

# Mihai S. Rusu

Research CV

## Associate Professor of Sociology, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

PhD Coordinator in Sociology • Habilitated in Sociology

Research areas: sociology of memory, cultural heritage, critical toponymy, political sociology, death studies

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Current role	Editorial roles	Research profile
Associate Professor, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu	Associate Editor, <i>European Societies</i>	5 books • 60 peer-reviewed articles
Independent expert for the Romanian National Research Authority	Associate Editor, <i>Frontiers in Sustainable Cities</i> Editorial Board Member, <i>Genealogy</i>	34 articles in WoS Core Collection Google Scholar: 923 citations, h-index 16, i10-index 30

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu — Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (October 2023–present)

Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu — Lecturer (October 2017–October 2023)

Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu — Assistant Lecturer (February 2016–October 2017)

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca — Adjunct Lecturer (October 2013–June 2014)

## QUALIFICATIONS

PhD Coordinator in Sociology — Doctoral School of Social Sciences, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (January 2024)

Habilitation in Sociology — University of Bucharest; thesis: “Power, Memory, and Identity: The Politics of the Past in Postsocialist Romania” (May 2022)

PhD in Sociology — Babeş-Bolyai University; thesis on Romanian national memory and the political management of the past (2010–2014)

Postdoctoral studies in Sociology — Babeş-Bolyai University; project: “Shifting Loyalties: Romanian Patriotism in the Age of Postnationalism” (2014–2015)

## INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS AND VISITING POSITIONS

Xi’an University, China — Invited Professor (April 2026)

Xi’an Fanyi University, China — Invited Professor (April 2025)

Università degli Studi di Palermo, Italy — Visiting Researcher (December 2022)

University of Bologna, Italy — Visiting Research Fellow (September–October 2021)

European University Institute, Florence, Italy — Visiting Research Fellow (January–February 2020)

Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom — Visiting Research Fellow (April–June 2015)

Georg Eckert Institute, Braunschweig, Germany — Visiting PhD Student (October 2012–March 2013)

## RESEARCH GRANTS

### Principal Investigator / Project Coordinator

- NAMESCAPE — “The Politics of Street (Re-)Naming Practices: Symbolic Geographies and Identity Landscapes in Postsocialist Romania”, Projects for Young Research Teams TE 2019 (2020–2022).

- ONOMA — “Names, Places, and Identities: The Nominal Order and Toponymic Regime of Post-Socialist Romania”, Lucian Blaga University Excellence Grant (2020–2022).
- THANATOS — “The Sacralisation of Politics within the Iron Guard’s Ideology of Thanatic Ultra-Nationalism”, Postdoctoral Project Competition PD 2016 (2018–2020).
- “States of Mourning: A Quantitative Analysis of National Mournings across European Countries”, UEFISCDI Mobility Project (2018).
- “Understanding Transnational Roma Migration: Challenges and Perspectives for Romania and Norway”, EEA/Norway Grants partnership project (2016–2017).

#### **Research team member**

- “European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage” — RCH, Horizon Europe (2026–2035), ULBS representative in the RCH consortium.
- ELABCHROM — “Establishing a Laboratory of Cultural Heritage in Central Romania”, Horizon Europe (2023–2025), WP coordinator.
- Projects on overlapping crises, Romanian migration projects, and return migration (2025–2026), postdoctoral researcher.
- Additional team roles in projects on digital literary analysis, return to work, and social capital.

## **EDITORIAL AND EVALUATION ROLES**

#### **Journal editorial roles**

- Associate Editor, *European Societies* (since March 2026).
- Editorial Board Member, *Genealogy* (since August 2025).
- Associate Editor, *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities: Social Inclusion in Cities* (since July 2025); previously Review Editor (2022–2025).

#### **Research evaluation**

- Expert evaluator for the European Commission (Horizon Europe).
- Independent expert for the National Research Authority, Ministry of Education and Research, Romania (since July 2025).
- Reviewer for grant applications for the National Science Centre, Poland (NCN).

#### **Peer-review activity**

- Reviewer for leading journals including *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, *Political Geography*, *Cities*, *Journal of Historical Geography*, *Nationalities Papers*, *European Societies*, *Acta Sociologica*, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, *Millennium*, *Death Studies*, and *Mortality*.
- Reviewer for Routledge book proposals.

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books**

- *Viața socială în pandemie. Muncă, echilibru familie-muncă și siguranța locului de muncă în România* (2024), with A. Popa, L. Pogan, and G. Guțoiu.
- *Locuri ale memoriei: politicile simbolice ale spațiului public într-un oraș memorial* (2023).
- *Politici ale memoriei în România postsocialistă: atitudini sociale față de redenumirea străzilor și înlăturarea statuilor*, with A. Croitoru (2022).
- *Delicii prozaice: bârfa ca practică socială a vieții cotidiene* (2020).
- *Memoria națională românească. Facerea și prefacerile discursive ale trecutului național* (2015).

#### **Selected journal articles**

- “What’s Done is Done”: Coming to Terms with the Memorial De-Communization of Public Space in Romania. *Memory Studies* (2025, with A. Croitoru).
- Letters of Recognition: The Spatial Inscription of Literature in the Romanian Street Nomenclature. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* (2025, with S. Baghiu).
- Post-Socialist “Cancel Culture”? The Contested Politics of Memory in Post-Socialist Romania. *Cultural History* (2025).

- “No Woman’s Land?” The Gendered Patterning of Urban Street Names in Romania. *Women’s Studies International Forum* (2024).
- “Eminescu is Everywhere”: Charting the Memorial Spatialization of a National Icon. *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies* (2024).
- Modeling Toponymic Change: A Multilevel Analysis of Street Renaming in Postsocialist Romania. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* (2024).
- Sequencing Toponymic Change: A Quantitative Longitudinal Analysis of Street Renaming in Sibiu, Romania. *PLoS ONE* (2021).
- Staging Death: Christofascist Necropolitics during the National Legionary State in Romania, 1940–1941. *Nationalities Papers* (2021).
- Political Patterning of Urban Namescapes and Post-socialist Toponymic Change: A Quantitative Analysis of Three Romanian Cities. *Cities* (2020).
- Nations in Black: Charting the National Thanatopolitics of Mourning across European Countries. *European Societies* (2020).
- Mapping the Political Toponymy of Educational Namescapes: A Quantitative Analysis of Romanian School Names. *Political Geography* (2019).
- Shifting Urban Namescapes: Street Name Politics and Toponymic Change in a Romanian(ised) City. *Journal of Historical Geography* (2019).
- Transitional Politics of Memory: Political Strategies of Managing the Past in Post-Communist Romania. *Europe-Asia Studies* (2017).

### SELECTED INVITED TALKS

- Keynote address, Xi’an University, China — “Gendering Symbolic Space: Urban Street Names and the Politics of Visibility” (April 2026).
- Keynote address, Xi’an University, China — “The Global Linguistic Stadiascape: A Worldwide Analysis of Football Stadium Names” (April 2024).
- UrbanMetaMapping Semester Talks, Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg — “Renaming the Streetscape in Postsocialist Romania: A Quantitative Approach at the National Level” (March 2024).
- University of Bologna — “The Thanatopolitics of Mourning: The National Days of Mourning in European Countries” (February 2020).

### ACADEMIC METRICS

Books	Peer-reviewed articles	WoS Core Collection articles	Google Scholar	Web of Science / Scopus
5	60	34	923 citations • h-index 16 i10-index 30	197 / 182 citations • h-index 9 / 10