Application for an Award

1. Candidate

Surname: SAVA
Given name: Florin Alin
PhD in Psychology since 2005 (see an attached copy)
Current position: Professor of Psychology, Vice-Rector for Research
Institution: West University of Timisoara (Romania)
Mobile phone: -
E-mail:
ORCID ID: 0000-0001-8898-1306

2. “Gala Cercetării Românești” edition: 2024

3. Type of Award / Award category:
“Matei Dogan” Award for Social Sciences and Economics, Individual Application

4. Most relevant scientific achievements in the last five years (4 pages)

5. A narrative CV (5 pages)

6. Publications List (8 pages)

7. Grants List (1 page)

8. Additional documents (as separate documents)

8.1. The consent form (declaration) for personal data processing (1 page, in Romanian)
8.2. Copy of the Ph.D. Certificate (1 page, Romanian)
8.3. A 3-page copy document certifying my status as an invited teacher to the University of Milan-Bicocca (2 pages) and as an invited researcher to Vanderbilt University (1 page).

Florin Alin Sava
Professor of Psychology
West University of Timisoara
A description of the most important scientific achievements in the last five years

Florin Alin Sava

Mattei Dogan Award

C1. Research and/or innovative results through international books at prestigious publishers, articles in Q1 JCR AIS-based journals, or brevets

Personality Psychology is one of the most established fields of psychology, with top-tier journals like the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Social Psychological and Personality Science, European Journal of Personality, and Journal of Personality (all Q1 journals based on both AIS and JIF, and in which I have published throughout my career so far). Personality is an enduring pattern of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that differentiate and characterize an individual and explain why people respond differently to the same situation or stimuli. Personality fulfills the two primary purposes of any science: to describe and predict phenomena. For instance, we can describe a talkative person who likes to take the initiative and looks for people to interact with as extraverted (a descriptive purpose). We can also predict that an extroverted person (everything else being equal) will be more comfortable in leadership positions and is more likely than an introverted to adopt an entrepreneurial style or to end up in sales (a predictive purpose). But what makes a person more extroverted than others? While recognizing the genetic-environment interaction, most existing research focused on genetic/biological markers of various personality traits (not very successfully) while neglecting that environmental aspects could also shape our way of being (for an exception, see the cross-cultural approach).

In the last four years, I initiated and focused on a highly innovative research program investigating environmental determinants of Neuroticism in an experimental/lab setting. Neuroticism is another major psychological trait that makes people feel more emotional and predisposes people toward experiencing more negative emotions such as sadness, worry, or mood changes. Neuroticism is the most resource-consuming personality trait in terms of healthcare expenditures. Instead of looking at the genetic components that predispose some people to Neuroticism, we chose to investigate the function of Neuroticism via (evaluative) conditioning. In classical conditioning, a well-known phenomenon examined by the Nobel Prize winner Pavlov, the dog's salivation was a function of pairing food with bell ringing. The salivation ceased after several trials in which the environment changed, and the bell ringing was not paired anymore with food items. In an evaluative conditioning task, preference for a new object (conditioned stimulus - CS) is a function of pairing the CS with an unconditional stimulus (US) (i.e., a cute bunny vs. an ugly snake) [see also 29 from our publication list]. These evaluations (liked vs. disliked; positive vs. negative) are highly relevant for our behaviors (i.e., approaching liked items, avoiding
disliked items) and our emotions (i.e., showing positive emotions towards liked items and negative feelings towards disliked items). So, how do neurotics attach valence to new objects encountered in their life?

This unique and highly creative approach has been our primary research focus in the last 3-4 years. Up to this moment, it has resulted in three AIS WoS Q1 papers [see 1, 4, and 7 from the publication list], and more manuscripts are coming. One of these manuscripts [7], entitled *A Roadmap for Future Interactions between Research on Personality and Learning* is a conceptual paper in which we introduced the functional-cognitive framework that could guide researchers at the intersection between personality and learning (conditioning), setting the framework for this innovative approach in examining personality.

In the other two Q1 papers [1, 4], we addressed how Neurotics learn to attach valence (the degree of liking or disliking new stimuli). Examining valence acquisition and subsequent reactions toward a CS is highly relevant to examining the role of Neuroticism. Is it just an amplifier role (i.e., increases the effect of both negative and positive USs), or does it introduce an asymmetric bias in evaluative learning, such as attaching negative valence more easily than attaching a positive valence to a newly encountered stimulus? If data support the first hypothesis, it would mean that Neuroticism is not necessarily a malignant factor per se, psychopathological manifestations being instead an outcome of purely environmental characteristics (i.e., unemployed or poor people experience more mental health issues because they live in an adverse environment, not because they are likely to have lower N or low self-esteem). If data support the second hypothesis, it would mean Neuroticism leads to a less adaptive way of processing environmental stimuli by highlighting the negative elements of the environment.

Our data support the second hypothesis, particularly in ecological environments with both positive and negative US presence. Likewise, we found some support for an asymmetry in liking alteration in a new to-be-submitted manuscript. People scoring high on Neuroticism switch more easily from positive to negative than from negative to positive, in line with the learning bias hypothesis.

Summing up, by examining creatively the particularities of people scoring High on Neuroticism about how their preferences are formed as a function of the environment (pairing stimuli), we opened up a new avenue for investigating personality traits as at-risk factors for psychopathology. This original approach has already been recognized through three AIS JCR Q1 papers [see 1, 4, 7] and several accepted symposia at prestigious conferences (ICPS Bruxelles, 2023; ESCON Milano, 2022, ECP20 Madrid, 2022). Likewise, the coordination of a special issue in Collabra (an AIS JCR Q1 journal) on Learning and Personality represents a token of appreciation for this innovative approach of linking two apparently parallel fields, learning (environment) and personality (predispositions) for the advancement of science on a topic that is also relevant for Psychopathology and Clinical Psychology.
I will mention shortly the other four AIS JCR Q1 publications [14, 17, 18, 27, see the publication list]. These resulted from a collective effort (authors from 26+ countries, data from over 100,000 participants). For instance, [14] examined the susceptibility to conspiracy theories. We observed greater support for conspiracy theories among supporters of the opposition parties (deprived of political control), particularly those who support extreme left/right ideologies. The other three papers are related to personality psychology. Their force comes from the magnitude of effort in collecting immense amounts of data to answer various questions (i.e., in which country people are less satisfied with themselves and would like to change their personality style; how country-level optimism is related to gross product income or income inequalities).

C2. The impact of research and/or innovation activities through citations in JCR Q1 journals based on their AIS and/or through concrete outcomes or research results in the economy and/or society

My research achievements have had a significant impact on the scientific community. For instance, the publication [14] has become a Highly Cited Paper, attracting 103 citations on WoS Core Collection and 197 citations on Google Scholar since 2022. Likewise, all publications mentioned above received citations, including the late 2023 or in-press publications. Overall, these publications receive hundreds of citations, many of them in top-tier journals. For further details, please consult Citations in prestigious journals from the International Networking & Further Recognition section of my narrative CV. I want to highlight here that the impact is not limited to psychology; it was also recognized through citations in top-tier journals in other fields of social science (education, sociology) and life science (medicine).

The impact is not limited to citations only. Other results obtained in the last five years were not included in JCR Q1 journals but contain more concrete outcomes relevant to society. They include open-access materials (i.e., protocols for online interventions) whose efficiency has been tested through rigorous studies (i.e., anxiety, vulnerable populations at risk such as LGBT+). In terms of innovative products, the most ambitious task I had the chance to coordinate was creating and validating five new instruments (psychological tests) to be used nationwide in the judicial system under the umbrella of the Superior Council for Magistracy – CSM (i.e., for the compulsory psychological assessment for admission in Magistracy and for acquiring managerial positions by prosecutors or judges). For further details, please consult the narrative text at the end of the International Networking & Further Recognition section of my narrative CV.

C3. The capacity to attract research funds and to cooperate with public/private research organizations through the number of research grants, their value, or through the quality of invited teacher/researcher/speaker at prestigious universities or international conferences
Please consult the narrative CV, section Funding, for further details on my excellent capacity to attract research funds as a result of individual or collaborative efforts. Likewise, three different prestigious universities have invited me in the last five years (according to OMEC no. 5665 from 2020). In two of the cases, I have been invited as a researcher to explore further collaboration opportunities (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2019 – see publication [29]); (Vanderbilt University, Nashville, 2023, undergoing collaboration on disgust conditioning and Neuroticism with Professor Bunmi Olantunji). The third invitation came from the University of Milan-Bicocca, where I had the privilege to be a guest teacher on a particular topic based on my expertise in cost-effectiveness analysis. This invitation was based on paid-based collaboration repeatedly for three consecutive years (2018, 2019, and 2020).

C4. Professional prestige and the degree of scientific recognition in the international community

Due to the lack of space here (4-page limitation), my scientific recognition has been mainly addressed in the International Network and Further Recognition section of my narrative CV. I highlighted there the recognition received, particularly in personality psychology: (i) serving for eight years (2014-2022) on the Board of the most prestigious European Association on personality; (ii) being the main organizer and chair of the European Conference on Personality, the 18th edition; (iii) being included in the editorial board of two prestigious personality journals (including EJP, a Q1 WoS journal), (iv) being the head of the committee for the Best Dissertation Award in the field of Personality Psychology etc. The international recognition is also underlined through my position as the Romanian representative on the European Federation of Psychology Associations Scientific Board. Likewise, based on my previous accomplishments on implicit measures, I was invited to the Expert Meeting on Indirect Measures (Ghent, 2018), along with the main contributors in the field (e.g., Antony Greenwald – the author of the Implicit Association Test; Keith Payne – the author of the Affect Misattribution Procedure, etc.). A second Expert Meeting linking Learning and Personality took place in Timisoara in 2022, demonstrating my capacity to gather renowned scholars in the field (i.e., Klaus Rothermund).

C5. The contribution to forming young researchers or consolidating teams with remarkable results

The LEARNVUL Twining project (Oct 2020 – Sep 2023) perfectly illustrates my contribution to forming young researchers, as explained in the last paragraph of the Funding section of my narrative CV. Four early-stage researchers were intensively exposed to a competitive research environment, totalizing eight months of mobilities abroad, two one-week intensive summer schools, and several international conference symposia talks (ESCON, ECP, ICPS, etc.). Most of the manuscripts where I served as the last author (co-author) have been the results of the eight Ph.D. students I had the chance to coordinate (16 out of the 31 publications in the last five years, including 7 papers in the AIS-based Q1/Q2 WoS journals).
Curriculum Vitae • Florin Alin SAVA

University address:
West University of Timisoara
Department of Psychology
4 Vasile Parvan Blvd.
Timisoara 300223
Romania

Personal Information
Age: 48
Nationality: Romanian
Gender: Male (He/him/his)

Education
University of Oradea
MA Degree in Clinical Psychology,
Psychological Counseling and Psychotherapy

Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
West University of Timisoara
February 2013
Habilitation in Psychology

MA Degree in Public Policy and Advocacy

Oct 2001 – Jun 2005
PhD in Psychology

West University of Timisoara (fall)
MA Degree in Special Education
Jonkoping University (spring semester)

West University of Timisoara
BA Degree in Psychology (Top of the class)

Employment

Positions (University)
Professor (Psychology)
Vice-Rector for Research (2020 – present)
Head of Psychology Doctoral School (2016-2020)
Head of Psychology Department (2013-2015)

Associate Professor (Psychology)
Head of Psychology Department (2008-2013)

Post-doc researcher, Clinical Psychology
Assistant Professor / Teaching Assistant

West University of Timisoara
Oct 2013 –

West University of Timisoara
Oct 2008 – Sep 2013

Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj
Jul 2006 – Dec 2007

West University of Timisoara
Jan 2008 – Sep 2008
Oct 1999 – Sep 2004

Consultations and Contract Work
Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, RO
Invited teacher, one course, MA level
Repeatedly in 2010-2011,
2011-2012

University of Milan-Biccoca, IT
Invited teacher, 1 module, MA level
Repeatedly in 2018-2019,
2019-2020, and 2020-2021
Repeatedly as of 2006

SC Psiho Proiect SRL
Owner, R&D company, development and
distribution of new psychological tests

Overseas experiences as a researcher
Vanderbilt University
(Nashville, TN, USA)
Visiting scholar (researcher), one month
Aug 2023

University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill (NC, USA)
Visiting scholar (researcher), one month each
Repeatedly in 2011, 2015,
and 2019

University of Coruña (Spain)
Visiting scholar (researcher), one month
Nov 2007

American University,
Washington DC (USA)
Visiting scholar (researcher), two months
Jan-Feb 2007
Overseas experiences as a student / early-stage researcher

2002 July, 1-month Open Society Scholarship, Central European University at Budapest (Hungary)
2002 June, 1-month Open Society Scholarship, Paris V University (France)
2000 July-August, 2-month Open Society Scholarship, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor (USA)
1999 March-May, 3-month Erasmus Exchange, Jonkoping University (Sweden)

My professional track showcases a career in academia that combines pursuing research interests with managerial activities, primarily at the West University of Timisoara, where I have held key positions such as Professor of Psychology, Vice-Rector for Research, Head of the Psychology Doctoral School, and Head of the Psychology Department. Additionally, I have had numerous international experiences as a visiting scholar or in teaching roles in prestigious institutions abroad. Of particular interest for the criteria set for this Award is that I received invitations from three highly prestigious universities in the last five years (see OMEC 5665/2020). I have been invited as a visiting scholar (researcher) to Vanderbilt University (2023) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2019). I have also been a paid invited teacher at the University of Milan-Bicocca (2018, 2019, 2020) (see attached documents). Furthermore, I have contributed to developing the R&D area in social sciences through the ownership of SC Psiho Proiect SRL, a company focused on creating and distributing innovative psychological tests. In this regard, we have recently significantly contributed to reforming the psychological assessment system for all Romanian magistrates at the Superior Council for Magistrates (CSM) request.

Journal Articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection: only journals with an AIS score &gt; 0.50 (the best AIS Quartile for a WoS category included)</th>
<th>AIS Score (latest) descending order</th>
<th># Published all (since 2019)</th>
<th># Main author (since 2019)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nature Human Behaviour Q1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology Q1</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>Social Psychological and Personality Science Q1</td>
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<td>European Journal of Personality Q1</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology Q1</td>
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<td>JMRI Mental Health Q2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Q1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching and Teacher Education Q1</td>
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<td>1(0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collabra: Psychology Q1</td>
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<td>2(2)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Personality and Individual Differences Q3</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Clinical Neuropsychologist Q2</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Development International Q2</td>
<td>1,052</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontiers in Psychology Q2</td>
<td>1,004</td>
<td>4(4)</td>
<td>3(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Clinical Psychology Q2</td>
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<td>1(0)</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognition &amp; Emotion Q2</td>
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<td>1(1)</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive Therapy and Research Q2</td>
<td>0,948</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLoS One Q2</td>
<td>0,946</td>
<td>3(2)</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology Q2</td>
<td>0,866</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Journal of Psychology Q2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment Q3</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Journal of Special Needs Education Q3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of Personnel Psychology Q3</td>
<td>0,596</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Of the 50+ Web of Science and/or Scopus publications, 31 have been published since 2019 (see the publications list). Likewise, from the 16 articles in which I served as the main author, nine articles were published after 2019. Nonetheless, 30 publications are in Q1/Q2 WoS categories based on their AIS score. Of particular interest for the criteria set for this Award is that there are eight publications in Q1 Journals based on their AIS score in the last five years and that the sum of the weighted influence score related to the articles published in the last five years is higher than the cut-off value of 5 (see the publications list, for details).

Other Output (selection, see the publication list)

- National edited books: 2 (Poliron, Trei)
- National authorship books: 2 (Poliron, ASCR)
- National book chapters: 8 (Poliron - 7; Trei - 1)
- Psychological tests: 10 newly created instruments, approved by the Romanian College of Psychologists
Citations and Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Total Citations</th>
<th>h-index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Web of Science</td>
<td>825 from 47 documents</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scopus</td>
<td>1062 from 54 documents</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ResearchGate</td>
<td>1,748</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Google Scholar</td>
<td>2,865</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2005: PhD
2013: Habilitation

International Networking & Further Recognition

Membership
- European Association of Personality Psychology (EAPP), since 2012
- American Psychological Association (APA), since 2020

Honorary positions
- Member of the Executive Committee of the European Association of Personality Psychology, 2014 – 2016 (Ex Officio member); 2016 – 2022 (Elected member)
- Chair of the European Conference on Personality, 18th edition, July 2016
- The Romanian representative in EFPA (The European Federation of Psychology Association), Board of Scientific Affairs, 2019 -

Editorial service
- European Journal of Personality, WoS Q1, Consulting Editor (2020 – 2022)
- Personality Science (the new Sister EJP Journal), Consulting Editor (2020 - )
- Romanian Journal of Applied Psychology, Scopus, Editor in Chief (2009-2022), Consulting Editor (2023 - )
- Co-guest editor to Collabra: Psychology (WoS Q1 based on AIS). Special Issue: Learning and Personality

Ad-hoc reviewer

Invited expert
- Expert Meeting on Improving the Utility of Indirect Measures (2018)
- Expert Meeting on Personality and Conditioning (2022)
- Invited (paid) teacher by the University of Milan-Bicocca (repeatedly in 2018/2019/2020)
- Invited scholar (speaker) at Vanderbilt University (Bunmi Olatunji’s lab)

Citations in prestigious journals
- Hundreds of citations received by my publications are in top-tier journals (i.e., AIS-based WoS Q1). Among the most prestigious ones (first or second place in a WoS category) are Nature Human Behaviour (1/89), Nature Medicine (1/136), Nature Energy (1/119), Annual Review of Psychology (1/81), Annual Review of Clinical Psychology (1/131), Personality and Social Psychology Review (1/63), Journal of Personality and Social Psychology (2/63), American Sociological Review (1/149), Annual Review of Sociology (2/149), Educational Psychologist (1/60), Educational Psychology Review (2/60). Other flagship journals that cite my work are American Psychologist, Perspectives on Psychological Science, European Psychologist, European Review of Social Psychology, Social Psychological and Personality Science, European Journal of Personality, and Journal of Applied Psychology. We could also add the citations in several dozen additional AIS-based Q1 WoS journals without listing them here because of space limitations.

Miscellanea services and recognitions
- President of Commission 28 of CNATDCU (The National Council for the Accreditation of University Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates) since 2016. The 28 Commission reunites three scientific areas: psychology, educational sciences, and sports science.
- Member of the Social Sciences Committee of the National Council for Scientific Research (CNCS/CNCSIS) (2009 – 2013)
- President of the Scientific Committee for the last Romanian Psychological Association Conference (2023) and member of the Scientific Committee for all European Conference on Personality editions since 2016.
- Expert in a nominated task force (OMEN 5495 from 27.10.2021), in charge of developing a methodology to finance research in universities, since 2021
- Expert in a nominated task force (OMEN 5964 from 11.12.2015), in charge of developing a procedure for quality control of Ph.D. theses and research ethics (2015-2016)
- Gala Award in Education, Second Prize University Professor of the Year (5000 € from Dinu Patriciu Foundation, a national competition)
Considering the C2 and C4 criteria established for this competition, I would like to highlight the following aspects. For C2, the quantity and quality of the citations received are exceptionally high, as shown above, and they are illustrative of the quality of my publications. My research impact is underscored by hundreds of citations in top-tier journals, including Nature Human Behaviour, Annual Review of Psychology, and Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, that indicate a recognized scholar in the field. The impact is not limited to receiving citations but refers to immediate societal gains. First, some of the researched topics addressed (as a co-author) deal with hot topic issues (i.e., conspiracy theories) and are highly relevant for policy-makers. Second, my scientific achievements are not limited to publications but include innovative products/services such as innovative treatments and newly developed psychological tests. For instance, we have developed evidence-based tools and treatments for participants in need (i.e., suffering from anxiety, at-risk LGBT+) that are available online for free (for upscaling purposes). Likewise, according to our server data, thousands of licensed psychologists use the newly developed psychological tests in their private practice, and hundreds of thousands of participants have been evaluated so far. These numbers outline a significant contribution at a societal level by increasing the quality of psychological assessment throughout the country. It impacts both the private and public sectors (see the development of tailored psychological instruments for magistrates at the request of the National Council of Magistrates - CSM).

For C4, I highlight the significant contributions and leadership roles in personality psychology. Since 2012, I have been an esteemed European Association of Personality Psychology (EAPP) member, later joining the American Psychological Association (APA) in 2020. Notably, I held managerial positions, serving as an elected member of the Executive Committee of the European Association of Personality Psychology from 2014 to 2022, including a position as Chair of the European Conference on Personality in 2016. I have also contributed as a Consulting Editor for the European Journal of Personality and Personality Science and as an editor-in-chief for the Romanian Journal of Applied Psychology. I have also reviewed manuscripts for over 20 prestigious journals and participated as an invited expert in meetings on indirect measures and personality & conditioning, respectively. I also served as a guest co-editor of a Special Issue in Collabra: Psychology (a WoS Q1 journal based on AIS) for the latter topic. Nonetheless, due to the international recognition for my work on personality and conditioning interaction, in February 2024, I will register as the first incoming early-stage researcher in my faculty, Patrycja Urman (see her GS profile here). She will spend a 3-month internship in my lab to advance her knowledge and facilitate collaborative studies with her home coordinator from Poland, Professor Robert Balas).

### Research Interests

**Personality:**
- The Neuroticism trait (as a risk factor for psychopathology)
- Taxonomic trait models (e.g., Big Five, Big Six)

**Learning (Conditioning):**
- Evaluative conditioning
- Other types of conditioning (i.e., avoidance, disgust)

**Assessment:**
- Alternative (non-self-reporting) assessment methods (i.e., implicit measures, computer-assisted text analysis)
- Malingering & measurement (i.e., malingering indices, test development)

My primary research interest lies at the intersection between personality psychology, clinical psychology, and learning. More specifically, I aimed to see how people who score high on Neuroticism develop inadequate information processing strategies that make them more predisposed to experiencing anxiety or depression by investigating their learning (conditioning) specificities (i.e., how they attach valence to newly encountered stimuli, how are their emotions conditioned). These basic research questions reveal the true nature of neuroticism (for more details related to C1 criteria, see the most important scientific achievements)

### Funding

* Selection (> 100,000 €)

**Research Grants (N = 6, 5 as Project Manager)**

1. **Horizon 2020 – H2020-WIDESPREAD-2010-5, Twinning**
   - Research Executive Agency Grant No. 952464, Acronym: LEARNVUL
   - Title: Learning in Emotionally Vulnerable People
   - Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)
   - Dates: 2020-2023
   - Amount: 900,000 €

   - Collaborative Research Projects, RO-NO-2019-0412, Grant No. 17 / 2020
   - Title: The social inclusion of LGBT people. Public attitudes and evidence-based interventions to increase their quality of life
   - Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)
   - Dates: 2020-2024
   - Amount: 751,500 €

3. **PNCNI III – Exploratory Research Projects (ECP / PCE), UEFISCDI**
   - PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2020-1964, Grant no. PCE 138 / 2021
   - Title: How does the blue sky become gray? Examining the sensitivity of neurotics for processing the negative information in evaluative conditioning.
   - Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)
   - Dates: 2021-2023
   - Amount: 245,000 €
[4] **PNCDD III** – Exploratory Research Projects (ECP / PCE), UEFISCDI
PN-II-ID-PCE-2012-4-0621, Grant no. PCE 91 / 2013
Title: Causal mechanisms in attitudes formation and change through evaluative conditioning
Role: Co-PI
2013-2016 252,000 €

[5] **PNCDD II** – Human Resources. Young Independent Teams (ECP / TE), UEFISCDI
PN-II-IRU-TE0-2011-3-0230, Grant no. 114 / 2011
Title: Changing implicit cognitions: an evidence-based approach
Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)
2012-2014 156,250 €

UEFISCDI, PN-II-PCE-2008, CNCS Code 1076
Title: Implicit measures of personality
Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)
2009-2011 118,500 €

**Institutional grants (N = 2)**

Title: Career counseling and psychological professional services
Role: Project Manager
2014-2015 481,000 €

[8] Grant POSDRU 2007-2013 18/1.2/G/28335, OI-POSDRU
Title: Graduate skills and employers' needs. An action research for labor market integration.
Role: Project Manager
2010-2012 409,000 €

**Public Procurement-based research contracts (N = 1)**

[9] Title: Development/adaptation of assessment tools and psychological assistance
(contract activities in the project SIPOCA/MySMIS: 762/135456)
Beneficiary: Superior Council of Magistracy (CSM)
Role: Scientific Coordinator (Test Development Coordinator)
2023 1,600,000 €

Considering the C3 criterion established for this competition, the section above highlights an excellent capacity to attract funds from various sources (national and international competitions). These funds resulted from individual [3-6] and collaborative endeavors [1-2, 7-9], including working with international partners such as the University of Milan-Bicocca and Ghent University for grant no. [1] and the University of Bergen for the grant no. [2].

Grant no. [1], a Twinning-type project, is also highly relevant considering the C5 criterion established for this competition, as it highlights my contribution to developing competitive young researchers (R3 and R4 researchers). Four early-stage researchers (Ph.D. students) were intensively exposed to a competitive research environment, totaling eight months of mobilities abroad, two one-week intensive summer schools, and several international conference symposia talks (ESCON, ECP, ICPS, etc.). Most of the manuscripts where I served as the last author (co-author) have been the results of the eight Ph.D. students I had the chance to coordinate (16 out of the 31 publications in the last five years, including seven papers in the AIS-based Q1/Q2 WoS journals).

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**Further Competencies, Skills, and References**

**Software**

- **Basic:** MS Office & Various Browsers
- **Statistical:** R Studio, Stata, SPSS, AMOS, Comprehensive Meta-Analysis
- **Research management:** EndNote, Mendeley

**Other Languages**

- English (Level C1)

**References**

- Marco Perugini, University of Milano-Bicocca (WoS Highly Cited Researcher), Google Scholar profile [here](#)
- Jan De Houwer, Ghent University, Google Scholar profile [here](#)
- Brian Keith Payne, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Google Scholar profile [here](#)
### Publications List

**Florin Alin Sava**

This publications list contains two sections:
- The publication list in the last five years (2019-2023)
- The publication list that includes previous publications (before 2019)

*The publication list includes all publications already indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus, regardless of whether their current status is published or online first for non-e-journals.*

### Section 1. The publication list in the last five years (2019 – 2023)

* My contribution as the main author is marked with asterisks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>WoS</th>
<th>Scopus</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
*Q1 AIS*  
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Social | Percentile 95  
Scopus:  
15/302 Social Psychology | 6 |
*Q2 AIS*  
WoS SCIE category: Psychology | Percentile 67  
Scopus:  
95/292 Clinical Psychology | 2 |
*Q4 AIS*  
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Clinical | Percentile 53  
Scopus:  
136/292 Clinical Psychology | 2 |
*Q1 AIS*  
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Multidisciplinary | Percentile 67  
Scopus:  
68/209 General Psychology | 4 |
*Q3 AIS*  
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Multidisciplinary | Percentile 74  
Scopus:  
54/209 General Psychology | 3 |
*Q4 AIS*  
WoS SCIE category: Psychology | Percentile 64  
Scopus:  
123/343 Developmental and Educational Psychology | 3 |
[https://doi.org/10.1525/collabra.88334](https://doi.org/10.1525/collabra.88334)
Accession number: WOS:000109198900001
AIS = 1,293
**Q1** AIS
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Multidisciplinary
**Percentil 67**
Scopus: 68/209 General Psychology

[https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crespp.2023.100088](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crespp.2023.100088)
Indexed: Scopus only.
AIS = 0,790
Q3 AIS
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Clinical
**Percentil 26**
Scopus: 53/71 Psychology (miscellaneous)

[https://doi.org/10.1007/s10862-022-10014-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10862-022-10014-8)
Accession number: WOS:000896993100001
AIS = 0,948
Q2 AIS
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Clinical
**Percentil 77**
Scopus: 35/152 Experimental and Cognitive Psychology

Accession number: WOS:000108435200001
AIS = 1,004
Q2 AIS
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Multidisciplinary
**Percentil 73**
Scopus: 55/209 General Psychology

* Corresponding author
Accession number: WOS:000130302300001
AIS = 1,384
Q1 AIS
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Clinical

[https://doi.org/10.1177/07311911211040105](https://doi.org/10.1177/07311911211040105)
Accession number: WOS:000673535000001
AIS = 1,384
Q1 AIS
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Clinical

* Corresponding author
Accession number: WOS:000643043700003
AIS = 0,608
Q3 AIS
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Multidisciplinary
**Percentil 74**
Scopus: 54/209 General Psychology

[https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01258-7](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01258-7)
Accession number: WOS:000743464200001
AIS = 10,469
Q1 AIS
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Experimental
**Percentil 99**
Scopus: 2/302 Social Psychology

Accession number: WOS:000788073300003
AIS = 1,071
Q3 AIS
WoS SSCI category: Psychology, Clinical
**Percentil 86**
Scopus: 28/209 General Psychology
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Journal and Details</th>
<th>Q1 AIS</th>
<th>Q2 AIS</th>
<th>WoS SSCIE Category</th>
<th>Percentil</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main author publications in the last five years with AIS Q1/Q2 (WoS) or +50 Percentile (Scopus): 8 articles (see no. 1, 3, 11, 13, 20, 21, 23, and 29).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr.</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Volume/Issue</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Abstract/Category</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentile</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>Experimental and Cognitive Psychology</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* First and corresponding author

| AIS = 1,071 |
| Q3 AIS |
| WoS SSCI |
| category: Psychology, Social |

Percentile 86
Scopus: 28/209
General Psychology

https://doi.org/10.1016/S0742-051X(02)00056-2
* First and corresponding author

| AIS = 1,319 |
| Q1 AIS |
| WoS SSCI |
| category: Education and Educational Research |

Percentile 92
Scopus: 92/1469
Education

https://doi.org/10.1080/0885625000361583
* First and corresponding author

| AIS = 0,603 |
| Q3 AIS |
| WoS SSCI |
| category: Education, Special |

Percentile 82
Scopus: 262/1469
Education

CHAPTERS IN PRESTIGIOUS BOOKS (INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS)


BOOKS (CNATDCU A2 – Prestigious national publishers)

EDITED BOOKS (CNATDCU A2 – Prestigious national publishers)

CHAPTERS IN A2 NATIONAL BOOKS


Notice. Without a personal webpage, I will refer to the ORCID page to comply with the request to provide a link to a webpage that contains the listed publications. All publications covering the last five years are reachable via the DOI link provided for each publication. Almost all of these publications are available for free as open-access publications. The ORCID webpage is https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8898-1306.
Grants List
Florin Alin Sava

* The list includes only the research projects financed with at least 100,000 euros, in which I was the Principal Investigator.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Horizon 2020 – H2020-WIDESPREAD-2010-5, Twinning
Research Executive Agency Grant No. 952464, Acronym: LEARNVUL
Title: Learning in Emotionally Vulnerable People
Time: October 2020 – September 2023
Grant value: 900,000 €
UVT budget: 370,000 €
Participants: UVT (coordinator), University of Milan-Bicocca, and Ghent University (partners)
Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

UEFISCDI, Collaborative Research Projects, RO-NO-2019-0412, Grant no. 17 / 2020
Title: The social inclusion of LGBT people. Public attitudes and evidence-based interventions to increase their quality of life
Grant value: 3,632,305 lei (≈ 751,500 €)
UVT budget: 2,115,874 lei (≈ 437,760 €)
Time: August 2020 – March 2024 (estimated)
Participants: UVT (coordinator), University of Bergen (partner)
Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)

PNCDI III – Exploratory Research Projects (ECP / PCE)
UEFISCDI, PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2020-1964, Grant no. PCE 138 / 2021
Title: How does the blue sky become gray? Examining the sensitivity of neurotics for processing the negative information in evaluative conditioning.
Grant value: 1,197,351 lei (≈ 245,000 €)
Time: January 2021 – December 2023
Participants: UVT
Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)

PNCDI II – Human Resources. Young Independent Teams (ECP / TE)
UEFISCDI, PN-II-IRU-TE0-2011-3-0230, Grant no. 114 / 2011
Title: Changing implicit cognitions: an evidence-based approach
Grant value: 687,500 lei (≈ 156,250 €)
Time: January 2012 – December 2014
Participants: UVT
Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)

PNCDI II -- Exploratory Research Projects (ECP / PCE / Ideas)
UEFISCDI, PN-II-PCE-2008, CNCS Code 1076
Title: Implicit measures of personality
Grant value: 500,000 lei (≈ 118,250 €)
Time: January 2009 – December 2011
Participants: UVT
Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)
# Curriculum Vitae • Florin Alin SAVA

**University address:**
West University of Timisoara  
Department of Psychology  
4 Vasile Parvan Blvd.  
Timisoara 300223  
Romania

---

## Personal Information

**Age:** 48  
**Nationality:** Romanian  
**Gender:** Male (He/him/his)

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## Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Study Dates</th>
<th>Degree(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Oradea</td>
<td>Oct 2014 – Jun 2016</td>
<td>MA Degree in Clinical Psychology, Psychological Counseling and Psychotherapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca</td>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>Habilitation in Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West University of Timisoara</td>
<td>Oct 2004 – Jun 2006</td>
<td>MA Degree in Public Policy and Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca</td>
<td>Oct 2001 – Jun 2005</td>
<td>PhD in Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West University of Timisoara (fall) / Jonkoping University (spring semester)</td>
<td>Oct 1998 – Jun 1999</td>
<td>MA Degree in Special Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West University of Timisoara</td>
<td>Oct 1994 – Jun 1998</td>
<td>BA Degree in Psychology (Top of the class)</td>
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</table>

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## Employment

### Positions (University)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor (Psychology)</td>
<td>West University of Timisoara</td>
<td>Oct 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-Rector for Research (2020 – present)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of Psychology Doctoral School (2016-2020)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of Psychology Department (2013-2015)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor (Psychology)</td>
<td>West University of Timisoara</td>
<td>Oct 2008 – Sep 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of Psychology Department (2008-2013)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-doc researcher, Clinical Psychology</td>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj</td>
<td>Jul 2006 – Dec 2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor / Teaching Assistant</td>
<td>West University of Timisoara</td>
<td>Oct 2004 – Jun 2006 &amp; Jan 2008 – Sep 2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oct 1999 – Sep 2004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Consultations and Contract Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, RO</td>
<td>Invited teacher, one course, MA level</td>
<td>Repeatedly in 2010-2011, 2011-2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Milan-Bicocca, IT</td>
<td>Invited teacher, 1 module, MA level</td>
<td>Repeatedly in 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC Psiho Proiect SRL</td>
<td>Owner, R&amp;D company, development and distribution of new psychological tests</td>
<td>Repeatedly as of 2006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overseas experiences as a researcher

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN, USA)</td>
<td>Visiting scholar (researcher), one month</td>
<td>Aug 2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (NC, USA)</td>
<td>Visiting scholar (researcher), one month</td>
<td>Repeatedly in 2011, 2015, and 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Coruna (Spain)</td>
<td>Visiting scholar (researcher), one month</td>
<td>Nov 2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American University, Washington DC (USA)</td>
<td>Visiting scholar (researcher), two months</td>
<td>Jan-Feb 2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overseas experiences as a student / early-stage researcher

2002 July, 1-month Open Society Scholarship, Central European University at Budapest (Hungary)
2002 June, 1-month Open Society Scholarship, Paris V University (France)
2000 July-August, 2-month Open Society Scholarship, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor (USA)
1999 March-May, 3-month Erasmus Exchange, Jonkoping University (Sweden)

My professional track showcases a career in academia that combines pursuing research interests with managerial activities, primarily at the West University of Timisoara, where I have held key positions such as Professor of Psychology, Vice-Rector for Research, Head of the Psychology Doctoral School, and Head of the Psychology Department. Additionally, I have had numerous international experiences as a visiting scholar or in teaching roles in prestigious institutions abroad. Of particular interest for the criteria set for this Award is that I received invitations from three highly prestigious universities in the last five years (see OMEC 5665/2020). I have been invited as a visiting scholar (researcher) to Vanderbilt University (2023) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2019). I have also been a paid invited teacher at the University of Milan-Bicocca (2018, 2019, 2020) (see attached documents). Furthermore, I have contributed to developing the R&D area in social sciences through the ownership of SC Psiho Proiect SRL, a company focused on creating and distributing innovative psychological tests. In this regard, we have recently significantly contributed to reforming the psychological assessment system for all Romanian magistrates at the Superior Council for Magistrates (CSM) request.

### Scientific Output (Summary)

#### Journal Articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection: only journals with an AIS score &gt; 0.50 (the best AIS Quartile for a WoS category included)</th>
<th>AIS Score (latest) descending order</th>
<th># Published all (since 2019)</th>
<th># Main author (since 2019)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature Human Behaviour Q1</td>
<td>10,649</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology Q1</td>
<td>4,406</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Psychological and Personality Science Q1</td>
<td>2,822</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Journal of Personality Q1</td>
<td>2,525</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers in Human Behavior Q1</td>
<td>2,199</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Personality Q1</td>
<td>2,152</td>
<td>2(2)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology Q1</td>
<td>1,868</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JMIR Mental Health Q2</td>
<td>1,394</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Q1</td>
<td>1,384</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching and Teacher Education Q1</td>
<td>1,319</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collabra: Psychology Q1</td>
<td>1,293</td>
<td>2(2)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personality and Individual Differences Q3</td>
<td>1,071</td>
<td>3(1)</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Clinical Neuropsychologist Q2</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Development International Q2</td>
<td>1,052</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontiers in Psychology Q2</td>
<td>1,004</td>
<td>4(4)</td>
<td>3(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Clinical Psychology Q2</td>
<td>0,987</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognition &amp; Emotion Q2</td>
<td>0,973</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cognitive Therapy and Research Q2</td>
<td>0,948</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PloS One Q2</td>
<td>0,946</td>
<td>3(2)</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology Q2</td>
<td>0,866</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Journal of Psychology Q2</td>
<td>0,801</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment Q3</td>
<td>0,790</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Psychology Q3</td>
<td>0,608</td>
<td>2(2)</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Journal of Special Needs Education Q3</td>
<td>0,603</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Personnel Psychology Q3</td>
<td>0,596</td>
<td>1(0)</td>
<td>-</td>
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</table>

Of the 50+ Web of Science and/or Scopus publications, 31 have been published since 2019 (see the publications list). Likewise, from the 16 articles in which I served as the main author, nine articles were published after 2019. Nonetheless, 30 publications are in Q1/Q2 WoS journals based on their AIS score. Of particular interest for the criteria set for this Award is that there are eight publications in Q1 Journals based on their AIS score in the last five years and that the sum of the weighted influence score related to the articles published in the last five years is higher than the cut-off value of 5 (see the publications list, for details).

### Other Output (selection, see the publication list)

- **International book chapters:** 2 (Wiley, Springer)
- **National edited books:** 2 (Poliorom, Trei)
- **National authorship books:** 2 (Poliorom, ASCR)
- **National book chapters:** 8 (Poliorom - 7; Trei - 1)
- **Psychological tests:** 10 newly created instruments, approved by the Romanian College of Psychologists
Citations and Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Total Citations</th>
<th>h-index</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Web of Science</td>
<td>825 from 47 documents</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scopus</td>
<td>1062 from 54 documents</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ResearchGate</td>
<td>1,748</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Google Scholar</td>
<td>2,865</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2005: PhD
2013: Habilitation

International Networking & Further Recognition

Membership
- European Association of Personality Psychology (EAPP), since 2012
- American Psychological Association (APA), since 2020

Honorary positions
- Member of the Executive Committee of the European Association of Personality Psychology, 2014 – 2016 (Ex Officio member); 2016 – 2022 (Elected member)
- Chair of the European Conference on Personality, 18th edition, July 2016
- The Romanian representative in EFPA (The European Federation of Psychology Association), Board of Scientific Affairs, 2019 -

Editorial service
- European Journal of Personality, WoS Q1, Consulting Editor (2020 – 2022)
- Personality Science (the new Sistern EJP Journal), Consulting Editor (2020 - )
- Romanian Journal of Applied Psychology, Scopus, Editor in Chief (2009-2022), Consulting Editor (2023 - )
- Co-guest editor to Collabra: Psychology (WoS Q1 based on AIS). Special Issue: Learning and Personality

Ad-hoc reviewer

Invited expert
- Expert Meeting on Improving the Utility of Indirect Measures (2018)
- Expert Meeting on Personality and Conditioning (2022)
- Invited (paid) teacher by the University of Milan-Bicocca (repeatedly in 2018/2019/2020)
- Invited scholar (speaker) at Vanderbilt University (Bummi Olatunji’s lab)

Citations in prestigious journals
- Hundreds of citations received by my publications are in top-tier journals (i.e., AIS-based WoS Q1). Among the most prestigious ones (first or second place in a WoS category) are Nature Human Behaviour (1/89), Nature Medicine (1/136), Nature Energy (1/119), Annual Review of Psychology (1/81), Annual Review of Clinical Psychology (1/131), Personality and Social Psychology Review (1/63), Journal of Personality and Social Psychology (2/63), American Sociological Review (1/149), Annual Review of Sociology (2/149), Educational Psychologist (1/60), Educational Psychology Review (2/60). Other flagship journals that cite my work are American Psychologist, Perspectives on Psychological Science, European Psychologist, European Review of Social Psychology, Social Psychological and Personality Science, European Journal of Personality, and Journal of Applied Psychology. We could also add the citations in several dozen additional AIS-based Q1 WoS journals without listing them here because of space limitations.

Miscellanea services and recognitions
- President of Commission 28 of CNATDCU (The National Council for the Accreditation of University Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates) since 2016. The 28 Commission reunites three scientific areas: psychology, educational sciences, and sports science.
- Member of the Social Sciences Committee of the National Council for Scientific Research (CNCS/CNCSIS) (2009 – 2013)
- President of the Scientific Committee for the last Romanian Psychological Association Conference (2023) and member of the Scientific Committee for all European Conference on Personality editions since 2016.
- Expert in a nominated task force (OMEN 5495 from 27.10.2021), in charge of developing a methodology to finance research in universities), since 2021
- Expert in a nominated task force (OMEN 5964 from 11.12.2015), in charge of developing a procedure for quality control of Ph.D. theses and research ethics (2015-2016)
- Gala Award in Education, Second Prize University Professor of the Year (5000 € from Dinu Patriciu Foundation, a national competition)
Considering the C2 and C4 criteria established for this competition, I would like to highlight the following aspects. For C2, the quantity and quality of the citations received are exceptionally high, as shown above, and they are illustrative of the quality of my publications. My research impact is underscored by hundreds of citations in top-tier journals, including Nature Human Behaviour, Annual Review of Psychology, and Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, that indicate a recognized scholar in the field. The impact is not limited to receiving citations but refers to immediate societal gains. First, some of the research topics addressed (as a co-author) deal with hot topic issues (i.e., conspiracy theories) and are highly relevant for policy-makers. Second, my scientific achievements are not limited to publications but include innovative products/services such as innovative treatments and newly developed psychological tests. For instance, we have developed evidence-based tools and treatments for participants in need (i.e., suffering from anxiety, at-risk LGBT+) that are available online for free (for upscaling purposes). Likewise, according to our server data, thousands of licensed psychologists use the newly developed psychological tests in their private practice, and hundreds of thousands of participants have been evaluated so far. These numbers outline a significant contribution at a societal level by increasing the quality of psychological assessment throughout the country. It impacts both the private and public sectors (see the development of tailored psychological instruments for magistrates at the request of the National Council of Magistrates - CSM).

For C4, I highlight the significant contributions and leadership roles in personality psychology. Since 2012, I have been an esteemed European Association of Personality Psychology (EAPP) member, later joining the American Psychological Association (APA) in 2020. Notably, I held managerial positions, serving as an elected member of the Executive Committee of the European Association of Personality Psychology from 2014 to 2022, including a position as Chair of the European Conference on Personality in 2016. I have also contributed as a Consulting Editor for the European Journal of Personality and Personality Science and as an editor-in-chief for the Romanian Journal of Applied Psychology. I have also reviewed manuscripts for over 20 prestigious journals and participated as an invited expert in meetings on indirect measures and personality & conditioning, respectively. I also served as a guest co-editor of a Special Issue in Collabra: Psychology (a WoS Q1 journal based on AIS) for the latter topic. Nonetheless, due to the international recognition for my work on personality and conditioning interaction, in February 2024, I will register as the first incoming early-stage researcher in my faculty, Patrycja Uram (see her GS profile here). She will spend a 3-month internship in my lab to advance her knowledge and facilitate collaborative studies with her home coordinator from Poland, Professor Robert Balas).

### Research Interests

**Personality:**
- The Neuroticism trait (as a risk factor for psychopathology)
- Taxonomic trait models (e.g., Big Five, Big Six)

**Learning (Conditioning):**
- Evaluative conditioning
- Other types of conditioning (i.e., avoidance, disgust)

**Assessment:**
- Alternative (non-self-reporting) assessment methods (i.e., implicit measures, computer-assisted text analysis)
- Malingered & measurement (i.e., malingering indices, test development)

My primary research interest lies at the intersection between personality psychology, clinical psychology, and learning. More specifically, I aimed to see how people who score high on Neuroticism develop inadequate information processing strategies that make them more predisposed to experiencing anxiety or depression by investigating their learning (conditioning) specificities (i.e., how they attach valence to newly encountered stimuli, how are their emotions conditioned). These basic research questions reveal the true nature of neuroticism (for more details related to C1 criteria, see the most important scientific achievements).

### Funding

* Selection (> 100,000 €)

**Research Grants** (N = 6, 5 as Project Manager)

1. **Horizon 2020 – H2020-WIDESPREAD-2010-5, Twinning**
   - Research Executive Agency Grant No. 952464, Acronym: LEARNVUL
   - Title: Learning in Emotionally Vulnerable People
   - Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)
   - 2020-2023 900,000 €

   - Collaborative Research Projects, RO-NO-2019-0412, Grant No. 17 / 2020
   - Title: The social inclusion of LGBT people. Public attitudes and evidence-based interventions to increase their quality of life
   - Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)
   - 2020-2024 751,500 €

3. **PNCDI III – Exploratory Research Projects (ECP / PCE), UEFISCDI**
   - PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2020-1964, Grant no. PCE 138 / 2021
   - Title: How does the blue sky become gray? Examining the sensitivity of neurotics for processing the negative information in evaluative conditioning.
   - Role: Principal Investigator (Project Manager)
   - 2021-2023 245,000 €
Further Competencies, Skills, and References

Software
- Basic: MS Office & Various Browsers
- Statistical: R Studio, Stata, SPSS, AMOS, Comprehensive Meta-Analysis
- Research management: EndNote, Mendeley

Other Languages
- English (Level C1)

References
- Marco Perugini, University of Milano-Bicocca (WoS Highly Cited Researcher), Google Scholar profile here
- Jan De Houwer, Ghent University, Google Scholar profile here
- Brian Keith Payne, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Google Scholar profile here