

## THE INDIVIDUALIZATION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SCHOOL OF TOURISM IN ROMANIA

**Nicolae CIANGĂ**

„Babeş-Bolyai” University, Faculty of Geography, 5-7 Clinicilor st., 400006 Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
e-mail: cianga@geografie.ubbcluj.ro

**Abstract:** *The Individualization of the Geographic School of Tourism in Romania.* This paper makes a detailed analysis of the whole process of scientific accumulation, lasting almost two centuries, in which the area of research, the directions of investigation, the defining of the field and the geographical methodology of research with traits of specificity for tourism were sketched, individualized and afterwards imposed. The implication in this very complicated process was varied at the beginning, after which, in the second part of the last century, the geographers configure and made the field clear. Thus, the accumulation of information and types of contributions stand out, marking phases of the researches' beginning and that from the inter-war period, reflecting the gradual expansion of the tourism as phenomenon and then as an economic activity. The contemporary phase, very complex under all the aspects, specific through major touristic arrangements in the social tourism of mass, is marked by a remarkable research of tourism geography (with nine aspects and directions analyzed by the author), as well as through a superior education of Tourism Geography among the most dynamic at all the levels: university degree, Master's Degree and Doctor's Degree.

**Key words:** School of Tourism Geography, touristic geographical research, university education of Tourism Geography

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On the background of studying tourism, as an economic activity, of the defining notions related to it, of their connections with Geography, of its introduction as an object of study in universities and then of the official adoption at the International Congress from Warsaw, from 1934, of the title “Geography of Tourism”, it can be noticed an intensification of the researches in this field, on an European scale, in North America, Japan, with more complex problems, in which an ever increasing number of geographers are involved.

In several decades, real schools of geographical research in tourism were crystallized, among which the French, British, German, American, Polish and Russian schools stand out, as well as the Romanian school, even if it was not to be noticed in a special manner outwardly.

Depending on the approached thematic, on the methodology of research and especially on the intensity of the Romanian geographers' participation at the touristic

phenomenon investigation, in all its complexity, a staging can be achieved in phases that mark, partially and wholly, a suggestive picture of the autochthonous specific research, but also the integration of their preoccupations in the elucidation of the major problems related to the object, methodology, knowledge and interpretation, possibilities of organization, development and capitalization.

### **1. THE PHASE OF THE RESEARCH BEGINNINGS**

It is represented by two promoters. In 1821, V. Pop publishes the first Romanian work of balneology “*About the minerals waters from Arpâta, Bodoc and Covasna*”. After nearly a century, Al. Saabner-Tuduri published in a double edition, in 1900 and 1906, the paper: “*Mineral waters and the climatic resorts from Romania*” that comprised numerous geographical aspects related to topography, climatology, flora and fauna.

The geographical-touristic knowledge was stimulated at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the activity of some prestigious touristic societies: Braşov – 1873, Caransebeş – 1876, Sibiu – 1880, Sinaia – 1895 and then by the activity of the Romanian Touring Club. Their active members, among which the geographers and the geologists of great prestige (Simion Mehedinţi, Ludovic Mrazec, Constantin Munteanu Murgoci, Mihai Haret, Bucura Dumbravă) contributed by books and materials published in the magazines of these societies to the touristic knowledge of many regions and objectives.

### **2. THE INTER-WAR PHASE**

The inter-war phase presents a real progress in the research of the touristic phenomenon, as a result of its development and on a dynamic economic background. Though the greatest part of the published papers have an informative-descriptive character, the diverse palette of the approached thematic and the increasing volume of the appeared materials (Ciangă N., 1995) are to be noticed.

A distinct category has the presentation of the most important mountainous units as subject (from a landscape point of view): Bucegi Mountains and Retezat (Mihai Haret), Apuseni Mountains (Valeriu Puşcariu and, to be observed, Robert Ficheaux), Moldovei Mountains (Nicolae Macarovici). Then, the representative Carpathian valleys are described: Olt (Valeriu Puşcariu), Bistriţa (N. Pop). The elements of material and spiritual culture, customs and traditional occupations are also described by T. Morariu, Mara N. Popp, Valeriu Puşcariu and again Robert Ficheaux.

A special place is given to the knowledge of the hydro mineral resources and to the way of their turning into account in the frame of the balneary and balneary-climatic resorts. From this point of view “*The Balneary and Touristic Romania*” stands out, written by E. Ţeposu and Valeriu Puşcariu, published in 1932. This can be considered as a reference work and model of analysis for the interwar literature and even for the subsequent papers of this profile.

The works of popularizing with a real informative value are also interesting, in a literary sense, too, like “*The Book of Montains*”, by Bucura Dumbravă, and the series: “*Through our Mountains*”, by I. Simionescu.

### **3. THE CONTEMPORARY PHASE**

It comprises the postwar decades and it is marked by the general social-economic evolution, with clear effects upon the research and the superior geographical education, which receives its own status. The Geography of Tourism will have a significant position in the frame of Geography and, within the framework of Human Geography, it specifies its domains of investigation, which are diversified and thoroughly studied. Tourism becomes an object of study, as part of a distinct geographical science, which seeks to specify its own personality.

### **3.1. The scientific research**

a) In this context, the approach of the theoretical aspects regarding the object of Geography of Tourism are initiated, which is studied thoroughly in a modern manner ever increasing (N. Al. Rădulescu, 1946, Cl. Giurcăneanu, 1956, I. Șandru, 1966, Carmen Petrescu, 1970).

b) On a cumulative background, a qualitative leap takes place between 1960 – 1970, materialized in the successive publication of many valuable contributions in geographical magazines, embracing a varied thematic: the fields and the place of the Geography of Tourism in the frame of Geography (I. Șandru, 1966, M. Iancu, 1966); models of geographical-touristic research upon a representative region (C. Swizewski, Al. Ungureanu, V. Nimigeanu, 1966); application of the quantitative methods and the quantification of some indicators, as the index of mobility, touristic potential and especially the touristic flows (I. Șandru, 1970; G. Niculescu, I. Iordan, 1972; V. Glăvan, I. Istrate, 1976). The role of Geography of Tourism in education is also approached, as well as the modalities of perfecting the people involved in touristic activities (Carmen Petrescu, 1970, 1972). The Romanian tourism is not researched in an isolated way, but it is included in the European and in the world tourism (Ș. Dragomirescu, Gloria Crahmaliuc, 1969; Carmen Petrescu, 1971; Ciangă N., 1998, Cocean P., 2002, and others).

c) A distinct sub phase is made up within the interval 1968-1978, when scientific manifestations of a national proportion take place, the four Discussions of Tourism Geography (the first two with international participation), 1968, 1970, 1974, 1977. The communications delivered at the Discussions 1, 2 and 4 have been published in distinct volumes. The published articles debated all of the problems of Tourism Geography. Many of them had an interdisciplinary character, fructification of the collaborations of the geographers with economists, urbanists, sociologists, doctors, designers, architects. Practically, the whole geographical university and research movement was involved. It constitutes, organizationally speaking, a beneficial collaboration among the Institute of Geography, Bucharest, the university departments of Geography and I.E.C.I.T. Bucharest, with large resonances at that time. Otherwise, within the mentioned interval, a real impact between the touristic research and all the profiles with an economic effort of touristic arrangement of the national territory is produced, which was achieved in a rhythm and, why shouldn't we admit, at some parameters unattained neither before, nor after that.

This orientation of the research was followed, after the four national Discussions, by symposiums with a specific tint, which tried and managed to look deeply into the researches in some fields and also with a multidisciplinary implication of the national scientific values: "The balneary tourism", 1976; "The touristic zoning", 1976; "The mountainous tourism", 1977. The result of those three symposiums were turned into account very promptly, by the publishing of the communications' volumes in a very short time. In this way, valuable materials were put at the disposal of those interested in the continuation of the researches.

d) On the running of a decade and a half, the collection "The Counties of the Country" have been elaborated and published, under the aegis of the Academy Publishing House, the monographies of the counties, in which a distinct chapter is that of the analysis of the touristic potential and its capitalization.

e) The aspects of Geography of Tourism are also presented in two publications of reference in the geographical literature, patronized by the Academy and by the Academy Publishing House, too. These are: „The Romanian Atlas”, in which a distinct part of maps is dedicated to tourism, as well as the Geography of Tourism, in four volumes, in which the tourism is thoroughly analyzed within the volume II, Human and Economic Geography, as well as in the regional approaches, realized in the volumes III and IV.

f) In the last decades, the geographical literature was enriched with impressive editorial publications that approach aspects of special interest as The Bioclimate of Romania and of the balneoclimatic resorts (Elena Teodoreanu, 1983), morphological components with a special landscape value, the valleys in the keys or the caves and their touristic potential (M. Grigore, 1987; P. Cocean, 1988, 1995), as well as many touristic guides from the collection „Our mountains”, touristic monographies of the counties, of some natural regions or valleys, to which the geographers brought a substantial contribution.

h) It must also be noticed the apparition in premiere, in English, at Cracovia, of the first Touristic Monography of the Romanian Carpathians, to which geographers and sociologists from those three representative university centers brought their contribution: Cluj, Iași, București, in 1988.

i) All the geographical university magazines comprised and comprise frequently geographical contribution from the field of Geography of Tourism.

j) A special category is represented by the *Doctor's Theses*, with subjects of Geography of Tourism or in which the tourism represents a component of the paper, sustained after 1975. In their frame, an elaborated methodology was materialized in the complex analyses from a geographical-touristic point of view of some natural units: Mont Blanc – Chamonix (Carmen Petrescu, 1975), Apuseni Mountains (Cocean, P., 1980), the western part of the country (Truți S., 1985), Banatului Mountains (Olaru M., 1985), Eastern Carpathians (Ciangă, N., 1991). All of these were published subsequently in creditable publishing houses representing models of analysis in Geography of Tourism.

A new category of Doctoral theses analyse regions with a great touristic impact: The Danube Defile (Dumbrăveanu Daniela, 2007) or comprises chapters of tourism Geography in the frame of some theses on Regional Geography upon the countries: Oașului Country (Ilieș M., 2005), Lăpușului Country (Dezsi Șt.), Maramureșului Country (Ilieș Gabriela, 2007), Chioarului Country (Pușcaș Angelica, 2007).

In the last decade, some theses for Doctor's Degree of Tourism Geography were also sustained upon some regions like Dobrogea, Transylvania Depression, Western Carpathians, Curvature Subcarpathians etc.

### **3.2. The geographical higher education**

The geographical higher education diversifies by the introduction in its frame of a new discipline, namely Geography of Tourism. This was initially a facultative discipline, then it became optional, so that, after 1990, this would become an obligatory – fundamental discipline. Moreover, the development of a distinct specialization of Tourism Geography in the frame of the geographical sciences is to be noticed, included in the classified list of the university specializations. Initially, colleges of tourism appeared, with a duration of three years, the Geography from Cluj being the first in this respect, developing colleges of profile in the territory (Gheorgheni, Sighetu Marmăției, Zalău, Bistrița). Following this orientation, the Faculty of Geography from Bucharest set up at its turn colleges of tourism at Predeal and Călimănești.

A superior qualitative phase is that by which specializations of Tourism Geography of long term were set up within the faculties and the departments of geography from Bucharest, Suceava, Oradea, Timișoara, A.S.E. Bucharest or even faculties of Tourism Geography belonging to the private education (Sibiu).

As a result, as the time ran, courses of speciality were elaborated which synthesize the results of the research of Tourism Geography in country and abroad, related to the object, methods of research, factors of tourism development, modalities of turning into account, typology and touristic regionalization. In this sense, the contributions of some teaching staff are impressive, whose courses were multiplied, or more recently published

in creditable publishing houses: Grigore M., 1974; Swizewski C., Oancea D., 1976; Susan Aurelia, 1980; Mac I., 1992; Raboca N., Ciangă N., Maier A., 1992, 1996, 1999; Cocean P., 1992, 1997, 2002, Căndea Melinda, Erdely G., Simon Tamara 2000, 2003, Glăvan V., 2000, 2003, Ciangă N., 2002, 2003, Dinu Mihaela 2004, Ielenic, M., Comănescu Laura 2006, Muntele I., Iașu C., 2003, 2004, Păcurar Al., 1999, 2004, Dinu Mihaela 2004.

All the faculties and the departments of geography have a Master's Degree in Tourism Geography.

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