

SOCIAL SCIENCE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Habilitation Dissertation

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1. Abstract

This habilitation thesis presents an overview of my scientific, academic and professional accomplishments in the last decade since I defended my PhD thesis, in the context of the state-of-the-art debates and findings specific to the domains such as the military sociology, security studies, and public policy analysis. During the reflection to write the thesis I realized that the overarching theme of my research, teaching and professional interest was the *social science knowledge in the support of public policy*.

That overarching theme pushed me to reflect about the two main schools of thought regarding the knowledge for policy:

a) the “rational policy” and its amended “limited rationality” school of thought that claims that an epistemic consensus makes political action easier and

b) the “muddling through” school of thought that claim that policymaking is not characterized by scientific evidence.

Since the chosen title put me closer to the former, my experience would provide arguments that it is a proper choice during the time of top-down policies and policy transfers.

I must clarify the fact that my thesis is not a deductive one; the title came up rather as a motto at the end of my storytelling.

In this habilitation thesis *I argue that the proper role of social science is to contribute to the formulation of sound policy proposals, able to initiate and manage social changes, based on scientific evidence and valid arguments.*

Both my academic and professional careers focused on two broad areas, relevant for habilitation thesis: *civil-military relations theory* and *public policy analysis*.

My academic career was intertwined with the policy career. When I discovered the field of military sociology as a PhD student it was an unexplored space, after 30 years of Communist interdiction.

My research topic of civil-military relations came from the roots of military sociology but explored interdisciplinary its different aspects, such as democratic civilian control of the military (Zulean, 2003a, 2004c, 2007a, 2012e), cultural difference between armed forces and parent society (Zulean, 2005, 2010d) and security sector reform (Zulean, 2003c, 2004a, 2004b, 2008b, 2009).

My contribution to the field can be summarized as the following: I analyzed the civil-military relations interdisciplinary, pulling together concepts and methods from military sociology, security studies and political science, succeeded to have a clear understanding of

civil-military relations in Romania, to explain the phenomenon of transition from Communism and to put on the international research agenda my findings.

Therefore my research interest on civil-military relations started from the case of Romania, went further to analyze comparatively South-East Europe and East European patterns and it is touching now the civil-military relations as a global issue. My findings are very well cited as proved in the Annex.

Moreover, I became a member in the most important research organizations, such as Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, Research Committee 01 of International Sociological Association and a member of the Editorial Board of the Political and Military Sociology, one of the two most important academic journals in the world doing research on civil-military relations and military sociology.

As for the practical public policy area, my policy advice was highly appreciated since I received a “Military Virtue” Award for the contribution to the Romania’s integration in NATO.

In the field of public policy analysis I contributed to writing one of the first handbooks on Public Policy in the Romanian literature and being involved in policy analysis, foresight projects and in teaching courses of public policy and policy analysis.

I wrote policy analysis papers which I will cluster as policy analyses for national security (2011a, 2012b), policy analyses for higher education (2011c, 2012c, 2012a) and policy analysis for other public policy domains (2011b, 2012d).

On the academic realm I also set up a master program on the European Public Policy. These are the main contributions that will be further explained in the next chapters in connection with the state-of-the-art in the respective domains

My teaching load followed pro-actively the research-policy-teaching helix and the results of my research have been integrated into teaching; in exchange, the questions and the problems raised by the students became eventually part of my research.

Regarding my future plans my overarching goal is to master the knowledge and skills and contribute to designing and implementing better public policies in Romania based on scientific evidence, to enhance the administrative culture and improve the policy analysis skills of the public servants in Romania.

My short and medium term goals are meant to continue the research on at least four directions of research and academic publications. The four topics I would like to develop are the following: *the impact of globalization on public policies*, *the “Soldier and the State” in the Global Age*, *foresight as a tool for public policy analysis* as well as the *intellectual capital reporting within the knowledge economy*. The text of the habilitation dissertation follows the directions outlined above.

Rezumat

Aceasta teza de abilitare prezinta o imagine de ansamblu a realizarilor mele stiintifice, academice si profesionale din ultimul deceniu, realizate dupa sustinera tezei de doctorat, in contextual stadiului actual al cercetarii stiintifice din domenii precum sociologia militara, studiile de securitate si a analizei politicilor publice.

In timpul scrierii tezei am realizat ca subiectul cheie care strabate ca un fir rosu activitatea mea de cercetare, didactica sau realizarile profesionale este reprezentat de *aplicarea cunoasterii generate de catre stiintele sociale in proiectarea si implementarea politicilor publice*.

Aceasta abordare m-a trimis cu gandul la cele doua scoli principale de gandire din analiza politicilor publice:

a) "modelul rationalitatii limitate", scoala de gandire care sustine ca un consens epistemic usureaza actiunea politica si

b) "modelul incremental" (muddling through), scoala de gandire care sustine ca de obicei elaborarea politicilor publice nu este intemeiata pe argumente stiintifice ci se face incremental.

Subiectul ales ma plaseaza mai aproape de prima scoala de gandire, a rationalitatii limitate, al carei reprezentant ilustru este Herbert Simon.

Experienta mea de cercetare si de proiectare a politicilor publice ar putea oferi argumente in sprijinul acestei scoli. Consider ca, in contextual romanesc de dupa 1990, caracterizat de transferuri de politici-model (vezi cazul politicilor monetare promovate de catre institutiile internationale in realizarea economiei de piata sau a modelului politicii de aparare, promovate de catre NATO) si de aplicarea politicilor publice de sus in jos acest model este cel ce caracterizeaza epoca.

Acest lucru nu exlude faptul ca, in realitate, a existat o rezistenta la schimbare si ca politicile au fost deseori implementate dupa modelul incremental. Trebuie sa clarific faptul ca

teza mea nu este una de tip deductiv, titlul a venit mai degraba ca un motto, ca o concluzie a auto-analizei activitatii mele de cercetare si a activitatii profesionale.

In aceasta teza de abilitare argumentez ca rolul principal al stiintelor sociale este acela de a contribui la formularea de propuneri de politici judicioase, bazate pe dovezi stiintifice si argumente valide, politici publice capabile de a initia si gestiona schimbarile sociale.

Cariera mea academica si profesionala s-a axat pe doua domenii principale, domenii pe care vreau sa le scot in evidenta in aceasta teza de abilitare: *relatiile civil-militare* si *analiza politicilor publice*.

Cariera mea academica s-a impletit mereu cu o cariera profesionala in formularea si implementarea politicilor publice.

Astfel, am descoperit domeniul sociologiei militare ca un spatiu neexplorat in cadrul studiilor doctorale, intrucat sociologia militara a fost fie interzisa, odata cu domeniul sociologiei generale, dupa anii 1970, fie a functionat ideologic la nivelul catorva institutii militare subordonate Consiliului Politic Superior al Armatei.

Subiectul meu principal de cercetare a fost reprezentat de *relatiile civil-militare*, subiect ce isi are radacina in sociologia militara dar a fost explorat si de alte domenii ale stiintelor sociale, precum stiintele politice, studiile de securitate nationala sau politicile publice.

Dintre temele specifice teoriei relatiilor civil-militare pe care le-am explorat in profunzime amintesc pe cele ale *controlului democratic civil asupra armatei* (Zulean, 2003a, 2004c, 2007a, 2012e), *diferentele culturale intre fortele armate si societatea-mama* (Zulean, 2005, 2010d) si *reforma sectorului de securitate* (Zulean, 2003c, 2004a, 2004b, 2008b, 2009).

Contributia mea concreta la acest domeniu poate fi evidentiata pe scurt astfel: am analizat din perspectiva interdisciplinara relatiile civil-militare, pe baza unor concepte si metodologii comune din sociologia militara, studiile de securitate si stiintele politice, apoi am reusit sa am o intelegere clara si profunda a relatiilor civil-militare din Romania, explicand fenomenul tranzitiei relatiilor civil-militare de tip autoritar-comunist catre un model democratic si am prezentat concluziile cercetarilor mele mediului academic international, mai ales in cadrul proiectului finalizat cu editarea cartii *Social Science and the Military*.

Se poate constata ca interesul meu de cercetare a pornit de la studii de caz (modelul romanesc), apoi a evoluat catre realizarea de analize comparative de nivel regional (despre sud-estul Europei, Marea Neagra sau estul Europei) ajungand ca, in prezent, sa studiez relatiile civil-militare din perspectiva globala. Referintele bibliografice si lista de citari probeaza notorietatea internationala de care se bucura studiile mele din domeniul sociologiei militare.

Pe baza acestei notorietati am devenit membru al unor organizatii renumite de cercetare, precum Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, Comitetul RC 01 al International Sociological Association sau membru al Consiliului editorial al revistei *Political and Military Sociology*, una dintre cele doua reviste academice de prestigiu din lume ce publica studii din acest domeniu.

In ceea ce priveste punerea in practica a propunerilor de politici si a cunostintelor de sociologie militara, mentionez ca am fost decorat, in 2004, cu "Virtutea Militara", pentru contributia la integrarea Romaniei in NATO.

In domeniul analizei politicilor publice am contribuit in calitate de coautor la scrierea unuia dintre primele manuale de Politici Publice din literatura romaneasca, fiind implicat ulterior in proiecte de analiza prospectiva si de politici publice si in predarea cursurilor de analiza a politicilor publice, in cadrul Universitatii din Bucuresti.

Am elaborat o serie de analize de politici publice sectoriale pe care le voi grupa ca: *analize pentru domeniul securitatii nationale* (2011a, 2012b), *analize pentru domeniul invatamantului superior* (2011c, 2012c, 2012a) si *analize pentru alte domenii de politici publice* (2011b, 2012d).

De asemenea, am creat un program de master in domeniul Administratie si Politici Publice Europene. Acestea sunt principalele contributii care vor fi explicate mai departe, in conexiune cu stadiul actual al analizei politicilor publice in lume, in special la nivel european.

Activitatea didactica a urmat modelul pro-activ al "triplei elice" de cercetare-predare-politici publice, rezultatele cercetarilor mele fiind integrate in activitatea de predare, iar intrebarile si problemele ridicate de catre studenti devenind parte a cercetarilor mele ulterioare sau subiect al analizelor de politici publice.

In ceea ce priveste planurile de viitor, obiectivul meu principal pe termen lung este acela de a-mi perfectiona cunostintele si abilitatile personale pentru a contribui la conceperea si implementarea unor politici publice mai bune in Romania, politici bazate pe dovezi si argumente stiintifice, sa contribui la dezvoltarea culturii administrative si la perfectionarea abilitatilor analitice pentru functionarii publici din Romania.

Obiectivele mele pe termen scurt sunt legate de continuarea cercetarilor pe cel putin patru directii/teme. Cele patru teme pe care as dori sa le cercetez sunt urmatoarele: *impactul globalizarii asupra politicilor publice; "soldatul si statul" in epoca globalizarii; foresight ca instrument de analiza a politicilor publice si capitalul intelectual in cadrul economiei cunoasterii.*

Textul tezei abilitare prezentat mai jos dezvolta principalele teme si subiecte prezentate succinct in acest Rezumat.

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