



“Space, Image, Text, Territory” Doctoral School / CESI (SITT DS/ CESI)

The SITT DS/CESI department and its didactic programs are organized within the Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest, in accordance with the Collaboration Agreement with the Centre of Excellence in the Study of Image (CESI).

Research Mission and Objectives

The innovative vision of SITT DS/ CESI is matched by its multidisciplinary approach: established as a school of advanced studies (research masters, scientific doctorates and postdoctoral *cluster*) in the field of Humanities and Liberal Arts, it gives students the possibility to create unique curriculums and specializations through the credit transfer system; students are provided with a curriculum from which they can choose a variety of courses, research laboratories and professional research internship.

Since its foundation SITT DS/ CESI has assumed a strategic role in developing innovative programs and launching new study directions in Romania - the study of the visual, as part of older Cultural Studies and more recent Multimedia Studies, in relation to the arts, architecture, image theory and the study of visual culture in contemporary society.

The applied research courses called “laboratories” facilitated by SITT DS / CESI give the doctoral students the opportunity to participate directly and have access to the theatrical or visual creation; meet important artists from Bucharest; work in art museums and national theatres, and in research institutes; explore international platforms, archives, foundations, and other types of international cultural institutions; and participate in events open to members of the SITT DS / CESI scientific community.

The graduate programme at SITT DS/CESI provides opportunities to study culture and arts beyond national and disciplinary boundaries. The educational objective of both fields is to train graduates students to conduct research that engages an interdisciplinary and critical approach to culture.

The PhD programme is singular among the programmes offered at the University of Bucharest for its opening toward visual and cultural studies, philosophical and methodological



investigations. The strength of our graduate programme lies in the combination of theoretical pursuits with applied studies. Philosophical and theoretical training intersects with studies in a variety of areas pertaining to global, visual, and cultural studies and in-depth study of local Romanian culture and art history.

A highlight of our programme is the critical engagement with methodology in both literary and cultural/visual studies.

The SITT DS/CESI research infrastructure consists of individual and common spaces for courses and research, a specialised library, multimedia practical work classes, organised in the two main buildings where it carries out its activity (the Faculty of Letters and the CESI headquarters at 179 Traian Street).

Doctoral study fields

SITT DS/ CESI is part of the fundamental domain Humanities and Liberal Arts (current title) with a multidisciplinary activity. It organises two doctoral programs: one in Philology, from 2005, and another one in Cultural Studies, from 2016.

Doctoral supervisors working at SITT DS/ CESI have a high degree of specialisation and international recognition in interdisciplinary areas of the doctoral school.

PhD supervisors in the field of Cultural Studies

SITT DS/CESI organised the first four Habilitations in the Cultural Studies field; two of the academics having obtained their Habilitation (tenured academics at the University of Bucharest) were affiliated with CESI and have been supervising PhDs since October 1st, 2016: Professor Caius Dobrescu, PhD, Habilitation, and Associate Professor Ileana Marin, PhD, Habilitation.

PhD supervisors in the field of Philology at SITT DS/ CESI

- Tenured faculty: prof. dr. habil. Vlad Alexandrescu, assoc. prof. dr. habil. Alexandra Vrânceanu (affiliated with SITT DS/CESI)
- Associated: prof. dr. emeritus Sorin Alexandrescu (SITT DS/CESI), prof. dr. emeritus Mihai Moraru, prof. dr. Mădălina Nicolaescu.



The disciplinary diversity of *visiting professors* (cultural history, historical hermeneutics, philosophy, semiotics, film studies, multimedia studies, to mention only a few) legitimizes the multi- and interdisciplinary character of SITT DS/ CESI and its doctoral programs.

Admission to doctoral study programs

The SITT DS/CESI admission exam consists in a project pertaining to one of the research topics or thematic areas proposed by one of the SITT DS/CESI doctoral supervisors. The project is defended by the candidate in front of the admission committee.

The doctoral research project is structured as follows: the project title; abstract (2 pages); literature review of the interdisciplinary or pluridisciplinary theme of the doctoral; the general background of the research; methodology that was applied to the research preceding the doctoral program admission and methodology intended for the doctoral program; updated bibliography; detailed presentation of a specific topic that is part of the overall thesis; the three year outline of the research; the doctoral candidate's publications relevant for the proposed topic.

Topics of SITT DS/ CESI admission coincide with the research areas mentioned above.

Evaluation criteria are:

- Clarity of presentation of the research topic
- Methodological rigor
- Breadth of documentation
- Pertinence of the theoretical bibliography
- Realistic outline of the three-year research period
- Interest in case studies
- Connection with previous publications in the doctoral research area.

Selection criteria are:

- Previous research activity: as provided by the candidates' *curriculum vitae*, the relation with previous scientific activity. If the candidate does not have scientific activity relevant for the doctoral program, what counts towards the admission is the candidate's general activity related to the field of proposed research.
- The answer to a question from the compulsory bibliography of the exam.



The training program based on advanced academic studies

The SITT DS / CESI curriculum provides:

- theoretical and factual knowledge, at a very advanced level in the field of study, as well as knowledge at the border between fields (Philology / theoretical literary studies, cultural / visual studies);
- advanced and specialized skills and techniques, including the ability to synthesize and evaluate, necessary to solve critical research and / or innovation issues and to expand and redefine existing knowledge;
- mature and professional attitudes, such as the assertion of a high level of well-founded and constantly updated scientific authority, openness to innovation and autonomy in critical thinking, full commitment to scientific and professional integrity and a sustained commitment to developing new ideas or documentation processes, establishment of reference corpora, theoretical foundation of analyzes and interpretations and methodological classification at the forefront of a study or research direction.

Results of the doctoral studies

The tutors for the doctoral process, a role established within SITT DS / CESI based on the CUDS documentation on measures to reduce the risk of dropping out of doctoral studies, monitor the scientific activity of doctoral students, their access to information from international research, scholarships, scientific manifestations, publications.

SITT DS / CESI organizes annually two editions of the Colloquium of doctoral students, with international participation (members of the advisory panel, other specialists), open to the external public, so that the results of the scientific activity are subject to wide discussion within the school and in the specialized environment.

SITT DS/ CESI supplements the mobility funds of its doctoral students to participate in colloquia, summer schools, joint doctoral agreements, and Erasmus exchange programs (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Università degli Studi di Roma „La Sapienza”, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Università di Pisa), through grants resulting from its own reveue.



SITT DS/ CESI has its own periodic publication titled *Text & Image*, published by the UB Press (classified by UEFISCDI 2020 as follows: A for Philology; B for History and Cultural Studies) and a trilingual journal (ENGL-RO-FR), *Images, Imagini, Images. Journal of Visual and Cultural Studies*, in which doctoral students publish articles, previously revised and recommended by their doctoral supervisors and by the members of the journal scientific board.

SITT DS/ CESI grants fellowships from its own income to doctoral students for extra-curricular activities with social and cultural impact.

The CESI founders launched the Cultural Association IMAGORA-CESI, where doctoral students develop projects, partnerships, as well as education and cultural programs for the public at large.

Administrative structure of SITT DS / CESI:

- Multidisciplinary center for advanced doctoral studies - Scientific coordinator: Professor Sorin Alexandrescu, PhD, *emeritus* at the University of Amsterdam and associate at the University of Bucharest;
- Center for Interdisciplinary Research Master Studies - with two interdisciplinary research master programs in Cultural Studies, “Theory and Practice of Images” and “Society, Multimedia, Spectacle” - Scientific coordinator: associate professor Laura Mesina, PhD;
- Postdoctoral Research Center - Scientific Coordinator: Professor *emeritus* Mihai Moraru, PhD.

Research Center Affiliated to SITT DS: The Centre of Excellence in the Study of Image (CESI), UB.

CESI organizes the research activity of the doctoral department, ensures the scientific quality of the studies, makes available and monitors the research infrastructure, extra-budgetary financial resources, and the technical team.



SITT / CESI Doctoral School Council

The Doctoral School Council (DSC) of SITT DS / CESI has in its composition (minimum) three members:

- A director (tenured at UB, elected by the doctoral supervisors affiliated with SITT DS/ CESI) – assoc. prof. dr. habil. Ileana Marin, approved by CSUD as acting chair of SITT DS/CESI for the academic year 2020-2021.
- An external person (academic or recognized researcher with a doctoral degree in Humanities and Arts, who is not an active doctoral supervisor at a doctoral school within another UDSOI), chosen by doctoral supervisors affiliated to SITT DS / CESI) - prof. univ. dr. Ioan Pânzaru, specialist in medieval French cultural studies and hermeneutics, as well as in social sciences; former rector of the University of Bucharest (two terms) and former vice-rector for Research (two terms); founding director of the Centre Régional Francophone de Recherches Avancées en Sciences Sociales, CEREFREA Villa Noël, Bucharest;
- a doctoral student chosen in accordance with the regulations in force and who is not coordinated by any of the other two members of the Council, Carmen Sârbu.

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