

BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY



Miki Braniște

Associate professor, PhD

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Contact information
 - **Email:** nicoleta.braniste@ubbcluj.ro
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 - **Institutional address:** no. 2, Burebista Street, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Website or academic profiles
 - **ORCID:** [0009-0009-3351-4116](https://orcid.org/0009-0009-3351-4116)
 - **ResearcherID:**

2. RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Cultural policies & cultural management
- Participatory processes
- Performing arts & society

3. ARTISTIC STATEMENT

In her research focused on cultural management and cultural policies, Miki is interested in art and culture as a skillful tool in social development processes. Concerned with the economic, socio-political and environmental transformations occurring within global society, she focuses on interdisciplinary projects inspired by the need to re-imagine our future. Recently she is involved in collective projects on action-research with and transdisciplinary and participatory approach of heritage in rural and peri-urban areas. In this sense, she coordinated, together with Mihaela Michailov, the collective volume Cultural-community infrastructures. Laboratories of a sustainable future, 2022, and together with Ivona Tătar-Vîstraș Cultural-community infrastructures. Living castles in rural Transylvania, 2024.

4. EDUCATION

- 2018 – 2021 **PhD in Theatre and Performing Arts.** Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania. Thesis: [Besieged by creativity. An Inside Look at Cluj's Independent Cultural Scene, 2009-2019]. Coordinator:[Daniela Gologan/Miruna Runcan.
- 2003 – 2004 **MA in Cultural Management.** Faculty of Sociology, , University of Lyon II, France. Dissertation: Aspects of cultural policy towards national minorities in Romania.
- 1998 – 2002 **BA in Philosophy.** Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj Romania. Dissertation: On the phenomenality of emptiness in the art of Ives Klein.

5. ACADEMIC POSITIONS & EMPLOYMENT

- 2025 – now **Associate professor.** Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania.

- 2023 – now **Member of the Department Council.** Theatre Department, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.
- 2024 – now **Member of the Socio-Cultural Council.** Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.
- 2021 – 2024 **Assistant Profesor.** Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.
- 2018-2021 Lecturer and PhD Candidate, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.

6. PUBLICATIONS

6.1. Books

Branişte, Miki, *Creativity as Commodity: An Inside Look at Cluj's Independent Cultural Scene, 2009-2019*. Cluj University Press & Idea Publishing, 2021.

6.2. Edited books

Gog, Sorin, Branişte Miki and Turcuş Claudiu (Editors). *Social and Artistic Critique of Romanian Capitalism*. Cluj University Press, 2021.

Michailov, Mihaela & Branişte Miki, *Cultural-community infrastructures. Laboratories of a sustainable future*, Cluj University Press, 2022

Branişte Miki & Ivona Tătar-Vîstraş, *Cultural-community infrastructures. Living castles in rural Transylvania*, Cluj University Press, 2024

6.2. Peer-reviewed journal articles

Branişte, Miki. "Transforming Narratives: Reaction, Context and the Emerging (Im)-possibilities of Social Discourse on Art in Cluj-Napoca." *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai Sociologia*, Volume 64 (LXIV), 2, 2019, December): DOI:10.2478/subbs-2019-0010

Branişte, Miki & Popovici, Iulia. "Cultural Labour and Social Awareness. How Arts Become Political – a Romanian and Moldavian Story". *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai Sociologia*, Volume 64 (LXIV), 2, 2019, December): DOI: 10.2478/subbs-2019-0007

Branişte, Miki. "The Creativity Turn in European Cultural Policies. Structural Changes in the Sector." *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai Sociologia*, Volume 66 (LXVI) 2021, June 1, DOI: 10.2478/subbs-2021-0003

Branişte, Miki. "The Offensive of the Creative City. The Case of Cluj-Napoca in Romania". *Studies in Visual Arts and Communication*, ISSN 2393-1221, Volume 8 – Nr 2, 2021

Branişte, Miki & Bogdan, Zenko. "Foreword of the Issue Editors: Reinstalling Culture as Common Good and Public Service". *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai-Dramatica*, vol 67, nr. 1, 2022

6.3. Book chapters

Branişte, Miki. "The community-cultural center, a driving force for social reimagining for a sustainable future. The case of Dumbrăviţa", edited by Michailov, Mihaela & Branişte Miki, *Cultural-community infrastructures. Laboratories of a sustainable future*, Cluj University Press, 2022.

Branişte, Miki & Ivona Tătar-Vîstraş. "The Pact for Posmus", edited by Branişte Miki & Ivona Tătar-Vîstraş, *Cultural-community infrastructures. Living castles in rural Transylvania*, Cluj University Press, 2024

Branişte, Miki. "The cultural institution as a network space. People, places, biodiversity", edited by Branişte Miki & Ivona Tătar-Vîstraş, *Cultural-community infrastructures. Living castles in rural Transylvania*, Cluj University Press, 2024

6.4. Other publications (reviews, essays, blogs, etc.)

7. ARTISTIC PRACTICE

7.1. Artistic Production Credits

2025

Curator for Frame - university theater and film festival, Theater and Film Faculty, Babeş-Bolyai University

2017-2020

Curator for Cultural Management Academy, Bucharest, Sofia & Thessaloniki, Goethe Institut Bucharest

2017-2019

Curator for the Performing Arts programme at The Paintbrush Factory, Cluj

2008-2017

Curator. *Temps d` Images International Festival for Performing Arts and Image, Cluj*

7.2. Artistic Residencies & Workshops

2011

“Atelier for young festival directors”, Singapore European Festival Fundation, in the frame of The Festival Academy

2007

“Courrants program - direction and management of cultural projects” Maison des Cultures du Monde and the French Ministry of Culture and Communication

8. GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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| 2025 | Member of action-research project Posmuş - the living village. Echoes of the future in the Transylvanian countryside, managed by Petrus Italus Trust – alliance for the Bistrita heritage and The Theater and film Faculty, founded by AFCN and Bistrița-Năsăud County, Budget, 300 000 lei. |
| 2024 | Member of action-research project Living Castle. People and Labour in Posmuş, managed by Petrus Italus Trust – alliance for the Bistrita heritage and The Theater and film Faculty, founded by AFCN and Bistrița-Năsăud County, Budget, 300 000 lei. |
| 2023-2024 | Artistic director and coordinator of the research for the action-research project Living Castle: Art and Community at Posmuş, National Recovery and Resilience Plan Call PNRR/2022/C11/I5 – 1, Contract No. 83/PNRR/31.03.2023, coordinated by Ivona Tătar-Vîstraş in the frame of Petrus Italus Trust – alliance for the Bistrita heritage and The Theater and film Faculty,, AFCN and Bistrița-Năsăud County. Budget 242 000 Lei. |
| 2022 | Member of action-research project Alternative Models of Cultural Infrastructure, National University of Theatre Arts and Cinematography "I.L. Caragiale" Bucharest and The Theater and film Faculty, founded by AFCN, Center for Project, Timișoara, 257 000 lei. |
| 2016 | Interdisciplinary Activation Award – National Cultural Fund Administration
Award for contribution to the development of contemporary dance in Romania – National Dance Center Bucharest |
| 2015 | The Knight of Arts and Letters Medal for the support given to young artists through the platform offered to them within the TEMPS D` IMAGES Festival. |

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| 2014 | “Scholarship in cultural management” Gabriela Tudor Foundation, New York University and Trust for Mutual Understanding |
| 2008 | “Scholarship for professional development in cultural management”, La Ferme du Bouisson National Theater and Romanian Cultural Institute in Paris |

9. CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

2014

Nume, Prenume. “A Examination of the Citation Habits of College Students.” Paper presented at the EasyBib Information Literacy Conference, New York, NY, July 2014.

Braniște, Miki, “Action-research for cultural and community infrastructures in Transylvania. Role of academia in preserving cultural heritage,” presented at Eutopia Research Days on Cultural Heritage, Paris, Cergy University, Nov. 2024

Braniște, Miki, “Open attachment and living rural heritage.”, presented in Revisiting Cultural Heritage: Novel Approaches, Innovative Methods, and Transnational Connections, Sibiu, Oct. 2023

Braniște, Miki, “Creative cities: commodification of art and cultural gentrification at the periphery of European capitalism.” presented at Thirty Years of Capitalist Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe: Inequalities and Social Resistance – International online Conference, 2021

Braniște, Miki, “Urban regeneration and its effects on the independent cultural scene in Cluj-Napoca.”, presented at Imaginary school for the future of the (art) institutions -, Institute for Applied Theater, Gissen, Germany, 2019

Braniște, Miki, “Cultural Management Academy - Engaging with heritage.”, presented at the International Conference Reinforcing cooperation on cultural heritage in the EU Neighborhood South, London, Oct. 2018

10. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Management of the independent companies. MA Level. Designed to provide an overview of the development of the independent theater scene in Romania, the course also has a very practical dimension in which students experience how groups build artistic visions and missions, consolidate their particularities in the local scene, become familiar with different modes of performance production, with the management of cultural spaces, but also actively reflect on the evolution of labor relations within independent companies.

Cultural policies and strategies. MA Level. The course is a pillar of the master's degree in Cultural Management and Entrepreneurship, providing structural information about the dynamics between political decisions, economic systems, social movements, dynamics that affect cultural fields and leave their mark on artistic production.

11. THESIS AND DISSERTATION SUPERVISION

2026

Teodora Minea “Analysis of local needs of communities in the village of Posmuș. Socio-cultural perspectives”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania.

2025

Morgernstein Cabiria, “Papiloma Party: show, manifesto, cry. Amplification of female voices in contemporary Romanian theatrical discourse”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania.

2024

Andrei Mărgineanu, “Cultural activities in the Transylvanian castles”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.

Waltner Carla, “A new beginning - The Town House of Culture in Negreşti-Oaş”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.

Pârlea Ştefania, “The Sighisoara Medieval Festival – between time and times The relevance and perspectives of the first Romanian medieval festival”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.

Cloşcă Jasmina, “Standardization in cultural organizational management. The need for fixed structures in the management of independent cultural centers in Romania”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.

2023

Ioniţă Dragoş, “Thrill me - Musical production in the independent cultural sector in Romania”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.

2022

Taloş Doru, “Perspectives. Model of public-civic collaboration in the Cluj cultural scene”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.

Vidoni Oana, “Relevanţa şi perspectivele unui festival internaţional de teatru în Timişoara”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.

Driciuc Alina, “1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS - Cultural project to raise awareness of the importance of reducing the consumption footprint in the context of climate change”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.

Ciupercă Diana, “Tems d’Images. 10 years of existence in Romania. Analysis”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.

BA thesis.

2026 Țentea Roxana, “Sustainability of independent cultural spaces in Cluj-Napoca - case study: Casa Tranzit and Reactor de creation and experiment. Functioning models and good practices”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.

2024 Minea Teodora, “Discourse analysis on European and international cultural policies”, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.

George Nicolae, “Financing and entrepreneurialisation of culture in Cluj-Napoca”, Faculty of Social Assistance and Sociology, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

2023 Schiau Oana, “The Cancel Culture phenomenon in theatre”, Faculty of Theatre and Film Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

12. SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

12.1. Journal editorial roles, peer review experience -

12.2. Conference organization -

12.3. Memberships in professional associations -

13. OUTREACH & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

13.1. Public lectures, interviews, media appearances

Miki is a public figure of the Romanian cultural landscape so she is very often invited to participate or organize debates on subjects concerning the arts and society in Cluj, Bucharest, Timişoara, Iaşi or abroad the country.

13.2. Community engagement projects

The 2 action-research projects in which she is involved in are based in her conviction in community engagement and in the role of academia to contribute to the transition to a just future for all of us.