

ABOUT

Melinda Dincă is an Associate Professor in the Sociology Department, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, at West University of Timișoara (UVT), Romania. She holds a PhD in Sociology (2008) from the University of Bucharest and a doctoral grant in Social Anthropology at Université de Fribourg from the SCOPES program of the Swiss National Fund for Scientific Research (2005-2006). She defended her habilitation thesis in 2024 and coordinates doctoral studies in Sociology.

She has conducted extensive fieldwork in marginalised communities, on the work integration process of disadvantaged people like Roma ethnics, young NEETs, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees. Her research interests include social identity, social inclusion, cultural diversity, team-based and problem-based learning, and the internationalisation of higher education curricula in social sciences.

Her recent research activities include participation in European projects such as: Bringing Real Life into Virtual Classrooms - EEA Grants (2022-2023), Ecosystems for Higher Education Inclusion - HORIZON-MSCA-SE-2024 (2025-2029), Sustainable Accessibility to the Labour Market - Interreg Europe (2024-2027), and Smart Shrinkage Solutions – HORIZON-2020 (2017-2020).

Since 2012, Melinda has been coordinating the International Summer School in Social Anthropology, a blended, international co-teaching and co-learning intensive programme between UVT and the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. She is also responsible for the internationalisation of curricula within the European Alliance UNITA through collaborative international learning activities and cultural exchange (COIL/Virtual Exchange).

TEACHING

Social policies - UNITA COIL UVT-UPNA (collaborative online international learning)

Sociology of identity

Cultural understandings of international work relations – Classroom Laboratory UVT-NTNU joint course

Global market networks and labour migration

International Summer School in Social Anthropology - UVT-UniFR-NTNU-UniME-UBI BIP (blended intensive programme)

EDUCATION

Training in Competencies and Innovative Designs for International Virtual and Blended Modalities – Path for Higher Education Teachers, at EAIE through Erasmus+ INVITE Project (2024)

Training in Process Model Learning method at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (2019)

Training in Institutional Ethnography at the University of Nordland (2014)

Master's program in Social Economy at the West University of Timisoara (2010-2012)

Training for trainers in competencies in Diversity Management at the Open Society Foundation, Budapest (2010)

PhD in Sociology at the University of Bucharest (2008)

Doctoral grant in Social Anthropology at the Université de Fribourg (UniFR), through the SCOPES Program of the Swiss National Fund for Scientific Research (2005-2006)

CURRENT POSITION

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, West University of Timisoara, since 2019

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Lecturer, Department of Sociology, West University of Timisoara (2007-2019)

University Assistant, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, West University of Timisoara (2002-2007)

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Vice Dean of the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, responsible for Scientific Research, Internationalisation, and the Relations with the social and economic area, West University of Timisoara (2025-2029)

Vice Dean of the Faculty of Sociology and Psychology, responsible for Scientific Research and Institutional Communication, West University of Timisoara (2012-2016)

Member of the Council of the Faculty of Sociology and Psychology, West University of Timisoara (2004-2012)

RESEARCH

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Centre for Counselling and Guidance in the Career of a Researcher – Western Region, project code 6/16.11.2022, PNRR-III-C9-2022-I10, ERA Talent Platform --- Researcher, Needs Analysis Officer (2023-2025)

Development and Innovation 2021 – SIPOCA 592, Ministry of Research and Innovation --- Expert Panel on Social and Cultural Heritage, responsible for the individual and panel evaluation to update the National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures (2021 and 2016)

PNIIP1-1.1BSH-2016-0002. West University of Timișoara research program Sustaining Research on Migration and Romanian Diaspora, Ministry of Research and Innovation --- Researcher in sociology (2016 – 2017)

Social Data Research Infrastructure for the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work – CC Romanian Archive of Social Data RODA, University of Bucharest --- Researcher (2013 – 2014)

Visual Sociology Workshop, Access ART Festival (7th edition), Timișoara – coordinator of the impact study, Cultural Map of Timișoara (2014) Group Status and Cultural Identity in Multiethnic Schools in Romania, Education 2000+ Centre --- Consultant Researcher (2008)

Think Green Policies, a project carried out by the Quality-of-Life Research Institute at the request of the Terra Millennium III Foundation -- - Regional Researcher Surveys (2008)

Support Network for Social Development Programs at National and Local Level, CNCSIS code 106. Subcontract no. 6/2007 between the University of Bucharest (20727/6.11.2007) and the West University of Timișoara --- Researcher (2007)

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

HORIZON-MSCA-SE-2024, Ecosystems for Higher Education Inclusion: connecting underserved communities with higher education through participatory engagement and research methodologies (EHEI) --- Researcher (2025-2029)

UNITA 2023, FSS European University Alliance --- Expert and coordinator of the UNITA Collaborative Online International Learning COIL Workgroup, (2023-2027)

Classroom Laboratory, EEA Grants 2014-2021 Ref no 18-COP-0016, UVT and Norwegian University of Science and Technology --- Project manager and researcher in sociology (2019-2021)

Bringing Real Life into Virtual Classrooms, EEA Grants 2014-2021 Ref no 21-COP-0004, UVT and Norwegian University of Science and Technology --- Project manager and researcher in sociology (2022-2023)

Sustainable Accessibility to the Labour Market (SALAM), Interreg Europe ID02CO513 --- Researcher in Sociology (2024-2027)

Smart Shrinkage Solutions – Fostering Resilient Cities in Inner Peripheries of Europe, H2020 Subprogram 33.3 Horizon 2020, nr. 66/2017 – Researcher in Sociology (2017-2020)

Common Spaces for Integration of Roma (CoSpiRom), European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020 --- Researcher and trainer (2019-2020)

Qualitative Research on Professional Integration of Vulnerable Categories, SEE13. EEA Grants E-QUAL. Nord University, West University of Timișoara --- Research assistant (2014 – 2016)

Governance of Shrinkage within a European Context, European Commission – European Research Area, FP7 no. 225193 --- Researcher, 2010 – 2011

Socio-graphic mapping of the Roma Communities in Romania for a community-level monitoring of changes about Roma integration, Norway Grants RO25_04 --- Sociologist (2015)

Economic Statistics Development, National study for elaborating economic indicators compatible with the European regulations, normative and indicators of the EUROSTAT; Research domain: Informal economy in Romania; EuropeAid 123275/D/SER/RO, PHARE 2005/017 --- Non-Key Short Term Local Junior Expert, Regional Survey Coordinator (2007-2009)

Erasmus Teaching mobility grants at the University of Coruna, Spain, 2010; University of Ghent, Belgium, 2013; Aristotle University, Greece, 2015; University of Jelgava, Latvia, 2016 and 2018; University of Canakkale Onsekis Mart, Turkey, 2017; University of Klaipeda, Lithuania, 2019; University of Zadar, Croatia, 2021; University of Messina, Italy, 2022; the Public University of Navarra, Spain, 2023; Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Turkey, 2024; International University of Rabat, Morocco, 2025; University of Beira Interior, Portugal (2025).

PUBLICATIONS

Tuță A C, Drăgan A, Crețan R, Dincă M., 2025. [Stakeholders' perspectives, placemaking and tactical urbanism on the spatial reconfiguration of urban schools in Timișoara, Romania](#), Springer Nature: Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, 12, 922

Luștrean A, Dincă M, Berge T, Onitiu A, Thomassen M, Crașovan M, Lucheș D, 2024, [The digital reflective journal: A self-assessment tool for higher education students](#), in: Grosjeck, G., Sava, S., Ion, G., Malita, L. (eds) Digital Assessment in Higher Education. Lecture Notes in Educational Technology. Springer, Singapore, 259-283

Berntsen, A., Fyhn, H., Thomassen, H., Berge, T., & Dincă, M., 2024. [Bringing Real Life into the Classroom: Learning in Nearness & Distance](#). Teaching and Learning Anthropology, 6(2), e-ISSN 2641-4260. University of California, California Digital Library

Dincă M, Luștrean A, Crașovan M, Onițiu A, Berge T, 2023. [Students' Perspectives on Team Dynamics in Project-Based Virtual Learning](#), SAGE Open, 13(1)

Dincă M, Berge T, Onițiu A, Thomassen M, Luștrean A, Lucheș D, Crașovan M, 2023, [Immersive Team-Based Learning in Transnational Virtual Classrooms](#), ERAS, Sciendo, Vol. 16, No. 27

Luștrean A, Dincă M, Crașovan M, Onițiu A, Lucheș D, Fyhn H, Rorvik J, 2023, [Exploring Virtual Reflective Learning Experiences in Higher Education](#), Journal of Educational Sciences, XXIV, 1(47)

Dincă M, Lucheș D, Luștrean A, 2023. [Reflective Learning in Cross-Cultural and Cross-Disciplinary Virtual Classrooms](#), Cluj Napoca: Presa Universitară Clujeană, ISBN 978-606-37-1808-3

Dincă M (Coord), 2022. [Learning Outcomes Assessment in Virtual Classrooms](#), Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitară Clujeană, ISBN 978-606-37-1549-5

Dincă M, 2021. [Steps and Tips for Qualitative Research with Women in Marginalised Communities](#). In Lustenberger S, Hovhannisan S, Boscoboinik A, Shahnazaryan G (Eds), Gender in Research and Politics. Developments, Intersections and Perspectives, Zürich: LIT Verlag, ISBN 978-3-643-80364-1, 53-70

Dincă M, Luștrean A, Onițiu A, Crașovan M, Berge T. 2021. [The Effects of Disciplinary Composition on Virtual Learning Group Process Dynamics: Students' Perspectives](#), Sustainability, Special Issue "Advanced Research and Innovation on Technology-Enhanced and Online Learning: Sustainable Education and Learning for All", Volume 13, no. 15, 8493

Mykhnenko, V. et al., Dincă M, 2021. [Data sets, data collections, and publications](#), In Mykhnenko, V. et al., 2021, Smart Shrinkage Solutions: Fostering Resilient Cities in Inner Peripheries of Europe, 2017-2020. [Data Collection SN: 854628]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Service

Lazăr T A, Dincă M, 2019. Chapter 11. [The Integrated Approach in Practice: A Framework for Roma Work Inclusion. Case Studies from Romania](#), În Fylling I, Baciu E L, Paulsen Breimo J I (Eds.) 2019. EU Social Inclusion Policies in Post-Socialist Countries. Top-Down and Bottom-Up Perspectives on Implementation, ISBN 9780429434549, London: Routledge

Dincă M, Lucheș D, 2018, [Work Integration of the Roma: Between Family and Labour Market](#), Sustainability, Volume 10, Issue 5, 1495

Baciu, L E, Dincă, M, Lazar, Sandvin J T, 2016. [Exploring the social relations of Roma employability: The case of rural segregated communities in Romania](#), Journal of Comparative Social Work, 11(1): 115–144

Lazăr T, Dincă M, Ungureanu R, 2015. [Roma Social Integration Policies After a Quarter of a Century of Post-Communism in Romania](#), Social Work Review, vol. I/2015, ISSN 1583-0608, Iași: Editura Polirom

Dincă M, 2014. Chapter: [Post socialist Views on Gypsiness. The Case of Roma Communities in Romania](#), In Christian Giordano, Francois Ruegg, Andrea Boscoboinik (Eds.), Does East Go West? Anthropological Pathways Through Post socialism, ISBN 987-3-643-80164-7, Berlin: LIT Verlag

Dincă M, 2014. [Dynamics on Social Identity. Social Distance in Multicultural Regions](#), In Ionescu Ș., Cace S., Tomiță M. (Eds.), 2014, From Person to Society. Community and Social Resilience, Bologna: Medimond International Proceedings, ISBN 978-88-7587-697-5, 543-549

Nadolu B, Lucheș D, Dincă M. 2011. [The Patterns of Depopulation in Timișoara – research note](#), Sociologie Românească, vol. IX, nr. 3/2011, Editura Institutului European, Iași, ISSN 1220 - 5389

Dincă, M., Ceașescu, A. 2010. [Implications of Migration Flows on the Community Life of a Romanian Village. A Case Study of Biled, Timiș County, Romania](#), In Klaus Roth, Jutta Lauth Bacăs (Eds.), 2010. Migration in, from, and to Southeastern Europe, Part 2 Ways and Strategies of Migrating, Ethnologia Balkanica, Journal for Southeastern European Anthropology, Volume 14/2010, Berlin: LIT Verlag, 247 – 265

Dincă M, 2010. [Reasons and Premises of Shrinkage in Timișoara](#), Research note in Journal of Social Research and Policy, Volume 1, Issue 1, July 2010, ISSN (print) 2067-2640, ISSN 2067-9861, 167-172

Dincă M, Țăru L, 2008. [Regional and Ethnic Identity in the Rural Area of Timiș County, Romania](#), În Roth K and Vucinic-Neskovic V (Eds.) Region, Regional Identity and Regionalism in Southeastern Europe, Ethnologia Balkanica, Journal for Southeast European Anthropology, Volume 12/2008, Berlin: LIT Verlag, 123 – 135

Dincă M, 2005. Chapter [Social Identity Construction. Ethnic and Regional Self- and Hetero-Identification in Rural Communities of Timiș County, Romania](#), In Horațiu Rusu, Bogdan Voicu (Eds.), 2005. Perspectives on the European Postcommunist Societies, Sibiu: Psihomedia Publishing House, ISBN 973-7997-59-X, 143 – 152

OUTREACH

West University of Timisoara's Awards 2025 – Award for Modern Education and Student-Centred ~Dorel Ungureanu~, 21 November 2025

[Alegerea mea pentru Sociologie a fost legată de fascinatia pentru libertate și democratie. În toate dimensiunile vietii, sociologia este importantă](#), interview for Radio România Cultural, Science, 17 December 2025

[Cultural understanding for an international work life – collaborative course for students from NTNU and UVT](#), 13 February 2023

Smart Shrinkage Solutions: Timisoara (RO) Policy Briefs: #1. [Resilient Urban Economy & Municipal Finance](#); #2. [Compact Connected City](#); #3. [Liveability](#). Zenodo, 30 March 2020

[Timișoara, Romania](#), presenting the outcomes of the HORIZON project 3S RECIPE, 28 September 2020

[International IMPACT workshop – the foreseeable impact of global learning activities on higher education institutions in relation to the world of work](#), organised by the West University of Timisoara, 18-20 May 2021

Bologna Teacher Award 2017, awarded by the Romanian National Alliance of Students Organisations ANOSR for teaching performance, 19 May 2017