



MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII
UNIVERSITATEA „VALAHIA” DIN TÂRGOVIȘTE
IOSUD – ȘCOALA DOCTORALĂ DE ȘTIINȚE
ECONOMICE ȘI UMANISTE
Str. Aleea Sinaia, Nr. 13 – 130004, Târgoviște, România
Tel: 0769/076861
<http://sd.valahia.ro/>

Habilitation Thesis

Abstract



**Târgoviște. Fragments of the research of a city in its evolution from
medieval to modernity**

Domain: History

**Candidate:
Conf. univ. dr. Radu Cârciumar**

**Târgoviște
2025**

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Abstract

Present work, *Târgoviste. Fragments of the research of a city in its evolution from medieval to modernity*, aims to highlight the most important scientific and professional achievements of the candidate, taking into account the future directions pursued in historical research. Therefore, the presentation takes into account both the component of scientific and professional development, carried out up to the moment of defending the doctoral thesis, as well as the directions followed after obtaining the doctorate. The habilitation thesis is thus designed to reflect the candidate's entire path in his career, covering both scientific and didactic aspects.

In the first part of the habilitation thesis, not only the scientific and professional concerns of the candidate, embodied in a series of articles, studies and specialized books, but also the projects followed by him, in order to develop his career, both from a scientific as well as didactic aspect, are subject to analysis.

It should be mentioned that, throughout his scientific activity, the candidate showed concern for the critical analysis of documentary and narrative historical sources, as well as other sources (archaeological, oral, ethnographic, etc.). To the same extent, the candidate had in mind in his research activity, respectively in approaching the various themes that aroused his interest, the older or newer historiographic concerns, which were always a starting point in correcting or canceling some hypotheses and theories.

The evolution of the academic career, both before and after obtaining the

doctorate, is linked to the Romanian higher education system, at the Valahia University in Târgoviște. Since 2001, he has held the position of university preparator, then university assistant, since 2004, university lecturer since 2007, and since 2017 until now, he has held the teaching position of a university conference. In the more than two decades of activity, he taught courses and seminars at the history department of the Faculty of Humanities within the Valahia University in Târgoviște, at the Bachelor and Master programs. He supervised and supervises bachelor's theses and master's dissertations in the specialized field, and since 2007 he has added the activity of guiding methodical-scientific works for obtaining the first didactic degree, for teachers in pre-university education, being an active presence in the examination committees of he also completed the II didactic degree in pre-university education.

Equally, he supported and encouraged the participation of Valahia University students in student scientific sessions, many even under his direct coordination. In line with the evolution of the teaching career, the candidate showed involvement in ensuring a high-performance education, by using quality courses, in accordance with the current requirements, through activities that ensured the smooth running of the department and the faculty.

Simultaneously with the didactic activity, he performed managerial functions such as that of Vice-President of the Senate of Valahia University in Târgoviște (2020-2024; 2024-present), which allowed direct contact with issues related to the quality of the education process, institutional development or action of internationalization at the level of Romanian university education.

He began his research activity systematically, even after finishing his undergraduate studies, as a lecturer at the history department of Valahia University in Târgoviște and as a doctoral student of the same educational institution. The results of scientific research have materialized, in the more than

23 years of activity, in a book by the sole author, two books as a co-author, over 50 studies published in specialized magazines or volumes and over 50 participations in sessions national and international.

The candidate's research directions are circumscribed to the period of the Middle Ages in the Romanian space, namely the genesis of the Romanian medieval states, the evolution of political relations in Wallachia during the XV-XVIII centuries and the history of the city of Târgoviște during the Middle Ages and the beginning of modernity.

Since 2008 he has been part of the editorial board of the journal *Annales d'Université Valahia Targoviste, Section d'Archéologie et d'Histoire* (included in important international databases such as ERIH Plus, Scopus, Elsevier, etc.) and since 2018 editorial secretary at the same publication. From 2021, he is part of the scientific college of *LITUA* magazine. Studies and Research (included in important international databases such as ERIH PLUS, DOAJ, Index Copernicus) and became a member of the Romanian Institute of Genealogy and Heraldry "Sever Zotta", Iasi.

After obtaining the title of doctor in history, in 2009, with the thesis entitled: *State Genesis in the East of Capați. Hypotheses and considerations regarding the emergence of the feudal state of Moldova*, under the scientific coordination of Prof. Univ. Dr. Ioan Opreș, the candidate did not leave the aspects of the genesis of the states, crowned by the publication of his doctoral work, in 2016.

In parallel, other research directions were also approached, related to the political evolution in the Romanian space, being analyzed aspects of the reign of well-known characters of the Romanian Middle Ages such as Mircea the Older, Vlad the Impaler or Michael the Brave. He tried to introduce new documentary information into the scientific circuit, to critically analyze the events, to interpret the facts in the most well-argued way. There were studies aimed at the period of

the pilgrimages between the first and the second reign of Vlad the Impaler or those related to the epic to Michael the Brave, among which the one related to bringing the voivode's head from Turda to Târgoviște stands out.

The second part of the present work focuses on research related to the city of Târgoviște, a political, religious and cultural center of particular importance in the Romanian Middle Ages. The candidate focused on the period of maximum development of the city, which corresponds to the construction of the most complex system of fortifications in Wallachia during the reign of Matei Basarab, its evolution, the way of conservation or its reuse in the following centuries.

Answers to questions of such complexity could not be found in documents alone, and in many cases archaeological information or archival sources were used. Historiographical contributions have resulted, such as the one that analyzes the vision of the romantic historian I. D. Petrescu on Târgoviște and the Romanian Middle Ages or the one that brings up to date the work of the historian Radu Gioglovan, archaeologist and historian who dealt with numerous aspects of the evolution of Târgoviște in the medieval and modern period. Along with them, it is worth mentioning the study related to the move of the princely residence from Argeș to Târgoviște or the unusual contribution regarding the moment of the last vandalization of the Royal Court in Târgoviște during the beginning of the communist regime. In the research of recent years, the aspects related to the regression process of Târgoviște, on the balance between medieval and modern, or the destructions carried out in Târgoviște by the Etherist troops, during the coup of Tudor Vladimirescu in 1821, were not neglected.

The history of the places of worship of medieval Târgoviște remains a large-scale undertaking, as it is emphasized in the content of the thesis, an undertaking for the present and the future. Their treatment was carried out over a short period of time, sometimes only from an archaeological point of view, sometimes using

incomplete documentary evidence, so that a resumption of the problem, its completion with new elements can contribute to the opening of a direction of research with ramifications in the area of architecture or art history. Studies such as the one related to the dating of the first layer of frescoes in the Great Royal Church of Târgoviște in the time of Mihnea Turcitul, the one about the so-called Greek church in Târgoviște, the one about the Vărzaru church (disappeared) and its founder, the one about the evolution of the small church of St. Athanasius and Cyril marks a solid starting point for an overall analysis of Târgoviste places of worship from the 16th-17th centuries.

Consequently, taking into account the entire didactic and research activity, meeting the minimum standards of the History and Cultural Studies Commission within the CNATDCU. Economic Sciences and Humanities within the Valahia University of Târgoviște and, at the same time, representing an extra chance for undergraduates and master's students from the University of Valahia of Târgoviște to complete their studies in the same university center.