

SUMMARY

Throughout this paper, we intend to offer an original analyse, examining the way in which the Communist prison universe can be detected through an interdisciplinary approach – psychology of history (psychohistory), but we also aim to outline the role of memory in the complex understanding of the repressive apparatus in communist Romania.

From a structural viewpoint, in the first part of the thesis, we seek to highlight the career development plans, from the PhD defence in 2012 to the present; additionally, we point out the most important professional and scientific achievements crystallised by the books, volumes, studies and articles published, but also by the national and international scientific conferences, organised or attended to. Most of the publications and the scientific manifestations which we attended to focused on the concerned field of research and indicates their relevance, originality and scientific impact.

The second part of our approach is more consistent and presents, in a solid and clear disciplinary and interdisciplinary research directions, the *scientific activity* in correlation with the topic of this thesis. In this section, we emphasized the role of memory (the detention memoirs) after 1989 in the reconstitution of the communist past, revealing, at the same time, the manner in which the memory and history become connected and attached.

In order to have a comprehensive image of psychohistory, we explained which are its essential aspects, which are the differences between history and psychohistory, as well, the scientific benefits of such research on the Romanian Gulag. We also described the psychohistorical research methodology, having as a landmark the newest directions at the international level and we focused on the manner in which it can be used in the investigation and the interpretation of the torturers' acts.

For our scientific laboratory, it was important to observe the relationship between violence and trauma, to describe the political violence in the communist states, using the most relevant bibliographical sources in the field. The dimension of violence and suffering in the Romanian Gulag was another direction followed in this thesis, continuing to reveal the meaning of the *traumatic life events* or *historical trauma* and to explain how the former detainees related themselves to these tragic events.

A last aspect examined in the second part of the paper, analysed the connection between the imprisonment space and the beginning of the Romanian Revolution of 1989 and,

in this sense, were interpreted the aspects of historical and psychological nature, important for both.

At the end of the paper, we expressed the future career development plans as future doctoral supervisor and the professional and scientific projects that we will concentrate over time. We aim to contribute at the strengthening of the Doctoral School of Letters, Humanities and Applied Sciences of "Petru Maior" University of Târgu-Mureș; apply for several grants and research projects, to organize and participate in scientific conferences and sessions. Also, in addition to the research directions started, we will continue to work on other topics, according to the area of interest of the Doctoral School, as well as our scientific interest.

The structure of the paper is characterized both by the coherence of the discourse and by reflecting the main research lines linked to the current trends of historical writing. On each topic and direction of research, in order to demonstrate the importance and the impact of the scientific results, we included the conferences attended to, the papers published and we stated their existence in the national and international libraries catalogues.

At the end of the thesis, we presented the updated bibliography with Romanian and Western sources.

Therefore, by placing itself in an interdisciplinary approach, both from a methodological standpoint and from the analytical and interpretative research that it provides, the paper *History, Memory and Psychohistory in the Research of the Romanian Gulag*, is the first step in theoretical outline, but also based on case studies, of a new research direction in Romanian historiography. On the other hand, it can turn out to be a research direction that will certainly reveal other topics and perspectives in studying the Romanian Gulag and can provide a multifaceted clarification of the communist past, which is more and more debated.

Furthermore, through this thesis we can perceive the main direction of our research, the scientific rigor and the ability to comprehend a profound introspection of the communist repression. In the same way, the paper reveals the value that memory reaches in studying of sensitive topics of Romanian historiography, but also the role of memoirs and the detainees' testimonies in the reconfiguration of the Gulag, at the border between history and psychohistory.