

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Vlad Achimescu

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Aug 2016–Present

PhD Candidate

EQF level 8

Universität Mannheim, Mannheim (Germany)

<http://sswml.uni-mannheim.de/>

Methodology of probabilistic and non-probabilistic online panel surveys.

Supervisor: Prof. Florian Keusch

Sep 2012–Sep 2014

Master of Science in Quantitative Analysis in Social Science (QASS)

EQF level 7

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven - Faculty of Science, Leuven (Belgium), Leuven (Belgium)

<https://lstat.kuleuven.be/masterBologna/QASS>

Quantitative Methodology - designing and testing questionnaires, avoiding different types of errors, sampling techniques.

Calculating by hand coefficients of general linear models, such as ANOVA, OLS regression and Principal Component Analysis

Advanced statistical analyses: multilevel analysis, logistic regression and latent class analysis, structural equation modeling, multidimensional scaling, sequence analysis, event history analysis, qualitative comparative analysis

Working with general and specialized software (R, SPSS, SAS, MLwiN).

Overall result: 78.52%

Title of Master's Thesis: "The Power of Multilevel Analysis Techniques in Explaining Concentrated Rural Poverty Among Romanian Youths"

Grade of Master's Thesis: 16.1 /20

Supervisor: Prof. Geert Molenberghs Co-supervisor: Prof. Jaak Billiet

Oct 2008–Feb 2010

Master of Arts in Advanced Sociological Research

EQF level 7

University of Bucharest, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Department of Sociology, Bucharest (Romania)

<http://sas.unibuc.ro/>

Social Development, Comparative Analysis, Social Policy, Sociological Research Management, Advanced Statistics for Social Sciences (SEM models), Sampling Techniques, Contemporary Sociological Theory, Institutional Analysis

Overall result: 10 /10

Title of Master's Thesis: "Dissatisfied, Pessimist and Wary Citizens - Between Demobilizing Cynicism and Creative Skepticism. A Longitudinal Analysis of Trust in Romanian State Institutions".

Grade of Master's Thesis: 10 /10

Supervisor: Professor Vasile Sebastian Dăncu

Oct 2004–Jun 2008

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

EQF level 6

University of Bucharest, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Department of Sociology, Bucharest (Romania)

www.sas.unibuc.ro

Methods and Techniques for Sociological Research, Sociological Theory, History of Sociology, Social Policy, Quality of Life, Social Structure, Social Inclusion, Advertising and Public Relations, Sociology of Public Opinion, Measurement in Social Science, Descriptive and Inferential Statistics for Social

Sciences

Overall result: 9.47 /10

Title of final paper: "Piracy Without Pirates. A Longitudinal and Transversal Analysis of Copyright Infringement from a Sociological Perspective"

Grade of final paper: 10 /10

Promoter: Associate Professor Cosima Rughiniş

WORK EXPERIENCE

1 Aug 2016–Present

Teaching and Research Assistant

Universität Mannheim - Professorship for Statistics and Methodology, Mannheim (Germany)

Jan 2011–30 Jul 2016

Sociologist

CSCI - The Centre for Research "Infopolitic", Bucharest (Romania)

www.infopolitic.ro

Quantitative data analysis, designing instruments, merging databases from different waves of surveys with overlapping indicators into larger datasets, weighting databases, monitoring key indicators over time, providing periodical research reports to clients on specific or recurring topics, extracting statistical information from external sources (such as the National Institute of Statistics), secondary data analysis.

Member of the research team for the project named „An Initiative for the Development of Civil Society”, financed through the European Social Fund, POSDRU/93/3.3/S/54954. The project was concerned with the study of civic culture in Romania, using a large sample of over 8000 respondents, representative at regional level for each of the 8 development regions, with data gathered through telephone surveys.

Business or sector Political Research, Social Research

Jun 2015–Jul 2015

Quantitative Researcher

ISE - The Research Institute for Education Studies, Bucharest (Romania)

www.ise.ro

Member of the research project named "COERENT. Children and Youths in Risk Situations and Local Initiatives to Reduce Inequalities and to Promote Social Inclusion", part of a program financed through the EEA Grants Romania (RO10). The study used a national representative sample of young people not currently enrolled in education, employment or training (NEETs).

Attributions included contributing to questionnaire design, sampling, quality control, supervising data introduction, cleaning the database, statistical analyses (crosstabulations, regressions, factor analyses and cluster analyses) and contributions to the final report.

Business or sector Sociological Research

Jun 2014–Feb 2015

Quantitative Researcher

"Catalactica" Association, Bucharest (Romania)

www.catalactica.org.ro

Member of the research teams of the projects "Inclusive for the Labour Market", financed through the European Social Fund, POSDRU/165/6.2/S/143249 and „Women Take a Step Forward", financed through the European Social Fund, POSDRU/144/6.3/S/126764 and implemented by the BPI Group. The first project analyzed typical career paths of people aged 45-65, focusing on the long-term effects of de-industrialization in the period following the fall of the communist regime mobility. A second component was the evaluation of European funded resource management development projects through internet questionnaires applied to representatives of organizations. The second project had a target population composed of women aged 16-64 that are not currently in employment, and a national representative sample was selected for the analysis.

Responsibilities included designing and pre-testing the regional questionnaire, instructing the interview operators, preparing the database for analysis, statistical analysis of data (mostly regressions) and writing the final report. For the second task, activities included translating the questionnaire into an

online format (using Limesurvey), managing the respondent database, sending invitations and reminders, cleaning the database by removing uncompleted or double responses, data analysis.

Business or sector Sociological Research

Jul 2011–Nov 2011

Assistant Researcher

FDSC - The Foundation for the Development of Civil Society, Bucharest (Romania)
www.fdsc.ro

Member of the research team of the project called „PROMETEUS - Promoting Social Economy in Romania Through Research, Education and Qualification at European Standards", financed through The European Social Fund, POSDRU/84/6.1/S/57676

Responsibilities included manipulating raw databases containing the entire population of Romanian social economy entities, with economic data, classifying non-profit organizations by domain, cleaning the database and analyzing the data for the final report.

Business or sector Social Economy Research

Sep 2010–Nov 2011

Statistician

RIQL – Research Institute for Quality of Life, Bucharest (Romania)
www.iccv.ro

Member of a research team for the project named „INTEGRAL. Resources for Groups of Socially Excluded Women and Roma", financed through The European Social Fund, POSDRU/84/6.1/S/53996.

Activities included contributions to questionnaire design, building two representative regional samples, instructing the interview operators and coordinating the introduction of paper questionnaires into the database, constructing and cleaning the database, data analysis, contributions to the final report.

Business or sector Sociological Research

Aug 2011–Oct 2011

Quantitative Researcher

"Catalactica" Association, Bucharest (Romania)
<http://www.catalactica.org.ro/>

Member of the research team for the project „An Inclusive Labour Market. A Study of Poverty, Social Exclusion and Labour Market Opportunities Among Youths Residing in Rural Areas", financed through the European Social Fund, POSDRU/83/5.2/S/57941.

Attributions included questionnaire design, building a sample of young rural dwellers representative at regional level, pretesting the questionnaire, coordinating the field research, building the database and analyzing the data.

Business or sector Sociological Research

Jul 2010–Dec 2010

Quantitative Researcher

University of Bucharest, Bucharest (Romania)
www.unibuc.ro

Member of a research team in the POSDRU funded project "Sociologist on the Labour Market", funded through the European Social Fund, POSDRU/18/1.2/G/17293. The research component of the project included an online tracer study concerning the careers of the graduates of The Faculty of Sociology (1993-2008) from The University of Bucharest.

Attributions included contributing to the research design, building a database with the graduates' e-mail addresses, designing the questionnaire items, building the online questionnaire, sending and receiving the questionnaire, building the SPSS database, data analysis (OLS and logistic regressions, sequence analysis), contributions to the final report.

Business or sector Education, Social Research

May 2009–Jun 2009

Research Assistant

ARACIS - Romanian Agency for the Quality Assurance of University Education and Research, Bucharest (Romania)
<http://www.aracis.ro/>

Collaboration with the research design team for an online survey applied to faculty deans across the country, part of the project "ACADEMIS. Assuring Quality in the Romanian College Education System in a European Context", financed through The European Social Fund, POSDRU/2/1.2/S/1/ 3933.

Activities included contributing to research design, data collecting through e-mails (survey of graduates in four academic fields), building and cleaning the database.

Business or sector Education, Sociological Research

May 2006–Feb 2007 **Assistant data analyst**

GfK Romania, Bucharest (Romania)
<http://www.gfk.com/ro/>

My main task was working with market research databases.

Activities include labelling and preparing databases, primary analyses, testing for statistical significance, arranging tables, primary reporting (frequencies, contingency tables, PCA outputs)

Business or sector Market Research

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Romanian

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C1	C1	C2
TOEFL IBT, taken on May 26th 2012. Total score 108/120					
French	B1	B2	A2	A2	B1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Job-related skills

- Working at each step of the research process - questionnaire design, sampling, data collection, database preparation, data analysis, dissemination.
- Dividing work with other researchers and reuniting all separate parts (partial databases, chapters of reports) into a whole, writing research papers.
- Using basic and advanced quantitative methods to analyze population or sample data at different levels of analysis (individual, local, regional, national).
- Working with large datasets, merging cross-national surveys with similar indicators.

Digital competence

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
Proficient user	Proficient user	Independent user	Proficient user	Proficient user

Digital competences - Self-assessment grid

Certificate of Occupational Proficiency in Computer Science, obtained during high school

- statistical analysis of data in different software packages. Advanced knowledge of R, SPSS, AMOS, MLwiN, basic knowledge of STATA, SAS, LEM, XLstat obtained by taking specialized classes during BA and Master studies, summer schools or by self learning using manuals and internet tutorials.

- building and running an online survey: specialized in using the open source package Limesurvey, both through GUI and code, skills obtained on my own and practiced in the projects that included an online research component
- database and spreadsheets: advanced use of Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Access, basic notions of SQL, learned in school but mostly through work experience.
- mapping: intermediate user of QGIS, skills obtained through independent study
- text processing and presentation building: Microsoft Word, Adobe InDesign, Microsoft PowerPoint, Open Office, LibreOffice; skills obtained by writing essays, research reports or articles and making presentations at conferences or at thesis defense.
- graphic processing (2d): CorelDraw, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Flash, GIMP, skills obtained through independent study
- programming languages: intermediate user of C++ or TurboPascal, notions of Python, JavaScript and ActionScript, skills obtained in high school and through independent study

Driving licence AM, B1, B

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Courses, Seminars, Workshops and Summer Schools

KU Leuven: Introduction to sequence analysis using TraMineR. Workshop held at KU *Leuven*, 10-12 October 2012. Instructors : Gilbert Ritschard and Reto Schumacher

KU Leuven: Optional course "Introduction to R", Associate Professor An Carbonez, 8,15 and 22 October 2012

EURICSE: study visit at the *European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises* in Trento (Italy), 1-30 October 2011. I attended lectures concerning the history, legislation, characteristics and social utility of social enterprises and visited a number of Italian Social Cooperatives.

The Society of Romanian Sociologists. *SSR Summer School 2011 – Measurement in Social Sciences*, 13-23 September 2011, Bucharest. Lectures on Confirmatory Factor Analysis and lab sessions using Stata, Professor Mircea Comşa, Assistant Professor Vlad Grigoraş

GESIS: *Mathematical Tools for Social Scientists*, 19-24 September 2010, Cologne (Germany). Attended lectures explaining the algorithms behind statistical techniques (such as OLS regression and PCA) and lab sessions where I learned the basics of using the statistical software package R., taught by Professor Martin Eloff

SPARK and The University of Prishtina: *Prishtina International Summer School (IXth edition)*. Attended the course and seminar 'American Government and Politics', taught by Professor Shakh Hanish, 12-31 July 2009, Prishtina (Kosovo); was graded A in final exam.

Conferences

- Romanian Sociological Association: International Conference "Toward the Good Society - European Perspectives", The Research Institute for the Quality of Life, Bucharest, 24-26 October 2013. Panel: *Methodology. Recent Themes and Approaches in Social Research (moderated by Adriana Neguţ and Eugen Glăvan)*. Title of presentation: "Concentrated Social Exclusion among Romanian Rural Youths: Measurement and Analysis" (original title in Romanian: "Excluziunea socială concentrată a tinerilor din mediul rural"). Conference programme available online at: <http://www.conference.arsociologie.ro/program>

- Doctoral School of the Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest. International Conference „Challenges of Transition: the Post-Communist Experience(s)", 30-31 May 2013. Panel: *Civil Society and Political Culture* (moderated by Claudiu Tufis). Title of presentation: "Civic and Political Participation in Romania: A Quantitative Approach". Presentation in English. Conference programme available at <https://sites.google.com/a/fspub.unibuc.ro/doctoralconference/2013-Edition/conference-2013/program>

- SNSPA (*National School of Political and Administrative Studies*). International Conference "Participatory Culture in Romania", 22 May 2013, SNSPA. Title of presentation: "Civic and Political Participation: Exploring Social Cleavages" (original title in Romanian: "Participare civică și politică. Despre clivaje și cum pot ele fi depășite")

Publications

ARTICLES IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

Stănescu, I., & Achimescu, V. (2012). The Design of a Nationwide Sample for Romanian Youths Living in Rural Areas: A Multiple Solution Problem. *Journal of Community Positive Practices*, (3), 380-402.

Achimescu, V., Cace, S., & Stănescu, S.M. (2011). Involvement in Social Economy. Gender Approaches and Characteristics. *Journal of Community Positive Practices*, (4), 94-112.

BOOKS AND CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

Plăeșu, A. (ed.), Dalu, A-M., & Achimescu, V. (2015). *Discrimination – A Risk Factor for the Social Inclusion of NEETs [Discriminarea - factor de risc în incluziunea socială a tinerilor NEET]*. Bucharest: Editura Pro Universitaria

Achimescu, V. (2013). *The Attitude of Graduates Towards Sociology as a Profession [Raportarea absolvenților la profesia de sociolog]*. In Lambriu, M. (Ed.), *Sociologist on the Labour Market [Sociolog pe piața muncii]* (pp. 161-175). Bucharest: Institutul European. ISBN 978-973-611-861-6

Constantinescu, S., & Achimescu, V. (2012). *The Atlas of Social Economy. Romania 2012. [Atlasul Economiei Sociale. România 2012]*. Bucharest: Institutul de Economie Socială. ISBN 978-973-0-13758-3.

RESEARCH REPORTS

Balica, M., Fartusnic, C. (Ed.). (2016). *The National Evaluation Simulation for Eighth Grade Pupils 2016 - A Statistical Analysis*. Bucharest: The Research Institute for Education Sciences.

Preotesi, M. (Ed.), Achimescu, V., Anghel, I., Cace, S., Grigore, M., Pârvan, A., & Stănescu, S. (2015). *The Situation of Women Who Enter or Re-enter the Labour Market after a Long Period of Inactivity [Situația femeilor care intră sau reintră pe piața muncii după o perioadă lungă de inactivitate]*. Bucharest: SC BPI Management Consulting.

Achimescu, V. (Ed.). (2013). *Initiative for the Civil Society. Main Conclusions of the Sociological Study. [Inițiativă pentru societatea civilă. Cercetare sociologică: Principalele concluzii]*. Bucharest: Fundația Multimedia.

Achimescu, V., Balica, M., Bîrzea, C., Fartușnic, C., Horga, I., Jigău, M., Tufă, L., & Voicu, B. (2010). *Survey on the Participation to Life-long-learning of Employees at Risk on the Labour Market. [Anchetă privind participarea la formarea continuă a angajaților aflați în situație de risc pe piața muncii]*. Bucharest: Observator pentru Dezvoltarea Învățării Permanente.

Voicu, B., & Achimescu, V. (2009). *Deans and Rectors: Opinions on the State of Higher Education. [Opiniile rectorilor și decanilor privind starea învățământului superior]*. Bucharest: ARACIS.

Achimescu, V., Boeru, I., & Tufă, L. (2007). *Children Ombudsman – Study on Children's Rights in Schools. [Avocatul Elevului – Studiu privind drepturile copiilor în școli]*. Published by UNICEF.