

Trip Report

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Conference: “Historical writing, the responsibility of the historian and ideologies”, International Conference of the Doctoral School in History. Twentieth Edition

Date and Location: 13-15 November 2025 in Cluj-Napoca

Organizer: Babeş-Bolyai University

Between 13-15 November 2025, I had the opportunity to attend the XX Edition of the International Conference of the Doctoral School in History, organized by Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca.

During those three days of activities, I had the chance to meet other scholars and PhD students both from Romania and from abroad. My interactions with these experts significantly enriched my knowledge and let me to have discussions based on different perspectives and points of view, which led me to ask myself new questions and sparked new interests in me.

During the second day, on the 14th of November, I had the opportunity to present my paper titled: “The aim of the author and the role of the client: what these two figures can tell us. The example of an Armenian colophon dated 1212”, receiving important feedbacks from the audience.

The aim of my presentation was, according to the title of the conference, to demonstrate the importance of the analysis and of the correct exegesis of historical sources since, as historians, we have an important role that bring us a great responsibility, since the “ideologization” of the information is nowadays a very challenging problem. To do so I presented the analysis of a medieval Armenian source, on which I am working on, to try to show my methodology of research. In doing so I brought some examples on how the ideologies of both the author and the client of the work influenced the colophon and how, by a correct exegesis this “problem” could become an important hint for the historical research.

It was then very enlightening to listen to other presentation and to be part of the discussions, that addressed to the topic from very different perspectives and approaches but that always had as a main goal to attempt to uproot ideology from historical knowledge.

The discussions continued, in a more informal way, even during breaks at the end of the sessions, creating a positive and stimulating environment where everyone could express himself or herself freely and without fear of being judged.

Attending this conference was an extremely enriching experience, that allowed me to present my studies’ topic to scholars from different backgrounds, but whose feedback has always been very constructive.

I would also like to thank ELTE Talent Support for the financial support for my participation and my trip to this conference in Cluj-Napoca.