

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Personal Data

Name Maria Mihaela GRAJDIAN  
Birth Date & Place 17. October 1977 in Bucharest, Romania



**Dr. Maria Grajdian** is a senior researcher, scholar and media analyst, currently affiliated with several international research initiatives on digital cultures and human creativities. Trained as an anthropologist and musicologist (PhD, University of Music, Drama and Media, Hanover/Germany), she works at the intersection of cultural theory, aesthetics/ideology versus ethics/imagination, and technology while exploring and investigating the evolving relationships between artificial intelligence, human emotions, and the co-creation of globally emerging futures. She regularly contributes to advisory panels, executive workshops, and public programmes, helping organisations turn complex abstract insights into pragmatic, scalable action.

## Online Information

ENGLISH HP: <https://mariagrajdian.wixsite.com/my-site-1>  
Project HP: <https://mariagrajdian.wixsite.com/loving-futures>  
Vitixa: Vitality Unlocked. Well-Being and Love for a Better World: <https://vitixa.com/>  
YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@maria.grajdian/featured>  
YouTube interview and discussion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32C-BO2kgiI>  
YouTube self-introduction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIURKY30fDY>

## Professional Career

since November 2025

### **Cultural Analyst, Cultural Analyst, Learning & Development Consultant: Insight → Strategy → Implementation**

- contributor to international networks on technology and its social impact, digital humanities, education, future imaginaries, therapeutic cultures and cross-cultural flows in Asia and Europe
- advisor to international organizations, research groups, and creative industries on projects bridging technology, ethics, and human development
- pragmatics of education: digital culture, strategic innovation, and program design
- the impact of artificial intelligence and immersive media on creativity and geo-historical narratives
- therapeutic applications of cultural productions and media representations of trauma and recovery

11.2024 – 12.2024

### **Visiting Professor**

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany  
With invitation within University of Cologne's The Global Academic Exchange Project

- Strategic planning and collaboration projects
- Sustainable implementation of globally scalable visibility and impact
- Compact course *Made in Japan I: Die Takarazuka Revue*
- Compact course *Made in Japan II: Anime Soundtracks*
- Guest Lecture *Made in Japan III: Visual Kei, Heavy Metal and Anime Soundtracks*

04.2018 – 10.2025

### **Associate Professor (full-time, tenured)**

Hiroshima University, Graduate School of Integrated Arts and Sciences, Hiroshima, Japan

- Anthropology of Media & Media Studies
- Cultural Anthropology

**DR. MARIA MIHAELA GRAJDIAN**  
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- Contemporary/Modern Japan: Culture and Society
  - Japanese Popular Culture
  - Internship orientation and basic life-skills after graduation
  - Academic Affairs: Curriculum preparation and development
  - Admission exams: preparation and development
  - Students' individual tutoring, mentoring, supervision
  - Home-page development
  - Coordination of international relations
- 04.2016 – present      **Research Associate and Visiting Professor**  
National University of Economics, Bucharest, Romania
- 04.2015 – 02.2020      **Research Associate and Visiting Professor**  
University "Lucian Blaga", Sibiu, Romania
- 12.2013– 03.2018      **Associate Professor (*full-time, tenured*)**  
Nagasaki University, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki, Japan
- Media Studies & Anthropology of Media
  - Cultural Anthropology
  - Contemporary/Modern Japan: Culture and Society
  - Japanese Popular Culture
  - International relations: strategies and development
  - Public relations and admission exams
  - Curriculum preparation and development
- 10.2014 – 03.2018      **Lecturer (*part-time, non-tenured*)**  
Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies, Nagasaki, Japan
- Introduction to Japanese Studies
  - Japanese Popular Culture
- 10.2010 – 05.2013      **Office Manager and Secretary to the General Manager (*full-time, permanent contract*)**  
Citizen Electronics Ltd. (subsidiary to Citizen Electronics, Japan), Frankfurt/Main, Germany
- Market research, accountancy, human resource management
  - Financial reporting and controlling
  - Handling of judiciary issues in accordance with German and Japanese law
  - Mediation between the international subsidiaries and the Japanese mother company on a global scale
  - Japanese expatriats support (Germany, worldwide)
- 10.2009 – 09.2010      **Postdoctoral Researcher (*full-time, non-tenured*)**  
University of Heidelberg, Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context: Shifting Asymmetries in Cultural Flows", research project "Hidden Grammars of Transculturality: Migrations of Encyclopedic Knowledge and Power", Heidelberg, Germany
- scientific research
  - scientific events management (international conferences & workshops)
  - researchers' coordination & support
  - accountancy, human resource management
- 10.2013 – 03.2014      **Lecturer (*part-time, non-tenured*)**  
University of Heidelberg, Department of Japanese Studies, Heidelberg, Germany
- 04.2013 – 09.2013      University of Leipzig, Department of Japanese Studies, Leipzig, Germany
- 10.2012 – 03.2013      Christian University "Dimitrie Cantemir", Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures, Bucharest, Romania

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- Romanian-American University, Centre for the Study of the Japanese Culture, Bucharest, Romania
- Lucian Blaga University, Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures/Theological Faculty, Sibiu, Romania
- 04.2011 – 09.2011 University of Music and Drama Hanover, Centre for World Music, Hanover, Germany
- 10.2010 – 03.2011 University of Heidelberg, Department of Japanese Studies, Heidelberg, Germany
- 04.2010 – 09.2010 University of Cologne, Department of Musicology, Cologne, Germany
- 05.2009 – 09.2009 **Contributor**  
 Izoblue Studio, Bucharest, Romania
- PR, market research, editorial tasks
- 05.2009 **Lecturer**  
 National Ethnographic Museum ASTRA, Sibiu, Romania
- 10.2007 – 09.2009 **Freelance Teacher, Interpret, Translator**  
 Japan and Romania
- Japanese, Romanian, German, English, French
- 10.2005 – 03.2006 **Tutor**  
 University of Cologne, Department of Japanese Studies, Cologne, Germany
- 03.2005 – 09.2005 **Attendant**  
 EXPO-World Exhibition in Aichi, German Pavilion, Nagakute, Japan
- PR, customer service, administrative tasks
- 10.2004 – 02.2005 **Project Researcher**  
 University of Cologne, Department of Musicology, Cologne, Germany
- Scientific, editorial, and administrative tasks
- 04.2004 – 10.2004 **Contributor, Student Assistant**  
 Western German Radio, Cologne, Germany
- Customer and artists support
- 08.2002 – 02.2006 **Contributor, Student Assistant**  
 O'Reilly Press, Cologne, Germany
- Editorial and secretarial tasks
- 01.2001 – 04.2003 **Project Assistant**  
 University of Cologne, Institute for Meteorology, Cologne, Germany
- Production and supervision of internet sites
- 01.2000 – 09.2000 **Contributor**  
 Records Archive of the Romanian National Radio, Bucharest, Romania
- Research and inventory
- 09.1998 **Trainee**  
 Management Department of the artistic company 'Music-Concept-Consulting', Recklinghausen, Germany
- Market research, artists' support, assistance in the finance department

## Pro-Bono Activities

### International Editorial and Advisory Boards

05.2025 – present	<i>Korpusgermanistik</i> , Atatürk University Press, Erzurum, Turkey
04.2025 – present	<i>Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Crisis</i> , Istanbul University Press, Istanbul, Turkey
01.2024 – present	<i>Alma Mater: Journal of Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies</i> , Marmara University Press, Istanbul, Turkey
06.2024 – 12.2024	<i>Affairs of the Heart: Timeless Narratives from Around the World</i> , edited by Teodora Serban-Oprescu, Marina-Luminita Militaru, Monica-Alina Toma, Bucharest University Press, Bucharest, Romania
01.2023 – present	<i>Global Media and China</i> , SAGE Publications, Thousand Oaks, USA
01.2018 – present	<i>Brukenthalia</i> , Sibiu University "Lucian Blaga", Sibiu, Romania

### Global Visibility and Educational Entrepreneurship

01.2023 – present	<b>CEO and Co-Founder "Vitixa: Vitality Unlocked"</b> <a href="https://vitixa.com/">https://vitixa.com/</a> Virtual Journal/Website and Non-Profit Organization
01.2022 – present	<b>CEO and Founder "School of Love"</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@maria.grajdian">https://www.youtube.com/@maria.grajdian</a> YouTube Channel and Non-Profit Organization
01.2021 – present	<b>CEO and Founder "School of Love"</b> <a href="https://mariagrajadian.wixsite.com/my-site-1">https://mariagrajadian.wixsite.com/my-site-1</a> Educational Website and Non-Profit Organization
09.2021 – 10.2022	<b>Board of Trustees, Hiroshima International School</b> Permanent member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Resources decisions</li> <li>• Financials</li> <li>• Educational governance</li> <li>• Mid- and long-term marketing strategies</li> <li>• Curriculum</li> </ul>
2015 – present	<b>Peer-Reviewer for Academic Journals</b> Over 300 peer-reviews: English, German, Romanian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAGE</li> <li>• Palgrave</li> <li>• Routledge/Francis &amp; Taylor</li> <li>• New Readings</li> <li>• Trans/Form/Ação</li> <li>• MDPI, Basel, Switzerland</li> <li>• <i>Settlements and Spatial Planning</i>, Cluj-Napoca, Romania</li> <li>• <i>Territorial Identity and Development</i>, Cluj-Napoca, Romania</li> <li>• <i>Essence and Critique</i></li> <li>• <i>Alma Mater</i></li> <li>• <i>Synergies in Communication</i></li> <li>• <i>International Journal of Population Studies</i></li> <li>• <i>Journal of Music and Sound in Games</i></li> <li>• <i>Forum for Education Studies</i></li> <li>• <i>Transformative Works and Cultures</i></li> <li>• <i>Educational Philosophy and Theory (EPAT)</i></li> <li>• <i>Journal of Advanced Engineering Trends</i></li> <li>• <i>Silva Japonicum</i></li> <li>• <i>Mutual Images</i></li> </ul>

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- *Journal of Environmental Education*
- *AccScience*
- *China and Global Media*
- *Brukenthalia*, Sibiu, Romania
- 『人間存在文化研究会』、広島大学
- *Kiel's Contributions to Research on Film Music*, Kiel, Germany
- Nicolescu Press, Bucharest, Romania
- *Acta Asiatica Varsoviensia*, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland
- *International Journal of Asia Pacific Studies*, Penang, Malaysia
- *Asian Studies*, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

## Formal Education

10.2004 – 03.2009

### PhD in Musicology/Ethnomusicology

Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, Hanover, Germany

- 02.2009 PhD exam, degree: “magna cum laude” (very good, 1,0)
- Topic: Takarazuka Revue and cultural construction of Japanese identity
- Supervision: Prof. Dr. Raimund VOGELS, Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, Hanover, Germany  
Prof. Dr. Lars-Christian KOCH, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany
- 10.2006 – 09.2007 Research Student, University of Kyôto, Japan  
Foundation Fellowship, Kyoto, Japan  
Supervision: Prof. Dr. OGAWA Tadashi
- 03.2006 – 09.2006 Fieldwork, German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo, Japan
- 10.2005 – 02.2006 Fellowship, University of Cologne, Program for Promotion of Young Researchers and PhD Candidates, Cologne, Germany

10.2000 – 09.2004

### MA in Musicology, French Philology, Japanese Studies

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

- 07.2002 BA examination, degree: “good” (2,0)  
Subjects: Japanese Studies and French Philology
- 06.2003 – 08.2003 Fellowship, Japan Foundation, Ôsaka
- 12.2003 – 02.2004 MA thesis, Institute of Musicology  
Degree: “Very good” (1,0)  
Topic: Takarazuka Revue and Gender Studies  
Supervision: Prof. Dr. Rudiger SCHUMACHER
- 07.2004 MA examination, degree: “Very good” (1,2)  
Subjects: Musicology, Japanese Studies, French Philology
- 10.2004 DAAD-Award 2004 at University of Cologne  
(DAAD = German Academic Exchange Service)

10.1996 – 09.2000

### BA in Musicology

National Music University, Bucharest, Romania

(recognized through the order 72.885 from May 21, 2009, issued by the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation)

- 10.2004 DAAD-Award 2004 at University of Cologne  
(DAAD = German Academic Exchange Service)
- 04.1998 Award 'Best Musical Journal in Romania' (*Music 21*)
- 05.2000 1st Prize in musicological competition “Tomorrow’s Musicologists”
- 08.2000 DAAD-Fellowship, University of Applied Sciences, Cologne, Cologne, Germany  
(DAAD = German Academic Exchange Service)

## Grants, Fellowships, Awards

06.2023 – 10. 2023	Japan Virtual Campus (JV-Campus): Japan-Based Online International Educational Platform ( <a href="https://www.jv-campus.org/">https://www.jv-campus.org/</a> ), University of Tsukuba in cooperation with Hiroshima University, three educational short-movies, 2.000.000 JPY, June-October 2023, as manager and producer [withdrawn]
04.2017 – 03.2023	JSPS Research Grant (科学研究費), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research, Wakate B, 17K17952, research project 『宝塚歌劇の質的変遷—地域芸能からグローバルなマスメディアへ』 ( <i>Takarazuka Revue's Metamorphosis: From a Local Stage Art towards a Global Medium</i> ), 4.100.000 JPY, principal investigator
10.2006 – 09.2007	Fellowship, Japan Foundation: Fieldwork, Research Student at University of Kyôto, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyôto, Japan
03.2006 – 09.2006	Fellowship, German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tôkyô: Fieldwork in Tôkyô, Japan
10.2005 – 02.2006	Fellowship, University of Cologne, Program for Promotion of Young Researchers and PhD Candidates, Cologne, Germany.
10.2004	DAAD Award as Best Foreign Student 2004 at the University of Cologne (DAAD = German Academic Exchange Program), Cologne, Germany
06.2003 – 08.2003	Fellowship, Japan Foundation: Participation at Japanese language course, International Center for the Study of Japanese Language, Ôsaka, Japan
08.2000	Fellowship, DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service): Participation at German language course, University of Applied Sciences, Cologne, Germany
05.2000	1st Prize in the musicological competition "Tomorrow's Musicologists", organized by the National University of Music in Bucharest and the Romanian Association of Composers and Musicologists, Bucharest, Romania
04.1998	'Best Musical Journal in Romania' Award for the Journal <i>Music 21</i> , awarded by the Journal 'Music Today' of the Romanian Association of Composers and Musicologists, Bucharest, Romania

## Languages

Romanian	native speaker
German	native speaker level ( <i>GROSSES DEUTSCHES SPRACHDIPLOM</i> )
English	native speaker level
Japanese	proficient
French	proficient
Latin	basic skills ( <i>KLEINES LATINUM</i> )

## Institutional Affiliations

- JSPS Alumni, Bonn, Germany
- German Association for Music Research (Gesellschaft für Musikforschung), Kassel, Germany
- German Association for Japanese Studies (Gesellschaft für Japanforschung), Hamburg, Germany
- European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS), Berlin, Germany
- International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM)
- Association for Cultural Studies (ACS)
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS)
- East-Asian Society (OAG-Ostasiatische Gesellschaft)

## International Cooperation Research Projects

1. **2024-2027, Leader and Principal Investigator:** Digital Humanities in Asia and Europe: Emerging Ecosystems, Creative Industries, and Virtual Solidarities (<https://mariagrajdian.wixsite.com/loving-futures/s-projects-basic-1>; with Associate Professor Dr. Raluca Nicolae, University of Economic Studies, Bucharest/Romania)
2. **2024-2027, Leader and Principal Investigator:** Therapeutic Economies: The Representation of Trauma, Recovery and Transcendence in Phenomena of Mass Media (<https://mariagrajdian.wixsite.com/loving-futures/s-projects-basic>; with Senior Researcher Dr. Lucas Ferraco Nassif, NOVA University Lisbon, Lisbon/Portugal)
3. **2023-2027, Leader, Founder and Principal Investigator: international think-tank "Loving Futures"**, research project "Heading for the Stars, with Love: Artificial Intelligences, Digital Media, Alternative Realities and the Meaning of Life" (<https://mariagrajdian.wixsite.com/loving-futures>) involving **five internationally active and acknowledged researchers from four countries: Hong Kong** (Prof. Dr. Anthony Fung, Chinese University of Hong Kong); **Japan** (Prof. Dr. Joff P. N. Bradley, Teikyô University, and myself); **Romania** (Assoc. Prof. Raluca Nicolae, Bucharest University of Economic Studies); **Germany** (Postdoc Dr. Pascal Rudolph, University of Tübingen);
4. **2022-2023, Co-Investigator: Transmedial travel imaginaries in Japan and Denmark**, based on a grant from the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science in research area without potential for invention, with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Susana Tosca (Roskilde University, Denmark, main investigator) and Prof. Dr. Akiko Sugawa-Shimada (Yokohama National University, Japan);
5. **2021-2022, Co-Coordinator: The Construction of Masculinity in/by Takarazuka Revue's Otokoyaku**, Prof. Dr. Madelaine Martinez Rojas, University of Costa Rica, Graduate School of Technological Communication and Social Development.

## Hobbies

- YouTube channel: "The School of Love" (Founder and CEO), <https://www.youtube.com/@maria.grajdian>
- Educational Website: "The School of Love" (Founder and CEO), <https://mariagrajdian.wixsite.com/my-site-1>
- Virtual educational journal: "Vitixa: Vitality Unlocked. Well-Being and Love for a Better World" (Co-Founder and CEO), <https://vitixa.com/>
- Leisure play of violin and piano (professional play of violin and piano for over 18 years)
- Leisure singing and dancing
- Sports: swimming, cycling, jogging, working-out, power-walking
- Leisure reading: modern Russian literature, detective stories, science-fiction
- Cooking: international cuisine
- Collecting Starbucks (ceramic) cups

Sibiu, 14. February 2026



Maria Grajdian