

Silvia Ioana Fierăscu, PhD

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Education

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

Main Positions

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

Certifications & Training

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

Honours & Grants

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

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

Teaching Experience

Semester-long Courses at West University of Timisoara

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

Short Courses Academia

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

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"> Digital Media (38, 2020-2025) Advertising (3, 2020-2022) |
| Masters Dissertation Supervision | 3 | Mass Media and Public Relations (2, 2023-2025) |
| PhD (External) Committee Member | 9 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elie Diels, The Public Governance Institute, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium (2023) Eszter Molnar, Department of Engineering, University of Lancaster, Lancaster, UK (2024) Giacomo Zoppi, Modeling and Data Science, University of Torino, Torino, Italy (2025) Daniel Alejo, Brussels School of Governance, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium (TBD) Andrei Dodea, Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, West University of Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania (TBD) Carmen Apostol, Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science, West University of Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania (TBD) |

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

Mentoring Activity

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

Relevant Research and Science Valorization Experience

Research Projects

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| 2025 | Impact Analysis of Timisoara City Celebration 2025. Partner: <u>Center for Projects</u> , Romania |
| 2025 | Impact Analysis of JAZZx 2025. Partner: <u>Centrul Cultural PLAI</u> , Romania |
| 2024 | INTACT Living Lab: INtegrity and TrAnsparency Civic Tech Living Lab Concept. Partners: <u>Regional Government of Flanders</u> (Vlaamse Gewest) Belgium, <u>Municipality of Timisoara</u> , <u>Universidade NOVA de Lisboa - NOVA Information Management School</u> Portugal, <u>Association Smart City Timisoara</u> , <u>Central Alentejo Intermunicipality Community</u> Portugal |
| 2024 | Safety Perceptions in Urban Environments for Vulnerable Communities. Partners: <u>Identity.Education</u> Romania, <u>BETA Timisoara Architecture Biennial</u> |
| 2023 – 2025 | Timisoara European Capital of Culture Ecosystem Evolution, 2017-2024. Partners: <u>Center for Projects Timisoara</u> , <u>Municipality of Timisoara</u> |
| 2023 | SDG Community Meetings & Projects , 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 | Bosch Alumni Network Analysis. Partners: <u>Făgăraș Research Institute</u> , <u>International Alumni Center</u> , Berlin, Germany |
| 2022 – present | Barometer of Quality of Life in Timisoara. Partners: West University of Timisoara, <u>Municipality of Timisoara</u> |
| 2022 – 2023 | Pilot project to analyze collaboration and cohesion networks among employees in the administrative structures of West University of Timisoara. Partner: West University of Timisoara |
| 2021 – present | Re-UNITA - Research on Gender Equality. Partners: <u>UNITA Universitas Montium University Alliance</u> |
| 2020 – present | OrgMapper Research Data Analysis. Partner: Maven Seven Solutions Ltd., Budapest, Hungary |
| 2017-2021 | (Innovatively) Outsmarting Toxic Pseudoscience Outspread via Social Tools/Machines (I-OutPOST), H2020-MSCA-ITN-2020 project proposal. Partners: West University of Timisoara, <u>University of Amsterdam</u> Netherlands, <u>University of Helsinki</u> Finland, <u>Vilnius University</u> Lithuania, <u>Western Norway University of Applied Sciences</u> Norway, <u>Ripe NCC</u> Netherlands, <u>Avans AS</u> Norway, <u>Hostinger</u> Lithuania, <u>Institute E-Austria</u> Romania, <u>Genisoft</u> Romania. Evaluation total score: 74.40% |
| 2020 | Development of a standardized quantitative analysis methodology of social networks with applicability in the field of competition, 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: <u>Government Transparency Institute</u> Hungary, <u>Romanian Competition Council</u> |
| 2019 | Demographic Forecasting Expert in “Quality in Higher Education: Internationalization and Databases for the Development of Romanian Education (POCU HE)” (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), Center for Public Policy, West University of Timișoara, Timișoara, Romania.
- 2017 **Researcher, COHESIFY - Understanding the Impact of EU Cohesion Policy on European Identification**, Horizon 2020 project, 2016-2020, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.
- 2017 – 2018 **Mapping High-Level Public Policy Conferences in Europe** (for Open Society Initiative for Europe, Open Society Foundations, Budapest, Hungary).
- 2015 – 2016 **Social and Organizational Network Analysis** (Maven Seven Solutions Ltd.)

Contributions to platform and software development

- 2025 **datasenses.eu** (under development) – AI-powered data and research methods literacy serious games for everyone
- 2024 **research.identity.education** – Platform to visualize safety perceptions in the city of Timisoara
- 2021 – 2024 **connectm.uvt.ro** – Digital platform to present student projects in ConnecTM – Career-Connected Learning Program at West University of Timisoara
- 2017 **angajabilitate.uvt.ro** – Prototype analyzing and visualizing career paths of West University of Timisoara graduates on the labour market (2010-2017)
- 2017 **captured.silviafierascu.com** – Prototype analyzing and visualizing insights into state capture from public procurement data
- 2015 – 2016 **OrgMapper | INFLUENCE** – An automated organizational diagnostics tool that identifies hidden Influencers - the most influential, capable and best-connected employees

Volunteering Activities

- 2025 Expert DIANA Mentor and Expert Network, **NATO DIANA Accelerator Programme**
- 2025 Co-organizer **Open Data Day Timisoara**
- 2024 Public Speaking Trainer at **TEDxAristide Demetriade** Timisoara
- 2020 – present Ambassador **Women in Data Science Romania**
- 2018 – 2020 Political Catalogue Project, **Code for Romania**

Keynotes and Invited Talks (selection)

- 2025 *Healthy Organizational Cultures, Morning Shift*, Timisoara, Romania
- 2025 *Opening Talk at International Student Week in Timisoara*, Timisoara, Romania
- 2025 *Open Data Analysis and Visualization for Transparency and Change, E³UDRES² – Ent-r-e-novators PhD Summer School 2025, Open Practices in Higher Education*, Timișoara, Romania
- 2025 *The Researcher View of the Innovation Ecosystem in Timișoara, Timișoara Innovation City*, Timișoara, Romania
- 2025 *Ecosystemic Thinking. See the Big Picture, Start with Trust, SPOR Leadership Camp*, Breb, Romania
- 2025 *Applied Social Network Analysis. Co-creating the Future, MethodsNet*
- 2025 *Strategic Leadership Insights: Leveraging Networks of Trust for Competitive Advantage, Transylvania Executive Hub*, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- 2024 *Roundtable Regulating digital content - from the European Union to the practical test in Romania, West University of Timisoara*, Romania
- 2024 *Building Resilient Communities through Transfer of Trust: Epistemic Networks in Culture, Trust in Epistemic Networks, Institute of Philosophy, Technische Universität Dresden*, Germany
- 2024 *Network Science in Culture. Mapping Relationships, Building Resilient Ecosystems, Why Culture Matters International Symposium*, Timisoara, Romania
- 2024 *Building Resilient Ecosystems. Timisoara's Culture Story, University Network of European Capitals of Culture (UNeECC) Annual Conference, Impact & Legacy of the European Capitals of Culture Programme*, Polytechnic University of Timisoara, Timișoara, Romania
- 2024 *Roundtable Digitalization of Timișoara and Romania, Municipality of Timisoara*, Romania
- 2024 *Trust Networks as Data. The Journey Ahead, Social Network Analysis in Scotland (SNAS), University of Edinburgh*, Edinburgh, UK
- 2024 *How to map relationships to make an impact in the classroom, with parents and colleagues, AtelierR de Cuvinte National Seminar*, Timisoara, Romania
- 2023 *Trust - The Hidden Power of Communities, TEDxAristide Demetriade*, Timisoara, Romania
- 2023 *Organizational Networks and Informal Power, SPOR Leadership Camp, 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., & Honddeghem, 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.**, Pârnu, 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., Honddeghem, 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 Vennootschap.

- Fierăscu, S.I.**, Fejes, L. Z. & Cibian, Ș. (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/10.1177/1478929915609470e>.

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*. Făgăraș: Făgăraș Research Institute Publishing House. ISBN PDF: 978-606-95063-8-7.
- Cibian, S., Lup, O., Beserman, E., Rușitoru, I., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, Șerbănuță, 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). Făgăraș: Făgăraș 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*. Făgăraș: Făgăraș 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 Țara Făgărașului* (RO). Făgăraș: Făgăraș 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, Ș., Drăgan, M., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, Rușitoru, I., Beserman, E. (2022). *A National Study on Digital Inclusion and Exclusion in Romania*. Făgăraș: Făgăraș 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, Ș., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, & Molnoș, A. (2019). *Romania Country Brief 2018-2019. Freedom of expression, its challenges and limitations*. Făgăraș: Făgăraș 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, Ș., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, Knezevic, S., Liebhart, K., Meissner, H., Molnoș, 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.
- Cibian, Ș., **Fierăscu, S.I.**, Moreh, C., Elian, A. M., Șaptefrăți, M.-S., Vișan, L. & Florian, A. (2019). *Report on Țara Făgărașului Diaspora Engagement in Civic and Philanthropic Activities*. Făgăraș: Făgăraș Research Institute Publishing House.
- 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. *46th 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. *46th 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 **Co-founder**, [Civic Anti-Corruption Tech Initiative](#)
 2017 – 2020 **Co-organizer**, [Timișoara Workshops on Research Methods](#)
 2016 **Organizer and co-chair**, [Exploring Massive Network Data](#), [European Cooperation for Statistics of Network Data Science](#) (COST) Action CA15109, 2016-2020
 2016 – 2020 **Country Manager**, [European Cooperation for Statistics of Network Data Science](#) (COST) Action CA15109, 2016-2020
 2016 – present **External Expert**, [COST Association](#)
 2013 – 2017 **Founder and organizer**, [Data Stories - Research Visualization Exhibition and Meetup](#)

Public Media Appearances

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

Membership in Professional Organizations

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

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