

The Individual at the Intersection of National, Regional and International Legal Systems

Abstract

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This habilitation thesis presents my academic trajectory, research results, teaching and professional experience, work in research supervision, and future plans. It brings these elements together around a recurring legal problem: identifying the applicable rules, competent authorities and mechanisms of review when an individual's position is governed simultaneously by public international law, European human rights law, European Union law and domestic law. The method is consistent: sources are distinguished according to their nature and effects, competences and obligations are precisely delimited, and political or institutional context is not substituted for legal analysis.

The first theoretical axis developed from my doctoral research, conducted jointly at the University of Bucharest and the University of Montpellier 1, on jurisdiction under Article 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights. It distinguished this autonomous concept from State jurisdiction in general international law, examining territory, the exercise of authority and the applicability of Convention obligations. A finding of jurisdiction establishes that the relevant obligations apply; it does not itself establish their breach. The monograph on subsidiarity shifted the focus to the distribution of responsibility between national authorities and the European Court of Human Rights. The concepts address complementary questions: the legal connection between the individual and the State, and the sequence and intensity of institutional intervention. This framework informed studies on European judicial relations, EU accession to the Convention, international organizations, dignity, equality, children's rights and freedom of expression.

A second research direction concerns the law of the sea and maritime governance. It continues the earlier work on jurisdiction, responsibility and protection of the individual, in a field where State powers depend on the maritime zone and on the capacity in which a State acts as a coastal, flag or port State. Studies on the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea, the Danube Commission, the International Maritime Organization and the interaction between maritime activities and human rights examined cooperation, navigation, resource use, environmental protection and persons aboard vessels. OCEANGO enabled a comparative study of the global consequences of regional maritime disputes. This research separates geopolitical explanation from legal demonstration and identifies the legal title for each power exercised.

The results take the form of a doctoral thesis, a monograph, a university textbook, journal articles, chapters and reports published in Romanian, French and English. Research has been connected with teaching public international law, the law of treaties, European human rights law and the international supervision of rule-of-law standards, and with projects on freedom of expression, media freedom, implementation of judgments and access to remedies. Case-law analysis, moot courts, simulated negotiations and legal writing train students to distinguish

sources, reconstruct judicial reasoning and formulate conclusions commensurate with the evidence.

The thesis also examines the coordination of master's dissertations and participation in doctoral advisory committees. Recurring methodological difficulties include overly broad subjects, implicit research questions, sources of different legal value placed on the same level, confusion between political context and legal argument, and conclusions extending beyond the demonstration. I understand supervision as methodological guidance compatible with intellectual independence: it assists in delimiting the subject, formulating the hypothesis, defining the corpus of sources, testing the argument and observing research ethics, while the conclusions remain those of the candidate and must withstand critical examination.

Future research will continue three connected areas: human rights and the rule of law; the law of the sea and maritime governance, particularly the Black Sea; and the law of treaties and relations between legal orders. The first includes jurisdiction, subsidiarity, implementation of judgments, freedom of expression and digital transformation. The maritime agenda covers navigation and environmental security, armed conflict, flag-State due diligence, illegal fishing and guarantees for persons controlled or sanctioned at sea. Treaty law will support work on interpretation, domestic effects, non-binding instruments and interaction among international, EU and national law. Legal resilience will connect these projects through one question: to what extent can norms and institutions respond to conflict, technological change and pressure on multilateralism and the rule of law without abandoning legality, foreseeability, legal review and the protection of fundamental rights?

After habilitation, I intend to contribute to a doctoral working community in public international law and human rights within the existing structures of the Doctoral School and the Faculty's research centres. Methodology seminars, discussions of case law and draft chapters, writing workshops, research projects and international partnerships should help doctoral candidates work with primary sources, submit arguments to criticism and prepare mature publications. The thesis thus marks a transition from an individual academic trajectory to responsibility for training autonomous researchers. It does not claim that the plurality of legal orders can be reduced to one model; it argues that their interaction can be analysed rigorously by distinguishing sources, competences, obligations and forms of review, while keeping the individual at the centre as the holder of rights and the person affected by the exercise of public authority.