



Octavian Roske was born on January 4, 1956, in Bucharest.

A philologist, translator, historian, and editor, Octavian Roske studied at the 'Nicolae Bălcescu' High School (today 'Sfântul Sava' National College) in Bucharest between 1971 and 1975. Two years later, in 1977, he continued his education at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, English–Romanian section, which he graduated in 1981. After completing his university studies, he was assigned to teach English at the Agro-Industrial High School in the commune of Hotarele, Giurgiu County (1981–1987).

Concerned with the policies of the communist regime in Romania and their impact on society, including on cultural and architectural heritage, Octavian Roske established connections with former political prisoners and intellectuals who shared his ideas, among them the archaeologist Radu Ciuceanu, Daniel Barbu, and Gheorghe Anghelescu.

In 1980, Octavian Roske, Radu Ciuceanu, and Daniel Barbu clandestinely drafted a study entitled 'The Condition of the Monument under the Communist Regime'. After reaching the West, the text was broadcast in 1981 in an extensive series on Radio Free Europe, in the program 'Povestea vorbeii' (The story of the word), produced by Virgil Ierunca. A few years later, in 1985, the subversive activity of the three intellectuals resulted in a new document, 'Will Bucharest Survive until 1984?', which was broadcast serially by Nicolae Stroescu-Stânișoară on the program 'Actualitatea românească' (Romanian Cultural Events), beginning in June 1985.

In 1987, Octavian Roske was employed as a librarian at the Library of the Romanian Academy (1987–1990). After the events of 1989, he worked at the Ministry of Culture (1990, 1992–1993) and at the Commission for the Investigation of Abuses within the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament (1990–1992), as an expert. In this context, he was involved in designing questionnaires and collecting testimonies from individuals subjected to forced collectivization. These were the steps that preceded the in-depth analysis of the phenomenon of agricultural collectivization in Romania and the publication of scientific studies, as well as a series of documentary volumes dedicated to collectivization.

The year 1993 marked two parallel directions in Octavian Roske's professional development: the founding, together with Radu Ciuceanu, of the National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism, an autonomous institute under the aegis of the Romanian Academy, and the beginning of his university career at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures of the University of Bucharest.

At the university, within the English Department, he advanced step by step through the academic ranks, from assistant professor (1993–1996) to lecturer (1996–2000). In 1998, he defended his PhD in Philology, specialization in Comparative Literature, under the supervision of Professor Dan Grigorescu at the University of Bucharest, and from the year 2000 he held the position of associate professor.

He headed the English Department (2007–2022), as well as the Center for American Studies at the University of Bucharest (2012–2022). One of the founders of American Studies in Romania, Octavian Roske was a member of the 'Romanian Society for English and American Studies', a member of the 'Romanian Association for American Studies', and a founding member of the 'Romanian Association for Comparative Studies'.

Within NIST, Octavian Roske assumed from the very beginning the difficult task of outlining the institute's directions of activity, supported by the Scientific Council made up of leading intellectuals. Thus, annual and multiannual research programs were established. Octavian Roske was the architect of NIST's editorial policy, developed along two major lines: the journal 'Arhivele Totalitarismului' (1993) and the NIST Publishing House, which, under his leadership, published an impressive number of volumes in eight series ('Documents', 'Biographies', 'Debates', 'Dictionaries', 'Encyclopedias', 'Memoirs', 'Syntheses', and 'Studies').

The name of Octavian Roske remains recorded in the historiography of the communist regime as an author and coordinator of fundamental research tools regarding the phenomenon of collectivization, the biographical research of the victims of the communist regime, as well as of those responsible within the repressive apparatus (*Repressive Mechanisms in Romania*, 2001-2011, 9 volumes). At the same time, Octavian Roske initiated a unique project in the Romanian historiographical landscape through its structure, content, and scope: *Romania 1945–1989. The Encyclopedia of the Communist Regime in Romania. Repression* (2011-2024, 5 volumes).

Octavian Roske passed away prematurely on January 14, 2023. The visible outcome of the almost three decades during which he led NIST together with Radu Ciuceanu includes no fewer than 174 volumes published within the eight series and beyond, 117 issues of the journal 'Arhivele Totalitarismului', and hundreds of scientific events organized by NIST independently or in partnership with other specialized institutions.