

1. PERSONAL DATA

Full name Ecaterina-Elena MAȚOI
Nationality Romanian
Email address matoiecaterina@gmail.com

2. EDUCATION

09 – 10.2021 **Certification** Political Advisor (POLADs) – Geneva Centre for Security Policy (**GCSP**), Switzerland

02-03. 2021 **Certification** in “*Managementul Informațiilor de Securitate (MIS)*” / **Security Information Management**. Romanian-American University, Bucharest, Romania.

02. 2018 **Certification** in “*Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) of the European Union*” – course hosted by National Defense University “CAROL 1st”, Crisis Management and Multinational Operations Department (CMMOD), Romania, under European Security and Defense College (ESDC) auspices, Bucharest, Romania

2014-2018 **Dr. phil. /Ph.D.** (title awarded in 2020) in **Near and Middle Eastern Studies**, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Basel University, Switzerland, thesis on: “*Challenges of State-building in Iraq. The Role of the Iraqi Army in Post-Saddam Era*”

2012-2015 **Ph.D.** in **Intelligence and National Security**, “CAROL 1st” National Defense University, Bucharest, Romania, thesis on: “*Dynamics of Political Systems in the Middle East and North Africa and Consequences upon International Security. Case study: Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Tunisia*”

2010-2012 **M.A.** in **Political Science, Security and Diplomacy specialization**, National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest, Romania, dissertation on a topic related to *COIN operations in Southern Afghanistan*

2008-2010 **M.A.** in **Business**, Faculty of Marketing, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania (3/4 semester)

2005-2008 **B.A.** in **Foreign Languages and Literatures (English-Arabic section)**, “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University, Bucharest, Romania, graduated with a paper on *The Condition of Women in Islam*

1997-2001 „A.D. Xenopol” **History and Economics High School**, Bucharest (Romania)

3. RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

October 2021- onward **Political and security advisor** (*independent*) mostly related to MENA countries

06. 2017-present **Research Program Director** - Middle East Political and Economic Institute (MEPEI) Think Tank, Bucharest, Romania (part-time position)

10.2021 – June 2022 **Associated Lecturer Foreign Languages and Literatures (English-Arabic section)**, “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University, Bucharest, Romania

10.2018 – 03. 2019 **Associated Lecturer (contract based)** – *Center for Studies on the Middle East and the Mediterranean*, Faculty of History and Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

10.2021 – present **Associated Lecturer (contract based)** – *Center for Studies on the Middle East and the Mediterranean*, Faculty of History and Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

10.2013 -15.03.2021 Different positions: **Lecturer - Head of works** (03.2020-03.2021)- **Junior Lecturer** (2017-2020), **Research Assistant** (2013-2015) - **Strategic, Public and Intercultural**

- Communication Department**, Security and Defense Faculty, “CAROL I” National Defence University – Bucharest, Romania
- 05.2016-01.2018 **Associated Lecturer - Near and Middle Eastern Studies**, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Basel University, Switzerland (in two consecutive fall semesters)
- 2003 – 2012 **Sales Representative** for the Middle East Area (mostly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) – for companies activating in the security and defense equipment (garments) industry

4. CONTINUOUS EDUCATION, CERTIFICATION, INDEPENDENT RESEARCH, EXCHANGES (2011-PRESENT)

- Skills enhancement, independent research *Political Advising, Security Information Management; Terrorism, Assessment of Nuclear Terrorism, Disinformation, Propaganda, Ideologies, Digital Skills, Research Integrity, Supervising Students, Islamic Studies, EU Defense and Security Policy, Human Rights.*
- Exchanges, field research *Iraq, Jordan: politics, security, state-building, army reconstruction*
USA: Degrees in Higher Education

5. VOLUNTARY SERVICES TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY (SELECTED EXAMPLES)

- 2011-present **Guest lecturer and trainer** on: Crisis Management, Peacekeeping, the role of media in post-conflict Iraq, contemporary politics, security, cultural diplomacy, crises in MENA and the Persian Gulf, state-building and reconstruction, minorities, sects, radicalization, geopolitics, cultural awareness, etc. Host institutions (both civil and military) from: Iraq, Jordan, Romania, Switzerland etc.
- Reviewer:** *Strategic Impact*- Centre for Defense and Security Strategic Studies CDSSS), NDU, Bucharest, Romania (2015-2021); *German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation*- DAVO, University of Mainz, Germany (2020 – onward); (Double Blind Peer) Review of the Research Project: “THE ROLE OF MUHAMMAD BIN SALMAN IN REFORMING ISLAMIC LAW TOWARDS SAUDI ARABIA VISION 2030” Cogent Social Sciences. Ref.: Ms. No. COGENTSOCSOCI-2023-0411R1(2023).

6. SELECTED PARTICIPATIONS IN DIPLOMATIC EVENTS, ROUND TABLES, DEBATES

- 2013 - present **Key specialist speaker, chair, and speaker** at events on MENA politics, Iraq after Saddam: 2003-2013, geopolitics, strategic studies, security, dialogue and cooperation, bilateral relations, the role of the Iraq civil society, reconstruction of Syria, etc. Host institutions from: Romania, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Iran, China, Syria.

7. ACADEMIC COURSES AND SEMINARS TAUGHT (2012- 2024 taught in different stages)

- Courses/seminars *“The Persian Gulf Geopolitics after the Cold War,” “The Military in 20th Century Middle East Politics: The Iraqi Case, 1936- 2014”, “Cultures and Civilizations”, “Strategic and Cultural Arab Studies” including Arabic language – beginner level; Elements of Arabic culture, Arabic language, and Arabic civilization; Jihadism, culture, and propaganda in the period 1979-2022 in the MENA region - Spring (Romanian language); Mercenaries and PMC/PMSC in Contemporary Conflicts (in English language).*

Publications

Selected topics from various books, chapters, research articles: Islam and secularization, state-religion relations, political Islam, Sunnism and Shi'ism, democracy and democratization, soft power in foreign policy, cultural awareness, geopolitics of water management in MENA, cooperation and exchange among MENA countries, fossil fuel and nuclear power in the Middle East, UAE-Iran relations, private military companies, contemporary Algerian-French relations, post-Ghaddafi Libya, Saudi reforms and Wahhabi rules, contemporary geopolitics of Yemen, and Qatar, the role of Saudi Intelligence in the Syrian conflict, etc
<https://unibasel.academia.edu/EcaterinaMA%C8%9AOI>

9. LANGUAGES, SKILLS – Romanian, English, Arabic, German, French
