar to Jewish and Yiddish culture, through digitization of historical archives, public lectures, interviews, book launches, table readings, republishing classics, publishing general texts for popularisation or organizing exhibitions able to present in simple terms an area which I specialised in.

Being structured according to my areas of expertise, but presenting also my professional evolution within each of these sections, my current habilitation thesis contains a summary of my work during the recent years, after the PhD defense, but including its results and starting from them, concluding with a section dedicated to my future plans for both teaching, research and promotion of Yiddish cultural heritage. Finally, a bibliography and annexes were added to my habilitation thesis, illustrating the variety of topics and approaches I employed during my career.