




Catalin Dumitrescu | Bio


Financial Stability Expert | Behavioural Modeller | Policy Provider | Economist with Spine 

I'm Catalin Dumitrescu — researcher in financial stability, former ECB financial stability expert, currently with the National Bank of Romania, and yes — a recovering polymath with a tendency to question everything, especially bad models. 


I've learned from setbacks — not by avoiding them, but by treating them as strength-building events. My confidence is not abstract; it's built on what I've overcome.

My path into science didn't begin with a financial crisis or a university lecture. It began earlier, with four county-level Romanian Olympiads, ranking in 1st- 3rd place at each one of them. Mathematics. French. Chemistry. History. Four disciplines. Four wins. Four very different neural circuits.  That's when I learned two things: first, I was fast at connecting dots others didn't even see. Second, and more importantly: the world doesn't wait for brilliance, no matter how early it arrives — it expects endurance, discipline, and the occasional uncomfortable truth.


 At our 10-year high school reunion, I asked my math teacher why he used to call me to the blackboard every single day, five times a week. His answer? 'Because you were one of the best students I ever had.'

My grandmother raised me — a woman of quiet strength from an aristocratic family, who taught me to sit tall, keep my spine straight, and respect everyone, regardless of their rank, education or income. She was the kind of person who could say more with silence than most people say with a thesis. From her, I inherited clarity, moral geometry, and a deep belief in elegant thinking — not the kind that wears fancy suits, but the kind that makes complexity look like common sense. 

She taught me to hold my back straight, to speak the truth with kindness, and to treat everyone with respect, regardless of their status, income or education. From her aristocratic background, I inherited not style, but substance. To be elegant in thought, not just in form.

After she passed away, something went silent inside me. Not broken — just paused. For over a decade, I operated on minimum power. No failure, no collapse, but no fire either. I showed up, I delivered what was needed, but I didn't ignite. That chapter lasted eleven years. Then came my wife, a pulmonologist who also does psychotherapeutic work with her patients.  It turns out, living with someone who understands both breathing and burnout was precisely what I needed. She didn't fix me — she helped me rebuild myself.

She is a physician by training, treating patients with pulmonary conditions, but she also does deep psychotherapeutic work. Her ability to heal both the body and the soul was transformative for me. It helped me shift from mere survival to a real trajectory.

Since then, I've returned to who I am: a builder. A challenger. A doer. And someone who cannot tolerate intellectually lazy policy work. 

For 11 years, between my grandmother's passing and meeting my wife, I lived on autopilot — performing adequately but never fully activating my potential. That's no longer the case.

Today, I work at the crossroads of data science, financial behaviour, macroprudential policy, and economic modelling. I specialise in what I call evidence-first transition modelling. That means no speculation, no over-theorising — just cold, hard patterns of behaviour converted into predictive tools. 🇮🇹

I bring high energy and genuine passion to everything I do — but never excess. I strike a balance between intensity and reflection, always aiming to produce reference-quality work in my field.

And it works. My framework has been benchmarked against IMF approaches, and my previous work has been presented at high-level institutional events, including the European Central Bank (ECB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Atlanta Fed. My latest work is now being considered as a blueprint for understanding behavioural patterns in financial systems.

At the National Bank of Romania, I provided support for financial stability reports. At the European Central Bank, I've also assessed market spillovers, participated in EU legislative consultation working groups, and contributed to the ECB's Financial Structures Report.

At the European Central Bank, I worked with supervisory teams, assessed euro area banking risks, and drafted key communications for the ECB Board. This dual exposure — from both the core and the periphery of the euro system — gives me a unique sense of how theory, regulation, and behaviour interact in real time. 🌍

I'm currently finishing a PhD in Finance, focusing on the transformation of central banking functions in response to global shocks — including digitalisation, ESG imperatives, and behavioural divergence. 🎓

Now, let's get personal again.

I don't do politics. I don't do flattery. I'm allergic to superficial innovation disguised as progress. I believe in calling things by their names and in telling people — directly, respectfully — where they're wrong. Some have mistaken this for arrogance. I call it precision. You can't fix what you're afraid to name.

💡 I've learned from failure, and those moments made me stronger, not weaker.

🔥 Today, I have tremendous energy. I'm passionate, driven, and deeply focused — but I also stay balanced. I aim to create work that will become reference points in my field.

I also value directness. I look people in the eye and tell them when something doesn't hold up, not out of ego, but clarity. It's been misunderstood at times, but I stand by it.

I also believe in humour. Life is too serious not to laugh. 😂 (Ask me why I keep using financial metaphors in everyday conversations — my wife says it's a form of economic Tourette's.)

Here's what else I believe:

We are all, from individuals to CEOs to global investors, ultimately humans trying to optimise outcomes. Understanding those behavioural constants is, in my view, the key to anticipating what comes next.

- ✓ Past human behaviour is the strongest forward-looking indicator we have.
- ✓ Elegance is about clarity, not decoration.
- ✓ Financial stability is not a dry field. It's about people — their fears, hopes, and how they store value across generations.
- ✓ And yes — if there's a better way to ask a question, a smarter way to model it, and a cleaner way to simulate its impact, I'll find it. Then I'll test it. Twice.

I'm not chasing medals anymore. I'm chasing insight. Tools that work. And frameworks that help central banks, especially in complex economies like Romania, transition safely and intelligently.

In short: I've failed. I've paused. I've learned. And now, I build. 💡

Welcome to the space where curiosity meets code, behaviour meets policy, and finance meets its most human interpreters. 🌟