

# Silvia Ioana Fierăscu, PhD

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## Education

2012 – 2017	<b>PhD in Comparative Politics with an advanced specialization in Network Science, <i>summa cum laude</i></b> Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations and Department of Network and Data Science, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary Dissertation: <i>The Networked Phenomenon of State Capture. Network Dynamics, Unintended Consequences, and Political-Business Elite Relations in Hungary, 2009-2012</i> Supervisor: Prof. Balazs Vedres
2016	<b>Visiting Doctoral Fellow</b> (Oct – Nov) Department of Sociology, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK
2009 – 2011	<b>MA in Political Science, Best MA Thesis Award</b> Department of Political Science, Central European University
2008 – 2009	<b>Erasmus Study Visit</b> (Sep – Feb) Society, Politics and Policy Programme, School of Media, Culture and Society University of the West of Scotland, Paisley, UK
2006 – 2009	<b>BA in Political Science, Certificate of Excellency</b> Department of Political Science, West University of Timișoara, Timișoara, Romania

## Main Positions

2019 – present	<b>Lecturer in Research Methods and Data Analysis</b> <u>Department of Communication Sciences</u> , Faculty of Governance and Communication Sciences, West University of Timișoara
2021 – present	<b>Founder and Curator of ConnecTM</b> Career-Connected Learning Program, West University of Timișoara
2020 – present	<b>Researcher at Big Data Science Laboratory</b> West University of Timișoara
2019 – present	<b>Founder and Director of Social Fabrics Research Lab</b> Research, development and innovation lab in social sciences, West University of Timișoara
2019	<b>Postdoctoral Researcher at Big Data Science Laboratory</b> West University of Timișoara
2017 – present	<b>Research Fellow at Făgăraș Research Institute</b> Făgăraș, Romania

## Certifications & Training

2025	Using Artificial Intelligence in Education and Research West University of Timisoara and NEXTLAB.TECH
2023	<b>Certified Living Lab Expert</b> <u>Virtual Learning Lab Program</u> , <u>European Network of Living Labs</u> , Brussels, Belgium
2012 – 2017	<b>Doctoral Advanced Certificate of Specialization in Network Science</b> Department of Network and Data Science, Central European University
2009 – 2011	<b>Certificate of Specialization in Political Research Methodology and Social Analysis</b> , Department of Political Science, Central European University

## Honours & Grants

2021	<b>Urban Hero of Timișoara for Impact in Education</b> Ness Digital Engineering and Timisoara Community Foundation, Timisoara, Romania
2020	<b>Civic Anti-Corruption Tech Initiative Grant</b> Hivos International, Netherlands
2019	<b>Visiting Scholar</b> <u>NOVA Information Management School</u> , <u>Universidade Nova de Lisboa</u> , Lisbon, Portugal
2017	<b>CivicDev Prize</b>

2016	Connecting Doers with Opportunity Hackathon, Timisoara, Romania <b>Doctoral Research Support Grant</b> Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
2014	<b>Teaching Assistant of the Year</b> Department of Political Science, Central European University
2012 – 2015	<b>Doctoral Fellowship</b> Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations, Central European University
2011	<b>Best MA Thesis Award</b> Department of Political Science, Central European University

## Teaching Experience

*Semester-long Courses at West University of Timisoara*

2025 -	Invited Lecturer, <b>Department of Political Science</b> <b>Data Science for Public Administration</b> (MA, 1 <sup>st</sup> year, Public Administration and Leadership Programme)
	Invited Lecturer, <b>Department of Sociology and Psychology</b> <b>Network Analysis in Migration Studies</b> (MA, 2 <sup>nd</sup> year, International Migration and Global Social Change Programme)
2018 – present	Lecturer, <b>Department of Communication Sciences</b> <b>Introduction to Network Science</b> (BA, 1 <sup>st</sup> year, all communication sciences specializations & transversal course across the university) <b>Analysis of Digital Data</b> (BA, 3 <sup>rd</sup> year, Digital Media Programme) <b>Analysis of Big Data</b> (MA, 1 <sup>st</sup> year, Advertising Communication in Digital Media, Programme) <b>Research Ethics</b> (MA, 1 <sup>st</sup> year, Mass-Media and Public Relations & Communication and Mediation in Social Conflicts Programme)
2019 – 2023	<b>Research Methods in Communication Sciences</b> (BA, 2 <sup>nd</sup> year, Digital Media Programme) <b>Online Advertising</b> (BA, 3 <sup>rd</sup> year, Advertising Programme) <b>Digital Platforms</b> (BA, 2 <sup>nd</sup> year, Digital Media Programme) <b>Social Media</b> (BA, 3 <sup>rd</sup> year, Communications and Public Relations Programme) <b>Online Storytelling</b> (MA, 1 <sup>st</sup> year, Mass-Media and Public Relations Programme)
2017 – 2018	Adjunct Professor, <b>Department of Political Science</b> <b>Political Behavior</b> (BA, 3 <sup>rd</sup> year)
2017 – 2018	Guest Lecturer, <b>Rajk László College for Advanced Studies</b> , Budapest, Hungary <b>Introduction to Network Science and Applications</b> (BA & MA)

*Short Courses Academia*

2022 – 2025	Invited Instructor, <b>Methods Excellence Network (MethodsNet)</b> , Rixensart, Belgium MethodsNet Summer School <b>Social Network Analysis</b> (PhD) at <b>Central European University</b> , Vienna, Austria (2025) <b>Applied Social Network Analysis</b> (PhD) at <b>Radboud University</b> , Nijmegen, Netherlands, (2022-2023)
2017 – 2024	Invited Instructor, <b>European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)</b> , Colchester, UK Summer, Winter and Virtual Schools in Methods and Techniques <b>Social Network Analysis</b> (PhD) at: <b>KU Leuven</b> , Leuven, Belgium (2022-2024) <b>Bamberg University</b> , Bamberg, Germany (2019-2021) <b>Central European University</b> , Budapest, Hungary (2017-2018)
2023	Invited Instructor, <b>BAGGS Internal Methods Institute</b> , Bamberg, Germany Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences <b>Applied Social Network Analysis</b>
2019 – 2022	Invited Instructor, <b>Făgăraş Research Institute</b> , Făgăraş, Romania Făgăraş Summer School <b>Introduction to Social Network Analysis</b> <b>Organizational Network Analysis</b>
2022	Invited Instructor, <b>Tartu University</b> , Tartu, Estonia <b>Introduction to Social Network Analysis</b>
2021	Invited Instructor, <b>KU Leuven</b> , Leuven, Belgium <b>ERC Project Polycarbon</b>

### **Social Network Analysis Training (PhD)**

2021 Invited Instructor, **GESIS Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences**, Mannheim, Germany  
GESIS Fall Seminar in Computational Social Science  
**Social Network Analysis (PhD)**

#### *Teaching Assistants*

2020 – 2023 **Dr. Rafiazka Hilman**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Computational Science Lab (CSL), Informatics Institute (IvI), University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

2021 – 2022 **Alexandra Florea**, Doctoral Researcher, Transregional Collaborative Research Centre, Technik und Diversity, Paderborn University, Germany

2021 – 2022 **Ianis Rusitoru**, Fraud Data Analyst, Booking Holdings, Romania

2018 – 2020 **Dr. Orsolya Vasarhelyi**, Assistant Professor, Center for Collective Learning, Institute of Data Analytics and Information Systems, Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary

#### *Short Courses Professionals (selection)*

2020 – present Head of **OrgMapper Academy**  
Training for Change Management, Organizational Development, Organizational Design  
Consultants, HR professionals, Managers and Executives in the private and public sectors

**Global ONA Mentorship Program**

**OrgMapper Partner Certification Training**

#### *Workshops Delivered (selection)*

2025 **Network Navigators: Hands-on Social Network Analysis for Regenerative Living Labs**, co-delivered with Juan Pablo Centeno (KU Leuven, Belgium), Open Living Lab Days, Andorra la Vella, Andorra

2024 **Social Network Analysis for Sustainability**, School of Sustainable Development, Făgăraș Research Institute, Romania

2024 **Building a career-connected learning program. Student-centred pedagogy in research methods classes**, UNITA International Consortium, Teaching & Learning Training (virtual)

2024 **Social Network Analysis for Change. MethodsNet Methods Development and Innovation Workshop**, UC Louvain, Louvain la Neuve, Belgium

2024 **The Network Game, MethodsNet Participatory Session**, UC Louvain, Louvain la Neuve, Belgium

2024 **Gender Equality Plans: Monitoring and Evaluation Training**, The Widening Inclusion and Gender Equality Community of Practice (WIGE CoP), Krakow, Poland

2024 **Healthy Organizational Cultures: The Connected Perspective**, Pluxee, Timisoara, Romania

2024 **Social Network Analysis for Ecosystem Evaluation**, Association Make Better (MKBT), Bucharest, Romania

2024 **Social Network Analysis for Urban Planning**, Urboteca Association, Bucharest, Romania

2024 **Organizational Network Analysis for Sustainable Enterprise Design**, Intersection Conference 2023, Vienna, Austria

2024 **Mapping the Bosch Alumni Network: The Peace and Science Clusters**, International Alumni Center, Berlin, Germany

#### *Supervisory Activity*

Level	No. of students	Details & Graduation Year
Bachelor's Supervision of Theses and Professional Portfolios	41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital Media (38, 2020-2025)</li><li>• Advertising (3, 2020-2022)</li></ul>
Masters Dissertation Supervision	3	Mass Media and Public Relations (2, 2023-2025)
PhD (External) Committee Member	9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Elien Diels, <b><u>The Public Governance Institute, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium</u></b> (2023)</li><li>2. Eszter Molnar, <b><u>Department of Engineering, University of Lancaster, Lancaster, UK</u></b> (2024)</li><li>3. Giacomo Zoppi, <b><u>Modeling and Data Science, University of Torino, Torino, Italy</u></b> (2025)</li><li>4. Daniel Alejo, <b><u>Brussels School of Governance, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium</u></b> (TBD)</li><li>5. Andrei Dodea, <b><u>Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, West University of Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania</u></b> (TBD)</li><li>6. Carmen Apostol, <b><u>Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science, West University of Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania</u></b> (TBD)</li></ol>

Level	No. of students	Details & Graduation Year
		7. Manuela Anghelescu, <b>Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science, West University of Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania</b> (TBD) 8. Ciprian Cucu, <b>Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science, West University of Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania</b> (TBD) 9. Nicolae Gaiță, <b>Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science, West University of Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania</b> (TBD)
MSCA Fellow Co-Supervisor	1	Georgiana Turculeț, <b>Marie Curie Individual Fellow, Pompeu Fabra, Barcelon, Spain</b> (2024)

#### *Mentoring Activity*

2023	Mentor, <a href="#"><b>Women in Network Science (WiNS) Mentorship Program</b></a>
2022	Coordinator, <a href="#"><b>Re-UNITA Gender Mentoring Program</b></a>
2021 – 2022	Mentor, <a href="#"><b>APSA Mentoring Program</b></a>
2021 – 2024	Remedial Expert, <a href="#"><b>ROSE 374 – Student Counselling</b></a> , Faculty of Governance and Communication Sciences, West University of Timisoara
2020 – 2021	Coordinator, <a href="#"><b>Peer-to-Peer Tutoring Program</b></a> , Faculty of Governance and Communication Sciences, West University of Timisoara

## **Relevant Research and Science Valorization Experience**

#### *Research Projects*

2025	<b>Impact Analysis of Timisoara City Celebration 2025.</b> Partner: <a href="#"><u>Center for Projects</u></a> , Romania
2025	<b>Impact Analysis of JAZZx 2025.</b> Partner: <a href="#"><u>Centrul Cultural PLAI</u></a> , Romania
2024	<b>INTACT Living Lab: INtegrity and TrAnsparency Civic Tech Living Lab Concept.</b> Partners: <a href="#"><u>Regional Government of Flanders</u></a> (Vlaamse Gewest) Belgium, <a href="#"><u>Municipality of Timisoara</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Universidade NOVA de Lisboa - NOVA Information Management School</u></a> Portugal, <a href="#"><u>Association Smart City Timisoara</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Central Alentejo Intermunicipality Community Portugal</u></a>
2024	<b>Safety Perceptions in Urban Environments for Vulnerable Communities.</b> Partners: <a href="#"><u>Identity.Education</u></a> Romania, <a href="#"><u>BETA Timisoara Architecture Biennial</u></a>
2023 – 2025	<b>Timisoara European Capital of Culture Ecosystem Evolution, 2017-2024.</b> Partners: <a href="#"><u>Center for Projects Timisoara</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Municipality of Timisoara</u></a>
2023	<b>SDG Community Meetings &amp; Projects</b> , Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) project proposal. Partners: West University of Timisoara, Civil Society Union Cirkuliranje Serbia, Cultural Centre PLAI Romania, Resource Centre for Ethical and Solidar Initiatives Romania. Evaluation total score: 68.
2022 – 2023	<b>Bosch Alumni Network Analysis.</b> Partners: <a href="#"><u>Făgăraș Research Institute</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>International Alumni Center</u></a> , Berlin, Germany
2022 – present	<b>Barometer of Quality of Life in Timisoara.</b> Partners: West University of Timisoara, <a href="#"><u>Municipality of Timisoara</u></a>
2022 – 2023	<b>Pilot project to analyze collaboration and cohesion networks among employees in the administrative structures of West University of Timisoara.</b> Partner: West University of Timisoara
2021 – present	<b>Re-UNITA - Research on Gender Equality.</b> Partners: <a href="#"><u>UNITA Universitas Montium University Alliance</u></a>
2020 – present	<b>OrgMapper Research Data Analysis.</b> Partner: Maven Seven Solutions Ltd., Budapest, Hungary
2017-2021	<b>(Innovatively) Outsmarting Toxic Pseudoscience Outspread via Social Tools/Machines (I-OutPOST),</b> H2020-MSCA-ITN-2020 project proposal. Partners: West University of Timisoara, <a href="#"><u>University of Amsterdam</u></a> Netherlands, <a href="#"><u>University of Helsinki</u></a> Finland, <a href="#"><u>Vilnius University</u></a> Lithuania, <a href="#"><u>Western Norway University of Applied Sciences</u></a> Norway, <a href="#"><u>Ripe NCC</u></a> Netherlands, Avans AS Norway, <a href="#"><u>Hostinger</u></a> Lithuania, <a href="#"><u>Institute E-Austria</u></a> Romania, Genisoft Romania. Evaluation total score: 74.40%
2020	<b>Development of a standardized quantitative analysis methodology of social networks with applicability in the field of competition,</b> in “Optimizing the interaction with the business environment and implementing advanced data analysis and exchange mechanisms by implementing an e-government information system and Big Data analysis within the Competition Council” - SMIS code 109641. Partners: <a href="#"><u>Government Transparency Institute</u></a> Hungary, <a href="#"><u>Romanian Competition Council</u></a>
2019	<b>Demographic Forecasting Expert in “Quality in Higher Education: Internationalization and Databases for the Development of Romanian Education (POCU HE)”</b> (SMIS code 126766) (for

	Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI).
2017 – 2019	Employability of student graduates, in “Integrated Program for Correlation Measures of the educational offer of West University of Timișoara with the demands of the labor market” (CNFIS-FDI-2017-0241), <u>Center for Public Policy</u> , West University of Timișoara, Timișoara, Romania.
2017	Researcher, <b>COHESIFY - Understanding the Impact of EU Cohesion Policy on European Identification</b> , Horizon 2020 project, 2016-2020, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.
2017 – 2018	<b>Mapping High-Level Public Policy Conferences in Europe</b> (for Open Society Initiative for Europe, <u>Open Society Foundations</u> , Budapest, Hungary).
2015 – 2016	<b>Social and Organizational Network Analysis</b> ( <u>Maven Seven Solutions Ltd.</u> )
	<i>Contributions to platform and software development</i>
2025	<b><u>datasenses.eu</u></b> ( <i>under development</i> ) – AI-powered data and research methods literacy serious games for everyone
2024	<b><u>research.identity.education</u></b> – Platform to visualize safety perceptions in the city of Timisoara
2021 – 2024	<b><u>connectm.uvt.ro</u></b> – Digital platform to present student projects in ConnecTM – Career-Connected Learning Program at West University of Timisoara
2017	<b><u>angajabilitate.uvt.ro</u></b> – Prototype analyzing and visualizing career paths of West University of Timisoara graduates on the labour market (2010-2017)
2017	<b><u>captured.silviafierascu.com</u></b> – Prototype analyzing and visualizing insights into state capture from public procurement data
2015 – 2016	<b><u>OrgMapper   INFLUENCE</u></b> – An automated organizational diagnostics tool that identifies hidden Influencers - the most influential, capable and best-connected employees
	<i>Volunteering Activities</i>
2025	Expert DIANA Mentor and Expert Network, <b><u>NATO DIANA Accelerator Programme</u></b>
2025	Co-organizer <b><u>Open Data Day Timisoara</u></b>
2024	Public Speaking Trainer at <b><u>TEDxAristide Demetriade</u></b> Timisoara
2020 – present	Ambassador <b><u>Women in Data Science Romania</u></b>
2018 – 2020	Political Catalogue Project, <b><u>Code for Romania</u></b>
	<i>Keynotes and Invited Talks (selection)</i>
2025	<i>Healthy Organizational Cultures, Morning Shift</i> , Timisoara, Romania
2025	<i>Opening Talk at International Student Week in Timisoara</i> , Timisoara, Romania
2025	<i>Open Data Analysis and Visualization for Transparency and Change, E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup> – Ent-r-e-novators PhD Summer School 2025, Open Practices in Higher Education</i> , Timișoara, Romania
2025	<i>The Researcher View of the Innovation Ecosystem in Timișoara, Timișoara Innovation City</i> , Timișoara, Romania
2025	<i>Ecosystemic Thinking. See the Big Picture, Start with Trust</i> , <b><u>SPOR Leadership Camp</u></b> , Breb, Romania
2025	<i>Applied Social Network Analysis. Co-creating the Future</i> , <b><u>MethodsNet</u></b>
2025	<i>Strategic Leadership Insights: Leveraging Networks of Trust for Competitive Advantage</i> , <b><u>Transylvania Executive Hub</u></b> , Cluj-Napoca, Romania
2024	<i>Roundtable Regulating digital content - from the European Union to the practical test in Romania</i> , <b><u>West University of Timisoara</u></b> , Romania
2024	<i>Building Resilient Communities through Transfer of Trust: Epistemic Networks in Culture</i> , <b><u>Trust in Epistemic Networks, Institute of Philosophy, Technische Universität Dresden</u></b> , Germany
2024	<i>Network Science in Culture. Mapping Relationships, Building Resilient Ecosystems</i> , <b><u>Why Culture Matters International Symposium</u></b> , Timisoara, Romania
2024	<i>Building Resilient Ecosystems. Timisoara's Culture Story</i> , <b><u>University Network of European Capitals of Culture (UNeECC) Annual Conference, Impact &amp; Legacy of the European Capitals of Culture Programme</u></b> , Polytechnic University of Timisoara, Timișoara, Romania
2024	<i>Roundtable Digitalization of Timișoara and Romania</i> , <b><u>Municipality of Timisoara</u></b> , Romania
2024	<i>Trust Networks as Data. The Journey Ahead</i> , <b><u>Social Network Analysis in Scotland (SNAS)</u></b> , University of <b><u>Edinburgh</u></b> , Edinburgh, UK
2024	<i>How to map relationships to make an impact in the classroom, with parents and colleagues</i> , <b><u>AtelieR de Cuvinte National Seminar</u></b> , Timisoara, Romania
2023	<i>Trust - The Hidden Power of Communities</i> , TEDxAristide Demetriade, Timisoara, Romania
2023	<i>Organizational Networks and Informal Power</i> , <b><u>SPOR Leadership Camp</u></b> , Scoala SPOR, Breb, Romania

2023 Roundtable *How to Research Climate Change: A Debate on Methods and Perspectives from Political Science*, **House Series Debate, European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), KU Leuven**, Belgium

2021 *The Power of Network Science in Social Sciences, Organizations, and Innovation*, **Domino Lecture Series, Istanbul Bilgi University**, Istanbul, Turkey

2021 *Thriving in Research and Education, in a Context of Failure. A Tale of Youth Empowerment, Resilience in Education and Research Panel*, **Romanian International Conference for Research and Education**, Bucharest, Romania

2020 *Data viz for social impact*, **Data Visualization Lisboa Meetup**, Lisbon, Portugal

2020 *Networks as Anti-Corruption Policy Tools*, **Satellite on Corruption Networks - Corruption Networks. From Data Analysis to Public Policy**, **NetSci 2020 - International School and Conference on Network Science** (virtual event)

2020 *Network Science for Social Good*, **Rajk Laszlo College for Advanced Studies**, Budapest, Hungary

2020 *Corruption Networks in Public Procurement across European Countries*, **Women in Data Science Conference**, Budapest, Hungary

2019 *Pathways to Capturing the State: Comparative Analysis of Corruption Networks in Public Procurement*, **General Conference of the European Cooperation for Network Data Science (COSTNET)**, Bilbao, Spain

2019 *Interlinking Data Science with Social Impact*, **Wednesday Summits**, **NOVA Information Management School, Universidade Nova de Lisboa**, Lisbon, Portugal

2019 *State Capture: Comparative Analysis of Corruption Networks*, **Open Contracting Partnership**, Washington D.C., USA

2019 *From data to sustainable social impact. What we need is what you have* **Data Stories 2019**, **Central European, University**, Budapest, Hungary

2018 Roundtable *Reaching Back. Continuities and Discontinuities of Democratic State Building in Central and Eastern Europe*, **Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (IWM)**, Vienna, Austria

2016 *Applying network science to political problems. A conceptual and analytical framework for understanding and predicting corruption risks in business-political networks*  
**Network Science and its Applications Workshop**, **Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences**, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK

## Publications and Relevant Contributions

### Journal Articles

Diels, E., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, Oosterlynck, S., & Hondeghem, A. (2024). *The role of resource allocation for regime performance in networks for local integration policies*. *Public Management Review*, 1-22.

Proteasa, V. & **Fierăscu, S.I.** (2018). *The institutionalisation of social sciences: bringing graduates' employment into the explanation*. *Romanian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 18(1), 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781107415324.004>.

**Fierăscu, S.I.**, Pârvu, M., Topîrceanu, A. & Udrescu, M. (2018). *Exploring Party Switching in the Post-1989 Romanian Politicians Network from a Complex Network Perspective*. *Romanian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 18(1).

Nordlund, C. & **Fierăscu, S.I.** (2018). Introduction to the special issue on social and political networks. *Romanian Journal of Political Science*, Vol 18(1).

### Books

**Fierăscu, S.I.** & Hilman, R. (*under development*). *Applied Social Network Analysis for Interdisciplinary Social Scientists and Practitioners*.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2019). *Redefining State Capture: The Institutionalization of Corruption Networks in Hungarian Public Procurement*. Bucharest: Eikon Publishing.

### Book Chapters

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (*forthcoming 2025*). From Impact Assessment to Public Policy. The Case of Timisoara, European Capital of Culture in 2023. In Valeri, M. (Ed.) *Impact & Legacy of the European Capitals of Culture Programme*, Springer.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (*forthcoming 2025*). Building a Career-Connected Learning Program in Data Analytics Courses. In Andone, D., Van Petegem, W., Mihaescu, V. (Eds.) *Emerging Technologies, Challenges and Opportunities in Education and Research*, A Springer Nature Computer Science book series (CCIS).

Diels, E., Oosterlynck, S., Hondeghem, A. & **Fierăscu, S.I.** (2022). Netwerken als hefboom in de strijd tegen armoede: een kwantitatieve analyse van stedelijke netwerken voor de integratie van migranten. In Coene, Jill et al., *Armoede en sociale uitsluiting Jaarboek 2022*. Leuven: Academische Coöperatieve Venootschap.

**Fierăscu, S.I.**, Fejes, L. Z. & Cibian, Ş. (2022). Mapping the mobilization of the Industry of Good in limiting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the metropolitan area of Cluj-Napoca (RO). In Croitoru, Alin and Iorga, Alexandru (Eds.). *Community development in Romania: concept, processes, analysis models* (RO). Bucharest: Tritonic.

Santa, R. & **Fierăscu, S.I.** (2021). Access patterns in Romanian Higher Education. A story of asymmetry and polarization. In Curaj, Adrian, Salmi, Jamil, and Haj, Cezar Mihai (Eds.). *Higher Education in Romania: Overcoming Challenges and Embracing Opportunities*, Springer.

#### Book Reviews

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2016). Book Review: Corporate Political Behavior: Why Corporations Do What They Do in Politics. *Political Studies Review*, Vol. 14(1): 103-104, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1478929915609470>.

#### Other Academic and Professional publications

Cibian, S., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, Rușitoru, I. & Fejes, Z.L. (2024). *The potential of the Bosch Alumni Network from a social network analysis perspective: sustaining collective impact among peace and science and research clusters members*. Făgăraş: Făgăraş Research Institute Publishing House. ISBN PDF: 978-606-95063-8-7.

Cibian, S., Lup, O., Beserman, E., Rușitoru, I., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, Ţerbănuță, C., Vișan, L., Mocanu, R., Langusi, D. & Onea, I. (2024). *The impact of the Ambulance for Monuments Program on activating local communities in Romania* (RO). Făgăraş: Făgăraş Research Institute Publishing House. ISBN PDF: 978-606-95803-5-6.

Cibian, S., Beserman, E., Georgiev, G., Fejes, Z.L., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, Rușitoru, I., Drieling, L. & Drăghiciu, A.O. (2023). *European Community Foundations and the Sustainable Development Goals: An Emerging Global Infrastructure for Sustainable Communities*. Făgăraş: Făgăraş Research Institute Publishing House. ISBN: 978-606-95063-9-4.

Cibian, S., Drăgan, M., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, Beserman, E.D., Fejes, Z.L., Rușitoru, I., Cârnu, A. (2023). *Study on civil society development in Tara Făgărașului* (RO). Făgăraş: Făgăraş Research Institute Publishing House. ISBN PDF: 978-606-95803-0-1.

**Fierăscu, S.I.**, Iuga, R., Borhină, B., Giuroiu, M. (2023). *Analysis of the Causes of Low Labor Market Integration of Graduates in the Dual Vocational System*. Report for the "Regele Ferdinand I" Technological High School Timișoara, within the Erasmus+ project "In step with technology" (R001-K210-VET-000084107).

Cibian, Ş., Drăgan, M., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, Rușitoru, I., Beserman, E. (2022). *A National Study on Digital Inclusion and Exclusion in Romania*. Făgăraş: Făgăraş Research Institute Publishing House.

Santa, R. & **Fierăscu, S.I.** (2020). Anticipating the main demographic trends and their impact on the student population in Romania. Forecasting study. In Haj, Cezar Mihai, *Series Substantiation of Decision Making in Higher Education* Nr.1/2020, Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding.

Ranca, L., Cibian, Ş., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, & Molnoş, A. (2019). *Romania Country Brief 2018-2019. Freedom of expression, its challenges and limitations*. Făgăraş: Făgăraş Research Institute Publishing House.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2019). *A More Effective Way of Tackling Institutionalized Corruption*, invited contribution in *Eastern Focus - 30 Years Later: The Unfinished Revolution*, 1(3), Bucharest, Romania.

Cibian, Ş., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, Knezevic, S., Liebhart, K., Meissner, H., Molnoş, A., Ranca, L., Yurukova, M. & Weidel, C. (2019). *Counter-strategies towards hate and disinformation*, FreeEx – Responsibility. Freedom of Expression, co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union, democratic engagement and civic participation.

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Morehouse, C., Garcia, A. & **Fierăscu, S.I.** (2018). *An End to Manels II: Closing the Gender Gap at Europe's Top Policy Events*, Policy Brief, Open Society Foundations.

Morehouse, C., Garcia, A. & **Fierăscu, S.I.** (2018). *An End to Manels: Closing the Gender Gap at Europe's Top Policy Events*, Policy Brief, Open Society Foundations.

#### Conference Papers (selection)

**Fierăscu, S.I.** & Schuurman, D. (2025, October). The Backbone and the Bridges: Central Influence and Collaborative Integration in Living Labs Scholarship. *Open Living Lab Days*, Andorra la Vella, Andorra.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** & Schuurman, D. (2025, March). A systematic bibliometric and network analysis of the body of knowledge of Living Labs. *International Society for Professional Innovation Management Conference (ISPIM Connects)*, Cape Town, South Africa.

**Fierăscu, S.I.**, Michelson, C. & Szilveszter, E. (2025, June). From Impact to Legacy: Evaluating Timisoara's ECoC Networks as Feedforward Assets for Resilience and Sustainability. *46<sup>th</sup> INSNA Sunbelt Social Networks Conference*, Paris, France.

**Fierăscu, S.I.**, Michelson, C. & Szilveszter, E. (2025, June). Models of Bottom-Up Innovation: The Case of the GroundUP Music Label. *46<sup>th</sup> INSNA Sunbelt Social Networks Conference*, Paris, France.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2024, November). From Impact Assessment to Public Policy. The Case of Timisoara, European Capital of Culture in 2023. *MethodsNet Annual Conference*, UC Louvain, Belgium.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2024, November). ConnecTM - Career-Connected Learning at UVT, *EDEN 2024 Research Workshop & PhD Masterclass - Emerging Technologies, Challenges and Opportunities in Education and Research*, Polytechnic University of Timisoara, Romania.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2022, July). Network Science and Career-Connected Learning, *Network Science and Education Symposium (NetSciEd)*, NetSci Conference Satellite.

**Fierăscu, S.I.**, Florea, A. & Rușitoru, I. (2021, July). Formal and informal social networks in learning and education. A case study of experiential learning for social change, *Networks2021* (virtual).

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2019, August). State Capture: Comparative Analysis of Corruption Networks, *115th American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition (APSA)*, Washington, D.C., USA.

**Anghel, V.** & Fierăscu, S.I. (2019, August). A Granulated Universe: The Effect of Informal Networks on Democratization, *115th American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition (APSA)*, Washington, D.C., USA.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2017, May). Corruption Networks in Post-Communist Countries: The Case of State Capture in Hungary, *SCOPE 2017 - 4th International Interdisciplinary Conference of Political Research*, Bucharest, Romania.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2016, November). Micro-Structures of Corruption Risks in Hungarian Public Procurement, 2009-2012, poster presentation, *Workshop on Statistical Network Analysis - Challenges in Industry and Society*, Turing Gateway to Mathematics, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2015, April). State Capture and Party Colonization in Post-Communist Hungary: A Network Analysis of Business-Political Logics of Action, *Mid-West Political Science Association Annual Conference*, Chicago, IL, USA.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2015, April). Politicizing the Economy. Patterns of Political Control Over Market Resources in Post-Communist Hungary, *Annual Doctoral Conference*, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2014, April). The Networked Phenomenon of State Capture: A Theoretical Framework of Political-Business Elite Networks in Hungary, 1986-2006, *Annual Doctoral Conference*, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.

Chiru, M. & **Fierăscu, S.I.** (2012, April). Parliamentary Representation under Changing Electoral Rules: Policy networks vs. Pork-Barrel Networks in the Romanian Parliament, *ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops*, Antwerp, Belgium.

Chiru, M. & **Fierăscu, S.I.** (2012, June). Policy Networks or Pork Barrel Networks? A Case of Changing Electoral Rules, *The Inaugural General Conference of the ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments*, Dublin, Ireland.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2012, March). Strategic Collaborations in Legislative Networks, *XXXII INSNA Sunbelt Social Networks Conference*, Redondo Beach, CA, USA.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2011, June). Legislative Behavior in Romania. A Network Analysis, *NetSci - International School and Conference on Network Science*, Budapest, Hungary.

**Fierăscu, S.I.** (2011, May). Patterns of Legislative Behavior. A Network Analysis on Electoral System Change, *American Sociological Association Spring Methodology Conference (ASA)*, Tilburg University, Tilburg, Netherlands.

## Academic Service

2025 – present Expert Evaluator, **Momentum MSCA Premium Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme**, cofunded by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the European Commission under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions grant

2025 – present Paper and Innovation Evaluator, Open Living Lab Days, **European Network of Living Labs**

2019 – present Member of **accreditation, admissions, hiring, HR Excellence, PhD committees** at the Faculty of Governance and Communication Sciences, West University of Timisoara

2020 – 2021 Editor of **Romanian Journal of Political Science**

2020 – 2021 Associate Editor of **Frontiers in Political Science - Methods and Measurement**

2019 – present Reviewer for **EPJ Data Science, Journal of European Public Policy, Applied Network Science, Government and Opposition, Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery: Computation Communication Research**

## Administrative Experience

2024 – present **Advisory Board Member**, Erasmus+ KA2 cooperation partnership in adult education **Digital Libraries (Diglib)**

2024 – present **Board Member**, Banat IT Association

2023 **Timișoara Ambassador**, InnovationLabs

2022 – present **Organizer and Host**, Women in Data Science Timișoara

2021 **Co-organizer**, Women in Data Science Central & Eastern Europe

2020 – present **Organizer and Host**, ONA Summit

2019 – 2022 **Project Manager**, Digital Society Podcast

2019 – 2022 **Organizer**, FabLab Seminar Series

2019 – 2020	<b>Co-founder, <u>Civic Anti-Corruption Tech Initiative</u></b>
2017 – 2020	<b>Co-organizer, <u>Timișoara Workshops on Research Methods</u></b>
2016	<b>Organizer and co-chair, <u>Exploring Massive Network Data</u>, European Cooperation for Statistics of Network Data Science (COST) Action CA15109, 2016-2020</b>
2016 – 2020	<b>Country Manager, European Cooperation for Statistics of Network Data Science (COST) Action CA15109, 2016-2020</b>
2016 – present	<b>External Expert, <u>COST Association</u></b>
2013 – 2017	<b>Founder and organizer, <u>Data Stories - Research Visualization Exhibition and Meetup</u></b>

#### *Public Media Appearances*

2025	Radio Timisoara, <u>TEDxUSVT</u>
2024	<u>Inspirational Insights Podcast – Insight to Action</u> ; <u>Creative Mornings Timisoara</u>
2023	<u>TEDxAristide Demetriade</u> ; <u>Forbes Power Breakfast</u> - Forbes Romania
2022	<u>Inspirational Insights Podcast – Insight to Action</u> ; <u>The Vast and the Curious Podcast</u> ; <u>Avantaje Magazine</u> ; <u>Hacking Work Podcast</u>
2021	<u>The Vast and the Curious Podcast</u>
2020	Radio Romania Cultural
2018	Radio Romania International; <u>Romanian National Press Agency</u> - AGERPRES
2017	<u>Adevărul</u> Newspaper

## Membership in Professional Organizations

2025 – present	<u>Network-First Manifesto</u>
2023 – present	<u>European Network of Living Labs</u> (ENoLL)
2021 – present	<u>Methods Excellence Network</u> (MethodsNet)
2019 – present	<u>American Political Science Association</u> (APSA)
2012 – present	<u>European Consortium for Political Research</u> (ECPR)
2012 – present	<u>International Network for Social Network Analysis</u> (INSNA)

## Data Analysis and Visualization Software

R, Gephi, ORA (Casos), Tableau, Flourish, NodeXL, Ucinet, CFinder

## Languages

Romanian (native); English (bilingual, C2); German (independent user, B1/B2); Spanish (basic, A2)

## References

<b><u>Albert Laszlo Barabasi</u></b>	<b><u>Levente Littvay</u></b>	<b><u>Stefan Cibian</u></b>
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