

Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj Napoca  
Centrul de Nord Baia Mare  
Facultatea de Litere

**Teză de Abilitare**

**Limitele cunoașterii. Perspective logico-epistemice**

**(The Limits of Knowledge. Logical and Epistemic Perspectives)**

**Abstract**

**Dan Gabriel Sîmbotin**

**CS I**

**Institutul de Cercetări Economice și Sociale „Gheorghe Zane”,**

**Academia Română Filiala Iași**

**Doctor în Filosofie**

## Abstract

The habilitation thesis entitled *The Limits of Knowledge. Logical and Epistemic Perspectives* aims to present my educational and institutional scientific achievements, while also focusing on the future research areas and academic development plans that ground my request for being awarded the habilitation certificate in *Philosophy*, following mainly the *epistemology* and *logic* sub-domains, without any limitation. Hence, the openings to the history and philosophy of science, epistemology, methodology and ethics of science, applied logics meta-philosophy, moral epistemology, art, social or political religion, cognitive science, communication sciences and argumentation will not be considered inaccessible as they may become part of the future project of the doctoral research group I intend to coordinate.

In order to comply with the requirements for preparing the habilitation thesis, provided in art. 300 par. (2) of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, and to support our arguments to be able to supervise doctoral students, we carried out a thesis structured on three major parts: Part I, *Scientific Research Work*; Part II, *Professional and Academic Recognition* and Part III, *Career Development and Future Action Plan*.

*Part I. The Scientific Research Work* was established based on the principle that it is necessary to emphasize the core of my research work since my doctoral dissertation until present. For this, the introduction appeals to the doctoral dissertation on “Censorship of the Scientific Imaginary in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century” defended on January 6, 2005 not only because this meant the beginning of a research cycle through which the research directions were highlighted during my doctoral dissertation advancement but also because it was the source for new research directions.

The first fully accomplished research topic which fulfills a part of the doctoral dissertation was *The Imaginary as Epistemic Phenomenon*. Here we redefined the imaginary by integrating it into the human knowledge system as a fundamental way of knowledge. Within this context, the modern imaginary theories have been reconsidered and the science-imaginary conflict was overcome. The fulfillment of this research topic was pursued by the publication of a book entitled *The Imaginary. Construction and Deconstruction of the World (Imaginarul. Construcția și deconstrucția lumii)*, Editura Institutului European, Iași, 2016 (ISBN 978-606-24-0147-4).

A second scholarly topic was *The Early-Modern Evolution of Science and Philosophy*. Another part of the doctoral dissertation was carried out in this research direction as well. There, I approached the way in which we perceive the evolution of the imaginary during the early modernity focusing on the relationship and the way that determined to emerge once with the medieval traditions. I also focused on the evolution of paradigms describing an imaginary cycle that began in the Christian paradigm since the Late-Antiquity until seventeenth century. I published the book *The Year 1600. Censorship in the Early-Modern Scientific Imaginary (Anul 1600. Cenzura imaginarului științific la începutul modernității)*, Editura Institutului European, Iași, 2015 (ISBN 978-606-24-0141-2) following this scholarly research direction, as well.

The third introduced topic, *The Unity of Science between Reality and Desideratum*, is the one that has been analyzed for several years to support my doctoral dissertation. The central idea is that science springs from unity during its evolution and it develops exponentially during modernity in an attempt to find its new unity at a higher level. Therefore, we focused on the historical development of science, its classifications, introducing the original idea of the scientific paradigm matrix representation. The collective volume I coordinated, entitled *The Unity of Science between Innovation and Tradition (Unitatea științei între noutate și tradiție)*, Editura Academiei, 2011 aimed this research topic.

The fourth proposed research topic on *The Issue of Truth* is still an important element of the current research. There, I aim to achieve a synthesis between the Romanian and the international theories. Elements of originality were introduced by analyzing the consequences of the “unique truth” available in the Medieval philosophy and theology by carrying forth a new dimension of teleological truth. Since this topic is still in progress, the fundamental approaches were mainly exposed / delivered during several lectures at various conferences.

The fifth topic, *Non-classical Logic, Logical Fallacies by Ways of Manipulation* was developed over the past four years following the applicative logic, seeking solutions to everyday issues of networking, communication and negotiation. In this context, we analyzed those issues raised by antinomies, especially by using them in everyday life, as well as those caused by sophisms, especially with regard to their use as manipulation techniques in public discourse. This topic is still in progress too.

The last examined topic was *Pragmatics and Metaphysics. The Verb “To Be”* which focused on a pragmatic analysis of using the verb “to be”, following its metaphysical

implications. It is a high-potential research topic and it is one of the projects desired to be completed in the shortest term.

I also introduced a chapter entitled *Varia. Scientific Presentations and Articles in Response to Current Issues of Human Development* where I described the additional research conducted on various topics that cannot be gathered in a major project.

Part II, *Professional and Academic Recognition*, focused on a short presentation of the elements related to *training, teaching, research management and project development, promotion and development of Philosophy research field, skills and expertise* by presenting the candidate's personal experience and professional development.

Part III, *Career Development and Future Action Plan*, tackled the research topics described in the first part and scheduled for completion but it also deals with the academic, teaching and management development or those skills that are part of a larger future action plan.