



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ  
SCOSAAR

## **REZUMATUL TEZEI DE ABILITARE**

**TITLUL: OASE, ANIMALE, OAMENI, MEDIU. O INCURSIUNE  
BIOARHEOLOGICĂ ÎN ENEOLITICUL DIN SUD-ESTUL ROMÂNIEI**

**Domeniul de abilitare: Istorie**

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## ABSTRACT

In the 12 years that have passed since I defended my doctoral thesis in History, at the “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology of the Romanian Academy, I have continued my archaeozoological researches of the Eneolithic in south-eastern Romania, in order to better understand the relations between human communities and the animal environment.

The doctoral thesis in history was entitled *The evolution of palaeoeconomy and the strategies of exploitation of the animal environment by the Neo-Eneolithic communities in Muntenia in the light of archaeological research in the Teleorman Valley* and was coordinated by Dr. Silvia Marinescu-Bîlcu, within the “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology of the Romanian Academy.

My original scientific contribution is reflected primarily in studies, published subsequently to the doctoral thesis defence, in prestigious journals in other countries, but also in Romanian journals or volumes dedicated to important scientific events published both in the country and abroad.

Between 2010 and 2022 I published, as an author or co-author, two books, 50 international articles and 61 national articles. The topics covered in these scientific contributions (mostly archaeozoological / bioarchaeological) are extremely varied, both chronologically (from the Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages) and geographically / regionally (mainly south-eastern Romania, but also eastern France and Armenia). They also cover various issues, dealing with topics related to palaeogenetic studies in different animal species (horse, hemione, pig, wild boar, dog, cat, house mouse and red deer), the study of stable isotopes of faunal remains in Romania (Neo-Eneolithic), France (Eneolithic) and Armenia (Palaeolithic) and the hard animal material industry (Mesolithic-Eneolithic).

Since the defence of my doctoral thesis so far, 29 publications (out of 50) abroad and 21 (out of 61) in the country have been published in close connection with the subject of this habilitation thesis. At the moment, according to Web of Science, I have a Hirsch index of 19 and 584 citations, while according to Google Scholar I have a Hirsch index of 21 and 2458 citations (accessed February 20, 2022).

My scientific activity between 2010 and 2022 involved both participation on various Eneolithic archaeological sites (Cheia and Techirghiol *Paloda* - Hamangia culture; Hârșova *tell* and Sultana microzone - Boian and Gumelnița cultures; Bordușani *Popină*, Gumelnița *tell* and *terrace*, Taraschina - Gumelnița culture; Săveni - Cernavoda I culture), as well as the study of the faunal materials from these sites and finally the publication of the archaeozoological information.

In this habilitation thesis, in the first section (I), I briefly presented my scientific, professional and academic achievements on two interdisciplinary thematic topics that are interrelated: (I.1.) Archaeozoology of the Eneolithic in south-eastern Romania; (I.2.) Study of stable isotopes of Neo-Eneolithic fauna in south-eastern Romania. In the first part (I.1.) I summarized my personal studies on 14 samples of faunal materials from 12 Eneolithic settlements, which have been published in the last 12 years both in the country and abroad. In total, I studied and reviewed over 77,000 faunal remains

from four successive Eneolithic cultures in the same geographical area (Hamangia, Boian, Gumelnița and Cernavoda I) which led to the observation of various aspects of human-animal interactions. These studies have made it possible to follow the evolution of animal palaeoeconomy and to describe the complex connections between humans, animals and their environment. In the second part (I.2.) I briefly presented the original results obtained from the study of stable isotopes in the last 12 years, on two very important research directions: (I.2.1.) Mammalian diet and environmental reconstruction; (I.2.2.) Seasonality of births in sheep and cattle.

In the second section (II) I presented a plan for the evolution and development of my professional, scientific and academic career, and I set out some research directions (bioarchaeology, palaeoparasitology, palaeogenetics) that I want to develop in the future. Within SCOSAAR, I intend to coordinate doctoral theses that will focus on bioarchaeology in the broadest sense, the reconstruction of the paleoenvironment, the study of relationships between humans and other identified species, to understand the reasons for their presence in a human settlement and the role they played.

The training of new specialists in the field of bioarchaeology (archaeozoology, anthropology, carpology, anthracology, and palynology) is a necessity for the Romanian archaeology, given the extremely small number of bioarchaeologists involved in pluri- and interdisciplinary archaeological research.