

## Projets de recherche:

I am affiliated with the Istituto di Studi Umanistici (Florence) where I am pursuing a Research Doctorate in Early Modern History with a focus on cultural relations between Europe and China in the 17th century (1676-1689). More precisely, I'm writing a historical commentary on the Diary of Travel and Mission in China [DTMC] by Nicolae 'Milescu' Spathar. He is the first Romanian humanist who translated the Old Testament from Greek in Cyrillic, who wrote scientific books with European impact. He first worked, for the Tsar Alexei Michailovic and after for Peter The Great, at the Posolski Prikaz [PP], the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His mission in China took place between 1675-1676, and his contact and political mediation with the Manchurian emperor Khan – Hsi, was made through the Jesuits from Peking.

One of the most important western biographers of Milescu, Emile Picot, writes about him: “Peu d'hommes ont eu une existence aussi aventureuse et se sont rendus célèbres par des facultés aussi diverses que Nicolas Spatar de Milesti. Il appartient en même temps à l'histoire littéraire de la Moldavie, de la Grèce, de la Russie et de la Chine. Son origine, ses talents, ses crimes, la mutilation qu'il subit, le hardi voyage qu'il exécuta pour gagner Péking en traversant tout l'Asie, les renseignements précieux qu'il rapporta de son ambassade auprès du Fils de Ciel, tout en lui concourt à exciter notre curiosité. Cependant l'histoire de Spatar est si peu connue que la plupart des orientalistes ignorent jusqu'à son nom de Milescu ”

Milescu had good knowledge of Greek and Latin thus he writes treatises about the theory of history, theory of numbers, the seven liberal arts, prophetic books and geography in this languages. Furthermore he spoke fluent Russian and Italian, which permitted him to compile dictionaries (Greek-Latin-Russian).

Milescu use his qualities as erudite and diplomat in political circles to his advantage and to aid the official contacts between countries and cultures.

Regarding the Imperial Moscow extension in the Asiatic and Extreme Oriental region we know that Alexei Mihailovich had a great interest for negotiating the new frontiers and new diplomatic and political relations. The knowledge of the territories and geographical discoveries were the principal ways to be successful. His influence and power depended on careful examination of the geographic of his times. In this logic we can understand Milescu's relationship of to the Posolsky Prikaz, to the tsar himself, as can be seen in his Diary.

This Diary is important for the geographical, ethnographical, political, cultural, and religious details as well as for new and detailed description of Siberia and the limes (borders) between Europe and Asia in his times

## Participations à des colloques:

Visiting PhD Student presso Needham Research Institute e Mongolian Inner Asia Studies Unit, University Library of Cambridge;

Rome. Pontificio Università Lateranense e Ambasciata Romana presso la Santa Sede: “Le giornate della Spiritualità Religiosa Romana”, con il titolo Brevi spunti sulla genesi di una cartografia della Roma Ecclesiastica nell'Estremo Oriente, per mezzo della Siberia (1639-1689) work in progress.

Rome. Accademia di Romania, conference: I Romeni e la Santa Sede dal Medioevo all'età contemporanea con il titolo: Breve nota sulla mediazione della Compagnia Iesus nel trattato russo - cinese di Nerstinsk (1689). Le nuove frontiere tra la Siberia e la Cina: il ruolo di Nicolae Milescu Spathar.

Rome. Accademia di Romania (Roma), conference: Spathar Milescu e la Stella Polare – Cina,

1676. Breve nota sulla Lucida Humeri o della T'ai yi nella sintesi dei sino-orientalisti all'inizio del XX secolo";  
Gorizia. Istituto di Sociologia Internazionale – Gorizia e l'Associazione per le Relazioni Culturali fra Italia e Romania, conferenza nel convegno Cultura, religione e politica in Romania fra le due guerre mondiali, conference: "Mircea Eliade e la rivista Zalmoxis" (1936-2001). Coordinator: Prof. Roberto Scagno (Università di Padova).

## **Publications:**

"Breve nota sulla mediazione della Compagnia di gesù nel trattato russo-cinese di Nertcinsk (1689). Le nuove frontiere tra la Siberia e la China: nil ruolo di Nicolae Miclescu Spathar", in "I Romeni e la Santa Sede. Miscelanea di studi di storia ecclesiastica", a cura di Ioan Carja, Scriptorium, Bucarest-Roma, 2004.

"Ferdinand Verbiest (1623-1688) e Nicola Spathar 'Miclescu' (1636-1708). L'itinerario transiberiano e come si "legge nel cielo" dall'Osservatorio Astronomico di Pechino alla fine del XVII secolo" (work in progress, for *Studia Asiatica. Journal for the Asiatic studies*", Bucarest)

Breve nota sulla Lucida Humeri o della T'ai yi nella sintesi dei sino-orientalisti all'inizio del XX secolo" (forthcoming in *Origini. Caiete Silvane*. 1/2004);

Book reviews:

"Kosmos. La concezione del mondo nelle civiltà antiche" a cura di Cristiano Dognini, Edizioni dell'Orso, Torino 2002, 176 p., ISBN 88-7694-610-1, published in *Archaevs. Etudes d'Histoire des Religions*, Tome VII (2003), fasc. 3-4;

"Anne Cornuto. Compendio di teologia greca" a cura di Ilaria Ramelli, Ed. Bompiani, Milano 2003, 608p., ISBN 88-452-9249-5, published in *Archaevs. Etudes d'Histoire des Religions*, Tome VII (2003), fasc. 3-4;

Book-review forthcoming:

"The history of the Relations between the low countries and China in the Qing era (1644-1911)", ed. by W.F.vande Walle, Co-editor Noel Golvers, Leuven University Press-Ferdinand Verbiest Foundation, Leuven 2003, 508 p., ISBN: 90-5867-315-4;

"Ferdinand Verbiest, S.J. (1623-1688) and the Chinese Heaven", by Noel Golvers, Leuven University Press-Ferdinand Verbiest Foundation, Leuven 2003, 676p.incl. maps, ISBN 90-5867-293 X;

"Etienne Fourmont (1683-1745) Oriental and Chinese Languages in Eighteenth-Century France", by Cécile Leung, Leuven University Press-Ferdinand Verbiest Foundation, Leuven 2002, 314p., ISBN 90-5867-248-4.

"J.G. Sparwenfeld's Diary of a Journey to Russia 1684-87", editor Ulla Birgegard, Slavica Suecana, Kungl. Vitterhets Historie Och Antikvitets Akademien, Stockholm 2002, 378p., ISBN 91-7402-324-1

## **Divers:**

Articles and book-reviews (in romanian language) in:

[www.observatorcultural.ro](http://www.observatorcultural.ro)

[www.scalacaeli.go.ro](http://www.scalacaeli.go.ro)