

# **THE RESEARCH ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY AT THE WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA**

- The interest for the cultural diversity is, at this moment, one of the consubstantial defining elements of the West University of Timișoara.



- The interest for the cultural diversity at the West University of Timișoara is supported by arguments which links it to :
  - - the institutional history;
  - - the history of the themes researched by the Humanities departments



The configuration  
of the West  
University of  
Timișoara  
between 1944  
and 1956  
(changes of the  
official positions  
towards cultural  
diversity)



- **1944** - The Royal Decree 660/Dec. 30:
- The West University is the fourth university of the national system





## ○ 1956:

Founding, in  
parallels, of two lines  
of study:

- Romanian literature  
and language,
- German literature  
and language.

- Both were  
dedicated to the  
local communities.



- After 1990:  
The West  
University failed  
to become an  
university which  
marched towards  
the idea of  
diversity.



- **The cultural diversity can be listed together with the themes of study specific to the Humanistic domains:**

**An example:**

in the Archive of Folklore of the West University of Timișoara and of the Fund of the Ethnographical films, a number of ethnographical films about the communities of Swabians or Serbians from Banat can be listed along with a series of productions resulted from the field researches in the Romanian villages.





- 5. *ROSMARIN – German folk custom from Banat.*  
Authors: Gabriel Manolescu, Vasile Crețu, Sandu Dragoș.  
Location: Giarmata – Timiș County, 1968, 12 minutes,  
black and white, sound mgt. (with a comment in  
Romanian and German).



8. *KIRCHWEIN in Bacova*. Authors: Iohann Dietrich.  
Location: Bacova – Timiș County, 1969, 23 minutes, black and white, no sound.



- *12. Swabians games during the Carnival.*  
Authors: Gabriel Manolescu, Sandu Dragoș.  
Location: Bacova – Timiș County, 1970, 19  
minutes, black and white, no sound.



- 13. *The Swabian Wedding*.
- Authors: Gabriel Manolescu, Sandu Dragoș, W. Konschitzki. Location: Bacova – Timiș County, 1970, 29 minutes, black and white, no comments.



- 14. *Trachtenfest*.
- Authors: Gabriel Manolescu, Sandu Dragoș.  
Location: Variaș – Timiș, 1970, 10 minutes, black and white, mgt. sound.





- *17. The Convoy of the Masks in Serbian Community of Moldova Veche.*
- Authors: Ilie Birău, Ioan Dietrich. Location: Moldova Veche – Caraș-Severin County, 1971, 9 minutes, black and white, sound mgt.



- 32. *The Carnival in the Romanian and Serbian communities from Clisura Dunării.*
- Authors: Gabriel Manolescu, Sandu Dragoș. Location: Moldova Nouă and other villages along the Clisura Dunării, 1978, 30 minutes, black and white, negative, mgt. Sound.



- 33. *The Masked at Liubcova.*
- Authors: Gabriel Manolescu, Sandu Dragoș.  
Location: Liubcova, Caraș-Severin County, 1978,  
5 minutes, black and white, negative, no sound.



○ 43. *Bacova – 200.*

Author: Lucian Ionică. Location: Bacova – Timiș,  
1986, 10 minutes, black and white, negative, no  
sound.



- The context of the ethnological researches in Romania of the `70s:
  - - an national and nationalist type of ethnography ;
  - - the researches of the different groups was not admitted as a practice.





- The films enumerated previously are important because they configured a research from *outside*, made in the spirit of a naive and intuitive anthropology, in a period when this type of documents and this type of practices were not usual, but unacceptable because of the scientific paradigm and the political perspective of the time.



## ○ Identified aspects:

- *Kirchwein*
- *Praznic*
- *Fășanc*

## **In other words:**

practices which characterize the Romanian communities in Banat



- The Romanian ethnography marginalized (this is the case of Simion Florea Marian's *Sărbătorile la români*), or ignored completely these practices, because they did not fit into the national (super)model of the customs.
- *Atlasul etnografic român* (Volumul II, Banat, Crișana, Maramureș, București, Editura Enciclopedică, 2002), elaborated in the spirit of this national ethnography, underlines the similitudes, the repetitiveness, not the specificity. The particularities are not even mentioned.

- The research of cultural diversity became a theme of excellence at the West University of Timișoara in the decades after 1990.
- The theme was brought into discussion and studied, first of all, by the writers, historians, anthropologists who joined the direction of cultural reflection given by the group of *A Treia Europă*.
- In the same period of time, they became professors of the West University of Timișoara.



- The axioms which animated the entire activity of the group are:
  - - Banat is a multicultural, multiethnic, multilingual, and multi-confessional space.
  - - The study of diverse communities from Banat is a moral obligation and a preeminent scientific theme.
  - - Due to its diversity, Banat has "low potential of conflict" and it is par excellence ecumenical.





- A list of the populations in Banat:

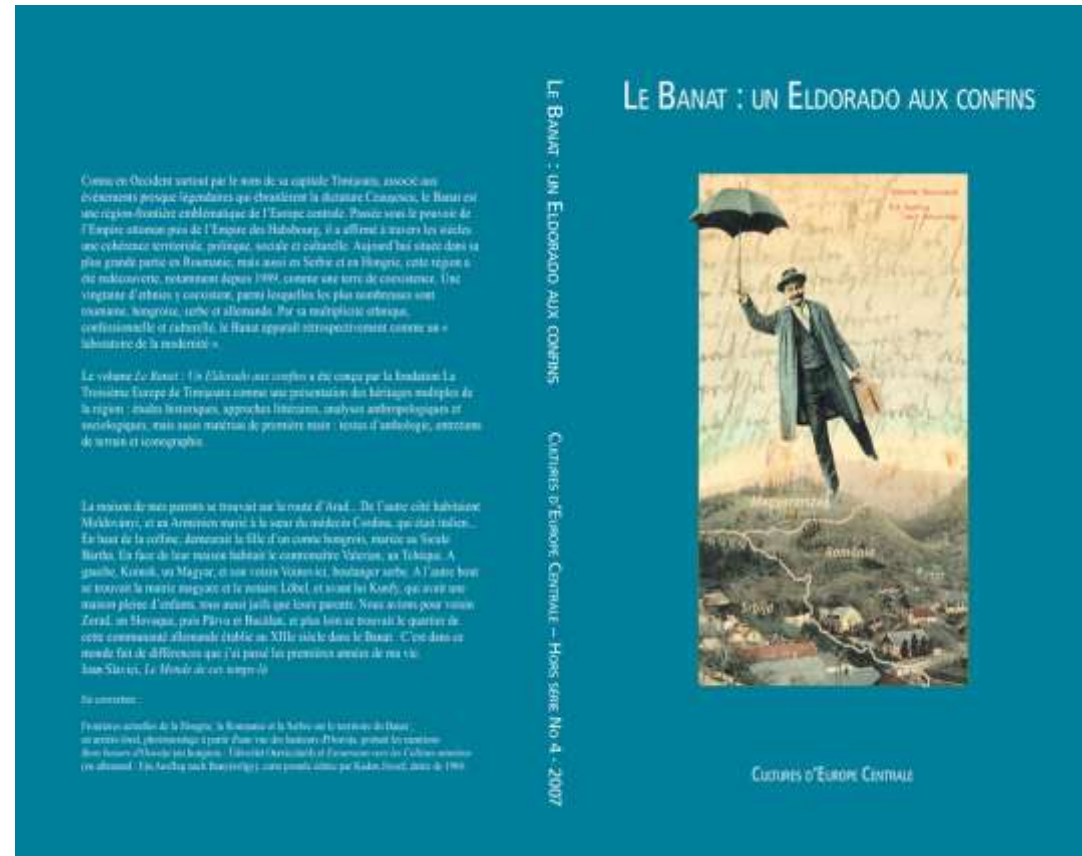
the Romanians, the Germans, the Serbs,  
the Hungarians, the Croats, the Jews, the Carașova  
community, the Italians, the French, the Ruthenians,  
the Pemi, the Slovacs, the Roma, the Aromanian and  
the Megleno-Romanian.



- The dominant image put into circulation was the one of a "golden age" generation from Banat (corresponding to the beginning of the twentieth century and the period between wars).
- Every member of this generation was supposed to be able to have a conversation in some of the languages of the above mentioned communities, especially Romanian, German, Hungarian and Serbian.



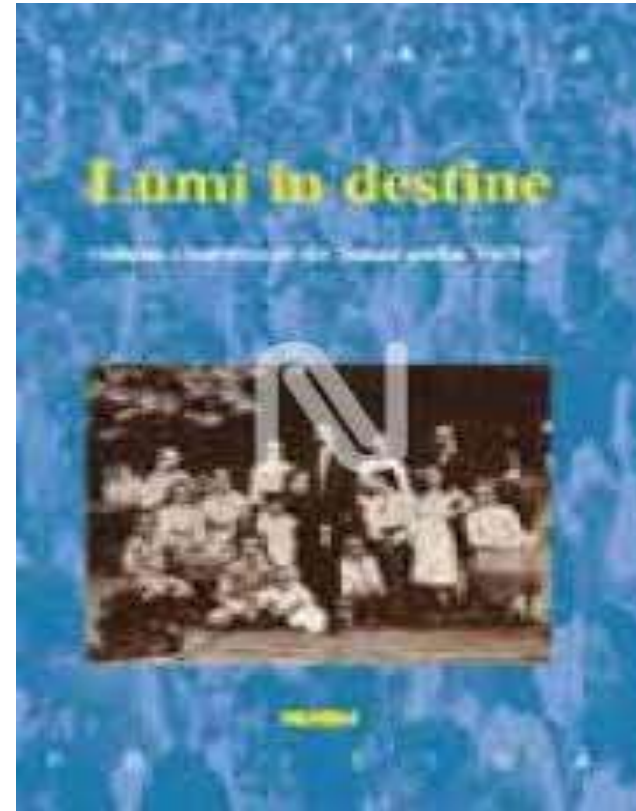
- An image derived from the civic premise: the paradisiac Banat in which the respect for difference and the tolerance are supreme values.



- *The Germans from Banat and their narrations,*
- București, Editura Paideia, 2000.

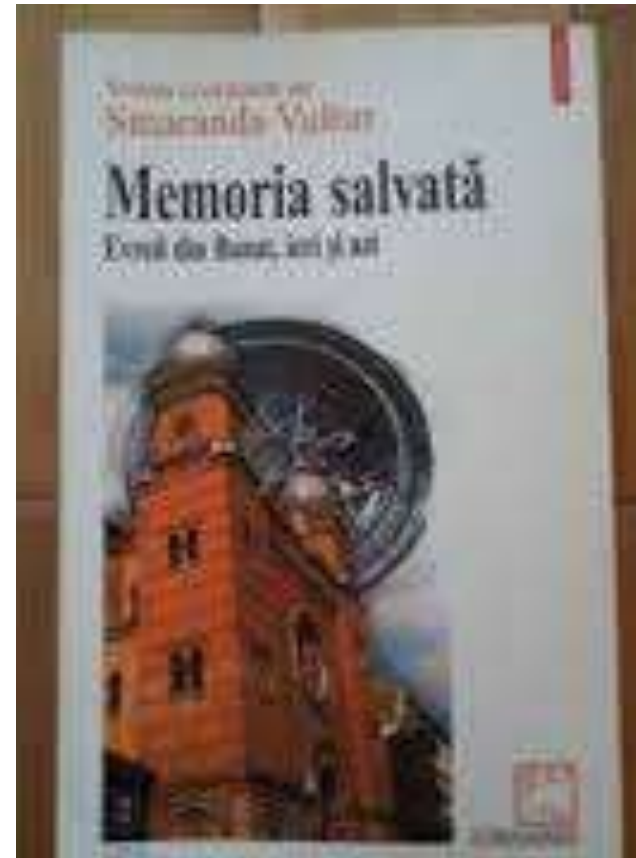


- *Worlds in Destinies.  
The Memory of the  
Generations from the  
beginning of the  
century,*
- București, Editura  
Nemira, 2000.





- *The Jews from Banat.  
The Memory Saved,*  
Iași, Editura Polirom,  
2002.



- *The French in Banat, the people from Banat in France,*
- Timișoara, Editura Marineasa, 2012.

