



Florina Ileana Hica

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ABOUT ME

PhD student, Human-Animal Interactions | Comparative Cognition | Anthropomorphism Research

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

PhD student

University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca [28/09/2025 – Current]

City: Cluj-Napoca | Country: Romania | Field(s) of study: Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary:
• Veterinary | Level in EQF: EQF level 8

Research focus: pet anthropomorphism, pet role perception, anthropomorphic valence, human-companion animal relational dynamics.
Methods: survey design and questionnaire construction; statistical data analysis (correlation, regression, mediation); behavioural coding of dog-human interactions.

Master's Degree

University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca [01/10/2023 – 01/07/2025]

City: Cluj-Napoca | Country: Romania | Field(s) of study: Ethology and Human-Animal Interaction | Level in EQF: EQF level 7

Bachelor's Degree

National University of Political Studies and Public Administration [21/09/2003 – 06/07/2008]

City: București | Country: Romania | Field(s) of study: Communication and Public Relations | Level in EQF: EQF level 6

Bachelor's Degree

Babes-Bolyai University [29/09/2002 – 02/07/2006]

City: Cluj-Napoca | Country: Romania | Field(s) of study: Philosophy - Sociology, German language | Level in EQF: EQF level 6

PUBLICATIONS

[2026]
Comparative Anthropomorphism and Affective Valence Shape Role Perception and Relational Behaviours in Human-Pet Dyads in Romania This study investigates how attitudes toward animals and comparative anthropomorphism shape human-pet relationships through the social roles assigned to companion animals. In a Romanian sample of cat and dog guardians, pet role perception mediated relational behaviours, while anthropomorphic valence further differentiated patterns of communication, reconciliation, and perceived social support.

Authors: Florina I. Hica, Alina S. Rusu, Iulia F. Pop, Ionel Papuc | Journal Name: Frontiers in Psychology | Publisher: Frontiers

Hica, F. I., Rusu, A. S., Pop, I. F., & Papuc, I. (2026). Comparative anthropomorphism and affective valence shape role perception and relational behaviours in human-pet dyads in Romania. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 17, 1771900.

SKILLS

Research Design & Analysis

questionnaire development and survey research design / statistical data analysis / qualitative data handling / behavioural observation and coding of dog-human interactions

Applied Animal Behaviour & Welfare

familiarity with personality assessment frameworks (PADA context) / welfare-oriented interpretation of behavioural indicators / experience in animal-assisted activity contexts

Academic & Communication Skills

scientific writing / academic presentation and conference participation / cross-disciplinary collaboration (ethology, psychology, veterinary contexts) / research discussion and peer exchange in international networks (COST Action)

Organisational & Professional Competence

project coordination and activity planning / experience working in multidisciplinary teams / international communication (English C2; German C1/C2; Italian B2) / independent work and deadline management

WORK EXPERIENCE

 **Freelance translator with English & German** – Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Translator

[05/09/2010 – Current]

 **SC Ski Outdoor Media SRL** – Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Web content specialist

[01/11/2021 – 31/12/2022]

 **SC OZ Company SRL** – Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Operations manager

[03/06/2007 – Current]

 **Cluj Chamber of Commerce and Industry** – Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Marketing consultant

[01/05/2007 – 01/11/2007]

CREATIVE WORKS

[01/09/2015 – Current]

Exhibitor at public events Mixed-media artist tackling themes about nature and non-human animals

[2022 – 2022]

Children's book creator and illustrator Created a booklet to showcase the complex lives of companion animals to children under the age of 3.

[22/03/2012 – 24/03/2012]

Exhibitor in a collective photography exhibition

VOLUNTEERING

[01/09/2024 – Current] Cluj-Napoca

Order of Malta Relief Organization

[24/05/2024 – 26/05/2024] Cluj-Napoca

Linda Pata Rât TNR campaign Participation in the trap-and-neuter-release campaign coordinated at the municipal garbage disposal site, where 145 owned, stray, and feral dogs and cats were sterilised.

RESEARCHER PROFILE

Brainmap: <https://www.brainmap.ro/florina-hica>

Orcid: <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-7250-9790>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

[2024 – Current]

Human-Animal Interaction Research Laboratory (HAIRLab)

- Participating in applied research and educational activities focused on companion animal behaviour and human-animal interaction
- Involved in observational and video-based behavioural coding of dog-human interactions within training and assessment contexts (including PADA-related personality evaluation frameworks)
- Engaging in collaborative discussions with students and researchers on welfare-oriented practice and ethical considerations of companion animals
- Supporting empirical activities related to animal-assisted services and humane education initiatives

[2025 – Current]

COST Action CA23106 – AFFECT-EVO

Working Group 2 and 3 Member

- Participating in interdisciplinary discussions on affective states across species
- Contributing to conceptual integration of behavioural indicators within welfare assessment frameworks
- Selected participant for COST Training School (Working Group 2) on communication about animal affect in educational contexts (Co-learning through multiple perspectives) 2026

[09/2025 – Current]

Doctoral Research Project

- Investigating anthropomorphic attribution in veterinary and companion animal contexts, with emphasis on anthropomorphic valence and its implications for human social cognition and animal welfare
- Examining how perceived personality traits of companion animals (including PADA-based assessments) influence role attribution, relational dynamics, and care practices
- Analysing socio-cultural differences in anthropomorphic tendencies (urban-rural and cross-cultural comparisons)
- Integrating quantitative survey methods, behavioural coding of PADA evaluations, qualitative interviews, and welfare-related indicators (e.g., stress markers in applied settings)
- Exploring educational and cooperative care interventions within veterinary training contexts

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

[09/2024 – 02/2025]

One Health training certificate, USAMV Cluj-Napoca

Understanding and Implementing the One Health Concept.

[07/09/2024 – 08/09/2024]

IAHAIO International Conference, The power of human-animal interactions in times of crisis, USAMV Cluj-Napoca

Member of the organisational staff of the international conference of the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organization.