ROXANA PLEȘA, PhD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

University of Petroșani | Department of Social and Human Sciences | Romania

ORCID: 0009-0000-4583-8382 | Web of Science ResearcherID: JXL-2149-2024

ACADEMIC PROFILE

Associate Professor of Social Sciences at the University of Petroșani, Romania, with approximately 20 years of experience in higher education, teaching, academic research and student support. Her academic background combines Sociology and Psychology, complemented by postgraduate training in educational interventions for children with disabilities and their families. Her professional experience also includes career counselling, special education and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in the United States. Her work brings together social-science research, psychosocial perspectives, family support, disability and inclusion, and evidence-based behavioral practice.

CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Associate Professor of Social Sciences | *October 2026–present*
University of Petroșani, Romania — Department of Social and Human Sciences

- Teaching courses in the social and human sciences.
- Developing scientific research and contributing to academic publications.
- Participating in research teams and in the development and implementation of research projects.

Lecturer | *2013–October 2026*
University of Petroșani, Romania

- Teaching and academic activities in the social and human sciences.
- Scientific research and participation in collaborative research activities.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

PhD in Sociology | *2011*
Babeș-Bolyai University (UBB), Cluj-Napoca, Romania

MA in Sociology – Social Change and Social Policy | *2008*
University of Petroșani, Romania

BA in Sociology | *2006*
University of Petroșani, Romania

BA in Psychology | *2014*
Vasile Goldiș Western University of Arad, Romania

Postgraduate Studies – Educational Interventions for Children with Disabilities and Their Families | *2015*
1 Decembrie 1918 University of Alba Iulia, Romania

Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate | *December 2024*
University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Extension

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) | *2023-present*
Sevita Health, Greenville, South Carolina, USA; Spectrum Autism Services, LLC, Greenville, South Carolina, USA

- Supervision and support of Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) and Behavior Technicians (BTs) in the implementation of behavioral programs.
- Ongoing staff training, mentorship, side-by-side coaching and performance feedback.
- Participation in informal and formal performance evaluations and performance management.

Counselor Manager – Center for Guidance and Career Development | *November 2014–June 2018*

University of Petroșani, Romania

- Provided individual and group counselling on career management and educational planning.
- Advised students on identifying information and resources relevant to safety and community participation.
- Supported students in optimizing their educational plans and career pathways.
- Conducted psychological testing and prepared individual personality profiles.

Special Education Teacher / Case Manager | *January 2013–December 2015*

Maria Stein Residential Center for Children with Special Needs, Romania

- Conducted assessments and contributed to the development of individual treatment plans.
- Provided direct support to residents in developing social, adaptive and daily living skills.

TEACHING AREAS

- Sociology and social change
- Introduction to Psychology and Social Psychology
- Social Work and psychosocial assessment
- Family and couple counselling
- Career counselling and career development
- Disability, inclusion and family support
- Behavioral and educational interventions

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Social change, social policy and the sociology of careers
- Social psychology, quality of life and subjective well-being
- Family relationships, family counselling and psychosocial support
- Disability, inclusion and educational/behavioral interventions
- Psychosocial risks, occupational well-being and the changing world of work
- Digitalization, artificial intelligence and the human factor in professional practice
- Interdisciplinary research connecting Sociology, Psychology and Applied Behavior Analysis

SELECTED SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- Pleșa, R. (2013). Family life – Component of Quality of Life. Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences, 82, 266–270. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2013.06.257
- Bratu, M. L., Cioca, L. I., Nerisanu, R. A., Rotaru, M., & Pleșa, R. (2023). The expectations of Generation Z regarding the university educational act in Romania: Optimizing the didactic process by providing feedback. Frontiers in Psychology, 14. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1160046
- Pleșa, R. (2025). Loneliness in the Pandemic Context: Understanding its Impact, Causes and Pathways to Intervention. Revista de Științe Politice, No. 85, 89–101.
- Pleșa, R. (2025). Drug Addiction as Risk for Suicide Attempts during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Case Study at CCBH Psychiatric Residential Hospital in South Carolina, United States. Paper presented at InPACT, Budapest, 26–28 April 2025.
- Pleșa, R. (2026). Artificial Intelligence vs. Human Factor in Applied Behavior Analysis: A Comparative Analysis for Future Integration in Behavioral Sciences. Revista de Științe Politice, No. 86.

SELECTED BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- Pleșa, R. (2013). Psihologie socială. Teme fundamentale și domenii de aplicabilitate. Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca.
- Pleșa, R. (2012). Aspecte ale calității vieții persoanelor vârstnice pensionate din Valea Jiului. Editura Universitas, Petroșani.

- Pleșa, R. (2020). Găsirea jobului conform cu studiile finalizate – o utopie pe piața actuală a muncii din România. In R. Prodanciuc (Ed.), Adaptarea ofertei educaționale la necesitățile pieței muncii. Aspecte specifice județului Hunedoara. Editura Sitech, Craiova.
- Pleșa, R. (2014). Chapter contribution on adolescents, in M. Pascaru, L. Marina & C. A. Buțiu (Eds.), Inteligență, teritorii și dezvoltare umană. Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca.

EDITORIAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Chief Editor | Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies

Academic Editor | Asian Journal of Sociological Research

Associate Editor | Journal of Preventive Medicine & Infectious Diseases

SELECTED CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

- World Conference on Psychology & Sociology, Antalya, Türkiye (2012): “Family life – Component of Quality of Life.”
- Forum on Studies of Society, International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities, Craiova (2016): “The Impact of Elderly Loneliness on Satisfaction with Life.”
- Forum on Studies of Society, Italy (2018): “Labor Market between the Requirements and Expectations of Employers and Graduates of Higher Education.”
- InPACT – International Psychological Applications Conference and Trends, Budapest (2025): “Drug Addiction as Risk for Suicide Attempts during the COVID-19 Pandemic.”
- CEPOS International Conference, Craiova (2025): “Loneliness in the Pandemic Context: Understanding its Impact, Causes and Pathways to Intervention.”
- CEPOS International Conference, Craiova (2026): “Artificial Intelligence vs. Human Factor in Applied Behavior Analysis.”

RESEARCHER PROFILES

- **ORCID:** https://orcid.org/0009-0000-4583-8382
- **Google Scholar:** https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=nK9eezUAAAAJ
- **Web of Science Researcher Profile:** https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/JXL-2149-2024

Google Scholar h-index: 4

LANGUAGES

Romanian – Native |

English – Professional working proficiency

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This academic CV has been prepared for the University of Petroșani website on the basis of information provided by the author. The complete publication list and further academic details may be added in a subsequent revision.