

## FLORIN N. FESNIC

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### Education

**PhD** in Political Science, [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#) (2008)

**MA** in Political Science, [University of Rochester](#) (2000)

**MA** in Political Science, [Central European University](#), Budapest, Hungary (1998)

**BA** in Political Science, [Babeş-Bolyai University](#), Cluj, Romania (1997)

**Doctoral dissertation:** “[Welfare Chauvinism East and West: Romania and France](#)”

### Research Interests

[Civic education](#); education and democracy; political behavior; voting behavior; comparative politics; democratization; developing nations; modernization and political development; electoral systems; institutional design; political parties and party systems; political paradoxes; [research evaluation](#)

### Publications

**Florin Fesnic.** 2019. “[When Quantity Beats Quality in the Evaluation of Academic Work: An Eastern European Impact Factor?](#)” in Giuseppe Catalano, Cinzia Daraio, Martina Gregori, Henk F. Moed and Giancarlo Ruocco (eds.), *Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Society for Scientometrics and Informetrics*. Rome: Edizione Efesto, 2106-2114. ISBN: 978-88-3381-118-5.

**Florin Fesnic.** 2019. “[Atribute micro și macro și impactul lor asupra rezultatelelor obținute de elevii români la testele PISA 2015](#),” (“Micro and Macro Determinants of Romanian Students’ Performance in the 2015 PISA Test”), in Gabriel Bădescu (ed.), *Școala din România din perspectiva datelor PISA (Romanian Schools in the Light of 2015 PISA Tests)*, Cluj: Presa Universitară Clujeană, 159-177.

Jürgen Maier, Thorsten Faas, **Florin Fesnic**, Carmen Greab, et al. 2018. “This time it’s different? Effects of the Eurovision Debate on young citizens’ and its consequence for EU democracy – evidence from a quasi-experiment in 24 countries,” *Journal of European Public Policy* 25, 4: 606-629. DOI: [10.1080/13501763.2016.1268643](https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2016.1268643).

**Florin Fesnic.** 2016. “[Can Civic Education Make a Difference for Democracy? Hungary and Poland Compared](#)”. *Political Studies* 64, 4, 966-978. DOI: [10.1111/1467-9248.12215](https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9248.12215).

- Florin Fesnic.** 2015. "Economic Development, Religion and Institutional Design: What Is Their Impact on Democracy in Post-communist Countries?" *Analele Universitatii Bucuresti Stiinte Politice* 17, 2, 99-117.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2015. "Nimic nou pe frontul de est: eterna și fascinanta stângă românească, 1990-2014". *Studia Politica: Romanian Political Science Review* 55, 4, 695-706.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2015. "The Demand-Side of Euroskepticism in Eastern and Western Europe: Romania and France". *Europolis* 9, 2, 77-90.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2015. "Political Consequences of Romania's Modernizations: how the Romanian party system evolved from the 1990's to the present". *Europolis* 9, 2, 113-124.
- Florin Fesnic & Oana Armeanu.** 2014. "Strategic Effects of Electoral Rules: Testing the Impact of the 2008 Electoral Reform in Romania." *Studia Politica: Romanian Political Science Review* 54, 2, 185-199.
- Florin Fesnic & Oana Armeanu.** 2014. "Does Education Make Voters More Leftist or More Rightist? A West vs. East Cross-Regional Analysis". *Studia Politica: Romanian Political Science Review* 54, 1, 29-46.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2012. „Atribute socioeconomice si demografice si impactul lor asupra simpatiei pentru candidații la alegerile prezidențiale din 2009” (Socioeconomic and demographic determinants of sympathy for 2009 presidential candidates in Romania), in Mircea Comsa, Andrei Gheorghiuță & Claudiu Tufis (eds.), *Alegeri prezidențiale - Romania, 2009* (Presidential Elections - Romania 2009). Cluj: Presa Universitara Clujeana, 201-216.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2011. "The Democratic-Liberal Party as a Successful Catch-All Party." In Ronald King & Paul Sum (eds.), *Romania under Bănescu: Aspirations, Achievements, and Frustrations during his First Presidential Term*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 49-64.
- Raluca Viman & **Florin Fesnic.** 2011. "Migration and Political Tolerance in Romania: Evidence from an Original Survey." In Ronald King & Paul Sum (eds.), *Romania under Bănescu: Aspirations, Achievements, and Frustrations during his First Presidential Term*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 257-271.
- Raluca Viman & **Florin Fesnic.** 2010. "Determinants of Political Tolerance in Romania: Cross-National and Longitudinal Perspectives." In Toma Burean (ed.), *Roots of Social Capital: Youth Civic Engagement and Socialization*. Cluj: Accent, 166-191.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2010. "*Determinanți ai euroscepticismului în România*" ("Determinants of Euroskepticism in Romania"), in Mircea Comsa, Andrei Gheorghiuță & Claudiu Tufis (eds.), *Alegerile pentru Parlamentul European - Romania, 2009* ("Elections for the European Parliament: Romania 2009"). Bucharest: Polirom, 129-146.
- Florin Fesnic & Raluca Viman.** 2009. "Alternative Measures of Tolerance, or Tolerance v. Social Liberalism? A Cross-National Empirical Test." *Studia Universitatis Babes-Bolyai Politica*, 54, 1, 53-75.
- Toma Burean, **Florin Fesnic**, Iulia Georgescu & Carmen Greab. 2009. "*Implementarea unor metode de vot alternative în România între necesitate, utilitate și fezabilitate*" ("The Implementation of Alternative Voting Methods in Romania"), in *Reprezentarea diasporei și votul românilor din străinătate*. Bucharest: The Soros Foundation, 52-89.
- Florin Fesnic**, 2008. Contributor, *The Sage Encyclopedia of Campaigns, Elections, and Electoral Behavior*, edited by Kenneth F. Warren. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (Entries on

Educational Level and Voting Behavior; Election Types (realigning, maintaining, deviating, and reinstating elections); Libertarian Party; Multiparty System; Plurality Vote; Proportional Representation; Realignment; Two-party System; Voting, Methods; Winner-take-all System; Zogby, John).

**Florin Fesnic**, 2008. „*Rădăcinile structurale ale diviziunilor partizane din România: modernizare reușită, modernizare nereușită, și non-modernizare,*” in Ioan Bolovan & Sorina Paula Bolovan (eds.), *Schimbare si devenire în istoria României*. Cluj: Centrul de Studii Transilvane, 727-740.

Steven Roper & **Florin Fesnic**. 2003. “[Historical Legacies and Their Impact on Post-Communist Voting Behavior.](#)” *Europe-Asia Studies* 55, 1: 119-131 (DOI: [10.1080/713663449](https://doi.org/10.1080/713663449)).

### Conference Presentations

**Florin Fesnic**. 2022. “[Three Toxic Ingredients Making the COVID-19 Pandemic Worse: United States and Romania Compared.](#)” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

**Florin Fesnic**. 2019. “*Romanian Democracy in Comparative Perspective: the Role of Voters, Parties, and Institutions.*” Presented at the Conference “The Europeanization of Eastern European Countries, 30 Years after the Transition,” Kokugakuin University, Tokyo, Japan.

**Florin Fesnic**. 2019. “*When Quantity Beats Quality in the Evaluation of Academic Work: An Eastern European Impact Factor?*” Presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Scientometrics & Informetrics, Sapienza University, Rome, Italy.

**Florin Fesnic**. 2019. “*When Quantity Beats Quality in the Evaluation of Academic Work.*” Presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Interdisciplinary Conference of Political Research – SCOPE, “Values in Politics,” FSPUB.

**Florin Fesnic**. 2018. “*The Eastern European Impact Factor: When Quantity Beats Quality in the Evaluation of Academic Work.*” Presented at the 4th Conference of the Society for Romanian Studies, ASE, Bucharest.

Oana Armeanu & **Florin Fesnic**. 2018. “*Teaching political science in Romania and the United States.*” Presented at the 4th Conference of the Society for Romanian Studies, ASE, Bucharest.

**Florin Fesnic**. 2018. “*Electoral Maladministration: A Contributor to Trump’s 2016 Victory?*” Presented at the 5th SCOPE Conference, “Gender & Politics: The Challenges of Globalization,” FSPUB, Romania.

**Florin Fesnic**. 2017. “*Making Methodology Fun (and Making Students Better Citizens).*” Presented at the Conference “Challenges and Innovations in Statistics Education” in Szeged, Hungary.

**Florin Fesnic**. 2017. “*Making Methodology Fun.*” Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA.

**Florin Fesnic**. 2017. “*Metalurgia International by any Other Name is still Metalurgia International: When Quantity Beats Quality in the Evaluation of Academic Work.*” Presented at the Conference “Democracy and Governance in the 21st Century,” Sibiu, Romania.

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- Florin Fesnic.** 2017. “*Quantity versus Quality in the Evaluation of Academic Work: An Eastern European Impact Factor?*” Presented at the [4th SCOPE Conference](#), “Democracy in Development,” [FSPUB](#), Romania.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2016. “*Popularity versus Prestige in the Evaluation of Academic Publications Quality: An Eastern European Impact Factor?*” Presented at the 4th International Conference of the Romanian Sociological Society (RSS), Sibiu, Romania.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2016. “*Institutional and societal determinants of democratic backsliding in post-communist countries.*” Presented at [the European Sociological Association Research Network 36 Sociology of transformations: East and West international midterm conference](#), Sibiu, Romania.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2016. “*Institutional Inequality and Democratic Backsliding in Post-Communist Countries.*” Presented at the 24th World Congress of Political Science, Poznan, Poland.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2016. “*Explaining Political Surprises (AKA Making Methodology Fun): Determinants of Voting in Ukrainian Presidential Elections.*” Presented at the IASE (International Association for Statistical Education) Roundtable Conference “[Promoting understanding of statistics about society](#),” Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, Germany.
- Florin Fesnic & Oana Armeanu.** 2015. “*Comparative Democratic Backsliding: Two Case Studies.*” Presented at [the Society for Romanian Studies International Conference](#), University of Bucharest.
- Oana Armeanu & **Florin Fesnic.** 2015. “*Is Hungary more democratic than Romania or the other way round?*” Presented at the Conference SCOPE 2015: The Science of Politics, University of Bucharest.
- Florin Fesnic & Oana Armeanu.** 2015. “*The Political Significance of Plagiarism: Why Euroskepticism and Authoritarianism Moved From Fringes into Mainstream Romanian Politics.*” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Fesnic & Oana Armeanu.** 2014. “Political Determinants and Consequences of the Pro-Democratic/Anti-Democratic Cleavage in Post-Communist Countries: Three Case Studies”. Presented at the Conference Ideologii, Valori și Comportamente Politice în Europa Centrală și de Est (Ideologies, Values and Political Behavior in Central and Eastern Europe), West University of Timisoara, Romania.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2014. “Civic Education, Democratic Backsliding and Democratic Progress: Two Case Studies”. Presented at the Conference SCOPE 2014: The Science of Politics, University of Bucharest.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2014. “Can Civic Education Make a Difference for Democracy?” Presented at the 10th CEEISA Conference, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj, Romania.
- Florin Fesnic.** 2014. “Can Civic Education Make a Difference for Democracy?” Presented at the Third European Conference on Comparative Electoral Research, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- Florin Fesnic & Oana Armeanu.** 2012. “Institutional, Political and Economic Determinants of Voting Behavior and Realignment in the Romanian Party System.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

- Oana Armeanu & **Florin Fesnic**. 2012. "Clientelism and Voting Behavior in Romania." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Romana Careja & **Florin Fesnic**. 2011. "Left-Right Position, Authoritarianism, Euroskepticism and Support for the Radical Right, East and West." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA.
- Oana Armeanu & **Florin Fesnic**. 2010. "Party System Change in Romania: Institutional versus Structural Explanations." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC.
- Raluca Viman & **Florin Fesnic**. 2010. "Migration and Political Tolerance in Romania: Evidence from an Original Survey." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Fesnic** & Raluca Viman. 2009. "What Drives the Vote for the Extreme Right? Absolute vs. Relative Deprivation." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Toronto, Canada.
- Florin Fesnic** & Oana Armeanu. 2009. "Strategic Effects of Electoral Rules: Testing the Impact of the 2008 Electoral Reform in Romania." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Fesnic** & Oana Armeanu. 2008. "Does Education Make Voters More Leftist or More Rightist?" Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Fesnic**. 2007. "Does Romania Have One Extreme Right or Two?" Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Fesnic**. 2007. "The Demand-Side of Euro-skepticism in Eastern and Western Europe." Presented at the Fifth International Congress on Romanian Studies, June 25-28, in Constanța, Romania.
- Florin Fesnic**. 2007. "Rădăcinile structurale ale diviziunilor partizane din România: modernizare reușită, modernizare nereușită, și non-modernizare" ("Structural Roots of Partisan Divisions in Romania: Successful Modernization, Defective Modernization, and Non-Modernization"). Presented at the conference "Modernization in Romania from 19th to 21st century," Cluj, May 21-24.
- Florin Fesnic**. 2006. "Extreme Right Constituencies in Romania and France: A Two-Dimensional Policy Mapping." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Carol Leff & **Florin Fesnic**. 2005. "Identity-based Parties in Post-communist Government: The Politics of Elite Incorporation and Coalition Maintenance." Presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Fesnic**. 2005. "Institutional Design and Democracy in Post-Communist Countries." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Florin Fesnic**. 2004. "Welfare Chauvinism East and West: Romania & France." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

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**Florin Fesnic** & Angelica Ghindar. 2004. "Post-Communist Party Systems and the Quality of Democracy." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

**Florin Fesnic**. 2004. "Looking at Left and Right the Right Way." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

**Florin Fesnic**. 2003. "Modernization, Transition, and Voting in Romania." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

**Florin Fesnic**. 2002. "The Missing Cleavage." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Steven Roper & **Florin Fesnic**. 2001. "Historical Legacies and Their Electoral Impact." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, New York.

### **Other education**

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Summer 2001 and 2002.

The Stefan Báthory Foundation and the Ford Foundation International Summer School in Political Science and International Relations, Mierki, Poland, Summer 1995, 1996 and 1997.

The "Model United Nations" International Student Conference, New York, March 1997.

The International Summer School "Dutch Culture, Politics and Society," Utrecht, the Netherlands, July-August 1994.

### **Awards, Fellowships and Grants**

Babeş-Bolyai University professional development grant ("Grant de susţinere a competitivităţii"), 2018-2019

Babeş-Bolyai University & FSPAC (Department of Political Science) microgrant (\$1,000) for the research project "Quantity versus Quality in the Evaluation of Academic Work: An Eastern European Impact Factor?" (May-October 2017)

IASE & World Bank travel grant for participation at [the International Association for Statistical Education \(IASE\) 2016 Roundtable Conference](#) (July 19-22, Berlin)

COST Action IS0806 "The True European Voter" Short Term Travel Grant, 2014

American Political Science Association travel grants, 2007 and 2010

Soros Foundation Academic Fellowship Program Professional Development Funds travel grant, 2007 and 2008

Soros Foundation Academic Fellowship (AFP), University of Bucharest, 2006-2008

University of Illinois travel grant, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006

Winner of the 2004 Yaro Skalnik Prize for the Best Graduate Essay in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

University of Illinois, Department of Political Science fellowship 2000-2001 & 2002-2003

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University of Rochester, Department of Political Science fellowship, 1998-1999

Soros Foundation/Central European University fellowship, 1997-1998

Soros Foundation travel grant, Model United Nations, March 1997

Soros Foundation travel grant & Stefan Báthory Foundation summer fellowship, 1995, 1996, and 1997

Babes-Bolyai University travel grant & Utrecht University summer fellowship, July-August 1994

### Research Experience

*Director* (representing UBB Cluj) in the Erasmus+ project “[CiviMatics – Interdisciplinary Mathematical Modelling Meets Civic Education](#),” (2020-2023)

*(Post-doctoral) researcher* in the project “[Democratic citizenship, inequalities and social polarization: a longitudinal and multilevel study](#)” (July 2017 – December 2019, Director Gabriel Badescu), funded by the [National Agency for Scientific Research](#) (UEFISCDI: PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2016-0729)

*Expert* in the project “[Analyzing educational achievement of 15-Year-Olds in Romania](#)” at the [Center for the Study of Democracy](#), UBB Cluj (October 2016 – May 2017, Director Gabriel Badescu), funded by the [Open Society Foundation](#)

*Country expert* (Romania & United States) in the project “[Varieties of Democracy](#)” (V-Dem), 2013-2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022

*(Post-doctoral) researcher* in the project “[New Actors & Mechanisms of Democratic Accountability in International Development](#)” (October 2015 – September 2017, Director Luciana Ghica) funded by the [National Agency for Scientific Research](#) (UEFISCDI: PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-2851)

*(Post-doctoral) researcher* in the project “[Change and stability in Romanian electoral behaviour, 2009-2014](#)” (January 2012 – December 2016, Director Mircea Comşa), funded by the [National Agency for Scientific Research](#) (UEFISCDI: PN-II-ID-PCE-2011-3-0669)

*Country representative* of Romania in [The True European Voter](#) project (COST Action IS0806), 2010-2013; member of the Management Committee, the Data Group and the Think Thank group

**Research Assistant**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2004-2005:

“Democracy and Societal Welfare” (the Center for the Study of Democratic Governance, Fall 2005 – Professor James Kuklinski)

“Formal Characteristics of National Constitutions: A Cross-National Historical Data Set” (Summer 2004 and 2005 – Professor Zachary Elkins & Professor Thomas Ginsburg – see [www.comparativeconstitutionsproject.org](http://www.comparativeconstitutionsproject.org))

“Economic and Political Determinants of Presidential Approval Ratings, 2001-2005” (Fall 2004 – Spring 2005 – Professor Brian Gaines)

### Teaching Experience

*Lecturer*, “Babes-Bolyai” University Cluj, Department of Political Science (2009-current):  
Introduction to Research Methods (BA in Political Science, Fall 2020)

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[Comparative Politics of Developing Countries](#) (MA in International Development, Spring 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 & 2017)

Political Behavior (BA in Political Science, Fall 2014)

Political Organizations (MA in the Management of Political Organizations, Fall 2009 & 2010)

Social Statistics and Stata (MA in Research Design and Data Analysis, Spring 2010 & 2011)

Social Statistics and SPSS (MA in Research Design and Data Analysis, Fall 2010, 2013, 2016, 2017 & 2019)

*Visiting Assistant Professor* (AFP fellow), University of Bucharest (2006-2008):

[Political Paradoxes](#) (Spring 2007 & 2008)

[Comparative Politics of Developing Countries](#) (Fall 2006 & 2007)

*Instructor*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign:

Comparative Politics of Developing Nations (Summer 2006)

Introduction to Comparative Politics (Summer 2005)

*Teaching Assistant*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2000-2006):

Comparative Politics of Developing Nations (three times)

Introduction to Comparative Politics (three times)

Introduction to Political Science (twice)

Introduction to American Government (twice)

**Professional service:** reviewer for

*Analele Universității din București. Seria Științe Politice  
Democratization*

*East European Politics & Societies*

*Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*

*Romanian Journal of Political Science*

*Sociologický časopis/Czech Sociological Review*

*Studia Politica. Romanian Political Science Review*

**Membership in professional associations:** [International Association for Statistical Education \(IASE\)](#)

**Computer skills:** [SPSS](#), [Stata](#) & [Tableau Public](#)

**Languages:** Romanian (native), English (fluent), French (reading & comprehension: fluent; speaking & writing: good)