

Curriculum Vitae

Personal information

Name **Aura Moldovan**
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Date and place of birth 30.09.1989 in Reghin, Romania



Education and training

- 10/2017 – present Postgraduate course “Exploring and Visualising Complex Data” at the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- 10/2014 – present PhD in Human Geography at the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Project title: *Socio-Spatial Polarization - Driving Force and Outcome of Territorial Mobility in Post-Socialist Romania*, on the interdependencies between regional development and long- and short-term mobility flows
- 10/2011 – 01/2014 Master of Arts in Sociology at the Technical University in Darmstadt, Germany
- Major: Urban and spatial sociology; Minor: Infrastructure, planning, mobility
 - Title of the Master’s Thesis: *Cultures of Cities – an Analysis of Capitals of Culture*, on the utilization of culture and space as part of urban development strategies
- 10/2008 – 07/2011 Bachelor in Sociology at the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Title of the Bachelor’s Thesis: *The Decision Making Process in the Construction of Public Space. The New Design of The Unirii Place in Cluj-Napoca*, on the power relationships between the involved actors – architects, city administration and the city population

Work experience

- 09/2014 – 08/2017 Early Stage Researcher, within the Marie Curie ITN RegPol² – *Socio-economic and Political Responses to Regional Polarisation in Central and Eastern Europe*, based at the Department of Geography of the the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Conducting research on the interdependencies between regional development and long- and short-term mobility flows in the North-West Region of Romania
 - As Junior Coordinator: leading the Junior Researcher Meetings, representing the ESRs in the Supervisory Board Meeting (and beyond)
 - Aiding with project-related administrative tasks at my host institution
- 05/2016 – 07/2016 Visiting researcher at the Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (CERS HAS) in Békéscsaba, Hungary
- Researching qualitative and ethnographic approaches for studying the effects and local responses to polarisation in peripheralised areas
- 09/2015 – 11/2015 Visiting researcher at Geomedia in Tartu, Estonia
- Researching and applying quantitative methods for assessing the socio-economic and spatial impact of migration

- 02/2015 – 05/2015 Visiting researcher at the Leibniz-Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) in Leipzig, Germany
- Researching the theoretical concepts of socio-spatial polarisation, and theories around the causes and impact of territorial mobility, migration and commuting
- 06/2013 – 07/2013 Student Assistant at the Department of Architecture of the Technical University in Darmstadt, Germany
- Gathering and organising the necessary literature for a research on the topic of Shopping Center development in Central and Eastern Europe and Transnational Building Practices
- 05/2010 – 01/2011 Research Assistant in the Project “Mozaic”, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Conducting a demographic analysis of the population and the state of agriculture in the Romanian villages Borşa and Dabâca
 - Conducting qualitative interviews with landowners and farmers
 - Writing a report on how the different agricultural practices and state policies during the last century have affected the development of the nearby lands

Teaching and mentorship

- 10/2016 – 02/2017 Teaching the seminar on “Urban Sociology” at the Department of Sociology, Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- 03/2016 – 06/2016 Mentoring undergraduate students in disseminating statistical data to a wider audience and writing in a journalistic style, via the platform “Analyzing Europe” (the website has been discontinued since)

Awards and fellowships

- 09/2014 – 08/2017 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Early Stage Researcher Fellowship
Research grant awarded for doctoral research by the European Commission, through the Initial Training Network RegPol2 (FP7 Research Grant),
- 10/2011 – 01/2014 DAAD scholarship holder
Scholarship awarded for pursuing a Master’s degree in Germany by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Publications

- Benedek, J.; **Moldovan, A.** (2015). “Economic convergence and polarisation: towards a multi-dimensional approach”. *Hungarian Geographical Bulletin* 64(3):187-203.
- Moldovan, A. (2017). “Peripheralisation as a Result and Driving Force of Territorial Mobility in Post-Socialist Romania”. *European Spatial Research and Policy* 24 (2): 39-57.

Personal skills and competences

Mother tongues Romanian, German

Other languages	Listening		Reading		Speaking		Writing	
	English	C1	Proficient user	C1	Proficient user	C1	Proficient user	C1
Cambridge Advanced English Certificate								
French	B1	Independent user	B2	Independent user	B1	Independent user	B1	Independent user

- Computer skills and competences
- Proficient with: standard Office programmes (Word, Excel, Power Point, Picture Manager)
 - Intermediate user of: SPSS, Atlas.ti, ArcGis, QGIS, Photoshop
 - Beginner user of: Microsoft Access, Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio
 - Highly skilled in using a computer and the Internet for scientific research, including experience with online databases such as Web of Science
- Social skills and competences
- Growing up bilingually in the multicultural region of Transylvania, I have developed a very deep understanding of intercultural cooperation from a young age. Later on, my study and work experiences abroad have deepened my capacity to adapt to new environments. And the various interdisciplinary projects I have been working on helped me strengthen my communication skills and the ability to work as part of a team.
- Organizational skills and competences
- Already during my Bachelor studies, I was interested in the organizational side of academia. As a student representative I became the mediator between students and staff, and at the same time, as a member (and later on president) of the Sociology Students' Association *Cluster*, I actively participated in organizing various activities such as the annual student conference or sociological movie nights.
- My time in the RegPol² project helped me expand these skills even more, by moderating conference panels and organizing local workshops and conferences. Additionally, as Junior Coordinator I got a much deeper insight into the work of the project management team.
- Driving licence
- Category B, since October 2007

Conference attendance (selection)

- Panelist at "Coping with uneven development in Europe: socio-economic and political responses to regional polarisation", 27th-29th September 2017, Leipzig (DE)
- Presenter at "RSA Central & Eastern Europe Conference 2017", 10th-13th September 2017, Cluj-Napoca (RO)
- Presenter (poster) at "American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting", 5th-9th April 2017, Boston (USA)
- Presenter at "10th European Urban & Regional Studies Conference: Europe, Crisis and Uneven Development", 14th-16th September 2016, Chania (GR)
- Presenter at "American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting", San Francisco (USA)
- Presenter at "EUGEO Conference, Convergences and Divergences of Geography in Europe", 30th August - 2nd September 2015, Budapest (HU)
- Presenter at "RSA Annual Conference, Global Growth Agendas: Regions, Institutions and Sustainability", 24th-27th May 2015, Piacenza (IT)