

**Universitatea „Aurel Vlaicu” din Arad**  
**Școala Doctorală Interdisciplinară (ȘDI) a UAV Arad**  
**Domeniul Asistență Socială**

**Habilitation Thesis**  
**Abstract**

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Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași

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**THE ROLE OF THE SOCIO-FAMILY ENVIRONMENT IN  
THE PARADIGM OF ASSISTED DESISTANCE AND  
VICTIM PROTECTION**

**Candidata:**

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The habilitation thesis entitled "**The role of the socio-familial environment in the paradigm of assisted desistance and the protection of the victim**" is structured in three parts, preceded by an introduction with reference to the synthesis of the main scientific and didactic results, as follows:

### **1. The socio-legal research on the family in the European socio-cultural context**

From a widely contextualized socio-cultural and anthropological perspective, with theological valence, socio-legal research on the family and child in the European context we aimed at revealing some aspects of manifestation of *modernism and (post)modernism* in the sphere of family life through the *theory of secularization* as well as the impacts of dysfunctional / secularization phenomena of modern society on the family in the "globalized" contemporary society. Starting from the definition of "secularization" whose "inner tension" outlines the main phrases of the "thesis of secularization", by combining the philosophical-theological plan and the dimensions of the *sociological plan* – "the decadence of religion", "the mundanization of the religious", "the desacralisation", "the privatization of religion" or "the transposition of religious forms into secular mechanisms", we aim at approaching the debatable way of repoting ourselves to modernity and (post)modernity. From the perspective of the *socio-anthropological paradigms* of knowing the *phenomenon of secularization*, we have in view the "Protestant ethic", "challenges of the otherness and the new interreligious dialogue", "the culture of recognition", "the invisible religion" or "the civil religion". *The sociological speech* about *the effects of secularization* on the modern family, specifically *the filiation and parenting*, combines the perspective of *sociology of religions* and the systemic-functionalist guidelines correlated with the symbolic interactionism within *family sociology* by deploying values and principles of Christian morality and philosophical ethics transposed to the *family life* through *Christian Bioethics*.

The way in which modernity understands itself, as compared to the family environment, highlights the influences on *defining* and *structuring the family system*, on the *family environment* and the *family educational climate*, as well as on the functions society expects from the family. Mainly, the research is focused on highlighting *the*

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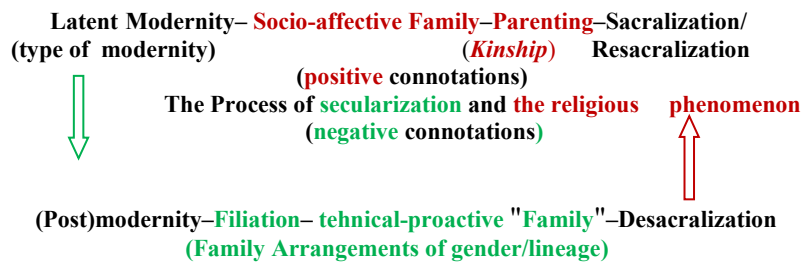
*issues of the current family* in the triad *family-community-society*, from the perspective of philosophical ethics vs Christian morality concretely specified in the principles of Christian bioethics, analysing in turn aspects regarding ***the typology of the couple, filiation and parenting***. Having in view the practical-axiological finality, the analysis of family subsystems from the perspective of the various ways of manifestation of family life in the context of modern and postmodern secular society, aims at outlining ***strategies of social and family policy*** on long, medium and short-term, having in view the concrete reality of the ***socio-emotional*** as well as the ***technical-proactive construction***, of the family environment as a whole, with spiritual and religious valence.

From the perspective of ***nuanced knowledge***, we had in view a quantitative/qualitative analysis both of the impact of applying the Christian morality on ***couple responsibility***, and of the ***reproduction responsibility*** correlated with ***parental responsibility***, results of the „psychological, social and cultural construction” during *the family life cycle* combining one's ***personal capital*** and ***one's socio-cultural-religious capital***. We also identified ***the functional aspects*** as well as the ***dysfunctional socio-emotional and spiritual-religious ones*** from level of the ***subsystem couple***, which could directly or indirectly have influenced ***the natural desire/willingness to have children*** and therefore ***the assuming of parenting*** correlated with the ***gradual empowerment of the child***, depending on age and degree of maturity.

The research hypotheses are based on the central idea of the role played by „kinship” or "spiritual parenting" in ***the dialectics of manifestation of secularization*** as a cultural and historical process assuring the Christian "faith conditions". Therefore, the ***cultural-religious*** component of the ***intergenerational lineage*** can orient ***the strategies of secularization*** in either a negative or positive sense.

- a. *Kinship or parenting in a broad sense*, including "spiritual kinship", through religious identification, acts as *an axiologic filter* carefully differentiating between *the cultural-religious options at a family, personal and community level* and ensuring *the cultural and religious identity in general, as well as the Orthodox identity in particular*;
- b. The Continuity of Kinship supported by the "genealogical memory" helps the "desecularization of faith" and the accumulation of Christian religious capital

- ("ontological credits") that constitute the resources directed at obtaining stability, harmony, positivity inter- and intrafamily relations across generations (three or four generations in the case study on family cycle);
- c. The "secularization-event" activates the "ontological credits" enhancing the *resacralization phenomenon of family life* manifested in *the rehabilitation of the individual from Christian Orthodox point of view*.



The results of the research in the socio-family field have a direct impact on the protection of the family and the child in the contemporary society, this being a priority dictated first of all by the need to support the family in the effort of coping with the challenges in the *secularising and secularised world* by *saving the cultural contents and traditional values* transposed in the diversity of the manifestation shapes of modernity and (post) modernity. In the tense *family-community-society triad* which maintains the vicious circle of problems and “family crises”, where shall we start from? We consider that we can start from the *invigorating* of “the affective conjugality” within *the religious wedding*, namely *the Holy Secret of Matrimony*”, which should attract *the parent invigorating* in a *dynamic equilibrium* between *maternity* and *paternity* and which should represent *an essential resource* for the development of the children’s own identity as well as their self-respect to others; and which should also allow *the taking over and the progressive undertaking of the responsibilities* to *the family* first of all and certainly to the *own social-professional becoming*.

## 2. Criminological / victimological research in the paradigm of desistance and theories of rehabilitation

The second direction of scientific research braided with the prospect of family protection in European context, which is based on the professional experience in the correctional field refers to criminology, aggressology and victimology in the social

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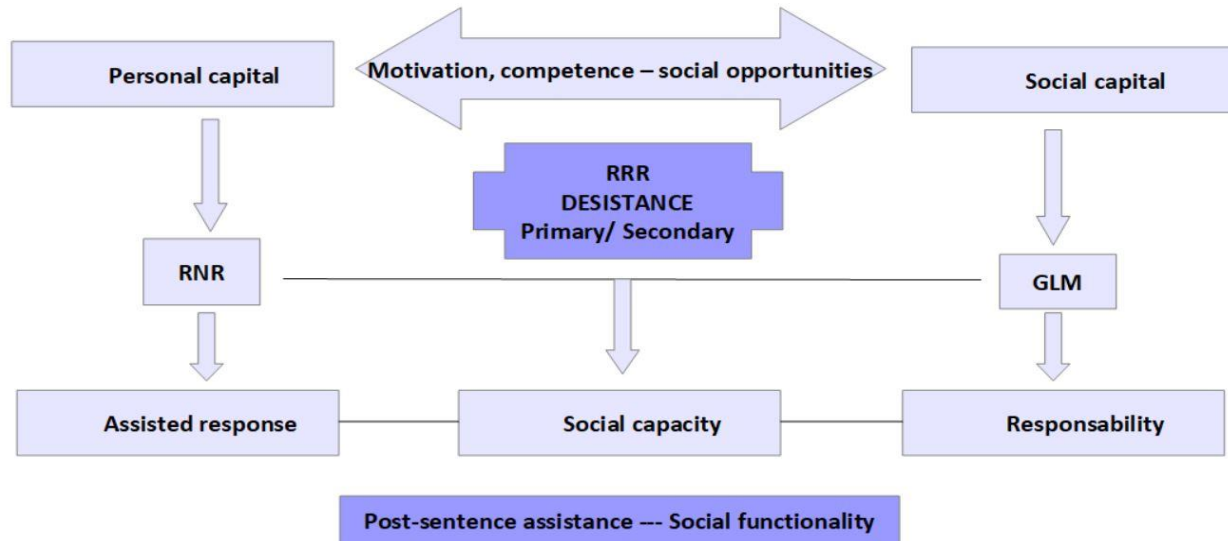
assistance of people who show deviant, delinquency / criminal behavior. The interest for the field of criminology and sociology of the deviance remained constant after the title of doctor in law (2000), the scientific challenge being determined, first of all, by the applications in the field of probation and protection of certain categories of crimes from the perspective of criminology / aggression and clinical victimology. Thus, starting from the estimation / empirical evaluation of the criminal risk factors and of the potential criminogenic needs, the clinical approach was oriented towards highlighting the influences of the socio-family environment / intervening, in certain situations as a protective / inhibitor of criminal behavior. Relevant from this point of view are the approaches, which correlate "family violence", with "juice delinquency / crime", emphasizing the double and sometimes, the fatigue of the family that intervenes, in certain proportions, or as a risk factor of "relapse" / "recidivism", or as an inhibitory factor of the delinquency / impact, with the impact, psycho-socio-legal of delinquency / criminality ”.

The results of the investigations in the field of criminology were synthesized in the volume of author, which brings to the attention the modern forms of social reaction against crime from the perspective of the evolution of explanatory paradigms in the field of the sociology of deviance, of the criminology / victimology correlated to the criminal execution law. If until recently, the problem of crime was approached through the prism of the "risk carrier" with all the psychosocial implications, at present, without neglecting the "risk of relapse", the emphasis is focused on "relapse" combined with "desisting" in a preventive and restorative approach. Thus, current criminological theories bring to the center of attention the protective factors to the "criminogenic needs" and "criminogenic risk", hereinafter referred to as inhibitors of the criminal conduct and which represent, practically, the premise from which the dynamic psychosocial intervention starts in the efficiency of the act of justice.

As a result, the paradigm of desistance represents an indispensable stage in the process of rehabilitation and social inclusion of persons committing delinquency / criminal acts, activating equally both the "personal capital" and those of the "share capital". The new approach provides practically, content to the community programs to reduce the risk of recidivism in equally both the psychosocial supervision and assistance

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within the correctional system, as well as the post-penal assistance on the principle of continuity and of the functional inter-institutional collaboration.



***Scheme 2 The Paradigm of Desistance from the Perspective of the RRR Program***

**Reducing the Risk of Relapse After Prison**

**The Recidivism Process (II)**

In this sense, the clinical approach proposes alternative models of restorative justice exemplifying through the evaluation, supervision and assistance processes made for the aggressor, in order to estimate and risk management, referring to the protective factors and to the victim behavior. The results (micro)research contribute, both to the construction of the psychosocio-legal intervention plan for the aggressor-perspectives of rehabilitation and social inclusion-as well as to the elaboration of psychosocio-legal strategies oriented towards the protection of the victim.

Within these research areas we consider a methodological approach on the coordinates of the various types of activities - the presentence / postsentence evaluation of the accused / convicted persons, the process of supervision / assistance in the community, the preparation for release and the post-penal assistance - inserted in the procedures specific to the correctional system. As a result, clinical research highlights the

specific methodology of the probation system but also the novelty of the approach in the penitentiary system in full institutional reform. The psychosocial surveillance and assistance of the aggressor within the correctional system represents, practically, a first step towards the victim-aggressor mediation, aspects confirmed by the legislation regarding the protection of the victim and the mediation in the criminal jurisdiction.

The integration of the results of the research on the prediction of the risk of recidivism in a European socio-legal framework foreshadows certain evolutionary tendencies of the practice and the anti-criminal policy in our country, which have as the reform of the criminal justice, with an emphasis on the efficiency of the justice act and the humanization of the repression within the private or non-correction system. The correlation of the risk of criminal recidivism with, the rehabilitative practices within the correctional system signals that, the estimation of the risk under the three forms - the risk of committing crimes of the same kind, the risk of self-victimization and the risk for public safety - is achieved through a clinical, subjective approach, in the absence of standardized instruments, in the basis of the risk of relapse. As a result, the estimation of the risk of relapse through the development of standardized criminogenic risk assessment tools is a priority of criminological investigation at the national level supported by the need for scientific knowledge that determines the reiteration of criminal conduct, aspects that can subsequently define, the concept of "criminal career" and "specialization" to the offender.

### **3. Project for teaching and research career in the field of family protection in the European context, crime control and victim protection**

a. Proposals for the development of teaching and research career in the field of family protection in the European context.

b. Proposals for the development of teaching and research career in the field of criminology / victimology.

c. Proposals for the development of teaching and research career in the field of theory and method in social assistance / foundations of modern social assistance / introduction to social assistance.



d. Proposals for the development of teaching and research career in the field of social medicine and social assistance of people with chronic and terminal illnesses.

e. Proposals for the development of teaching and research career in the field of applied social assistance and specialized practice.

f. Coordination of projects in the field of academic institutional development in partnership with some institutions in the correctional system - territorial probation structures and penitentiary.

g. Proposals for the development of teaching and research careers simultaneously with the promotion and professional training / specialization in the field of "social assistance" and community development / security.