



"1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia  
Faculty of Law and Social Sciences  
Department of Social Sciences

International Conference

# Tendencies of knowledge and social development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

9<sup>th</sup> edition

## Book of abstracts

2 - 3 December 2025  
Alba Iulia, Romania

# TKSD 2025



With the support of  
Alba County Council



Center for  
Social Development and Human  
Resources Research (CSOHRR)



Research Institute for Quality of Life,  
Romanian Academy

9<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference  
*Tendencies of Knowledge and Social Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (the 9<sup>th</sup> edition)*  
*Tendențe ale cunoașterii și dezvoltării sociale în secolul XXI (ediția a IX-a)*

---

## **9<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference**

### ***Tendencies of Knowledge and Social Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

**December 2-3, 2025**

International conference organized with the support of the  
**Alba County Council**  
and the  
**Center for Social Development and Human Resources Research (CSDHRR)**

Alba Iulia  
Romania

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Jean-Jacques Girardot, *Université de Franche-Comté, France*  
Catalin Zamfir, *Romanian Academy, Romania*  
Dumitru Sandu, *University of Bucharest, Romania*  
Petru Iluț, *„Babeș-Bolyai” University, Romania*  
Horatiu Rusu, *„Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Romania*  
Cristina Gavriluță, *„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania*  
Mihai Pascaru, *„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania*  
Lucian Marina, *„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania*  
Mihnea Preotesi, *RIQL Romanian Academy, Romania*  
Stefan Cojocaru, *„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași*  
Mircea Comsa, *Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania*  
Dumitru Otovescu, *University of Craiova, Romania*  
Simona Stănescu, *RIQL Romanian Academy*  
Ioana Ramia, *Centre for Social Impact, UNSW, Australia*  
Violeta Pușcașu, *„Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați, Romania*  
Adrian Netedu, *„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania*  
Dan Chiribucă, *Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca, Romania*  
Maria Vlaharidi, *University of Crete, Greece*  
Magdalena Pokrzyńska, *Univeristy of Zielona Góra, Poland*  
Dorota Szaban, *University of Zielona Gora, Poland*  
Ivan Miskulin, *University of Osijek, Croatia*  
Tatiana Spătaru, *Moldova State University*  
Yanka Pavlova, *University of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria*

## **ORGANIZERS COMMITTEE**

Mihai Pascaru, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Călina Ana Buțiu, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Lucian Marina, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Angela Monica Bara, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Anca Iulia Burgnariu, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Florin Spiridon Croitoru, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Ioan Mihail Dan, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Livia Dioșan, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Delia Krech, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Gonzague Isirabahenda, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Bogdan Nicolae Mucea, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Mădălina Ioana Rațiu, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Claudiu Sebastian Ștefani, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Petronela Maria Talpaș, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Mădălin Ordean, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Cosmina Muresan, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Maria Cristina Stanca, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
Paula Virginia Iancu, „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia

## CONTENT

### LABOR MARKET, ORGANIZATIONS, AND HUMAN RESOURCES IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

<b>Silviu Lucian DINU</b> - <i>BRIDGING WORLDS: THE SOCIO-CULTURAL INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN ROMANIA</i> .....	13
<b>Sorana SĂVEANU, Raluca BUHAȘ, Claudia BACTER</b> - <i>PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HR PROFESSIONALS: STUDENTS VOICES ON COMPETENCIES AND TRAINING</i> .....	14
<b>Sergiu Lucian RAIU</b> - <i>FROM TRAINING TO EMPLOYMENT: SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES GRADUATES</i> .....	16
<b>Mariana CHIHAE</b> - <i>TRENDS IN HUMAN RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY: SELF-ESTEEM AND WELL-BEING AS RESILIENCE FACTORS IN SOCIAL WORK IN THE 21ST CENTURY</i> .....	17
<b>Gonzague ISIRABAHENDA</b> - <i>ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND WORKPLACE ADAPTATION IN ROMANIA'S SERVICE SECTOR</i> .....	18
<b>RĂZVAN IONUȚ CIRIČĂ</b> - <i>LABOR MARKET DYNAMICS AND MINIMUM WAGE EVOLUTION IN ROMANIA (2020-2025): A STATISTICAL AND CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS</i> .....	19

### EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

<b>Lucian MARINA</b> - <i>UNIVERSITIES OF THE THIRD AGE AND THIRD AGE EDUCATION</i> .....	23
<b>Andreea Valeria CRIȘAN (ANDRAS)</b> - <i>AGGRESSION AND ADDICTIONS IN ADOLESCENTS CAUSED BY THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT</i> .....	24
<b>Camelia UTA (PINTEC), Roxana -Maria POPA,</b> <b>Lavinia Elisabeta POPP</b> - <i>CONTINUING EDUCATION IN SOCIAL WORK – A KEY FACTOR IN DEVELOPING RESILIENCE</i> .....	26
<b>Delia KRECH</b> - <i>SCHOOL AND CAREER GUIDANCE IN PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN ROMANIA: CASE STUDIES FOR EIGHTH-GRADE STUDENTS</i> .....	27
<b>Mădălina Ioana RAȚIU</b> - <i>GENERATIONAL STEREOTYPES AND AGE-RELATED BIASES TOWARD SENIOR FACULTY: THE ROLE OF STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE</i> .....	28
<b>Nina Mihaela MIHALACHE</b> - <i>STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE ON CONDUCTING STUDIES AND PRACTICAL ANALYSES IN SOCIAL WORK</i> .....	29

<b>Mariana DUCIUC (DRĂGOTOIU) THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTING ON THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Theophile NZABONIMANA - UNDERSTANDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DRIVERS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL DROPOUT IN RWANDA.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Vladimir PRIPP - TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS DURING TIMES OF CRISIS ..</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Mona SIMU - ASPECTS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE IN ROMANIA, AS THEY EMERGE FROM A RESEARCH ON RECENT PRESS ARTICLES .....</b>	<b>35</b>

### IDENTITY, SOLIDARITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

<b>Mihnea PREOTESI - THE CURRENT BUDGET CRISIS IN TRADITIONAL VISUAL MEDIA. AN ANALYSIS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE OF THE RESPONSE OF THE GOVERNMENTS THE CRISIS. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE 2010-2011 ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE 2025 BUDGET CRISIS...</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Daniel ARPINTE - STRENGTHENING GENERATIONAL COHESION IN AN AGING SOCIETY. EVIDENCE OF IMPACT FROM AN INTERGENERATIONAL MODEL INTERVENTION .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Cristina Mariana GROZAVU - REDEFINING FAMILY VALUES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Bogdan-Alexandru HERȚANU, Cristina GAVRILUȚĂ - IDENTITY MARKERS AND SOCIAL RITUALS IN THE ROMA ETHNICITY.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Loredana-Cristina SANDA (STAN) - THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN PROTECTING THE CHILD WITH DISABILITIES FROM EMOTIONAL ABUSE .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Bogdan BĂLĂNEAN - MASCULINITY AND SEXUAL IDENTITY IN CONTEMPORARY ROMANIA: CULTURE, GENDER PRACTICES, AND HOMOEROTICISM.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Cosmin SICREA - TRENDS IN CURRENT DRUG USE IN ROMANIA .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Ivan MISKULIN, Ivana KOTROMANOVIC, Nika Lovrinčević PAVLOVIC - HEALTH AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN CROATIA: TWO DECADES OF CHALLENGES AND POLICY RESPONSES .</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Vlad BĂTRĂNU-PINȚEA, Claudiu COMAN, Monica Elena CRANTA, Alexandra MIOC - ERASMUS STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE ABROAD.....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Claudiu COMAN, Vlad BĂTRĂNU-PINȚEA, Monica Elena CRANTA, Claudiu-Mihail ROMAN, Livia Mihaela MITREA</b>	
<b>Teodora DINCĂ, Luiza NĂSTASE - DEPICTIONS OF ROMANIAN CULTURE IN RESIDENT EVIL 8: VILLAGE .....</b>	<b>53</b>

<b>Magdalena POKRZYŃSKA - THE BUCOVINIAN FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE AS A LABORATORY OF DIALOGUE: INTERCULTURAL, INTERGENERATIONAL, AND INTERDISCIPLINARY INTEGRATION ON THE BORDERLAND</b> .....	54
<b>Mihaela-Gabriela TEȚȘA (IRIMIA) - WHEN TIME IS CRITICAL: EMERGENCY SOCIAL WORKER INTERVENTIONS IN CASES OF ADOLESCENT DEVIANCE</b> .....	55
<b>Adrian NETEDU - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. A CONTINUING SOCIAL PROBLEM</b> .....	56
<b>Bianca-Daniela PAREPEANU - IDENTITY, SOLIDARITY, AND THE BOUNDARIES OF BELONGING: RETHINKING SOCIAL INCLUSION AMONG HOMELESS ADULTS</b> .....	57
<b>Florina Malina VARTOLOMEI, Victor STOICA - AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ROLE OF RELIGIOSITY IN THE IDENTITY FORMATION PROCESS OF PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS IN THE ROMANIAN ARMY</b> .....	58
<b>Felicia MORÂNDĂU, Dana ZAMFIRESCU MAREȘ, Raluca Elena DĂNUȚ - INCLUSION, BARRIERS, AND NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE ACADEMIC CONTEXT</b> .....	60
<b>Sorina CORMAN, Dana ZAMFIRESCU MAREȘ - SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES AND PATHWAYS FOR THE INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</b> .....	62
<b>Monica Angela BARA - BETWEEN CONNECTION AND ISOLATION EXCESSIVE TECHNOLOGY USE AND OLDER ADULTS' WELL-BEING POST-COVID-19</b> .....	63
<b>Anca Iulia BUGNARIU SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE ELDERLY AND THE IMPACT OF CHRONIC DISEASES: FROM DIALYSIS TO COMMUNITY INTEGRATION</b> .....	64
<b>Călina Ana BUȚIU - -DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND THE REDUCTION OF INEQUALITIES</b> .....	65
<b>Petronela Maria TALPAȘ - WAYS TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY FOR ROMA CHILDREN IN SCHOOL: CHALLENGES AND EDUCATIONAL SOLUTIONS IN ROMANIA</b> .....	66
<b>Nicoleta FILIP - INTEGRATED SOCIO-MEDICAL NETWORKS IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES: A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL WORK IN 21ST CENTURY ROMANIA</b> .....	68
 <b>POLITICS, SOCIAL POLICIES, AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>Dinara ISSINA, Galiya BURAKANOVA, Lucian MARINA - KAZAKHSTAN AS A TRANSIT CORRIDOR FOR MIGRANTS FROM RUSSIA</b> .....	71

<b>Valentina CORNEA, Sergiu CORNEA, Ina FILIPOV, Elena MANDAJI - ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY: FROM „CONCEPTUAL DISARRAY” TO AN INTEGRATIVE EVALUATION MODEL .....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Lucian MARINA, Gonzague ISIRABAHENDA, Bogdan Nicolae MUCEA ENERGY RENOVATION IN ROMANIAN APARTMENT BUILDINGS: IMPLICATIONS FOR ENERGY POVERTY, HOUSING COMFORT, AND HEALTH A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW .....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Costel Marian DALBAN -PIERRE BOURDIEU'S THEORY OF CAPITAL AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE FORMATION OF A POLITICAL CAREER.....</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Bogdan Nicolae MUCEA - FRAGMENTATION AND LEGITIMACY: AN ANALYSIS OF MAYORAL ELECTION RESULTS .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Paula Claudia BUJOR - EUROPEANIZATION OF SOCIAL POLICIES AND THE IMPACT ON LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES. A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION PROCESS IN ROMANIA AND OTHER EUROPEAN STATES.....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Ioan-Sebastian BUDUROI, Victor STOICA, Diana-Maria GROSU THE CONCEPT AND HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF MINORITY RIGHTS ...</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Nicoleta MEREȘ (COJOCARU), Armando Eduard LINCAN I NFORMAL CARE AS SOCIAL POLICY IN ROMANIA: CASE STUDIES ON THE EXPERIENCES OF CAREGIVERS AND OLDER ADULTS .....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Murat İNAN - TESTING ELECTORAL EFFECTIVENESS OF GREENING OF THE LEFT AS A POST-WAR ADAPTATION STRATEGY FOR WESTERN LEFT-WING POLITICAL PARTY FAMILIES FROM A SUPPLY-SIDE PERSPECTIVE .....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Murat İNAN - KIRCHHEIMERIAN CATCHALLIZATION IN TURKISH POLITICS? RECENT CENTRIPETAL IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENTS OF TURKISH POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTORATE .....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Georgiana PODARU, Ciprian IFTIMOAEI - DEALING WITH INTERETHNIC CONFLICT IN EUROPE: HISTORIC AND RECENT EUROPEAN POLICIES IN MULTIETHNIC STATES AND REGIONS .....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Marin GHERMAN - FALSE NARRATIVES AND METANARRATIVES IN THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN WAR (2022–2025) .....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Mankaa Neba SCOLASTIQUE - CHINA’S STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT AS A ROADMAP TO CAMEROONIAN ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.....</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Mankaa Neba SCOLASTIQUE - CHINA IN CAMEROON: NEO-COLONIALISMOR PARTNERSHIP .....</b>	<b>88</b>

**MASS MEDIA, COMMUNICATION, AND SOCIAL REPRESENTATION**

**Paul-Alexandru GHERGHEL - CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROMANIAN WORKER** ..... 93  
**Oana-Andreea NEAGU - SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE TYPES AND PHASES OF SOCIAL FEAR MANIFESTATION** ..... 94  
**Claudiu STEFANI - THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMS ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF AUTHORITY: BETWEEN DIGITAL VALIDATION AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTESTATION.** ..... 96

**RESEARCH AND THE IMPACT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS**

**Violeta PUȘCAȘU, Valentina CORNEA - ADULT EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING IN ROMANIA'S TRANSITION TO THE THIRD AGE: EVIDENCE AND GAPS IN RESEARCH** ..... 99  
**Carmen PALAGHIA - HUMAN TRAFFICKING – A SOCIAL MALADY** .... 100  
**Carmen PALAGHIA - SOCIAL WORK AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING** ..... 101  
**Carmen PALAGHIA - THE AGGRESSOR-VICTIM DYNAMIC IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING** ..... 102  
**Edi BESERMAN - THE SOCIAL LIFE OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS AFTER THE INTERVENTIONS OF THE AMBULANCE FOR MONUMENTS: FROM SAFEGUARDING TO COMMUNITY VALORIZATION** ..... 104  
**Viorica Mariana NEDEL, Remus RUNCAN - PROVOCĂRI ETICE ÎN INTERACȚIUNEA DINTRE ASISTENȚII SOCIALE ȘI BENEFICIARI: PERSPECTIVE ȘI SOLUȚII** ..... 105  
**Dorota SZABAN - MEASURING THE DEMOGRAPHIC ATTRACTIVENESS OF PLACES: A NEW APPROACH TO ANALYZING POPULATION CHANGE IN POLAND** ..... 106  
**Andreea Cătălina FORȚU - PERSONALITY DISORDERS IN DETENTION: APPLIED RESEARCH AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT** ..... 107  
**Lucian BIRU - FROM BURNOUT TO RESILIENCE: THEORETICAL AND PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES IN PENITENTIARY SOCIAL WORK**..... 109  
**Cristina Amalia DÂMBU, Simona STĂNESCU - A SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO PATIENT SAFETY IN ROMANIAN HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS**..... 110  
**Ioan Mihail DAN - DIVORCE AND FAMILY TRANSFORMATIONS IN ROMANIA: THE IMPACT ON SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND COMMUNITY COHESION**..... 111  
**Geta MITREA - TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES AND VULNERABLE CHILDHOODS: EFFECTS OF PARENTAL MIGRATION**

<i>AND THE RESPONSE OF SOCIAL SERVICES.....</i>	112
<b>Ion COZMA, Galina LUȘMANSCHI, Adrian TIRAU - THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERNAL COMMUNICATION EFFICIENCY, EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION AND ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERFORMANCE .....</b>	114
<b>Oana Andreea GROSU - THE KOCH TREE THREE-PHASE DRAWING PROTOCOL: AN ORIGINAL MODEL FOR ASSESSING AND INTERVENING IN ACADEMIC ANXIETY IN RESEARCHERS .....</b>	115
<b>Adrian TIRAU, Ion COZMA - TRENDS AND DIRECTIONS IN STUDIES ON INTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS .</b>	116

### **EMERGING CHALLENGES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

<b>Edi BESERMAN - THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGION AND MODERNITY THROUGH THE LENS OF SECULARIZATION THEORY AND ITS ALTERNATIVE THEORIES.....</b>	119
<b>Yanka PAVLOVA - SOCIAL MEDIA, GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES AND DIGITAL WELL-BEING: NEW SOCIAL CHALLENGES IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY.....</b>	121
<b>Veronica DUMITRAȘCU - UNDERSTANDING DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE: THREATS AND CHALLENGES IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY.....</b>	122
<b>Marie LEONTE - INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY, BETWEEN OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITS FOR SOCIAL POLICIES.....</b>	123
<b>Isa YESILDAG - WHEN AI MEETS PRESTIGE IN ART .....</b>	125
<b>Maria VLACHADI, Aggeliki CHARALAMPOPOLOU - MIGRATION REFUGEE CRISIS AND BORDER ISSUE: THE CASE OF EVROS .....</b>	126
<b>Victor STOICA, Ioan-Sebastian BUDUROI, Malina VARTOLOMEI THE ARCHITECTURE OF FEAR: A SOCIO-POLITICAL FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING HOW VALUES SHAPE THE FEAR OF TECHNOLOGY.....</b>	127
<b>Adriana CĂRUNTU - MODEL OF PALLIATIVE INTERVENTION FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE WHO ARE CANCER SURVIVORS .....</b>	128
<b>Cristina TOMESCU - COMBATING DISINFORMATION AND THE ROLE OF CRITICAL THINKING.....</b>	130
<b>Dumitru BATÂR - FACTORS AND CONDITIONS THAT TRIGGER AND REQUIRE CHANGES IN THE DYNAMICS OF PEASANT FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL-MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES.....</b>	131
<b>Elena DOBRE - THE NEW FINANCING MODEL IN SOCIAL SERVICES FOR OLD – MONEY FOLLOWS THE BENEFICIARIES.....</b>	132

---

**LABOR MARKET, ORGANIZATIONS,  
AND HUMAN RESOURCES  
IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

---



**Silviu Lucian DINU**

*Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania*

lucian.dinu@iccv.ro

## **BRIDGING WORLDS: THE SOCIO-CULTURAL INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN ROMANIA**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*OVER THE PERIOD 2019–2024, ROMANIA HAS TRANSFORMED FROM A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF LABOR INTO A DESTINATION COUNTRY, DRIVEN BY ITS INTERNAL LABOR SHORTAGE. THIS RAPID INFLUX OF MIGRANT WORKERS REQUIRES A COMPLEX ASSESSMENT OF THEIR INTEGRATION. THE PAPER ANALYZES THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONTINGENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN ROMANIA AND THEIR LEVEL OF SOCIO-CULTURAL INTEGRATION. AN EXPONENTIAL INCREASE CAN BE OBSERVED, ACCOMPANIED BY A SIGNIFICANT DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT ESPECIALLY TOWARD WORKERS FROM ASIA AND AFRICA. ALTHOUGH RAPID ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IS EVIDENT, SOCIO-CULTURAL INTEGRATION REMAINS SLOW, HINDERED BY LANGUAGE BARRIERS, LIMITED CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE, AND THE RATHER REJECTION ATTITUDES WITHIN HOST COMMUNITIES. THESE FINDINGS HIGHLIGHT THE CRITICAL NEED FOR STATE INTERVENTIONS THAT FACILITATE INTERCULTURAL INTEGRATION PROGRAMS AND DIRECTLY ADDRESS STEREOTYPES, THEREBY ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE LABOR MIGRATION PROCESS FOR ROMANIA'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*LABOR MIGRATION, ROMANIA, MIGRANT WORKERS, SOCIO-CULTURAL INTEGRATION*

---

**Sorana SĂVEANU**

*University of Oradea, Romania*

soranasav@gmail.com

**Raluca BUHAȘ**

*University of Oradea, Romania*

ralubuhass@gmail.com

**Claudia BACTER**

*University of Oradea, Romania*

claudianbacter@gmail.com

---

## **PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HR PROFESSIONALS: STUDENTS VOICES ON COMPETENCIES AND TRAINING**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE DYNAMICS OF THE LABOR MARKET RAISE CRITICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) PROFESSIONALS ARE PREPARED THROUGH EDUCATION AND PRACTICAL TRAINING. THE AIM OF OUR RESEARCH IS TO EXPLORE HOW HR STUDENTS PERCEIVE THE HR PROFESSION AND ITS COMPETENCIES, ASSESS THE ROLE OF PRACTICAL TRAINING IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FIELD, AND GENERATE EVIDENCE-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS TO BETTER ALIGN HR EDUCATION WITH PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS AND COMPETENCY FRAMEWORKS. THE RESEARCH IS BASED ON AN EXPLORATIVE QUALITATIVE STRATEGY, USING FOCUS GROUPS WITH STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ORADEA (ROMANIA), WHO ALL PARTICIPATED IN PRACTICAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES. THEMATIC ANALYSIS WAS APPLIED TO IDENTIFY CODES, CATEGORIES, AND BROADER THEMES ACROSS BOTH GROUPS. THIS OFFERED INSIGHTS INTO PERCEPTIONS OF THE HR PROFESSION, KEY COMPETENCIES, THE QUALITY OF PRACTICAL TRAINING, AND PROFESSIONAL ASPIRATIONS. OUR RESEARCH FINDINGS SHOW THAT STUDENTS CONSISTENTLY VIEW HR AS A DYNAMIC, HUMAN-ORIENTED, AND MULTIFACETED PROFESSION WITH STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE FOR ORGANIZATIONS. BOTH GROUPS OF PARTICIPANTS EMPHASIZED THE PRIMACY OF SOFT SKILLS, WHILE MASTER'S STUDENTS ADDITIONALLY UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF TECHNICAL SKILLS. PRACTICAL TRAINING EMERGED AS A CRUCIAL YET UNEVEN EXPERIENCE, AND BOTH POSITIVE AND*

*NEGATIVE ASPECTS WERE OUTLINED. STUDENTS EMPHASIZED THE VALUE OF STRUCTURED, HANDS-ON LEARNING GUIDED BY SUPPORTIVE TUTORS. OVERALL, OUR STUDY HIGHLIGHTS BOTH STRENGTHS AND SHORTCOMINGS IN HR EDUCATION. WHILE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS ARE APPRECIATED FOR BROAD TRAINING AND SOFT-SKILL DEVELOPMENT, STUDENTS CALL FOR DEEPER INTEGRATION OF PRACTICAL TRAINING, AND DIGITAL COMPETENCIES. OUR RESULTS PROVIDE ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS FOR EDUCATORS AND ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING TO BRIDGE THE ACADEMIC–PRACTICE DIVIDE AND BETTER PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF HR EXPERTS. THE CONTRIBUTION OF OUR STUDY RESIDES ALSO IN THE BOTTOM-UP PERSPECTIVE THAT UNDERLINES STUDENTS' VOICES—PERSPECTIVES LESS REPRESENTED IN CURRENT LITERATURE, WHICH PREDOMINANTLY EMPHASIZES EMPLOYERS' AND PRACTITIONERS' VIEWS. MOREOVER, THIS APPROACH CAN BE A STARTING POINT FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN CURRICULUM DESIGN, STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF PRACTICAL TRAINING, AND COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*BA AND MA STUDENTS, HR PROFESSIONALS, COMPETENCIES, PRACTICAL TRAINING, HIGHER EDUCATION*

---

**Sergiu Lucian RAIU**  
"Ștefan Cel Mare" University of Suceava, Romania  
sergiu.raiu@atlas.usv.ro

---

**FROM TRAINING TO EMPLOYMENT: SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES  
ON THE PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
GRADUATES**

---

**ABSTRACT:**

*THIS PAPER AIMS TO ANALYZE THE IMPACT OF ACADEMIC TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RESOURCES ON THE PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF GRADUATES OF THE "ȘTEFAN CEL MARE" UNIVERSITY OF SUCEAVA, BASED ON EMPIRICAL DATA FROM THE FIRST THREE COHORTS OF THIS STUDY PROGRAM, WHICH BEGAN IN 2020. THE RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS THE FACT THAT CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGY IS CONSOLIDATING WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BACHELOR'S PROGRAM IN HUMAN RESOURCES, WHICH IS GAINING COHERENCE AND PROGRESSIVE MATURITY, REFLECTED IN THE COMPLETION OF STUDIES BY THREE GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS. ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY RESULTS SHOWS THAT 55.2% OF RESPONDENTS ARE INTEGRATED INTO THE LABOR MARKET, BUT ONLY 8% WORK DIRECTLY IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RESOURCES. DESPITE THIS DISCREPANCY BETWEEN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND THE FIELD OF EMPLOYMENT, SATISFACTION WITH PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IS HIGH (88%), HIGHLIGHTING THE RELEVANCE OF PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TRAINING PROCESS. FURTHERMORE, APPLIED DISCIPLINES ARE CONSISTENTLY APPRECIATED BY GRADUATES, SUGGESTING THAT THE EXPERIENCE-ORIENTED TEACHING METHOD HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE PERCEPTION OF THE USEFULNESS OF ACADEMIC TRAINING. THE RESULTS INDICATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADAPT THE UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM TO THE CURRENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE LABOR MARKET AND TO STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RESOURCES, IN ORDER TO OPTIMIZE THE TRANSITION OF GRADUATES TO POSITIONS CORRESPONDING TO THEIR ACQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS. THE RESEARCH CONCLUSIONS SUPPORT THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A SOLID PRACTICAL COMPONENT WITHIN THE STUDY PROGRAM, WHILE DIVERSIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION IN THE RELEVANT SECTOR.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*UNIVERSITY EDUCATION; PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION; HUMAN RESOURCES; GRADUATE SATISFACTION; PRACTICAL CURRICULUM.*

---

**Mariana CHIHAE**

*State Pedagogical University "Ion Creangă" of Chișinău, Moldova*

*marianachihae@yahoo.co.uk*

## **TRENDS IN HUMAN RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY: SELF-ESTEEM AND WELL-BEING AS RESILIENCE FACTORS IN SOCIAL WORK IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE PRESENT PAPER OFFERS AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WELL-BEING AND SELF-ESTEEM AMONG SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONALS. CONSTANTLY EXPOSED TO EMOTIONAL PRESSURE, PSYCHOLOGICAL STRAIN, AND INTENSE PROFESSIONAL DEMANDS, SOCIAL WORKERS FACE AN INCREASED RISK OF PROFESSIONAL BURNOUT. THIS STUDY AIMS TO HIGHLIGHT THE WAYS IN WHICH PROFESSIONAL SELF-ESTEEM (OR SELF-EFFICACY) DIRECTLY INFLUENCES RESILIENCE, EMOTIONAL BALANCE, JOB SATISFACTION, AND THE CAPACITY OF WORKERS TO COPE WITH OCCUPATIONAL STRESS. THE ANALYSIS IS GROUNDED IN A RIGOROUS SYNTHESIS OF THE SPECIALIZED LITERATURE, INTEGRATING MODERN THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS SUCH AS THE JOB DEMANDS-RESOURCES (J-DR) MODEL, AND PROVIDES A SERIES OF PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL INTERVENTIONS FOCUSED ON HUMAN RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 21ST CENTURY. EXISTING RESEARCH FINDINGS INDICATE A STRONG, POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SELF-ESTEEM AND WELL-BEING, SUGGESTING THE STRATEGIC NECESSITY OF STRENGTHENING THESE INTERNAL RESOURCES THROUGH SUPERVISION, RECOGNITION, AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT.*

---

### **Keywords:**

*WELL-BEING, SELF-ESTEEM, SOCIAL WORK, BURNOUT, PSYCHOLOGICAL RESILIENCE, HELPING PROFESSIONS*

---

**Gonzague ISIRABAHENDA**

„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania

gonzague.isirabahenda@uab.ro

## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND WORKPLACE ADAPTATION IN ROMANIA’S SERVICE SECTOR**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*IN MOST WESTERN COUNTRIES, EMPLOYERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS AND THE HIGH TURNOVER AMONG YOUNG EMPLOYEES WITH UNIVERSITY CREDENTIALS IN THE SERVICE SECTOR. ADMITTEDLY, A SUCCESSFUL UNIVERSITY-TO-WORK TRANSITION IS ESSENTIAL, BUT CHALLENGING. IT IS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR YOUNG UNIVERSITY GRADUATES TO NAVIGATE THE IMPACT OF A RAPIDLY CHANGING LABOUR MARKET, WHICH LEAVES THEM LESS EQUIPPED TO COPE WITH THE PRECARIOUS WORKING ERA. SCHOLARS OF THE SOCIOLOGY OF WORK AND EMPLOYMENT HAVE CONSISTENTLY ARGUED THAT POSSESSING SKILLS AND ABILITIES ALONE DOES NOT GUARANTEE A SEAMLESS TRANSITION INTO THE WORKPLACE. THIS STUDY EXPLORES THE CHALLENGES FACED BY ROMANIAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES TRANSITIONING INTO THE WORKFORCE, PARTICULARLY WITHIN OUTSOURCED SERVICE SECTOR COMPANIES. DRAWING ON ETHNOGRAPHIC DATA FROM PARTICIPATORY OBSERVATIONS AND SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS, THIS STUDY EXAMINES HOW INDIVIDUAL AND STRUCTURAL FACTORS SHAPE EMPLOYABILITY AND WORKPLACE INTEGRATION. THIS HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) ON SOCIAL DYNAMICS, COMMUNICATION, AND TEAMWORK AMONG ENTRY-LEVEL CUSTOMER SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES (CSRS). THE FINDINGS REVEALED MISMATCHES BETWEEN EDUCATION AND JOB ROLES, INCREASED WORKLOAD, EMOTIONAL LABOUR, AND JOB INSECURITY. IN RESPONSE, CSRS DEVELOP ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES, CULTURAL NORMS, AND RESISTANCE FORMS. THIS STUDY CONTRIBUTES TO THE UNDERSTUDIED INTERSECTION OF AI IMPLEMENTATION AND GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT, OFFERING ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS INTO EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WORKPLACE PRACTICES.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*WORKPLACE, EMPLOYABILITY, AI IMPLEMENTATION, PRECARIETY, ROMANIA*

---

**Răzvan Ionuț CIRICĂ**  
*Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania*  
rcirica@yahoo.com

## **LABOR MARKET DYNAMICS AND MINIMUM WAGE EVOLUTION IN ROMANIA (2020-2025): A STATISTICAL AND CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS ARTICLE ANALYZES THE EVOLUTION OF THE MAIN LABOR MARKET INDICATORS AND MINIMUM WAGE POLICIES IN ROMANIA DURING THE PERIOD 2020-2025, PROVIDING A STATISTICAL AND CONTEXTUAL PICTURE OF THEM. THE METHODOLOGY USED INVOLVES THE ANALYSIS OF TWO PRIMARY DATA SETS, COMPLEMENTED BY EXTERNAL ECONOMIC REPORTS, TO PERFORM A DESCRIPTIVE AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS.*

*THE FINDINGS REVEAL A CONSTANT INCREASE IN THE NOMINAL GROSS MINIMUM WAGE, OFTEN ACCOMPANIED BY A COMPLEX, NON-LINEAR TREND IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AT THE MINIMUM WAGE, SUGGESTING A "WAGE SPILLOVER" EFFECT. EMPLOYMENT DATA INDICATE A GENERAL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CONTRACTS, WITH PERSISTENT GENDER DISPARITIES AND A CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR PERMANENT CONTRACTS.*

*THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW IS MARKED BY THE POST-COVID-19 RECOVERY, SIGNIFICANT INFLATIONARY PRESSURES AND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS AIMED AT ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION. THE ANALYSIS SUGGESTS A DYNAMIC LABOR MARKET, ADAPTING TO ECONOMIC SHOCKS AND POLICY CHANGES, WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR WAGE COMPETITIVENESS, REGIONAL DISPARITIES AND THE CONTINUED NEED FOR STRUCTURAL REFORMS TO ADDRESS SKILLS SHORTAGES, LABOR MARKET RIGIDITIES AND THE INFORMAL ECONOMY.*

### **KEYWORDS:**

*LABOR MARKET, MINIMUM WAGE, STRUCTURAL REFORMS, SKILLS*

---



---

**EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE,  
AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES**

---



**Lucian MARINA**  
„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania  
lucian.marina@uab.ro

## **UNIVERSITIES OF THE THIRD AGE AND THIRD AGE EDUCATION**

---

### **ABSTRACT**

*OVER THE PAST FIFTY YEARS, UNIVERSITIES OF THE THIRD AGE HAVE GROWN INTO A WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON, OFFERING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES TO MILLIONS OF OLDER LEARNERS ACROSS RADICALLY DIFFERENT CULTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL LANDSCAPES. BORN IN TOULOUSE IN 1973 UNDER PIERRE VELLAS'S DIRECTION, THE FRENCH MODEL LINKED THESE PROGRAMS DIRECTLY TO UNIVERSITIES. BRITAIN'S 1980S REIMAGINING CREATED A PEER-LED ALTERNATIVE THAT SPREAD THROUGH ANGLOPHONE NATIONS. TODAY WE SEE HYBRID FORMS EMERGING WORLDWIDE, EACH SHAPED BY LOCAL WELFARE TRADITIONS, HIGHER EDUCATION STRUCTURES, AND CIVIC CAPACITY. MY ANALYSIS DRAWS ON INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH TO SHOW HOW THE COMPETING VISION OF UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION VERSUS COMMUNITY AUTONOMY - PRODUCES DISTINCT OUTCOMES IN ACCESS, SUSTAINABILITY, AND PEDAGOGY. WHILE EVIDENCE CONSISTENTLY LINKS PARTICIPATION TO COGNITIVE VITALITY, SOCIAL INTEGRATION, AND WELLBEING, MAJOR GAPS REMAIN DIGITAL DIVIDES EXCLUDE MANY, SOCIOECONOMIC BARRIERS PERSIST, AND POLICY SUPPORT LAGS DEMOGRAPHIC NEED.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*UNIVERSITIES OF THE THIRD AGE, LIFELONG LEARNING, OLDER ADULT EDUCATION, ACTIVE AGING, EDUCATIONAL GERONTOLOGY*

**Andreea Valeria CRIȘAN (ANDRAS)**  
*West University of Timișoara, Romania*  
andreea\_v\_andras@yahoo.com

## **AGGRESSION AND ADDICTIONS IN ADOLESCENTS CAUSED BY THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

ADDICTION AMONG ADOLESCENTS REPRESENT AN INCREASINGLY PREVALENT PHENOMENON, WITH COMPLEX AND OFTEN IRREVERSIBLE EFFECTS ON MENTAL HEALTH, SOCIAL INTEGRATION, AND EDUCATIONAL TRAJECTORIES. BEYOND PURELY ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, RECENT RESEARCH CLEARLY HIGHLIGHTS THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF INTERNAL AND EMOTIONAL MOTIVATIONS IN TRIGGERING ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS, WHETHER RELATED TO SUBSTANCE USE, GAMBLING, OR INTERNET DEPENDENCY. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE PROPOSED EDUCATIONAL APPROACH EXPLICITLY AIMED TO CREATE A SAFE, PARTICIPATORY, AND REFLECTIVE SPACE, DESIGNED TO ALLOW ADOLESCENTS TO CONSCIOUSLY IDENTIFY, ANALYZE, AND EXPRESS THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THESE BEHAVIORS. THE WORKSHOPS WERE STRUCTURED TO ENHANCE AWARENESS OF RISK FACTORS, EXPLORE THE INFLUENCE OF PEER GROUPS, IDENTIFY TRIGGERING EMOTIONS, AND PRACTICE SELF-REFLECTION THROUGH EXPRESSIVE MEANS.

THE METHODS EMPLOYED—SPECIFICALLY FORUM THEATRE, ROLE-PLAYING, AND PAIR OR SMALL-GROUP WORK—FACILITATED THE PARTICIPANTS' ACTIVE AND AUTHENTIC ENGAGEMENT. EVALUATION, CONDUCTED THROUGH OBSERVATION GRIDS, WRITTEN REFLECTIONS, AND VERBAL FEEDBACK, DEMONSTRATED THAT THE EDUCATIONAL MODEL NOT ONLY ENCOURAGES THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PERSONAL VULNERABILITIES BUT ALSO SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF EMPATHY AND THE STRENGTHENING OF SELF-CONFIDENCE THROUGH ARTISTIC EXPRESSION.

FORUM THEATRE PROVED TO BE A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TOOL, NOT ONLY FOR EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION BUT ALSO FOR ACTIVE PREVENTION, CONTRIBUTING SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE FORMATION OF A COLLECTIVE AWARENESS REGARDING THE RISKS OF ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS. NOTABLY, THE PARTICIPATORY METHODS CREATED A UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT FOR MODELING HEALTHY SOCIAL RESPONSES,

*OFFERING ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH-RISK BEHAVIORS DRIVEN BY THE FEAR OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION. THE HIGH FREQUENCY OF MOTIVES RELATED TO PEER PRESSURE AND THE NEED FOR SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE CONFIRMS THE UNQUESTIONABLE IMPORTANCE OF ONGOING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT, EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE, AND CULTIVATING A STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING. CONSEQUENTLY, THE RESULTS STRONGLY SUPPORT THE VALUE OF INTEGRATING PARTICIPATORY THEATRE METHODS INTO ADDICTION PREVENTION POLICIES AND EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES AIMED AT ADOLESCENTS.*

---

**KEYWORDS:** *ADDICTION, ADOLESCENCE AGGRESSION, PREVENTION, WORKSHOP, MOTIVATION*

---

**Camelia UTA (PINTEC)**

*West University of Timișoara, Romania*  
cameliauta2005@yahoo.com

**Roxana -Maria POPA**

*West University of Timișoara, Romania*  
roxana.popa99@e-uvt.ro

**Lavinia Elisabeta POPP**

*„Babeș-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania*  
lavinia.popp@e-uvt.ro

---

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION IN SOCIAL WORK – A KEY FACTOR IN DEVELOPING RESILIENCE**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*CONTINUING EDUCATION IS A RESPONSIBILITY AND A NECESSITY IN ANY PROFESSION. THROUGH CONTINUING EDUCATION, PROFESSIONALS CONSOLIDATE THE THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL FOUNDATION NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED SERVICES THAT ARE AS EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE AND TAILORED TO REAL NEEDS. SOCIAL WORK IS A FIELD AT THE INTERSECTION OF SEVERAL SCIENCES: MEDICINE, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, ECONOMICS, AND JUSTICE, AND SOCIAL WORKERS ARE THE LINK BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND SOCIETY. THIS PAPER AIMS TO HIGHLIGHT THE VALUE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION IN SOCIAL WORK, GIVEN THE CRISIS SITUATIONS AFFECTING ROMANIA (PANDEMIC, WARS, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CRISES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PROBLEMS WITH THE SYSTEM FOR THE ELDERLY, ETC.), A SERIES OF PHENOMENA THAT ARE UNDERGOING UNPRECEDENTED DYNAMICS. THE INCREASING WORKLOAD, STAFF SHORTAGES, COMPLEXITY, DIVERSITY, AND URGENCY OF RESOLVING THE ISSUES AFFECTING ROMANIA, ETC., ARE PUTTING THE RESILIENCE OF SOCIAL WORKERS TO THE TEST. THE RESEARCH USES A QUANTITATIVE DESIGN METHODOLOGY, APPLYING A QUESTIONNAIRE TO A SAMPLE OF 100 SOCIAL WORKERS, AND REVEALS THAT CONTINUING EDUCATION DEVELOPS COPING STRATEGIES AND HELPS TO STRENGTHEN PROFESSIONAL RESILIENCE. CONTINUING EDUCATION CREATES A PROFESSIONAL ECOSYSTEM THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS, ACTIVATING THEIR INNER RESOURCES.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*CONTINUING EDUCATION, SOCIAL WORKER, ADVERSITY, RESILIENCE, PROFESSIONAL ECOSYSTEM.*

---

**Delia KRECH**

*„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania*

*deliakrech@gmail.com*

## **SCHOOL AND CAREER GUIDANCE IN PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN ROMANIA: CASE STUDIES FOR EIGHTH-GRADE STUDENTS**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*EVERY YEAR, EXTENSIVE RESEARCH IS CONDUCTED ACROSS ALL ROMANIAN COUNTIES ON REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLES OF EIGHTH-GRADE STUDENTS, FOCUSING ON THEIR EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER CHOICES. THE AIM OF THESE STUDIES IS TO REFINE COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE STRATEGIES FOR STUDENTS, A PROCESS THAT ALSO INVOLVES PARENTS AND REFLECTS BROADER CONNECTIONS BETWEEN EDUCATION AND THE LABOR MARKET. EFFECTIVE ACADEMIC AND CAREER GUIDANCE REPRESENTS A KEY STEP TOWARD ALIGNING EDUCATIONAL DEMAND WITH ACADEMIC SUPPLY AND LABOR MARKET NEEDS, WHILE ALSO REDUCING THE RISK OF SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY DROPOUT. THIS PAPER ANALYZES A SELECTION OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE REPORTS FROM THESE EVALUATIONS IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY REGIONAL AND COUNTY-LEVEL PARTICULARITIES. IT FURTHER EXAMINES TWO WAVES OF OSP RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN HUNEDOARA COUNTY IN 2023 AND 2024, TRACKING STUDENTS' CHOICES, THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND THEM, THEIR MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION, AND SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTING TO CAREER GUIDANCE. THE FINDINGS HIGHLIGHT THE EVOLUTION OF STUDENTS' ASPIRATIONS AND REVEAL POTENTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COHORTS, OFFERING INSIGHTS INTO THE DYNAMICS OF EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER ORIENTATION IN ROMANIAN PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*CAREER GUIDANCE; EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS; REGIONAL ANALYSIS; STUDENT ASPIRATIONS; ROMANIA*

---

**Mădălina Ioana RAȚIU**

*„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania*

madalina.ratiu@uab.ro

## **GENERATIONAL STEREOTYPES AND AGE-RELATED BIASES TOWARD SENIOR FACULTY: THE ROLE OF STUDENTS’ EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE PAPER INVESTIGATES HOW HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS PERCEIVE OLDER FACULTY MEMBERS (AGED 55 AND ABOVE), WITH A FOCUS ON AGE-RELATED STEREOTYPES AND PREJUDICES, AND THEIR IMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL INTERACTIONS AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE. THE STUDY EMPLOYS A QUALITATIVE APPROACH, USING GROUP INTERVIEWS, AND IDENTIFIES SEVERAL MAJOR THEMES: THE PERCEIVED RIGIDITY OF SENIOR PROFESSORS, BIASES SHAPED BY PRIOR SCHOOLING EXPERIENCES, DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN STUDENTS’ EXPECTATIONS AND TEACHING STYLES, THE AMBIVALENCE OF ATTITUDES, AS WELL AS THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE IN PERPETUATING OR REDUCING BIASES. THE FINDINGS CONFIRM THAT PREJUDICES TOWARD TEACHERS ARE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY INDIVIDUAL AND AFFECTIVE EXPERIENCES BUT CAN BE RESHAPED THROUGH POSITIVE CONTACT, INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING, AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES. THE CONCLUSIONS EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION SYSTEMS, AND AN INSTITUTIONAL ANTI-AGEISM MOVEMENT THAT PROMOTES INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY AND VALUES DIVERSITY WITHIN THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*AGE-RELATED STEREOTYPES, AGEISM, HIGHER EDUCATION, SENIOR FACULTY, INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING, STUDENT PREJUDICES*

---

**Nina Mihaela MIHALACHE**  
„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania  
nina.mihalache@uaic.ro

## **STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE ON CONDUCTING STUDIES AND PRACTICAL ANALYSES IN SOCIAL WORK**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE TOPIC PROPOSES AN EXPLORATION OF STUDENTS' PERCEPTION AND INVOLVEMENT IN CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK. THUS, THE PATH TAKEN BY THE STUDENT IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, STARTING WITH THE MOTIVATION FOR CHOOSING THE THEME AND ENDING WITH THE RECOGNITION AND VALORIZATION OF THE WORK IN PRODUCING THE RESEARCH, ON THREE LEVELS: PERSONAL, ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL. THE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS ARE FOCUSED ON: RESEARCH COORDINATION, LITERATURE REVIEW, STRUCTURING THE WORK AND METHODOLOGY, DEVELOPING RESEARCH SKILLS, IDENTIFYING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. THE RESEARCH IS BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH STUDENTS FROM THE SOCIAL CARE SPECIALIZATION OF THE FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES OF THE "AL. I. CUZA" UNIVERSITY OF IASI.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*STUDENTS RESEARCH SKILLS, COORDINATING STUDENT MICRO-RESEARCH PROJECTS, IDENTIFYING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS*

---

**Mariana DUCIUC (DRĂGOTOIU)**  
*University of Bucharest, Romania*

## **THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTING ON THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*IN THE WORK WITH CHILDREN, OF MIDDLE SCHOOL AGE, IN SCHOOL AND IN OTHER INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS THE PROBATION SERVICE, IT IS OBSERVED THAT THEIR INTEREST IN THEIR OWN EDUCATION, THE SHAPING OF CAREER PLANS, AS WELL AS THEIR BEHAVIOR AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE ARE SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCED BY ELEMENTS RELATED TO THEIR FAMILY. AT THE SAME TIME, THEIR SOCIAL BEHAVIOR, AT THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY, IS OBSERVED TO BE INFLUENCED BY TWO FACTORS: THE FAMILY AND THEIR SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT. THESE OBSERVATIONS FACILITATED BY PRACTICE, LEAD US TO ANALYZE WHICH FACTORS, RELATED TO THE FAMILY, CONTRIBUTE TO SCHOOL AND CAREER SUCCESS AND TO THE ASSUMPTION OF A PROSOCIAL LIFE PATH. BEYOND THE ECONOMIC FACTORS, THE SOCIAL STATUS OF THE FAMILY, ITS LOCATION IN THE RURAL OR URBAN SPACE, WHICH WE KNOW, FROM RESEARCH AND STUDIES, THAT INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN, WE WANT TO INVESTIGATE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP, SUCH AS THE EXERCISE OF PARENTAL ROLES. THUS, WE ORGANIZED THE RESEARCH AROUND A CONCEPTUALIZATION OF FIVE PARENTAL ROLES: SUPPORTIVE PARENT, AUTHORITATIVE PARENT, GUIDING PARENT, MODEL PARENT, TEAMMATE PARENT, TRYING TO ANALYZE HOW THE REPRESENTATION OR LACK OF ONE/MORE OF THESE IMPACTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF BEHAVIOR, SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT. WE ASSOCIATED WITH EACH OF THE ROLES, PARENTAL ACTIONS THAT GIVE THEM CONTENT AND WE DEVELOPED THE QUESTIONNAIRE ADDRESSED TO PUPILS, WHO ARE INVITED TO EVALUATE THEIR OWN PERCEPTION OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THEY FIND THEM IN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR PARENTS. IN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY, WE REVIEWED SEVERAL RELEVANT APPROACHES TO THE SPECIALIZED LITERATURE IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH, IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE MOST APPROPRIATE METHODS TO TEST THE RESEARCH HYPOTHESES AND TO ESTIMATE, AS*

ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE, THE LIMITS OF OBJECTIVITY OF THE RESULTS THAT WILL BE OBTAINED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT, ON THE ONE HAND, THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ANALYZED SOCIAL REALITY (PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS, LOCATED AT THE INTERFERENCE OF SEVERAL SYSTEMS, WITH WHICH THEY INTERACT) AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL REALITY THAT BELONGS TO THE ANALYZED INDIVIDUALS (CHILDREN AND PARENTS), AND ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SPECIFICITY, EFFECTIVENESS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE MOST COMMON RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL ASSISTANCE. THUS, WE STARTED AN ANALYTICAL APPROACH, FROM THE GENERAL TO THE SPECIFIC, PAYING ATTENTION TO THE TRADITIONAL DEBATES AND CONTROVERSIES THAT TARGET RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND, IN PARTICULAR, IN SOCIAL WORK AS A SCIENCE. BASED ON THE HORIZON OF INFORMATION CREATED BY ANALYZING THE SPECIALIZED LITERATURE, THE MAIN THEMES AND DEBATES, AS WELL AS THE CONSENSUSES REGARDING SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH, I OUTLINED THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY, STARTING FROM ITS PRACTICAL PURPOSE, TO DEVELOP AN EVIDENCE-BASED PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE. IN THIS SENSE, I CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO CONDUCT A QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE DATA, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE AN IMAGE OF THE CAUSALITIES, IF ANY, BETWEEN THE ANALYZED VARIABLES, BUT ALSO A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE SOME ILLUSTRATIONS AND SUBJECTIVE PARTICULARITIES OF EACH CASE, HOPING THAT, BASED ON BOTH TYPES OF METHODS USED, POSSIBLE DEDUCTIVE AND INDUCTIVE REASONINGS COULD BE OUTLINED, WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE. THE PAPER PRESENTS AN ANALYSIS OF THE APPROACHES THAT WE CONSIDERED RELEVANT FROM THE SPECIALIZED LITERATURE IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH FOR RESEARCH, FROM THE SPECIALIZED LITERATURE, AS WELL AS THE METHODOLOGY THAT WILL BE USED TO CONDUCT THE RESEARCH.

---

**KEYWORDS:**

CHILDREN INTEREST IN THEIR OWN EDUCATION, BEHAVIOR AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE, CAREER PLANS, PARENTALE ROLES, RESEARCH METHODOLOGY, SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH THEORIES

---

**Theophile NZABONIMANA**

*The National Child Development AGENCY (NCDA), Rwanda*  
tnzabonimana@gmail.com

## **UNDERSTANDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DRIVERS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL DROPOUT IN RWANDA**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*SCHOOL DROPOUT REMAINS A CRITICAL GLOBAL CHALLENGE, AFFECTING BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS. UNESCO ESTIMATES THAT APPROXIMATELY 244 MILLION CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORLDWIDE ARE OUT OF SCHOOL, WITH THE HIGHEST PREVALENCE OCCURRING IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND SOUTH ASIA. DESPITE A GLOBAL PRIMARY SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE OF APPROXIMATELY 87%, PERSISTENT BARRIERS SUCH AS POVERTY, GENDER INEQUALITY, CONFLICT, DISABILITIES, AND GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTRAINTS HINDER PROGRESS. IN RWANDA, MANY CHILDREN FAIL TO COMPLETE BASIC EDUCATION BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, DESPITE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. HOWEVER, THERE IS LIMITED RESEARCH ON THE UNDERLYING CAUSES, IMPACTS, AND EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS TO ADDRESS DROPOUTS IN RWANDA. THIS QUALITATIVE STUDY EXPLORED THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF SCHOOL DROPOUT IN THE AMAYAGA REGION OF NYANZA DISTRICT, SOUTHERN PROVINCE, RWANDA, USING OBSERVATIONS AND SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS WITH 85 HOUSEHOLD HEADS. THE FINDINGS REVEAL THAT INTERNAL MIGRATION DRIVEN BY EMPLOYMENT AND LIVING CONDITIONS, FAMILY-RELATED ISSUES SUCH AS DIVORCE, SINGLE PARENTHOOD, PARTNER IMPRISONMENT, AND SYSTEMIC BARRIERS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TO DROPOUT. CONSEQUENCES INCLUDE CHILD INVOLVEMENT IN LABOR, STREET BEGGING, RELOCATION TO EXTENDED FAMILIES, AND, IN SEVERE CASES, PLACEMENT IN REHABILITATION CENTERS DUE TO CRIME AND DEVIANT BEHAVIOR. THIS STUDY RECOMMENDS STRENGTHENING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS, PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION, AND IMPLEMENTING CONTINUOUS MONITORING AND EVALUATION TO IMPROVE SCHOOL RETENTION AND COMPLETION RATES.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*SCHOOL DROPOUT, EDUCATION ACCESS, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, RWANDA*

---

**Vladimir PRIPP**  
*University of Bucharest, Romania*  
vlripp@gmail.com

## **TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS DURING TIMES OF CRISIS**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS PAPER STARTED FROM MATTEI DOGGAN'S RESEARCH, WHICH EMPHASIZED THAT TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS IS PLUMMETING, GENERATING A POLITICAL CRISIS. IN RECENT YEARS, ARMED CONFLICTS AND FINANCIAL, HEALTH, AND REFUGEE CRISES, FACED BY EU NATION STATES HAVE PRODUCED NOT ONLY SOCIOECONOMIC TENSIONS, BUT HAVE ALSO SHAKEN THE CITIZENS' TRUST IN BOTH NATIONAL AND SUPRANATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. INSTITUTIONAL TRUST IS IMPORTANT DUE TO THE FACT THAT IT DIRECTLY ILLUSTRATES PEOPLE'S SUPPORT TOWARDS NATIONAL AND SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. POLITICAL SCIENTISTS, SUCH AS DAVID EASTON AND PIPPA NORRIS, HAVE ARGUED THAT TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS IS AN INDICATOR OF ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY. INSTITUTIONAL TRUST HAS BEEN EXTENSIVELY RESEARCHED, FROM A NUMERICAL PERSPECTIVE, ILLUSTRATING HOW IT HAS EVOLVED OVER TIME. HOWEVER, THE WAY IN WHICH PEOPLES' LEVELS OF TRUST CHANGED DURING AND AFTER A PERIOD OF CRISIS AND WHAT ARE THE FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCED THESE ATTITUDE SHIFTS ARE FAIRLY UNDOCUMENTED. DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC OCCURRED RECENTLY, THERE IS A LACK OF LITERATURE REGARDING THE WAY IN WHICH CITIZENS' TRUST IN NATIONAL AND SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAS EVOLVED BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE PERIOD OF THE CORONAVIRUS. THIS RESEARCH, WHICH ANALYSIS THE INFLUENCE OF THE HEALTH CRISIS ON INSTITUTIONAL TRUST, PROVIDES VALUABLE INSIGHTS, BY ILLUSTRATING THE FACTORS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEEPENING OF THE CRISIS GENERATED BY THE LACK OF TRUST. THIS PAPER PROVIDES AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS THAT IDENTIFIES WHAT FACTORS INFLUENCE THE ATTITUDES OF ROMANIANS, BULGARIANS, POLES AND HUNGARIANS TOWARDS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. THE RESEARCH METHOD IS SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS OF THE EUROBAROMETER. IN THIS PAPER, I INCLUDED DATA COLLECTED FROM THE SPRING STANDARD EUROBAROMETER BETWEEN 2018 AND 2023, WHICH MOSTLY*

*EVALUATED TRUST IN NATIONAL AND SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. I BEGAN WITH FREQUENCIES AND CROSSTABS TO PRESENT THE GENERAL TRUST TOWARDS INSTITUTIONS. AFTERWARDS, I USED PEARSON CORRELATION, REGRESSION AND FACTORIAL ANALYSES IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE ATTITUDE PREDICTORS TOWARDS TRUST IN NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS. THE RESULTS WERE MIXED. WHILE POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAD MORE TRUST IN NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAN ROMANIANS AND BULGARIANS BEFORE COVID, DURING THE PANDEMIC THESE DIFFERENCES DECREASED. HOWEVER, ROMANIANS AND BULGARIANS PERCEIVED EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS MORE POSITIVELY DURING THE PANDEMIC. YOUNGER AND MORE EDUCATED PEOPLE TENDED TO HAVE MORE TRUST IN SUPRANATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY. MOREOVER, POLISH PEOPLE TENDED TO REGAIN TRUST IN NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AFTER COVID FASTER THAN OTHERS.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*WORDS: INSTITUTIONAL TRUST, NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, SUPRANATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, CRISIS*

---

**Mona SIMU**

*Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania*

## **ASPECTS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE IN ROMANIA, AS THEY EMERGE FROM A RESEARCH ON RECENT PRESS ARTICLES**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT GLOBAL PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE, DUE TO THE RAPID ADVANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AI AND ITS LARGE SCALE USE IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE, THE PAPER I PROPOSE PRESENTS, COMPARATIVELY, AN ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENT STATISTICS AND PROBLEMATIC ASPECTS IN THE DOMAIN OF ROMANIAN PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND THAT OF PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, AS THEY HAVE EMERGED FROM A CASE STUDY MEDIA RESEARCH.*

*BASED ON A PHD THESIS, THE STUDY USES QUALITATIVE RESEARCH, NAMELY, CONTENT AND FREQUENCY ANALYSES, ON A ROMANIAN NATIONAL DAILY PRESTIGIOUS NEWSPAPER'S (ADEVĂRUL) ARTICLES IN 2023, OBTAINING A STRUCTURE OF THE MAIN SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND THEIR AREAS OF MANIFESTATION. THE IN-DEPTH JOURNALISTIC DISCOURSE AND THE CONTENT ANALYSIS REVEALED SOME PHENOMENA IN STRATEGIC FIELDS, SUCH AS EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE (ANALPHABETISM, SCHOOL LEAVE, ANTI-VACCINE TRENDS, POOR QUALITY OF EDUCATION REGARDING PROFESSIONALS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, ELEMENTS OF CORRUPTION IN THE PUBLIC HEALTHCARE FIELD, AND OTHERS), WHICH WERE SYSTEMATICALLY ANALYZED, AND THE RESULTS WILL BE SHOWN IN THE PRESENTATION I PROPOSE, ALONGSIDE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONTEXTUALIZATION OF THIS PRESS DISCOURSE REFLECTING THESE SOCIAL ASPECTS IN THE ROMANIAN SOCIETY OF TODAY.*

*THE RESEARCH ALSO REVEALED THAT MANY OF THE IDENTIFIED SOCIAL ISSUES CONTAINED A DOUBLE 'SOCIAL NEGATIVE LOAD', AS THEY HAD THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS PER SE, AND ALSO SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL INEQUALITIES TOO. ALONG WITH ISSUES IN MAIN SECTORS, AS EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, THE RESEARCH IDENTIFIED OTHER PROBLEMATIC ASPECTS, LIKE THE GROWING SOCIAL CONCERNS ABOUT AI AND THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES' PROGRESS, SOMETIMES DETRIMENTAL TO CERTAIN*

*HUMAN VITAL AREAS, LIKE JOBS, OR YOUNGSTERS' WELLBEING, AND CONCERNS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, AS THEY EMERGED FROM THE MEDIA DISCOURSE.*

*THE PROPOSED PAPER SHOWS THE RESULTED HIERARCHY OF ROMANIAN SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE PRESENT TIMES, AND ALSO REVEALS SOME REALITIES IN ROMANIA'S RECENT EVOLUTION, PLACING IT FAR FROM THE MAIN SOCIAL PROGRESS COURSE IN WHICH OTHER EU COUNTRIES ARE ENGAGED.*

*THE GOAL OF THE PAPER IS TO SHOWCASE AND ANALIZE EXISTING SOCIAL INEQUITIES IN IMPORTANT DOMAINS IN THE ROMANIAN SOCIETY, AS MAINSTREAM PRESS IS PORTRAYING THEM, AND PLACING THEM INTO THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC, FOR BETTER AND INFORMED ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND DEBATE, THE LATTER BEING OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE IN THE PRESENT WE ARE LIVING TODAY.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*INSTITUTIONAL TRUST, NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, SUPRANATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, CRISIS*

---

---

**IDENTITY, SOLIDARITY  
AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**

---



**Mihnea PREOTESI**  
*Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania*

**THE CURRENT BUDGET CRISIS IN TRADITIONAL VISUAL  
MEDIA. AN ANALYSIS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EQUITY  
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE OF THE RESPONSE  
OF THE GOVERNMENTS THE CRISIS.  
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: MEDIA COVERAGE  
OF THE 2010-2011 ECONOMIC CRISIS  
AND THE 2025 BUDGET CRISIS**

---

**ABSTRACT**

*THE WORK I PROPOSE IS PART OF A BROADER RESEARCH APPROACH AIMED AT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL POLICIES AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN POST-COMMUNIST ROMANIA. THE RESPECTIVE APPROACH, CARRIED OUT IN SEVERAL STAGES, TARGETED POLICIES IN THE FIELD OF PENSIONS AND SALARIES - INCLUDING ASSOCIATED FISCAL POLICIES, POLICIES REGARDING POVERTY AND VULNERABLE GROUPS. FROM THE ANALYSIS OF POLICIES AND THEIR IMPACT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, I IDENTIFIED GROUPS AND CATEGORIES CONSTANTLY DISADVANTAGED BY THESE POLICIES AND GROUPS CONSTANTLY PRIVILEGED - ONE OF THE WAYS OF PRIVILEGING THESE CATEGORIES, ANALYZED IN DETAIL, BEING THAT OF THE SO-CALLED SPECIAL PENSIONS. THE ISSUE INVESTIGATED IS ALSO OF INTEREST TO THE MASS MEDIA, BEING WIDELY REFLECTED, BOTH ON SOCIAL NETWORKS AND IN TRADITIONAL MEDIA, IN THE WRITTEN AND AUDIOVISUAL PRESS. ALTHOUGH THE THEMES ARE RECURRENT, IN TIMES OF CRISIS, SUCH AS THE CURRENT BUDGET CRISIS IN ROMANIA, THEY GAIN INCREASED IMPORTANCE, BOTH IN TERMS OF WEIGHT AND FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF FOCUSING ON THE DIMENSION OF SOCIAL EQUITY.*

*THE PAPER I PROPOSE WILL FOCUS ON ANALYZING HOW THE ISSUE OF SOCIAL EQUITY AND THE RELATIONSHIP WITH SOCIAL POLICIES IS REFLECTED IN THE ANALYSES AND DEBATES IN TRADITIONAL VISUAL MEDIA IN TIMES OF CRISIS, SUCH AS THE CURRENT ONE.*

*STARTING FROM A CONTENT ANALYSIS THAT I CONDUCTED, FROM A SIMILAR PERSPECTIVE DURING THE ECONOMIC CRISIS OF 2010-2011, I PROPOSE A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MEDIA MESSAGES, THE SENDERS OF THESE MESSAGES AND THE IMPLICIT OR EXPLICIT*

*INTERESTS BEHIND THEM. THE COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WILL TARGET THE PERIOD OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS - THE MEASURES TAKEN DURING THAT PERIOD AND THE WAY THEY WERE REFLECTED IN THE MASS MEDIA - RESPECTIVELY, THE PERIOD OF THE CURRENT BUDGET CRISIS, FROM A SIMILAR ANALYSIS PERSPECTIVE. THE MAIN NEWS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS PROGRAMS OF THE MAIN NEWS TELEVISION CHANNELS IN ROMANIA WILL BE TARGETED.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*MASS MEDIA, SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL EQUITY, PUBLIC SECTOR, PRIVATE SECTOR*

---

**Daniel ARPINTE**

*Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania*  
arpinte@gmail.com

## **STRENGTHENING GENERATIONAL COHESION IN AN AGING SOCIETY. EVIDENCE OF IMPACT FROM AN INTERGENERATIONAL MODEL INTERVENTION**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE CURRENT DEMOGRAPHIC DECLINE IN ROMANIA, WITH A FAST CHANGE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE CHARACTERISED BY A RAPID AGING OF THE POPULATION AND INCREASING DEPENDENCY RATIOS, AMONG OTHER STRUCTURAL SOCIETAL CHANGES, CONTRIBUTE TO THE FRAGMENTATION OF INTERGENERATIONAL INTERACTIONS WHICH SEVERELY UNDERMINES THE WELLBEING OF OLDER ADULTS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUNGER GENERATIONS. THIS PRESENTATION EXAMINES THE BENEFITS OF A STRUCTURED INTERGENERATIONAL INTERVENTION MODEL THROUGH AN EVALUATION OF THE GENERATIONS CENTRES PROGRAM (GCP), IMPLEMENTED BY THE MARGARETA OF ROMANIA ROYAL FOUNDATION BETWEEN 2015 AND 2025, WHICH PROVIDES SUPPORT (FUNDS, EXPERTISE) TO LOCAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THEIR SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENCE, INN MAJORITY LICENCED DAY CARE CENTRES. THE EVALUATION, GROUNDED ON A MIXED-METHODS APPROACH, INCLUDING SURVEYS (93 SENIORS, 38 ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES), INTERVIEWS AND FOCUS GROUPS, AS WELL AS ANALYSIS OF SECONDARY DATA, PROVIDES ROBUST EVIDENCE REGARDING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERGENERATIONAL MODEL IN ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND SENIORS. FOR SENIORS, VOLUNTEERING FOSTERS INCREASED SELF-ESTEEM (79% REPORT HIGHER LIFE SATISFACTION), REDUCED SOCIAL ISOLATION (17% MENTION NEW SOCIAL CONNECTIONS), AND THE REDISCOVERY OF PERSONAL PURPOSE AFTER RETIREMENT, OUTCOMES CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ON THE PROTECTIVE EFFECTS OF INTERGENERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AGAINST LONELINESS AND DEPRESSION (PINQUART & SÖRENSEN, 2001). FOR THE BENEFICIARY CHILDREN, PREDOMINANTLY FROM DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES, THE*

*PROGRAM CONTRIBUTES TO IMPROVEMENTS IN BOTH EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES (ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, BASIC SKILLS) AND SOCIO-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (EMPATHY, PATIENCE, SOCIAL SKILLS). THE RECIPROCAL NATURE OF THESE BENEFITS CONFIRMS THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE INTERGENERATIONAL EXCHANGE MODEL. THE EVALUATION DEMONSTRATES THAT STRATEGICALLY DESIGNED INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OFFER EFFECTIVE, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO CONTEMPORARY DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES, GENERATING MEASURABLE VALUE FOR BOTH AGE COHORTS WHILE FOSTERING MORE INCLUSIVE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITIES (NEWMAN & HATTON-YEO, 2008).*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECTS, AGEING SOCIETY, EVALUATION*

---

**Cristina Mariana GROZAVU**

*Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romania*

*cristina.grozavu@iccv.ro*

## **REDEFINING FAMILY VALUES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*IN THE ACTUAL SOCIAL CONTEXT, IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY STRUCTURE NO LONGER HOLDS A DEFINING ROLE IN SHAPING THE SOCIETY WE LIVE IN (POPESCU, 2009).*

*THE PRESENT PAPER SEEKS TO PROVIDE AN IN-DEPTH OVERVIEW OF THE TRANSFORMATIONS UNDERGONE BY THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY MODEL, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE GRADUAL DISSOLUTION OF CONVENTIONAL MARRIAGE AND THE EMERGENCE OF NEW FORMS OF MARITAL AND NON-MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS.*

*WHILE THIS TOPIC MAY INITIALLY APPEAR TO FALL PRIMARILY WITHIN THE REALM OF SOCIAL PHENOMENA, IN RECENT YEARS IT HAS GAINED CONSIDERABLE ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC ATTENTION. THE AIM OF THIS PAPER IS TO APPROACH THE SUBJECT NOT ONLY FROM A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE BUT ALSO FROM AN INTERDISCIPLINARY STANDPOINT, INCORPORATING INSIGHTS FROM PSYCHOLOGY, DEMOGRAPHY, AND SOCIAL POLICY.*

*THE RESEARCH FOCUSES ON TWO KEY DIMENSIONS: FIRST, THE EVOLVING NATURE OF INTERACTIONS AMONG THE SOCIAL ACTORS INVOLVED IN FAMILY LIFE—ESPECIALLY BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN, OR AMONG MEMBERS OF THE EXTENDED FAMILY—AND SECOND, THE IMPACT OF THESE ALTERNATIVE FAMILY ARRANGEMENTS ON THE RECONSTRUCTION OF INTERPERSONAL DYNAMICS WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD. PARTICULAR ATTENTION IS PAID TO THE RESILIENCE MECHANISMS DEVELOPED IN RESPONSE TO THESE STRUCTURAL AND RELATIONAL SHIFTS, AS WELL AS TO THE ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES EMPLOYED BY FAMILY MEMBERS IN NAVIGATING THESE CHANGES.*

*MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE PROJECT AIMS TO EXPLORE THE DYNAMICS UNDERLYING THE REDEFINITION OF CHILD–ADULT INTERACTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXTS WHERE TRADITIONAL PARENTAL ROLES ARE BEING REPLACED, SHARED, OR REDISTRIBUTED. THIS INCLUDES SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES, COHABITATION ARRANGEMENTS, BLENDED*

*FAMILIES, AND OTHER NON-TRADITIONAL FORMS OF KINSHIP AND CAREGIVING STRUCTURES. FOR SURE, THIS DISMANTLING OF THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY MODEL REFLECTS BROADER TRANSFORMATIONS WITHIN THE SOCIAL SYSTEM, WHERE ONCE-STABLE INSTITUTIONS ARE BECOMING FLEXIBLE, ADAPTABLE, AND SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION. THE FAMILY THUS BECOMES A SITE OF PROFOUND CULTURAL CHANGE, AS WELL AS A SPACE OF SOCIAL TENSIONS, SHAPED BY NEW BALANCES BETWEEN WORK, GENDER, INTIMACY (INDIVIDUAL NEEDS), SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.*

*IN CONCLUSION, THROUGH THIS RESEARCH I INTEND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS TOPIC AND TO STIMULATE FURTHER SCHOLARLY AND PUBLIC DEBATE. MOREOVER, I AIM TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT AND ADAPTATION OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC POLICIES THAT REFLECT THE EVOLVING REALITIES OF FAMILY LIFE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*FAMILY, SOCIAL NETWORK, EMOTIONAL RECALIBRATION, SOCIAL RECALIBRATION, INTERRELATIONAL ALTERNATIVES, VALUES*

---

**Bogdan-Alexandru HERȚANU**  
*„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania*  
bogdanalexandru.hertanu@yahoo.com  
**Cristina GAVRILUȚĂ**  
*„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania*  
cristina\_gavrilita@yahoo.fr

## **IDENTITY MARKERS AND SOCIAL RITUALS IN THE ROMA ETHNICITY**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE PAPER AIMS TO PRESENT A SERIES OF IDENTITY MARKERS OF THE ROMA ETHNIC GROUP AND TO IDENTIFY CURRENT SOCIAL RITUALS IN CONCRETE COMMUNITIES AS AN EXPRESSION OF THE SURVIVAL OF DEEP IDENTITY TRAITS. IN THIS SENSE, WE EMPHASIZE ON THE FOLLOWING IDENTITY MARKERS:*

- 1. LANGUAGE;*
- 2. BELIEFS AND RELIGIOSITY;*
- 3. CRAFTSMANSHIP;*
- 4. DETERIORIALITY*

*STARTING FROM THE EXISTING LITERATURE IN TH FIELD, WE IDENTIFIED, IN ADDITION TO THESE IDENTITY MARKERS, A SERIES OF SOCIAL RITUALS. MOREOVER, THESE RITUALS WERE CONFIRMED IN THE ROMA COMMUNITIES OF IAȘI COUNTY, ROMANIA. OUR RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS THE FACT THAT IDENTITY MARKERS CAN BE EXPRESSED IN DIFFERENT WAYS, DEPENDING ON SOCIAL CONTEXT OVER TIME AND THAT THEY CAN ESSENTIALLY TAKE ON DIFFERENT FORMS, NAMED SOCIAL RITUALS.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*IDENTITY MARKERS, SOCIAL RITUALS, SOCIAL INCLUSION, ROMA ETHNICITY*

---

**Loredana-Cristina SANDA (STAN)**

*University of Bucharest, Romania*

loredanastan01@yahoo.com

## **THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN PROTECTING THE CHILD WITH DISABILITIES FROM EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE PROTECTION OF THE CHILD AGAINST ANY FORM OF VIOLENCE, AS WELL AS THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IS BOTH A RIGHT AND A CHALLENGE, BEING A CLEAR OPPORTUNITY IN SHAPING A BALANCED SOCIETY, BASED ON TRUST, EQUITY AND EMPATHY. THIS RESEARCH AIMS TO EXPLORE THE PARTICULARITIES OF THE FORMS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE IN THE CASE OF THE FAMILY WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, THE WAY IN WHICH THE FAMILY CONTRIBUTES TO THE IDENTIFICATION, PREVENTION OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE, THE WAYS OF RELATING THE FAMILY TO SOCIETY, AND OF THE SOCIETY TO THE FAMILY, THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL ENVIRONMENT OF ACCEPTANCE AND INTEGRATION OF THE CHILD WITH DISABILITIES, THE INTERVENTION OF INSTITUTIONS, LEGISLATIVE AND SOCIAL CONTEXT. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE THOSE PERSONS WHOSE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT, NOT ADAPTED TO THEIR PHYSICAL, SENSORY, MENTAL, MENTAL AND/OR ASSOCIATED DEFICIENCIES, TOTALLY PREVENTS OR LIMITS THEIR ACCESS WITH EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO THE LIFE OF SOCIETY, REQUIRING PROTECTION MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION.-LAW 448/2006 ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH IS TO EXPLORE AND HIGHLIGHT THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN PROTECTING THE CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AGAINST EMOTIONAL ABUSE, IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS INCREASED VULNERABILITY, AS WELL AS THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL EDUCATION, OF THE FAMILY'S COLLABORATION WITH STATE INSTITUTIONS, OF MILITANCY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IS BASED ON QUALITATIVE RESEARCH BY APPLYING SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDES WITH OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS THAT ALLOW MULTIDIMENSIONAL EXPLORATION OF PARTICIPANTS' PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES, GIVEN THE COMPLEXITY AND NATURE OF THE TOPIC INVOLVING PERSONAL EXPERIENCES, PERCEPTIONS, EMOTIONS*

*AND A WIDE VARIETY OF SOCIAL CONTEXTS. THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY HIGHLIGHT THE CHALLENGES OF THE FAMILY OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN TERMS OF THEIR EXPOSURE TO FORMS OF ABUSE, WAYS OF MANAGING THE FAMILY AND METHODS OF INTEGRATING CHILDREN FROM THE STATE.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, FAMILY, PROTECTION, INCLUSION, ABUSE*

---

**Bogdan BĂLĂNEAN**  
*Babeș-Bolyai Univeristy of Cluj Napoca, Romania*  
bogdanbalanean94@gmail.com

## **MASCULINITY AND SEXUAL IDENTITY IN CONTEMPORARY ROMANIA: CULTURE, GENDER PRACTICES AND HOMOEROTICISM**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS PRESENTATION SYNTHESIZES THE RESULTS OF A QUALITATIVE ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY ON MASCULINITY AND SEXUAL IDENTITY, CONDUCTED AS PART OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS MASCULINITY AND SEXUAL IDENTITY IN CONTEMPORARY ROMANIA: CULTURE, GENDER PRACTICES, AND HOMOEROTICISM. THE RESEARCH IS GROUNDED IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS EXPLORING HOW INDIVIDUALS INTERPRET AND NEGOTIATE GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN POST-1989 ROMANIA. THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK DRAWS ON THE IDEAS OF JUDITH BUTLER, MICHEL FOUCAULT, AND OTHER WESTERN POSTSTRUCTURALIST THINKERS, EMPHASIZING THE PERFORMATIVE CHARACTER OF GENDER AND THE WAYS IN WHICH SEXUALITY IS SHAPED AND DIRECTED BY CULTURAL CONSTRUCTS. GENDER IS APPROACHED NOT AS A FIXED ESSENCE, BUT AS A SET OF PRACTICES, DISCOURSES, AND REPEATED ACTS THAT PRODUCE IDENTITY; SEXUALITY, IN TURN, IS UNDERSTOOD AS A FIELD MOLDED BY CULTURAL NORMS, INSTITUTIONS, AND SYSTEMS OF POWER. THE STUDY ALSO INCORPORATES THEORIES OF EROTICISM, EXAMINING EROTICISM AS A FORM OF COMMUNICATION CAPABLE OF TRANSCENDING SYMBOLIC AND CULTURAL BOUNDARIES. OVERALL, THE RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS HOW CULTURE INFLUENCES PERCEPTIONS, BEHAVIORS, AND REPRESENTATIONS OF SEXUALITY WITHIN BOTH HETERONORMATIVE AND NON-HETERONORMATIVE CONTEXTS IN CONTEMPORARY ROMANIA.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*MASCULINITY, SEXUAL IDENTITY, BRAND FETISHISM, CONSUMER SOCIETY, GENDER PERFORMANCE, QUEER THEORY*

---

**Cosmin SICREA**

*University of Petroșani, România,*  
cosmin\_sicrea2005@yahoo.com

## **TRENDS IN CURRENT DRUG USE IN ROMANIA**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*DRUG USE REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MAJOR SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY, WITH PROFOUND IMPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH, DEVIANT BEHAVIORS, EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL COHESION. IN ROMANIA, THIS PHENOMENON HAS, IN RECENT DECADES, TAKEN ON NEW FORMS (NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES, ADOLESCENTS STARTING AT YOUNGER AGES, ETC.). SUBSTANCE USE MUST BE VIEWED AS A COMPLEX ISSUE, INVOLVING NOT ONLY INDIVIDUAL FACTORS BUT ALSO STRUCTURAL ONES SUCH AS: EDUCATION, PUBLIC POLICIES, AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT. ALTHOUGH FIGURES INDICATE RELATIVE STABILITY REGARDING THE INCREASE IN ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE USE, THE RAPID EMERGENCE OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND THE EARLIER ONSET OF USE SHOULD RAISE SERIOUS CONCERNS FOR POLICY MAKERS. IN THE LAST TWO DECADES, ROMANIA HAS SHIFTED FROM A TRANSIT COUNTRY TO A CONSUMPTION COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUTH. INCREASED ACCESS TO INFORMATION, GLOBAL CULTURAL INFLUENCES, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ILLEGAL MARKET HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SPREAD OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE USE. DRUG USE IN ROMANIA, WHILE REMAINING BELOW THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE, IS RECORDING A CONSTANT RISE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE. TACKLING THE PHENOMENON REQUIRES AN INTEGRATED APPROACH, COMBINING PREVENTIVE EDUCATION, PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT, AND FIRM LEGISLATIVE MEASURES. IT ALSO NECESSITATES GENUINE COLLABORATION AMONG THE STATE, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, FAMILY, AND THE COMMUNITY TO LIMIT THE SOCIAL AND HEALTH IMPACT OF DRUG USE.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*DRUGS, CONSUMPTION, INTEGRATION, CHALLENGES, POLICIES*

---

**Ivan MISKULIN**

*University of Osijek, Croatia*

*ivan.miskulin@mefos.hr*

**Ivana KOTROMANOVIC**

*University of Osijek, Croatia*

*ivsimic@mefos.hr*

**Nika Lovrinecic PAVLOVIC**

*University of Osijek, Croatia*

*npavlovic@mefos.hr*

---

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN CROATIA: TWO DECADES OF CHALLENGES AND POLICY RESPONSES**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*INTRODUCTION CROATIA HAS EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC, AND HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATIONS OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES. THIS STUDY EXAMINES THE PERSISTENCE AND EVOLUTION OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN CROATIA FROM 2005 TO 2025, FOCUSING ON SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES IN HEALTH OUTCOMES, HEALTHCARE ACCESS, AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICY INTERVENTIONS AIMED AT REDUCING THESE INEQUALITIES. METHODS THIS RESEARCH EMPLOYS A COMPREHENSIVE LITERATURE REVIEW AND SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL HEALTH STATISTICS, WORLD BANK REPORTS, WHO DATABASES, AND PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS. THE STUDY EXAMINES MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF HEALTH INEQUALITIES, INCLUDING SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS INDICATORS (EDUCATION, INCOME, EMPLOYMENT), GEOGRAPHICAL DISPARITIES (URBAN-RURAL, REGIONAL DIFFERENCES), VULNERABLE POPULATION GROUPS (ELDERLY, ROMA MINORITY, LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS), AND HEALTH OUTCOMES (MORTALITY RATES, CHRONIC DISEASE PREVALENCE, SELF-REPORTED HEALTH). POLICY INTERVENTIONS, INCLUDING THE 2008 PRIMARY CARE REFORMS, UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE INITIATIVES, AND SOCIAL WELFARE STRATEGIES, ARE CRITICALLY EVALUATED. KEY FINDINGS DESPITE CROATIA'S MANDATORY SOCIAL HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM PROVIDING NEARLY UNIVERSAL COVERAGE (96.4%), SUBSTANTIAL HEALTH INEQUALITIES PERSIST. SOCIOECONOMIC GRADIENTS IN HEALTH ARE PRONOUNCED: INDIVIDUALS WITH LOWER EDUCATION LEVELS ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE OBESE (31% VS. 14%) AND REPORT SIGNIFICANTLY POORER SELF-RATED HEALTH. GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES REMAIN SIGNIFICANT, WITH RURAL AND*

---

ISLAND POPULATIONS FACING HEALTHCARE ACCESS BARRIERS INCLUDING LONGER TRAVEL DISTANCES, HIGHER OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS, AND WORKFORCE SHORTAGES. CROATIA'S MORTALITY RATES EXCEED EU AVERAGES BY 17%, WITH PARTICULARLY HIGH CANCER MORTALITY (HIGHEST IN EU27+UK) AND DIABETES DEATHS INCREASING 3.6-FOLD BETWEEN 2014-2020. VULNERABLE POPULATIONS EXPERIENCE COMPOUNDED DISADVANTAGES. THE ROMA MINORITY FACES SEVERE HEALTH INEQUALITIES DRIVEN BY POVERTY, DISCRIMINATION, AND LIMITED HEALTHCARE ACCESS. CROATIA'S RAPIDLY AGING POPULATION (20% OVER 65 YEARS) STRAINS HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE SYSTEMS, WITH ELDERLY POVERTY RATES REACHING 30%—AMONG EUROPE'S HIGHEST. THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED VULNERABLE GROUPS, EXPOSING SYSTEMIC WEAKNESSES AND EXACERBATING EXISTING INEQUALITIES. POLICY REFORMS SINCE 2008, INCLUDING PRIMARY CARE REVITALIZATION AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRICING REFORMS, HAVE SHOWN POSITIVE IMPACTS ON SERVICE DELIVERY. HOWEVER, IMPLEMENTATION GAPS PERSIST, PARTICULARLY IN ADDRESSING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH, REDUCING WAITING TIMES, AND ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS ACROSS REGIONS AND SOCIOECONOMIC GROUPS. CONCLUSIONS WHILE CROATIA HAS ACHIEVED FORMAL UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE, TRANSLATING THIS INTO HEALTH EQUITY REQUIRES COMPREHENSIVE INTERVENTIONS ADDRESSING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-BASED PRIMARY CARE, IMPROVING HEALTH LITERACY, AND IMPLEMENTING TARGETED PROGRAMS FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.

---

**KEYWORDS:**

HEALTH INEQUALITIES, SOCIAL INEQUALITIES, CROATIA, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, HEALTHCARE ACCESS, VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, HEALTH POLICY

---

**Vlad BĂTRÂNU-PINȚEA**

*Transilvania University of Brașov, Romania*  
vlad.batranu@unitbv.ro

**Claudiu COMAN**

*Transilvania University of Brașov, Romania*  
claudiu.coman@unitbv.ro

**Monica Elena CRANTA**

*Craiova University, Romania*  
monicamacarau@yahoo.com

**Alexandra MIOC**

*West University of Timișoara, Romania*  
alexandra.mioc93@gmail.com

## **ERASMUS STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE ABROAD**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

ERASMUS HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY POPULAR AMONG *STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ALIKE. IT IS A PRODUCTIVE, NEW, AND ATTRACTIVE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND EXPERIENCE VARIOUS CULTURES THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL WAYS. BEING IN A CERTAIN COUNTRY AND VISITING NEW PLACES, ENJOYING DIFFERENT FOODS, SHARING EXPERIENCES WITH NEW PEOPLE, AND GAINING EXPERIENCE FOR THEMSELVES AS WELL AS KNOWLEDGE. WE HAVE CONDUCTED A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS TO GATHER AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE FROM ERASMUS STUDENTS AND HOW THEY PERCEIVE THESE EXPERIENCES, WHAT ARE THE STRUGGLES, THE IRREPLACABLE ASPECTS, OBSTACLES, UNIQUE ASPECTS, AS WELL AS THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF ERASMUS BENEFITS. WE WILL FIND OUT INTERESTING REACTIONS THAT MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR NEEDS, THEIR IDEAS, THEIR AMBITIONS, MAYBE EVEN TO FURTHER A PROGRESS IN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ERASMUS STUDENT, TO CONSTANTLY WORK ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROGRAM, OR AT LEAST RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAKING A BETTER, MORE USER-FRIENDLY EXPERIENCE FOR FUTURE STUDENTS.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*ERASMUS, STUDENTS, PERCEPTIONS, STUDENTS ABROAD*

---

**Claudiu COMAN**

*Transilvania University of Brașov, Romania*  
claudiu.coman@unitbv.ro

**Vlad BĂTRĂNU-PINȚEA**

*Transilvania University of Brașov, Romania*  
vlad.batranu@unitbv.ro

**Monica Elena CRANTA**

*Craiova University, Romania*  
monicamacarau@yahoo.com

**Claudiu-Mihail ROMAN**

*Babeș-Bolyai University - Reșița, Romania*  
claudiu.roman@ubbcluj.ro

**Livia Mihaela MITREA**

*Transilvania University of Brașov,*

**Teodora DINCĂ**

*Transilvania University of Brașov*

**Luiza NĂSTASE**

*Transilvania University of Brașov*

---

## **DEPICTIONS OF ROMANIAN CULTURE IN RESIDENT EVIL 8: VILLAGE**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*VIDEO GAMES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A POINT OF RESEARCH INTEREST, ESPECIALLY RECENTLY. FROM DIFFERENT TYPES OF GENRES TO THEMATIC DIVERSITY, VIDEO GAMES HAVE BEEN EVOLVING AT A RAPID PACE. THUS, A VERY PECULIAR GAME HAS EMERGED, AND IT IS THE LAST ONE IN THE RESIDENT EVIL SERIES TO APPEAR, WHICH IS RESIDENT EVIL 8: VILLAGE. IT TAKES PLACE IN A ROMANIAN VILLAGE, RIGHT NEXT TO THE PELEȘ CASTLE, IN WHICH MOST OF THE ACTION TAKES PLACE DURING THE GAME. FROM CERTAIN VOICELINES TO CULTURAL ASPECTS, FROM ROMANIAN STYLE HOUSES TO HISTORICAL REFERENCES, THEY HAVE BEEN INGRAINED IN THE VIDEO GAME TO OFFER A VERY AUTHENTIC, NEVER-SEEN-BEFORE GAME. THROUGH CONTENT ANALYSIS, WE WILL DISCOVER HOW THE GAME MANAGES TO PORTRAY ROMANIAN CULTURE, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS MADE BY FOREIGN DESIGNERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMPANIES, MAINLY FROM JAPAN. THE GAME USES ROMANIAN CURRENCY, SURNAMES, PLACES, AND LEGENDS, SUCH AS VAMPIRES RESIDING IN TRANSILVANIA. IT IS INTERESTING TO ASSESS THE THEMATIC AND STORY OF A POPULAR PART OF THE RESIDENT EVIL FRANCHISE. CONTENT ANALYSIS WILL ALLOW FOR A BETTER, MORE REFINED UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE GAME AND THE CREATION OF IT.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*RESIDENT EVIL, ROMANIA, CONTENT ANALYSIS, CULTURE*

---

**Magdalena POKRZYŃSKA**  
*Univeristy of Zielona Góra, Poland*  
m.pokrzynska@is.uz.zgora.pl

**THE BUCOVINIAN FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE AS A LABORATORY OF  
DIALOGUE: INTERCULTURAL, INTERGENERATIONAL AND  
INTERDISCIPLINARY INTEGRATION ON THE BORDERLAND**

---

**ABSTRACT:**

*THE PAPER FOCUSES ON THE BUCOVINIAN FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE (BFS) AS A SOCIOLOGICAL AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL PHENOMENON THAT TRANSCENDS STANDARD POPULARIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE. THE AIM OF THIS WORK IS TO ANALYZE THE BFS AS A “LABORATORY OF DIALOGUE,” ACTIVELY SHAPING SOCIAL COHESION ON THE DYNAMIC TRANSNATIONAL BORDERLAND OF POLAND, ROMANIA, AND UKRAINE. STEPPING OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF ACADEMIA, THE BFS SIMULTANEOUSLY FACILITATES THREE KEY INTEGRATION PROCESSES. FIRSTLY, THE INTERCULTURAL INTEGRATION: THROUGH THE POPULARIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE MULTICULTURAL BUCOVINA REGION AND THE SUPPORT OF MINORITY IDENTITIES, THE FESTIVAL ACTS AS AN EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR OVERCOMING STEREOTYPES AND FOSTERING OPEN, PRO-DIALOGUE ATTITUDES. SECONDLY, THE INTERGENERATIONAL INTEGRATION: IT CONNECTS THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS, ACTIVATING SENIORS AS WITNESSES OF HISTORY AND ENGAGING YOUTH IN THE PROCESS OF REFLECTING ON HERITAGE, WHICH PROMOTES CULTURAL TRANSMISSION AND BUILDS LOCAL BONDS. AND THIRDLY, THE INTERDISCIPLINARY INTEGRATION: THROUGH ITS HYBRID FORMAT (LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, FILM, AND FOLKLORE), IT DEMONSTRATES HOW KNOWLEDGE FROM THE SOCIAL SCIENCES CAN BE USEFUL IN SOLVING COMPLEX SOCIAL PROBLEMS. THE BFS REPRESENTS A MODEL EXAMPLE OF IMPLEMENTING THE IDEA OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE (SRS), TRANSFORMING ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE INTO SOCIAL CAPITAL AND A REAL TOOL FOR GRASSROOTS INCLUSION ON THE BORDERLAND.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*BUCOVINIAN FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE, BORDERLAND, SOCIAL INTEGRATION, INTERCULTURALISM, POPULARIZATION OF SCIENCE, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE*

---

**Mihaela-Gabriela TECȘA (IRIMIA)**  
*West University of Timișoara, Romania*  
mihaela.irimia81@e-uvt.ro

---

**WHEN TIME IS CRITICAL: EMERGENCY SOCIAL WORKER  
INTERVENTIONS IN CASES OF ADOLESCENT DEVIANCE**

---

**ABSTRACT:**

*ADOLESCENTS FACE MAJOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS. THE LACK OF A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, THE EXISTENCE OF UNRESOLVED CONFLICTS, OR FACTORS OCCURRING IN DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS MAY BE REASONS WHY PEOPLE BEHAVE IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT CONFORM TO SOCIAL NORMS. A SOCIAL PROBLEM IS IGNORING THESE INAPPROPRIATE ACTIONS AS THEY AFFECT MENTAL HEALTH, FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND THE COMMUNITY. UPU SOCIAL WORKERS IDENTIFY, ASSESS AND INTERVIEW YOUNG PEOPLE WHO EXHIBIT SOCIAL RISK BEHAVIORS, SUBSTANCE USE, VIOLENCE OR SELF-HARM. A VARIETY OF TYPES OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOR THAT ARE ENCOUNTERED ARE THE SUBJECT OF RESEARCH, AS WELL AS THE DETERMINANTS (FAMILY, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC) AND CHALLENGES THAT ARISE DURING INTERVENTION. ALL THESE ARE ADDRESSED THROUGH CASE STUDIES AND EMPIRICAL OBSERVATIONS. THE STUDY FOCUSES ON THE MODES OF COMMUNICATION THAT SOCIAL WORKERS USE, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON CRISIS COUNSELING, COOPERATION WITH THE MEDICAL TEAM AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION INSTITUTIONS, AND THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE WHEN WORKING WITH THIS VULNERABLE GROUP. THUS, THE ROLE AND INTERVENTION OF THE UPU SOCIAL WORKER IN ADDRESSING DEVIANT BEHAVIOR IN ADOLESCENTS ARE EXAMINED. THIS IS ACHIEVED BY COMBINING MEDICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL PERSPECTIVES IN A MULTIDISCIPLINARY MANNER. THE RESULTS SHOW THAT THE UPU SOCIAL WORKER REFERS ADOLESCENTS TO SPECIALIZED SUPPORT SERVICES AND SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES THE RATE OF RECIDIVISM OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR. SOCIAL WORK IN EMERGENCY HOSPITALS SHOULD BE IMPROVED THROUGH CONTINUOUS STAFF TRAINING, INTERDISCIPLINARY PROTOCOLS, EMPATHY, EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*KEY WORDS: DEVIANT BEHAVIOR, ADOLESCENT, SOCIAL WORK, CRISIS INTERVENTION, EMERGENCY RECEPTION UNIT.*

---

**Adrian NETEDU**  
„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania  
netedu\_adrian@yahoo.com

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. A CONTINUING SOCIAL PROBLEM**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE WITNESSED AN ALARMING INCREASE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ROMANIA, OFTEN REACHING THE THRESHOLD OF FEMICIDE. THE CAUSES OF THESE PHENOMENA ARE DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY EXHAUSTIVELY; HOWEVER, A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION MAY BE THEIR PARALLEL EVOLUTION WITH A CERTAIN DEGREE OF SOCIETAL RADICALIZATION. FURTHERMORE, SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS OFTEN BLUR THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SPHERES, WITH SCENES OF EXTREME VIOLENCE FREQUENTLY BEING BROADCAST LIVE. FROM A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE, SPECIALISTS HAVE FOCUSED ON ANALYZING SOCIAL PERCEPTIONS REGARDING INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND GENDER DIFFERENCES, AS WELL AS PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING THE PLACE AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIAL OR FAMILY LIFE, ETC., TO IDENTIFY THE STEREOTYPES THAT AMPLIFY AND REINFORCE THESE DIFFERENCES. A SERIES OF HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS HAS BEEN PRESENTED IN THE GENDER BAROMETERS (2000 AND 2018) AND THE RESEARCH STUDY "WOMEN AND MEN IN ROMANIA" (IRES, 2025). FOR THIS PAPER/PRESENTATION, WE INTEND TO INTERPRET THE DATA OBTAINED FROM A SIMILAR BAROMETER APPLIED IN THE NORTH-EAST REGION, USING A THEORETICAL SAMPLE THAT IS SUFFICIENTLY RELEVANT FOR COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, FEMICIDE, GENDER DIFFERENCES, GENDER BAROMETERS*

---

**Bianca-Daniela PAREPEANU**  
University of Bucharest, Romania  
biancaparepeanu@gmail.com

## **IDENTITY, SOLIDARITY, AND THE BOUNDARIES OF BELONGING: RETHINKING SOCIAL INCLUSION AMONG HOMELESS ADULTS**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*HOMELESSNESS REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MOST RADICAL FORMS OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION, WHERE THE EROSION OF IDENTITY INTERTWINES WITH THE LOSS OF BELONGING AND RECOGNITION. THIS PAPER EXPLORE HOW IDENTITY RECONSTRUCTION AMONG HOMELESS ADULTS IS NEGOTIATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF SOCIAL MARGINALITY, INSTITUTIONAL CATEGORIZATION, AND COLLECTIVE SOLIDARITY. BUIDILING ON CRITICAL SOCIAL THEORY AND EMPIRICAL INSIGHTS FROM URBAN CONTEXTS IN ROMANIA AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THE STUDY EXAMINES HOW SOCIAL INTERACTIONS SHAPE THE SELF-PERCEPTION OF HOMELESS ADULTS—OFTEN REINFORCING SUBTLE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION. AT THE SAME TIME, INFORMAL NETWORKS, PEER SUPPORT, AND RELATIONAL FORMS OF SOLIDARITY REVEAL ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS TO RECLAIMING DIGNITY AND SOCIAL VISIBILITY. BY SITUATING HOMELESSNESS WITHIN BROADER DEBATES ON IDENTITY POLITICS AND INCLUSION, THE PAPER ARGUES FOR A RELATIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF SOLIDARITY—ONE THAT TRANSCENDS CHARITY AND CONTROL, AND INSTEAD FOSTERS RECOGNITION, RECIPROCITY, AND CO-CONSTRUCTION OF BELONGING.*

---

### **KEY WORDS:**

*IDENTITY, SOLIDARITY, HOMELESSNESS, SOCIAL INCLUSION, RECOGNITION, BELONGING*

---

**Florina Malina VARTOLOMEI**

„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania

florinavarto@gmail.com

**Victor STOICA**

„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania

victorstoica06@gmail.com

---

## **AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ROLE OF RELIGIOSITY IN THE IDENTITY FORMATION PROCESS OF PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS IN THE ROMANIAN ARMY**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*IN THE CONTEXT OF MODERNIZING ARMED FORCES, ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS CRITICALLY DEPENDS ON HUMAN CAPITAL—RESILIENCE, COHESION, AND A ROBUST ETHICAL FRAMEWORK. THIS RESEARCH INVESTIGATES THE FUNCTIONAL ROLE THAT RELIGIOSITY PLAYS IN THE SOCIALIZATION PROCESS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL, ANALYZING IT NOT MERELY AS A PRIVATE CONVICTION BUT AS A STRATEGIC, INFORMAL RESOURCE. THE STUDY ADOPTS A QUALITATIVE APPROACH, BASED ON A CASE STUDY CONDUCTED AT THE 198TH "PRUT" LOGISTIC SUPPORT BATTALION IN IAȘI. DATA WERE COLLECTED THROUGH 14 SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS WITH ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL. A THEMATIC ANALYSIS WAS THEN PERFORMED, AIMING TO IDENTIFY THE CONCRETE ROLES OF FAITH IN THE DAILY LIFE OF THE MILITARY UNIT. THE RESULTS DEMONSTRATE THAT RELIGIOSITY FULFILLS FOUR ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS. FIRST, IT SERVES AS AN ETHICAL PILLAR, PROVIDING AN INTERNAL MORAL COMPASS THAT SUPPLEMENTS FORMAL REGULATIONS AND ENCOURAGES EMPATHETIC BEHAVIOR. SECOND, IT ACTS AS A SOCIAL COHESION FACTOR, TRANSFORMING THE COLLECTIVE INTO A UNIFIED COMMUNITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SHARED RITUALS, THEREBY STRENGTHENING CAMARADERIE AND ESPRIT DE CORPS. THIRD, IT OFFERS VITAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT, FUNCTIONING AS A RESILIENCE MECHANISM AGAINST THE STRESS AND DANGERS SPECIFIC TO THE CAREER. FINALLY, RELIGIOSITY IS CRUCIAL IN PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION, HARMONIZING THE DUTY TO THE HOMETLAND WITH PERSONAL VALUES AND PROVIDING A HIGHER PURPOSE TO THE MISSION. IN CONCLUSION, THE STUDY ARGUES THAT*

*RELIGIOSITY IS NOT A PERIPHERAL ELEMENT BUT AN ACTIVE FORCE THAT CONTRIBUTES TO STRENGTHENING HUMAN CAPITAL WITHIN THE MILITARY. THESE FINDINGS OFFER PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR MILITARY LEADERSHIP, SUGGESTING THAT UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECTING THIS HUMAN DIMENSION CAN ENHANCE THE WELL-BEING AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PERSONNEL.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*RELIGIOSITY, MILITARY SOCIOLOGY, SOCIAL COHESION, ORGANIZATIONAL SOCIALIZATION, SPIRITUAL CAPITAL, MILITARY ETHICS.*

---

**Felicia MORÂNDĂU**

„Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Romania  
felicia.morandau@ulbsibiu.ro

**Dana ZAMFIRESCU MAREȘ**

„Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Romania  
dana.mares@ulbsibiu.ro

**Raluca Elena DĂNUȚ**

„Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Romania  
raluca.danut@ulbsibiu.ro

---

## **INCLUSION, BARRIERS, AND NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE ACADEMIC CONTEXT**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS STUDY AIMS TO ANALYZE THE PROCESS OF ACADEMIC ADAPTATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFYING THE KEY BARRIERS AND NEEDS THEY ENCOUNTER WITHIN HIGHER EDUCATION. THE RESEARCH FOCUSED ON OBSTACLES RELATED TO INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE ATTITUDES OF OTHER UNIVERSITY ACTORS. WE ALSO INVESTIGATED THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF THE SAMPLE. THE METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED WAS QUANTITATIVE, UTILIZING A SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE. THE SAMPLE IS ONE OF CONVENIENCE AND CONSISTED OF 18 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. THE FINDINGS REVEAL THAT THE PRIMARY BARRIERS ARE PHYSICAL, INCLUDING THE LACK OF PROPERLY ADAPTED TABLES, COMPLIANT RAMPS, AND APPROPRIATE ACCESS ROUTES. REGARDING THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT, STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES DID NOT PERCEIVE DISCRIMINATORY SITUATIONS, REPORTING INSTEAD THAT THEY FEEL ACCEPTED AND INTEGRATED WITHIN THE GROUPS THEY ACT. MOST PARTICIPANTS ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN VOLUNTEER AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, WHICH INDICATES SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL INTEGRATION IN VARIOUS SETTINGS. HOWEVER, A PROBLEMATIC FINDING IS THE LOW RATE OF MEMBERSHIP IN STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS, WHICH MAY CONTRIBUTE TO INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IS HIGH, WITH THE MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS REPORTING A GRADE AVERAGE ABOVE 8 FROM THE PREVIOUS ACADEMIC YEAR AND DEMONSTRATING HIGH PARTICIPATION IN COURSES AND SEMINARS. SATISFACTION WITH EDUCATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY—PARTICULARLY COUNSELLING*

*SERVICES, SOCIAL SUPPORT, LEARNING PLATFORMS, AND ASSESSMENT ACCESSIBILITY—WAS DETERMINED TO BE MEDIUM. IN CONCLUSION, OUR FINDINGS UNDERSCORE THE NEED FOR CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC MEASURES TO ENHANCE PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY AND FOSTER THE COMPREHENSIVE INCLUSION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*ACADEMIC ADAPTATION, INCLUSION, ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, EDUCATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY*

---

**Sorina CORMAN**

*Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania*

*sorina.corman@ulbsibiu.ro*

**Dana ZAMFIRESCU MAREȘ**

*„Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Romania*

*dana.mares@ulbsibiu.ro*

---

## **SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES AND PATHWAYS FOR THE INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE PAPER EXAMINES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL INTEGRATION, DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION, AND THE INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY. IT AIMS TO PROVIDE A THEORETICAL AND POLICY-ORIENTED PERSPECTIVE ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL CARE SYSTEMS AND THE SHIFT TOWARD COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES. THE ANALYSIS IS STRUCTURED AROUND KEY CONCEPTS SUCH AS ACCESSIBILITY, PARTICIPATION, AUTONOMY, AND SOCIAL CAPITAL, WHICH FRAME THE EVOLUTION FROM A MEDICAL TO A BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY. THE PAPER ARGUES THAT EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION REQUIRES NOT ONLY THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORKS, BUT ALSO A CHANGE IN SOCIAL ATTITUDES AND INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE. EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON THE ROLE OF SOCIAL POLICIES IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, DIGNITY, AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP, AS WELL AS ON THE NEED FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES THAT CONNECT SOCIAL WORK, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH. THROUGH A CONCEPTUAL SYNTHESIS OF POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND CONTEMPORARY THEORIES OF SOCIAL INCLUSION, THE PAPER HIGHLIGHTS THE MAIN CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION AND SUPPORTING THE INDEPENDENT LIVING OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*SOCIAL INTEGRATION, DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION, DISABILITY, INCLUSION; SOCIAL POLICY*

---

**Monica Angela BARA**

„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania

angela.bara@uab.ro

## **BETWEEN CONNECTION AND ISOLATION EXCESSIVE TECHNOLOGY USE AND OLDER ADULTS' WELL-BEING POST-COVID-19**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS NARRATIVE REVIEW SYNTHESIZES EVIDENCE FROM 2015 TO 2024 ON HOW EXCESSIVE TECHNOLOGY USE AFFECTS OLDER ADULTS' PHYSICAL HEALTH, MENTAL WELL-BEING, AND SOCIAL ADAPTATION IN THE POST-PANDEMIC CONTEXT. THE ACCELERATED DIGITALIZATION TRIGGERED BY COVID-19 CHANGED HOW OLDER ADULTS ACCESS INFORMATION, MAINTAIN SOCIAL CONNECTIONS, AND USE HEALTH SERVICES. WHILE TECHNOLOGY HELPED REDUCE ISOLATION AND ENABLED TELEMEDICINE, ITS EXCESSIVE USE HAS BEEN LINKED TO PHYSICAL INACTIVITY, SLEEP DISTURBANCES, TECHNO-ANXIETY, AND A SHIFT TOWARD ONLINE-ONLY INTERACTION.*

*A COMPREHENSIVE SEARCH IN PUBMED, SCOPUS, WEB OF SCIENCE, AND GOOGLE SCHOLAR YIELDED 742 RECORDS; AFTER APPLYING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, 64 EMPIRICAL STUDIES AND 8 REVIEW ARTICLES WERE INCLUDED.*

*FINDINGS REVEAL A DUAL DYNAMIC: MODERATE, PURPOSEFUL USE SUPPORTS COGNITIVE STIMULATION, ACCESS TO CARE, AND PERCEIVED SOCIAL CONNECTION. IN CONTRAST, EXCESSIVE USE CONTRIBUTES TO SEDENTARISM, ANXIETY, FRAGMENTED SLEEP, INFORMATION OVERLOAD, AND DECREASED OFFLINE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.*

*DIGITAL INEQUALITY, IN TERMS OF ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, AND SKILLS, REMAINS A KEY STRUCTURAL BARRIER. THE ARTICLE PROPOSES A PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK OF DIGITAL HYGIENE FOR OLDER ADULTS AND OUTLINES POLICY AND SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING EQUITABLE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AGE-FRIENDLY DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMS, AND INTEGRATED MEDICO-SOCIAL APPROACHES TO BALANCE ONLINE AND OFFLINE ENGAGEMENT.*

### **KEYWORDS:**

*OLDER ADULTS; EXCESSIVE TECHNOLOGY USE; DIGITAL HEALTH; SOCIAL ADAPTATION; TECHNO-ANXIETY; TELEMEDICINE; POST-COVID-19*

---

**Anca Iulia BUGNARIU**

*„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania*

*iulia.bugnariu@uab.ro*

## **SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE ELDERLY AND THE IMPACT OF CHRONIC DISEASES: FROM DIALYSIS TO COMMUNITY INTEGRATION**

---

### **ABSTRACT**

*POPULATION AGEING REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE 21ST CENTURY, WITH COMPLEX IMPLICATIONS FOR BOTH SOCIAL AND HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS. IN ROMANIA, THIS PROCESS IS INTENSIFIED BY THE MIGRATION OF THE YOUNG POPULATION AND THE FRAGILITY OF THE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, LEADING TO INCREASED VULNERABILITY AMONG OLDER ADULTS. THIS PAPER OFFERS A THEORETICAL REVIEW OF THE SPECIALIZED LITERATURE ON THE INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN CHRONIC DISEASES PARTICULARLY RENAL FAILURE AND THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF THE ELDERLY. THE ANALYSIS EXPLORES THE MEDICAL, PSYCHOSOCIAL, AND COMMUNITY DIMENSIONS OF AGEING, EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR AN INTEGRATED SOCIO-MEDICAL APPROACH. THE ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING COMMUNITY SERVICES, PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS, AND PUBLIC POLICIES AIMED AT ACTIVE AND DIGNIFIED AGEING. THIS WORK PROVIDES A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION BY INTEGRATING THE MEDICAL AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF AGEING WITHIN AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK. THE NARRATIVE ANALYSIS OFFERS AN UPDATED PERSPECTIVE ON ACTIVE AGEING, USING RECENT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND FOCUSING ON THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTIONS IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE AMONG OLDER ADULTS. THE RESULTS OFFER VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE FORMULATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES GROUNDED IN INTEGRATED CARE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION.*

---

### **KEY WORDS:**

*AGEING, CHRONIC DISEASES, DIALYSIS, COMMUNITY INTEGRATION, SOCIAL VULNERABILITY, SOCIO-MEDICAL SERVICES*

---

**Călina Ana BUȚIU**

*“1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania*

calina.butiu@uab.ro

## **DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND THE REDUCTION OF INEQUALITIES**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*TO OFFER FINANCIAL ACCESS TO A DISADVANTAGED SEGMENT OF SOCIETY, ALONGSIDE THE DIGITALIZATION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES ARISES THE CONCEPT OF DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION. THE REDUCTION IN DIGITAL INEQUALITIES IS ESPECIALLY DESIRED IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THOSE WHO DO NOT, ARE LARGE. WOMEN AND THE ELDERLY IN GENERAL ARE AFFECTED MOST IN TERMS OF DIGITAL COMPETENCIES AND THESE INEQUALITIES ARE PARTICULARLY PREVALENT IN THE ISOLATED COMMUNITIES OF RURAL CHINA, LATIN AMERICA, SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE FACTORS THAT LEAD TO FINANCIAL DIGITAL EXCLUSION IS THE BASIS FOR A PROPER SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICY MAKING.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*DIGITAL ALPHABETIZATION, DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION, GENDER AND AGE DIFFERENCES, REGIONAL DIFFERENCES*

---

**Petronela Maria TALPAȘ**

*„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania*

*petronela.talpas@uab.ro*

## **WAYS TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY FOR ROMA CHILDREN IN SCHOOL: CHALLENGES AND EDUCATIONAL SOLUTIONS IN ROMANIA**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*ROMA CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN ROMANIA REMAINS DEEPLY UNEQUAL AND MARKED BY STRUCTURAL, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL BARRIERS. THE ROMA POPULATION, PREDOMINANTLY YOUNG AND CONCENTRATED IN MARGINALIZED URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, FACES SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF SCHOOL SEGREGATION, STEREOTYPES, AND INSTITUTIONALIZED DISCRIMINATION (KÓCZÉ & RÖVID, 2017; SURDU, 2016). EDUCATIONAL SEGREGATION IS NOT AN ACCIDENTAL PHENOMENON; IT FUNCTIONS AS A MECHANISM OF STRUCTURAL RACIALIZATION, REPRODUCING ETHNIC HIERARCHIES AND REINFORCING SOCIAL STIGMA, WITH SEVERE PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES SUCH AS LOSS OF SELF-CONFIDENCE, ALIENATION FROM SCHOOL, AND REDUCED EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE (FLECK & RUGHINIȘ, 2008; TROC, 2020; TZOURIADOU, 2015). RECENT DATA ON THE SCHOOL POPULATION (2023-2024) SHOW AN OVERALL DECLINE IN PUPILS AND STUDENTS, EXCEPT AT HIGH SCHOOL AND HIGHER EDUCATION LEVELS, BUT HIGHLIGHT MAJOR IMBALANCES BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS AND THE UNDERREPRESENTATION OF ROMA CHILDREN IN QUALITY EDUCATION AND IN POST-SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION (FRA, 2018). EDUCATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY MUST BE UNDERSTOOD AS A STRATEGIC TOOL FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, WHICH INVOLVES ADAPTING THE CURRICULUM TO CULTURAL DIVERSITY, CREATING AN INCLUSIVE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT, AND IMPLEMENTING MENTORING AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS FOR ROMA CHILDREN (LAZIĆ, 2016; TZOURIADOU, 2015). EFFECTIVE EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTIONS MUST SIMULTANEOUSLY ADDRESS STRUCTURAL AND INDIVIDUAL FACTORS: INSTITUTIONAL SEGREGATION, NEGATIVE STEREOTYPES, URBAN-RURAL GAPS, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC VULNERABILITIES. WITHOUT SUCH POLICIES, EDUCATION RISKS PERPETUATING THE MARGINALIZATION OF ROMA CHILDREN, TURNING SCHOOL INTO A MECHANISM OF*

*INTERGENERATIONAL SOCIAL EXCLUSION (KENDE ET AL., 2021; FRA, 2018). THEREFORE, ENSURING REAL AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATION IS NOT ONLY AN EDUCATIONAL NECESSITY BUT ALSO A SOCIAL AND ETHICAL IMPERATIVE FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*EDUCATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY, SCHOOL SEGREGATION, STRUCTURAL DISCRIMINATION, CULTURAL INCLUSION*

---

**Nicoleta FILIP**

*University of Bucharest, Romania*

nicoleta.filip@fsas.unibuc.ro

---

## **INTEGRATED SOCIO-MEDICAL NETWORKS IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES: A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL WORK IN 21ST CENTURY ROMANIA**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN ROMANIA CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE FRAGMENTED ACCESS TO HEALTH, SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES, DESPITE MULTIPLE NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS AIMED AT REDUCING INEQUALITIES. THIS PAPER INTRODUCES AN INNOVATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATED SOCIO-MEDICAL NETWORKS (ISMN), DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION BETWEEN COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSES, HEALTH MEDIATORS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS. DRAWING ON MIXED-METHOD INSIGHTS FROM AN EMERGING NATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT, THE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS PERSISTENT STRUCTURAL BARRIERS SUCH AS INSUFFICIENT COORDINATION, INCONSISTENT COMMUNICATION CHANNELS AND LIMITED INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRATION THAT HINDER EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY IN UNDERSERVED AREAS.

ALIGNED WITH KEY EUROPEAN FRAMEWORKS SUCH AS THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS, THE EUROPEAN CARE STRATEGY, THE EU ROMA STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2020–2030 AND EU4HEALTH, THE PROPOSED MODEL ADVANCES EU PRIORITIES FOR EQUITABLE ACCESS, EARLY INTERVENTION AND INTEGRATED COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES. THE FRAMEWORK CONTRIBUTES TO ROMANIA'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO REDUCE HEALTH AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES BY REINFORCING THE ROLE OF FRONTLINE PROFESSIONALS AND IMPROVING COOPERATION ACROSS LOCAL SYSTEMS.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS SUGGEST THAT STRENGTHENING NETWORK CONNECTORS WITHIN COMMUNITIES CAN SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE RESPONSIVENESS, REDUCE FRAGMENTATION AND ENHANCE RESILIENCE. THIS CONTRIBUTION ALIGNS WITH INTERNATIONAL DEBATES ON INTEGRATED CARE AND PROPOSES A CONTEXT-SPECIFIC MODEL TAILORED TO ROMANIA'S EVOLVING SOCIAL WORK AND PUBLIC HEALTH LANDSCAPE.

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

INTEGRATED NETWORKS; COMMUNITY HEALTH; SOCIAL WORK; VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES; INTER-PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION

---

---

**POLITICS, SOCIAL POLICIES,  
AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT**

---



**Dinara ISSINA**

*Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan*

*issinadinara23@gmail.com*

**Galiya BURAKANOVA**

*Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan*

**Lucian MARINA**

*„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania*

## **KAZAKHSTAN AS A TRANSIT CORRIDOR FOR MIGRANTS FROM RUSSIA**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS STUDY EXAMINES MIGRATION PROCESSES TRIGGERED BY RUSSIA'S MILITARY OPERATION IN UKRAINE IN FEBRUARY 2022, FOCUSING ON KAZAKHSTAN'S ROLE AS A TRANSIT CORRIDOR. USING A MULTIPLE CASE STUDY APPROACH, WE ANALYZED THE EXPERIENCES OF 10 RUSSIAN MIGRANTS (IT SPECIALISTS AND ENTREPRENEURS) WHO RELOCATED TO KAZAKHSTAN. MOST MIGRANTS WERE SOCIALLY ACTIVE INDIVIDUALS DISSATISFIED WITH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RUSSIA. OUR FINDINGS REVEAL THAT MIGRANTS VIEW KAZAKHSTAN PRIMARILY AS A TEMPORARY REFUGE RATHER THAN A PERMANENT DESTINATION, CITING DEVELOPED INFRASTRUCTURE AS A POSITIVE FACTOR WHILE FACING CHALLENGES INCLUDING HIGH HOUSING RENTAL PRICES AND BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES IN DOCUMENT PROCESSING. THE INFLUX HAS POSITIVELY IMPACTED KAZAKHSTAN'S ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY IN THE IT SECTOR, THOUGH IT HAS ALSO CREATED SOCIAL TENSIONS AND HOUSING MARKET PRESSURES. WE PROVIDE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OPTIMIZING KAZAKHSTAN'S MIGRATION MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING SIMPLIFYING BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES, REGULATING HOUSING PRICES, AND ENHANCING INTEGRATION SUPPORT SERVICES.*

---

### **KEY WORDS:**

*CASE STUDY; MOBILIZATION; MIGRATION; TRANSIT CORRIDOR; KAZAKHSTAN; RUSSIA; RUSSIAN EMIGRATION; POST-2022 MIGRATION; CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES*

---

**Valentina CORNEA**

*Cahul State University „Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”*  
valentina.cornea@fdap.usch.md

**Sergiu CORNEA**

*Cahul State University „Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”*

**Ina FILIPOV**

*Cahul State University „Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”*

**Elena MANDAJI**

*Cahul State University „Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu”*

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY: FROM „CONCEPTUAL DISARRAY” TO AN INTEGRATIVE EVALUATION MODEL**

---

#### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE CONCEPT OF ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY IS ADDRESSED IN THE SPECIALIZED LITERATURE IN A HIGHLY FRAGMENTED MANNER, RESULTING IN A GENUINE “CONCEPTUAL DISORDER.” THE LACK OF CONCEPTUAL COHERENCE AND OF A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYTICAL INSTRUMENT HINDERS COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENTS ACROSS TERRITORIAL COLLECTIVITIES AND IMPEDES THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY. THIS PAPER PROPOSES AN INTEGRATIVE MODEL FOR ASSESSING ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY (IMAAC), WHICH COMBINES MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS WITHIN A UNIFIED METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK. THE MODEL INCORPORATES BOTH QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE INDICATORS, ENABLING THE EVALUATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY OF LOCAL TERRITORIAL COLLECTIVITIES, THE IDENTIFICATION OF STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES, AND THE FORMULATION OF CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT. THE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS THE RELEVANCE OF APPLYING SUCH A MODEL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE VOLUNTARY AMALGAMATION OF TERRITORIAL COLLECTIVITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARGUING FOR THE NECESSITY OF A STANDARDIZED, COMPARABLE, AND REPLICABLE INSTRUMENT TO SUPPORT STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING AND THE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC RESOURCES. THE FINDINGS DEMONSTRATE THAT MOVING FROM “CONCEPTUAL DISORDER” TO AN INTEGRATIVE ASSESSMENT NOT ONLY FACILITATES THE MEASUREMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY BUT ALSO PROVIDES SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT FOR REFORMS AIMED AT THE TERRITORIAL DISTRIBUTION OF POWER.*

---

#### **KEYWORDS:**

*ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY, TERRITORIAL COLLECTIVITIES, MODEL, AMALGAMATION*

---

**Lucian MARINA**

„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania

lucian.marina@uab.ro

**Gonzague ISIRABAHENDA**

„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania

gonzague.isirabahenda@uab.ro

**Bogdan Nicolae MUCEA**

„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania

bogdan.mucea@uab.ro

## **ENERGY RENOVATION IN ROMANIAN APARTMENT BUILDINGS: IMPLICATIONS FOR ENERGY POVERTY, HOUSING COMFORT, AND HEALTH A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE ENERGY-EFFICIENT RENOVATION OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS IS A PIVOTAL STRATEGY FOR ADDRESSING ENERGY POVERTY, IMPROVING HOUSING COMFORT, AND SAFEGUARDING HEALTH IN ROMANIA'S URBAN 3 AREAS. EXISTING KNOWLEDGE REMAINS FRAGMENTED ACROSS TECHNICAL, SOCIOECONOMIC, AND HEALTH DOMAINS DESPITE POLICY ATTENTION. THIS SYSTEMATIC REVIEW SOUGHT TO (1) MAP THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS OF ENERGY RENOVATIONS IN ROMANIAN APARTMENT BUILDINGS, (2) ASSESS ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES AND THEIR TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE, (3) SYNTHESIZE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS ON ENERGY POVERTY ALLEVIATION, (4) EVALUATE HOUSING COMFORT OUTCOMES ACROSS INTERVENTION TYPES, AND (5) EXAMINE HEALTH EFFECTS LINKED TO RENOVATION PRACTICES. A COMPREHENSIVE LITERATURE SEARCH WAS CONDUCTED ACROSS THE WEB OF SCIENCE, SCOPUS, PUBMED, AND GOOGLE SCHOLAR FOR PUBLICATIONS BETWEEN 2015 AND 2024. ELIGIBLE STUDIES FOCUSED ON ROMANIAN URBAN CONTEXTS AND COMPARABLE EUROPEAN SETTINGS. DATA EXTRACTION FOLLOWED A STRUCTURED PROTOCOL ENCOMPASSING SPATIAL, TECHNICAL, SOCIOECONOMIC, COMFORT, AND HEALTH-RELATED DIMENSIONS. THE FINDINGS REVEALED THE FOLLOWING: (1) UNEVEN RETROFIT DISTRIBUTION SHAPED BY INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL BARRIERS, RESTRICTING ACCESS IN HIGH-NEED AREAS; (2) SUBSTANTIAL ENERGY SAVINGS (30–70%) ACHIEVED THROUGH OPTIMIZED RENOVATION STRATEGIES; (3) PARTIAL EVIDENCE OF ENERGY POVERTY REDUCTION, LIMITED BY PERSISTENT FINANCIAL*

AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES; (4) MEASURABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN THERMAL COMFORT (2–5 °C INCREASE IN WINTER INDOOR TEMPERATURES) AND INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, ALTHOUGH VENTILATION CHALLENGES AND RISKS OF DAMPNES OR POOR AIR EXCHANGE PERSIST; AND (5) MODEST BUT SUGGESTIVE HEALTH BENEFITS, LARGELY INFERRED FROM EUROPEAN EVIDENCE, INDICATING REDUCED RESPIRATORY AND CARDIOVASCULAR RISKS AMONG VULNERABLE POPULATIONS WHEN COLD HOMES AND POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS ARE ADDRESSED. THIS REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS THE NECESSITY OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES THAT BRIDGE TECHNICAL, SOCIOECONOMIC, AND HEALTH PERSPECTIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE EQUITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ENERGY-RENOVATION PROGRAMS. THE INSIGHTS GENERATED CAN GUIDE POLICY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION, SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE ENERGY POVERTY, ENHANCE OCCUPANT WELL-BEING, AND ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE URBAN HOUSING IN ROMANIA.

---

**KEYWORDS:**

ENERGY RENOVATION; ENERGY POVERTY; HOUSING COMFORT; HEALTH OUTCOMES; APARTMENT BUILDINGS; ROMANIA; SYSTEMATIC REVIEW; THERMAL COMFORT; INDOOR AIR QUALITY

---

**Costel Marian DALBAN**  
*„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania*  
marian.dalban@gmail.com

## **PIERRE BOURDIEU'S THEORY OF CAPITAL AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE FORMATION OF A POLITICAL CAREER**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS RESEARCH CAPITALIZES ON PIERRE BOURDIEU'S THEORIES TO EXPLORE AND UNDERSTAND THE FORMATION OF A POLITICAL CAREER IN THE ROMANIAN CONTEXT. THE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE POLITICAL FIELD REVEALS THAT IT IS STRUCTURED AROUND SPECIFIC TYPES OF CAPITAL, PREDOMINANTLY EXISTING IN THE LIFE OF THE POLITICIAN: EDUCATIONAL CAPITAL, POLITICAL CAPITAL, SOCIAL CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL CAPITAL. THESE TYPES OF CAPITAL ARE ESSENTIAL IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING POLITICAL, WHICH CAN BE CONCEPTUALIZED AS A SYMBOLIC GAME IN A CAPITAL MARKET, WHERE THE MAIN ACTORS TRADE THEIR RESOURCES TO MAXIMIZE THEIR INFLUENCE AND POWER. THE SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OBTAINED UNDERLINE THE COMPLEXITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS FORMS OF CAPITAL, HIGHLIGHTING HOW THEY INFLUENCE EACH OTHER AND SHAPE INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL PATHS. BY APPLYING BOURDIEU'S THEORY TO THE SPECIFIC CONTEXT OF ROMANIAN POLITICS, THE RESEARCH MAKES SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE MECHANISMS OF FORMATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF POLITICAL CAREERS, WHILE PROVIDING A SOLID THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL BASIS FOR FUTURE STUDIES IN THIS FIELD.*

---

### **KEY WORDS:**

*CAPITAL, POLITICAL FIELD, PIERRE BOURDIEU, POLITICAL CAREER*

---

**Bogdan Nicolae MUCEA**  
*„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania*  
bogdan.mucea@uab.ro

## **FRAGMENTATION AND LEGITIMACY: AN ANALYSIS OF MAYORAL ELECTION RESULTS**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS STUDY EXAMINES THE OUTCOMES OF THE 2024 LOCAL ELECTIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF MAYOR ACROSS ALL MUNICIPALITIES IN ALBA COUNTY. THE ANALYSIS FOCUSES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF VOTES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR POLITICAL LEGITIMACY. THE DATA REVEAL THAT A LARGE MAJORITY OF MAYORS WERE ELECTED WITH LESS THAN 50% OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST, HIGHLIGHTING BOTH THE FRAGMENTATION OF THE ELECTORATE AND POTENTIAL CHALLENGES TO REPRESENTATIVENESS. DRAWING ON OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS, THE STUDY EVALUATES THESE TRENDS AND DISCUSSES THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNANCE. THE FINDINGS UNDERSCORE, THROUGH CONCRETE DATA, THE NECESSITY OF REINSTATING A TWO-ROUND ELECTORAL SYSTEM. THE STUDY ALSO PRESENTS CERTAIN ASPECTS CONCERNING THE MAYORAL ELECTIONS IN ALBA COUNTY.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*LOCAL ELECTIONS, VOTING, LEGITIMACY, ELECTORAL SYSTEM*

---

**Paula Claudia BUJOR**

*Institut for Research of Quality of Life ,Romanian Academy*  
paula.bujor@iccv.ro

**EUROPEANIZATION OF SOCIAL POLICIES AND THE IMPACT ON LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES. A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION PROCESS IN ROMANIA AND OTHER EUROPEAN STATES**

---

**ABSTRACT:**

*THE EUROPEANISATION OF SOCIAL POLICIES HAS PROFOUNDLY RESHAPED WELFARE GOVERNANCE ACROSS EUROPE, INFLUENCING HOW LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES ADDRESS THE INCLUSION OF ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES. THIS RESEARCH EXPLORES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAW NO. 7/2023 ON DE-INSTITUTIONALISATION AND PREVENTION OF INSTITUTIONALISATION IN ROMANIA, ANALYSING HOW EUROPEAN NORMS ARE TRANSLATED INTO NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES. ADOPTING A QUALITATIVE COMPARATIVE APPROACH, THE STUDY INTEGRATES POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS WITH CASE STUDIES CONDUCTED WITHIN ROMANIAN GENERAL DIRECTORATES FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND CHILD PROTECTION (DGASPC), COMPLEMENTED BY A COMPARATIVE REVIEW OF EXPERIENCES FROM SELECTED EUROPEAN STATES. THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK COMBINES PERSPECTIVES FROM EUROPEANISATION, MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE AND POLICY-NETWORK THEORIES. FINDINGS INDICATE A PERSISTENT GAP BETWEEN LEGISLATIVE INTENTION AND PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION, SHAPED BY LIMITED ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY, FRAGMENTED COORDINATION AND UNEVEN ADAPTATION OF EUROPEAN PRINCIPLES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH IS TO FORMULATE EVIDENCE-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION, ENHANCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND SUPPORT THE TRANSITION FROM INSTITUTIONAL TO COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES. THROUGH THIS, THE STUDY AIMS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER ALIGNMENT OF ROMANIA'S SOCIAL INCLUSION POLICIES WITH EUROPEAN STANDARDS AND VALUES, AND TO PROPOSE A MODEL OF GOOD PRACTICES GROUNDED IN REALITY*

---

**KEY WORDS:**

*PUBLIC POLICY, SOCIAL POLICIES, PUBLIC AUTHORITIES*

---

**Ioan-Sebastian BUDUROI**

„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania  
ioansebastianbuduroi@gmail.com

**Victor STOICA**

„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania  
victorstoica06@gmail.com

**Diana-Maria GROSU**

„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania  
dianagrosum@yahoo.com

---

## THE CONCEPT AND HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF MINORITY RIGHTS

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS ARTICLE EXAMINES THE HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF MINORITY RIGHTS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM, TRACING THE GRADUAL TRANSFORMATION FROM EARLY CONFSSIONAL PROTECTIONS TO CONTEMPORARY, RIGHTS-BASED FRAMEWORKS. IT ARGUES THAT THE PROTECTION OF MINORITY GROUPS HAS DEVELOPED UNEVENLY, OSCILLATING BETWEEN AMBITIOUS MULTILATERAL SCHEMES AND PERIODS OF INSTITUTIONAL NEGLECT SHAPED BY SHIFTING GEOPOLITICAL PRIORITIES. EMPLOYING A MULTIPLE-CASE COMPARATIVE DESIGN, THE ANALYSIS POSITIONS THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AS THE FIRST FORMAL ATTEMPT TO INTERNATIONALISE THE MINORITY QUESTION, DETAILING BOTH THE ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISMS IT CREATED AND THE POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS THAT LIMITED ITS EFFECTIVENESS. PARTICULAR ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO THE INTERWAR PERIOD, DURING WHICH THE LEAGUE EXPERIMENTED WITH QUASI-JUDICIAL PROCEDURES CAPABLE OF FILTERING MINORITY PETITIONS AND MANAGING INTERSTATE TENSIONS. BY CONTRAST, THE SUCCESSOR SYSTEM CONSOLIDATED UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS RETREATED FROM COLLECTIVE RIGHTS, PRIORITISING UNIVERSAL INDIVIDUAL PROTECTIONS WHILE RESISTING INTRUSIVE OVERSIGHT OF DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. THIS REORIENTATION, REINFORCED BY COLD WAR REALPOLITIK, GENERATED A MARKED DECLINE IN ENFORCEABLE GUARANTEES FOR MINORITY COMMUNITIES. DRAWING ON ACADEMIC LITERATURE, ARCHIVAL INTERPRETATIONS, AND RETROSPECTIVE EVALUATIONS, THE ARTICLE ARGUES THAT THE COLLAPSE OF THE LEAGUE'S FRAMEWORK WAS NEITHER INEVITABLE NOR ENTIRELY UNSUCCESSFUL, AND THAT CONTEMPORARY DEBATES ON AUTONOMY,*

*CULTURAL ACCOMMODATION, AND GENOCIDE PREVENTION CONTINUE TO RELY ON PRINCIPLES FIRST ARTICULATED IN THE 1920S. IT CONCLUDES THAT INTERNATIONAL ACTION REMAINS REACTIVE RATHER THAN PREVENTIVE, REVEALING A PERSISTENT TENSION BETWEEN STATE SOVEREIGNTY, SELF-DETERMINATION, AND THE PROTECTION OF GROUPS. WITHOUT ADDRESSING THIS STRUCTURAL CONTRADICTION, A COMPREHENSIVE REGIME FOR MINORITY RIGHTS IS UNLIKELY TO MATERIALISE.*

---

**KEY WORDS:**

*HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL LAW, LEAGUE OF NATIONS, MINORITY RIGHTS, UNITED NATIONS*

---

**Nicoleta MEREȘ (COJOCARU)**

*University of Bucharest, Romania*

centrul\_stejarul@yahoo.com

**Armando Eduard LINCAN**

*University of Bucharest, Romania*

lincanarmando@yahoo.com

---

## **INFORMAL CARE AS SOCIAL POLICY IN ROMANIA: CASE STUDIES ON THE EXPERIENCES OF CAREGIVERS AND OLDER ADULTS**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*INFORMAL CARE AS SOCIAL POLICY IN ROMANIA: CASE STUDIES ON THE EXPERIENCES OF CAREGIVERS AND OLDER ADULTS THE ACCELERATED AGING OF THE POPULATION AND THE INCREASING NUMBER OF DEPENDENT OLDER ADULTS REPRESENT MAJOR CHALLENGES FOR ROMANIA'S SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM. IN THIS CONTEXT, INFORMAL CARE PROVIDED BY FAMILY MEMBERS, RELATIVES, OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING AND DIGNITY OF OLDER PEOPLE. THIS STUDY ANALYZES INFORMAL CARE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SOCIAL POLICY, USING THREE URBAN CASE STUDIES THAT EXPLORE THE EXPERIENCES OF BOTH CAREGIVERS AND THE OLDER ADULTS RECEIVING CARE. THE CASES HIGHLIGHT THE IMPACT OF ORDER NO. 955/2023, WHICH OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZES THE STATUS OF INFORMAL CAREGIVERS, ON THE RIGHTS, SOCIAL PROTECTION, AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF CARE RECIPIENTS. THE FINDINGS SHOW THAT LEGAL RECOGNITION BRINGS SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS, SUCH AS ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION, BUT ALSO REVEALS SUBSTANTIAL CHALLENGES, INCLUDING CAREGIVER OVERLOAD, LACK OF RESOURCES, AND THE NEED FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND TRAINING SUPPORT. THE ANALYSIS PROVIDES A USEFUL FRAMEWORK FOR POLICYMAKERS, RESEARCHERS, AND PRACTITIONERS, CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE EFFECTIVE SOCIAL POLICIES THAT BETTER ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF OLDER ADULTS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS.*

---

### **KEY WORDS:**

*INFORMAL CARE, CAREGIVERS, SOCIAL POLICY, CARE RECIPIENTS, SOCIAL PROTECTION, CASE STUDIES*

---

**MURAT İNAN**

„Abdullah Gül” University, Kayseri, Turkey  
murat\_inan2509@hotmail.com

---

**TESTING ELECTORAL EFFECTIVENESS OF GREENING OF THE LEFT  
AS A POST-WAR ADAPTATION STRATEGY FOR WESTERN LEFT-WING  
POLITICAL PARTY FAMILIES FROM A SUPPLY-SIDE PERSPECTIVE**

---

**ABSTRACT:**

*THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH IS TO ANALYZE ELECTORAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LEFT WING POLITICAL PARTIES' GREENING STRATEGY TO COMBAT WITH SHRINKING ELECTORAL BASES. MORE FRANKLY, IT EXPLORES THE LINK BETWEEN THE FREQUENCY OF LEFT-WING POLITICAL PARTIES' ENVIRONMENTALIST PROGRAMMATIC SIGNALS AND THEIR VOTE SHARES. THE TOP-DOWN OR SUPPLY-SIDE APPROACH ESTABLISHED THAT VOTING PREFERENCES ARE BEING SHAPED BY CHOICE SETS PROVIDED BY POLITICAL PARTIES. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT LEFT-WING POLITICAL PARTIES AIMED TO ATTRACT ELECTORAL ATTENTION OF THE MIDDLE CLASS MEDIAN VOTER BY SUPPLYING CENTRIST CATCHALL POLICIES. ONE OF THE ALTERNATIVE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES IN THIS REGARD WAS SUPPLYING ENVIRONMENTALIST SIGNALS. IN ORDER TO TEST EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS STRATEGY, THIS STUDY RAISES THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: DO MORE FREQUENT GREEN PROGRAMMATIC SIGNALS PROVIDE HIGHER VOTE RATES TO LEFT-WING POLITICAL PARTIES. USING QUANTITATIVE METHODS OF ENQUIRY, THIS RESEARCH ANALYSES MANIFESTO PROJECT'S DATA FOR 1,939 MANIFESTO DOCUMENTS, WHICH WERE RELEASED BETWEEN THE YEARS 1920 AND 2018 IN 56 DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES. FINDINGS SHOWED THAT THOSE PARTIES WITH MORE FREQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL MENTIONS IN THEIR MANIFESTO DOCUMENTS ARE NOT VOTED IN STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER LEVELS THAN THOSE WITH LESS FREQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL MENTIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, INCREASING THE TONE OF GREEN PROGRAMMATIC SIGNALS IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE ADAPTATION STRATEGY TO FOLLOW IN ORDER TO COMBAT WITH DECLINING VOTE SHARES ON THE LEFT. FINDINGS HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR CURRENT ACCOUNTS OF SPATIAL THEORIES OF PARTY COMPETITION, ELECTORAL ADAPTATION AND RE-ALIGNMENT STRATEGIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES AS WELL AS ISSUE SALIENCE, GREEN POLITICS AND CHANGING NATURE OF ELECTORAL EFFECTIVENESS OF PARTY POLICY SHIFTS.*

---

**KEY WORDS:** *GREENING OF THE LEFT, VOTING BEHAVIOR, ELECTORAL EFFECTIVENESS, PARTY FAMILIES*

---

**MURAT İNAN**

*„Abdullah Gül” University, Kayseri, Turkey*

*murat\_inan2509@hotmail.com*

---

## **KIRCHHEIMERIAN CATCHALLIZATION IN TURKISH POLITICS? RECENT CENTRIPETAL IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENTS OF TURKISH POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTORATE**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*OTTO KIRCHHEIMER HAS PREDICTED THAT FOLLOWING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, OWING TO GROWING WEALTH AND SECURITY IN THE WESTERN EUROPE, TRADITIONAL CLASS LINES WILL BLUR, SHARP IDEOLOGICAL DIVIDES WILL FADE, AND A NEW GENERATION WITH NEW VALUES WILL EMERGE. AS A RESULT, MASS INTEGRATION PARTIES WILL IDEOLOGICALLY CENTRALISE AND TRANSFORM INTO ‘CATCHALL PARTIES’ IN ORDER TO APPEAL TO THE NEW ELECTORATE. SIMILAR TO THE SITUATION IN POST-WWII WESTERN EUROPE, TÜRKIYE HAS ENJOYED A TWO-DECADES-LONG RELATIVE PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC SECURITY PERIOD SINCE THE EARLY 2000’S. DEPARTING FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, THE AIM OF THE CURRENT RESEARCH IS TO TEST THE KIRCHHEIMERIAN IDEOLOGICAL CENTRALIZATION IDEA FOR TURKISH POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTORATE AND ANSWER THE QUESTION WHETHER MASS INTEGRATION PARTIES OF THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT HAVE IDEOLOGICALLY CENTRALIZED IN THIS PERIOD. PARTY-LEVEL MANIFESTO PROJECT (MP) AND INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL WORLD VALUES SURVEY (WVS) DATA AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS OF ENQUIRY WERE EMPLOYED IN THIS RESEARCH. THE RESEARCH HAS ACHIEVED SOME CONFIRMATIVE EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE KIRCHHEIMERIAN PREDICTION FOR BOTH ON THE PARTY AND ELECTORATE LEVELS IN TÜRKIYE. THE FINDINGS HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE RECENT AND FUTURE PARTY ALIGNMENTS IN TURKISH POLITICS.*

---

**KEY WORDS:** *PARTY BEHAVIOR, CATCHALLIZATION, TURKISH POLITICS*

---

**Georgiana PODARU**  
„Petre Andrei” University of Iași, Romania  
georgianapodaru07@yahoo.com  
**Ciprian IFTIMOAEI**  
„Petre Andrei” University of Iași, Romania  
ciprian.iftimoaei@gmail.com

## **DEALING WITH INTERETHNIC CONFLICT IN EUROPE: HISTORIC AND RECENT EUROPEAN POLICIES IN MULTIETHNIC STATES AND REGIONS**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS STUDY EXAMINES THE EVOLUTION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC POLICIES DESIGNED TO MANAGE INTERETHNIC CONFLICT IN EUROPE, WITH A FOCUS ON THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS AND CONTEMPORARY STRATEGIES IN MULTIETHNIC STATES. IT ARGUES THAT WHILE ETHNICITY REMAINS A CENTRAL AXIS OF POLITICAL MOBILISATION, THE CAPACITY OF STATE POLICIES TO REGULATE OR RESOLVE ETHNIC TENSIONS DEPENDS LESS ON THE NORMATIVE INTENT OF POLICYMAKERS THAN ON THE BROADER CONFIGURATION OF POWER, LEGITIMACY, AND STRUCTURAL INEQUALITY WITHIN WHICH THESE POLICIES OPERATE. DRAWING UPON A COMPARATIVE CASE-STUDY METHODOLOGY AND A CRITICAL SYNTHESIS OF KEY THEORETICAL WORKS, THE ARTICLE REVISITS TERRENCE E. COOK'S TRIPARTITE FRAMEWORK – SEPARATION, ASSIMILATION, AND CONCILIATION – AS THE PRINCIPAL STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS OF INTERETHNIC GOVERNANCE. THE ANALYSIS REVEALS THAT SEPARATIST AND ASSIMILATIONIST POLICIES, ALTHOUGH HISTORICALLY PREVALENT, HAVE RECURRENTLY FAILED TO DELIVER DURABLE STABILITY. SEPARATION, WHETHER THROUGH SEGREGATION, EXPULSION, OR SECESSION, HAS OFTEN ENTRENCHED DIVISIONS AND REPRODUCED CYCLES OF FEAR AND RESENTMENT. ASSIMILATION, EVEN WHEN PRESENTED AS INTEGRATION, HAS TENDED TO PRIVILEGE DOMINANT CULTURES, SUPPRESS MINORITY IDENTITIES, AND PROVOKE COUNTER-MOBILISATION. BY CONTRAST, CONCILIATORY APPROACHES – BASED ON NEGOTIATION, INSTITUTIONAL PLURALISM, AND POWER-SHARING – OFFER MORE SUSTAINABLE, ALBEIT COMPLEX, MECHANISMS FOR MANAGING DIVERSITY. NEVERTHELESS, CONCILIATION ITSELF IS CONSTRAINED BY ELITE INTERESTS, PATH-DEPENDENT INSTITUTIONAL*

*LEGACIES, AND THE FRAGILITY OF LEGITIMACY IN DEEPLY DIVIDED SOCIETIES. FROM A THEORETICAL STANDPOINT, THE PAPER CONTRIBUTES TO THE REVITALISATION OF DEBATES ON ETHNICITY AND PUBLIC POLICY BY BRIDGING NORMATIVE PERSPECTIVES WITH EMPIRICALLY GROUNDED EVALUATIONS OF POLICY OUTCOMES. PRACTICALLY, IT HIGHLIGHTS THAT NO SINGLE MODEL GUARANTEES SUCCESS: INSTEAD, THE MANAGEMENT OF INTERETHNIC RELATIONS MUST BALANCE CULTURAL RECOGNITION WITH POLITICAL INCLUSION AND PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS. THE STUDY FURTHER NOTES THAT EUROPE'S RECENT RESURGENCE OF ETHNONATIONALIST RHETORIC UNDERSCORES THE ENDURING RELEVANCE OF THIS INQUIRY, PARTICULARLY AS REGIONAL AND SUPRANATIONAL INSTITUTIONS GRAPPLE WITH QUESTIONS OF AUTONOMY, MINORITY PROTECTION, AND CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN. ULTIMATELY, THE ARTICLE ARGUES THAT GENUINE PACIFICATION OF INTERETHNIC TENSIONS REQUIRES MORE THAN THE CODIFICATION OF RIGHTS – IT DEMANDS A CONTINUOUS RENEGOTIATION OF BELONGING WITHIN DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORKS THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE DIFFERENCE WITHOUT ERODING COHESION. BY REASSESSING THE COMPARATIVE EFFICACY AND ETHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF SEPARATION, ASSIMILATION, AND CONCILIATION, THIS RESEARCH OFFERS A NUANCED UNDERSTANDING OF HOW PUBLIC POLICIES CAN EITHER MITIGATE OR PERPETUATE EUROPE'S MOST PERSISTENT SOCIETAL FAULT LINES.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*ASSIMILATION, CONCILIATION, EUROPE, INTERETHNIC, MULTIETHNIC, POLICY, SEPARATION*

---

**Marin GHERMAN**

„Stefan cel Mare” University of Suceava, Romania

marin.gherman@usm.ro

## **FALSE NARRATIVES AND METANARRATIVES IN THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN WAR (2022–2025)**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE STUDY AIMS TO ANALYZE THE MAIN FALSE NARRATIVES AND METANARRATIVES EMPLOYED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN WAR BETWEEN 2022 AND 2025, WITHIN BOTH THE RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN MEDIA SPACES. BY EXAMINING THE FALSE NARRATIVES PROMOTED BY THE RUSSIAN PRESS, THE PAPER DESCRIBES THE DISCURSIVE MECHANISMS USED TO JUSTIFY THE WAR AND TO CONSTRUCT THE IMAGE OF AN EXTERNAL ENEMY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT OUTLINES THE STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY KYIV TO COUNTER INFORMATION ATTACKS AND STRENGTHEN ITS OWN NARRATIVE FRAMEWORK. THE ANALYSIS ALSO HIGHLIGHTS HOW ANTI-WESTERN NARRATIVES HAVE GRADUALLY MERGED WITH ANTI-UKRAINIAN ONES, FORMING A COHERENT SET OF PROPAGANDISTIC MESSAGES. THE PAPER SEEKS TO IDENTIFY THE DOMINANT TYPES OF NARRATIVES, THEIR POLITICAL FUNCTIONS, AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRIMARY NARRATIVES AND BROADER IDEOLOGICAL METANARRATIVES THAT STRUCTURE CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA DISCOURSE.*

---

### **KEY WORDS:**

*INFORMATION WARFARE; PROPAGANDA; DISINFORMATION; FALSE NARRATIVES; METANARRATIVES; RUSSO-UKRAINIAN WAR; POST-SOVIET MEDIA SPACE*

---

**Mankaa Neba SCOLASTIQUE**  
„Babes Bolyai” University of Cluj Napoca, Romania  
nebascolastique@gmail.com

## **CHINA’S STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT AS A ROADMAP TO CAMEROONIAN ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS STUDY REFINES THE DEBATE ON SINO–CAMEROON RELATIONS BY POSITIONING CHINESE INVOLVEMENT NOT AS A SOURCE OF INDEBTEDNESS, BUT AS A POTENTIAL FRAMEWORK FOR FOSTERING SELF-SUSTAINING GROWTH IN CAMEROON. DRAWING ON A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF ACADEMIC AND POLICY LITERATURE INCLUDING PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES WE IDENTIFY AND SYNTHESIZE EVIDENCE ON FIVE STRATEGIC PILLARS: INFRASTRUCTURE, TRADE DIVERSIFICATION, DEBT MANAGEMENT, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND GOVERNANCE REFORM. DATA EXTRACTION CAPTURED STUDY AIMS, METHODOLOGIES, MAIN FINDINGS, AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS. WE THEN CONDUCTED THEMATIC SYNTHESIS TO MAP HOW CHINESE PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FUNCTION AS BUILDING BLOCKS OR IMPEDIMENTS TO ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY. FINDINGS INDICATE THAT CHINA-FINANCED TRANSPORT CORRIDORS, PORT EXPANSIONS, AND POWER-GENERATION FACILITIES HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED LOGISTICAL BOTTLENECKS, LOWERED TRANSACTION COSTS, AND EXPANDED REGIONAL MARKET ACCESS. HOWEVER, RELIANCE ON RAW-MATERIAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WITHOUT CORRESPONDING DEVELOPMENT OF DOWNSTREAM PROCESSING HAS PERPETUATED PRIMARY-COMMODITY DEPENDENCE. PUBLIC DEBT LINKED TO CHINESE CONCESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL LOANS ROSE IN 2022, HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED FOR STRUCTURED DEBT-MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND MULTILATERAL REFINANCING MECHANISMS. CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES LIKE SCHOLARSHIPS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS HAVE IMPROVED HUMAN-CAPITAL METRICS BUT REMAIN PROJECT-BOUND AND UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED ACROSS REGIONS. GOVERNANCE REFORMS, INCLUDING PROCUREMENT TRANSPARENCY AND LOCAL CONTENT REQUIREMENTS OFTEN UNENFORCED, UNDERMINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DOMESTIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION. WE CONCLUDE THAT CHINA’S ENGAGEMENT OFFERS A COHERENT ROADMAP TOWARD CAMEROONIAN ECONOMIC*

*INDEPENDENCE ONLY IF IT IS REORIENTED THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE TRADE DIVERSIFICATION, DISCIPLINED DEBT MANAGEMENT, ROBUST CAPACITY-BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS, AND ENFORCEABLE GOVERNANCE SAFEGUARDS. NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE MADE ON MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FINANCING PACKAGES THAT BLEND CHINESE AND MULTILATERAL LOANS, MANDATE GRADUATED LOCAL-CONTENT QUOTAS, AND INSTITUTIONALIZE INDEPENDENT MONITORING MECHANISMS. SUCH AN INTEGRATED APPROACH CAN TRANSFORM SINO-CAMEROON COOPERATION FROM A CYCLE OF DEPENDENCY INTO A PATHWAY FOR SUSTAINED, SOVEREIGN DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.*

---

**KEY WORDS:**

*CHINA-CAMEROON PARTNERSHIP; ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE; STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE; CAPACITY BUILDING; DEBT MANAGEMENT*

---

**Mankaa Neba SCOLASTIQUE**  
„Babes Bolyai” University of Cluj Napoca, Romania  
nebascolastique@gmail.com

## **CHINA IN CAMEROON: NEO-COLONIALISM OR PARTNERSHIP**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*SINCE CAMEROON AND CHINA ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN 1971, CHINA'S ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT IN CAMEROON HAS PROVOKED INTENSE DEBATE OVER WHETHER IT AMOUNTS TO NEO-COLONIAL DOMINANCE OR REPRESENTS A GENUINE PARTNERSHIP. THIS STUDY SYSTEMATICALLY REVIEWS THE EVIDENCES ON CHINA–CAMEROON COOPERATION FROM 1971 THROUGH 2024, WITH THE GOAL OF SYNTHESIZING FINDINGS ON INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT, TRADE FLOWS, SOFT POWER INITIATIVES, AND GOVERNANCE IMPACTS. WE CONDUCT A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW FOLLOWING PRISMA GUIDELINES FROM ELECTRONIC DATABASES. DATABASES SUCH AS WEB OF SCIENCE, SCOPUS, JSTOR, AFRICAN JOURNALS ONLINE, AND PROQUEST DISSERTATIONS & THESES WERE SEARCHED FOR PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES, WORKING PAPERS, AND DISSERTATIONS PUBLISHED BETWEEN JANUARY 1971 AND MARCH 2024, USING KEYWORDS SUCH AS “CHINA AND CAMEROON,” “CHINESE INFRASTRUCTURE CAMEROON,” “FOCAC ” “CHINA-CAMEROON RELATION,” AND “CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE YAOUNDÉ.” FULL TEXTS OF STUDIES WERE ASSESSED, TO SELECT THOSE THAT MET QUALITY THRESHOLDS BASED ON AN ADAPTED CRITICAL APPRAISAL SKILLS PROGRAMME (CASP) CHECKLIST. DATA WERE EXTRACTED ON STUDY DESIGN, SECTORAL FOCUS, AND PRINCIPAL OUTCOMES AND A THEMATIC SYNTHESIS APPROACH GROUPED FINDINGS INTO CORE DOMAINS. ANALYSIS REVEALED THAT CHINESE-FINANCED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS HAVE IMPROVED REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY AND CONTRIBUTED TO GDP GROWTH. HOWEVER, THESE GAINS COEXIST WITH PERSISTENT TRADE IMBALANCES, CHARACTERIZED BY CAMEROONIAN EXPORTS OF RAW COMMODITIES OFFSET BY CHINESE IMPORTS OF LOW-COST MANUFACTURED GOODS, WHICH HAVE STIFLED EMERGING LOCAL INDUSTRIES. SOFT POWER EFFORTS MOST NOTABLY THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE IN YAOUNDÉ, CHINESE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE*

---

*PROGRAMS HAVE DEEPEINED EDUCATIONAL LINKS AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY BUT SPARKED CONCERNS ABOUT LABOR MARKET COMPETITION AND CULTURAL ASSIMILATION PRESSURES. GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED ACROSS STUDIES INCLUDE SHORTFALLS IN LOCAL HIRING AND TECHNICAL SKILL TRANSFER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION TIED TO RESOURCE-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. CHINA'S ENGAGEMENT IN CAMEROON IS NEITHER UNAMBIGUOUSLY NEO-COLONIAL NOR WHOLLY EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIP; IT EXHIBITS ELEMENTS OF BOTH. WHILE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES HAVE GENERATED TANGIBLE DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS, UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF GAINS, AND GOVERNANCE DEFICITS RISK ENTRENCHING DEPENDENCY. STRENGTHENING REGULATIONS ON LOCAL EMPLOYMENT QUOTAS, ENFORCING TRANSPARENT COMPETITIVE BIDDING, CONDUCTING ROBUST ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS, AND DIVERSIFYING FINANCING SOURCES COMBINING MULTILATERAL, CONCESSIONAL, AND PRIVATE CAPITAL ARE RECOMMENDED TO OPTIMIZE DEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOMES, SAFEGUARD FISCAL SOVEREIGNTY, AND FOSTER A MORE BALANCED SINO-CAMEROONIAN PARTNERSHIP.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*NEO-COLONIALISM, SINO-CAMEROON RELATIONS, PARTNERSHIP, INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT, POLITICAL ECONOMY*

---



---

## **MASS MEDIA, COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL REPRESENTATION**

---



**Paul-Alexandru GHERGHEL**  
*University of Bucharest, Romania*  
gherghelpal@gmail.com,

## **CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROMANIAN WORKER**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE SYSTEMIC TRANSITION THAT FOLLOWED THE POLITICAL CHANGE OF 1989 BROUGHT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO ROMANIAN SOCIETY IN TERMS OF STRUCTURE AND DISCOURSE, THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF A WESTERN NEOLIBERAL MODEL. THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW MODEL OF CITIZENSHIP THROUGH THE CULTIVATION AND REGIMENTATION OF A NEW SOCIAL STRATUM REPRESENTED BY THE MIDDLE CLASS AS A KEY CONSTITUENT ELEMENT HAS ALSO BROUGHT ABOUT CHANGES IN THE WAY ROMANIAN WORKERS ARE SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED. THE AIMS OF THIS RESEARCH ARE TO IDENTIFY AND GROUND THE CURRENT DOMINANT CONSTRUCTIVE DISCOURSE REGARDING THE REALITIES OF THE ROMANIAN WORKERS IN RELATION TO THE WIDER SYSTEM, SEEKING TO PROVIDE BOTH READERS AND FURTHER RESEARCH WITH AN ANCHOR POINT FOR ADDRESSING THE REALITY OF CONTEMPORARY NEOLIBERALISM IN ROMANIA. THE METHODOLOGY CONSISTS OF A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE CONTENT OF OVER 70 PRESS ARTICLES FROM VARIOUS ONLINE NEWSPAPERS CHOSEN ON A BASIS OF THEIR REACH AND RELATIVELY POSITIVE IMAGE, WITH A DATE RANGING BETWEEN 2024-2025 AND THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR EMPLOYMENT 2021-2027 DEVELOPED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR. THE RESEARCH IDENTIFIES THE EMERGENCE OF TWO DIFFERENT IMAGES OF THE ROMANIAN WORKER, ONE "IDEAL" REPRESENTED BY NEW WAVES IN THE WORKFORCE FORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOMINANT VISION OF DEVELOPMENT AT THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ONE "REAL" CONSISTING OF THE ALREADY ACTIVE POPULATION AND THE CONSTRAINTS IT CURRENTLY SUFFERS. THE JUXTAPOSITION OF THESE DISTINCT IMAGES IN PUBLIC COMMUNICATION BRINGS TO THE FORE THE CONCEPTS OF RESILIENCE AND TEMPORALITY, WHICH ARE DOMINANT CONCEPTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORKER AS A NON-DISRUPTIVE PART OF THE PROCESS OF BUILDING ROMANIA AS A EUROPEAN STATE.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION, MASS-MEDIA, NEOLIBERALISM, WORKERS, REPRESENTATION OF WORKERS*

---

**Oana-Andreea NEAGU**

„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Romania

neagu\_oa@yahoo.com

## **SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE TYPES AND PHASES OF SOCIAL FEAR MANIFESTATION**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*ALTHOUGH, TRADITIONALLY, FEAR IS STUDIED FROM A PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE, AS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN EMOTION, AN INCREASED SOCIOLOGICAL INTEREST HAS INTERVENED IN RECENT YEARS, RECOGNISING ITS MAJOR EMPIRICAL AND THEORETICAL ROLE IN UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY. THIS SUMMARY EXPLORES FEAR NOT ONLY AS AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHO-SOCIAL PHENOMENON, BUT AS A COMPLEX SOCIAL CONSTRUCT, DEEPLY SHAPED BY HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ALTHOUGH PSYCHOLOGICAL INDIVIDUAL FACTORS PLAY A ROLE IN THE EMERGENCE OF THIS EMOTION, THE SOCIO-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT CONSTRUCTS AND MEDIATES ITS EXPRESSION AND IMPACT IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY. THE DIFFERENT TYPES AND STAGES OF FEAR SHOW UP AS BROAD RULES THAT DIRECT PERCEPTION AND BEHAVIOR, INFLUENCING HOW PEOPLE REACT TO PERCEIVED DANGERS. BECAUSE FEAR IS A COMPONENT OF BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE AND IS INTRICATELY LINKED TO SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND PRACTICES, THIS WORK SUPPORTS A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF FEAR. THIS NECESSITATES EXAMINING THE WAYS IN WHICH SOCIETAL CIRCUMSTANCES, CULTURAL NARRATIVES, AND POWER RELATIONSHIPS INFLUENCE HOW FEAR IS PERCEIVED, EXPERIENCED, AND EXPRESSED. MOVING AWAY FROM TRADITIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO FRAME FEAR AS A SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED PHENOMENON, THIS RESEARCH EXAMINES THE STAGES OF FEAR, CATEGORIZING THEM ACCORDING TO THEIR INTENSITY AND ANALYZING THEIR VARIOUS SOCIAL MANIFESTATIONS. THIS STUDY AIMS TO SYSTEMATICALLY DEFINE THE VARIOUS STAGES OF FEAR, RANGING FROM DIFFUSE WORRY TO ACUTE PANIC, AND TO EXAMINE HOW THESE STAGES ARE INFLUENCED BY SOCIAL FACTORS AND SHOW UP IN OBSERVABLE SOCIAL BEHAVIORS. SOCIAL FEARS BECOME ACTUAL SOCIAL FORCES THAT INFLUENCE THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND EVEN INSTITUTIONS. THIS ANALYSIS*

*OUTLINES A TYPOLOGY BASED ON INTENSITY, TEMPORALITY, DIRECTION, AND FUNCTION THAT CAN SERVE AS A FOUNDATION FOR BOTH EMPIRICAL RESEARCH AND THEORETICAL ADVANCEMENTS IN UNDERSTANDING THE PHENOMENON.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*SOCIAL FEARS, STAGES OF MANIFESTATIONS, PERCEPTION, CULTURAL NARRATIVES*

---

**Claudiu STEFANI**  
*1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania*  
claudiu.stefani@uab.ro

**THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMS ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF AUTHORITY: BETWEEN DIGITAL VALIDATION AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTESTATION.**

---

**ABSTRACT**

*THIS STUDY AIMED TO INVESTIGATE THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMS ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF AUTHORITY. THE TOPIC IS HIGHLY RELEVANT IN THE CONTEXT OF DECLINING TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS, INCREASING SOCIAL POLARIZATION, AND THE GROWING IMPACT OF DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTS ON OPINION FORMATION AND CIVIC BEHAVIOR. THE RESEARCH SOUGHT TO ANALYZE HOW SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMS SHAPE THE VISIBILITY AND VALIDATION OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF AUTHORITY, AND HOW THESE MECHANISMS INFLUENCE YOUNG PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES TOWARD INSTITUTIONAL AND INFORMAL AUTHORITY. THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED ON A SAMPLE OF 43 YOUNG INDIVIDUALS AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 24 FROM ABRUD, ALBA COUNTY, ROMANIA, INCLUDING BOTH HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, SELECTED THROUGH PURPOSEFUL SAMPLING. THE RESEARCH METHOD USED WAS THE SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW, WHICH ALLOWED FOR AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF PERCEPTIONS, EXPERIENCES, AND ATTITUDES REGARDING AUTHORITY AND ALGORITHMIC INFLUENCE. THE FINDINGS REVEAL THAT YOUNG PEOPLE EXHIBIT SELECTIVE TRUST TOWARD TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS, FAVORING FORMS OF AUTHORITY BASED ON TRANSPARENCY AND JUSTIFICATION. IN CONTRAST, INFLUENCERS AND CONTENT CREATORS ARE PERCEIVED AS LEGITIMATE SOURCES OF INFORMAL AUTHORITY DUE TO THEIR AUTHENTICITY, CLARITY, AND ALIGNMENT WITH PERSONAL VALUES. SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN SHAPING PERCEPTIONS AND NORMS, FACILITATING BOTH THE DISCOVERY OF RELEVANT CONTENT AND THE FORMATION OF ECHO CHAMBERS.*

---

**KEY WORDS:**

*SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMS, INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY, INFORMAL AUTHORITY*

---

---

## **RESEARCH AND THE IMPACT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

---



**Violeta PUȘCAȘU**

„Dunărea De Jos” University of Galați, Romania  
violeta.puscasu@ugal.ro

**Valentina CORNEA**

„Dunărea De Jos” University of Galați, Romania  
valentina.cornea@ugal.ro

---

## **ADULT EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING IN ROMANIA’S TRANSITION TO THE THIRD AGE: EVIDENCE AND GAPS IN RESEARCH**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE RAPID DEMOGRAPHIC AGEING OF ROMANIA’S POPULATION HIGHLIGHTS THE URGENT NEED TO STRENGTHEN ADULT EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING AS ESSENTIAL MECHANISMS FOR FACILITATING AN ACTIVE AND BALANCED TRANSITION INTO THE THIRD AGE. THIS STUDY PROVIDES A SYSTEMATIC AND CRITICAL SYNTHESIS OF EXISTING ROMANIAN RESEARCH ON ADULT EDUCATION AND LEARNING, AIMING TO CONSTRUCT A COHERENT OVERVIEW OF THE DOMINANT THEORETICAL, METHODOLOGICAL, AND EMPIRICAL ORIENTATIONS IN THE FIELD. A RIGOROUS METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK WAS APPLIED TO IDENTIFY AND ANALYSE NATIONAL STUDIES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAKING A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN EDUCATION—AN ORGANIZED, INSTITUTIONALIZED PROCESS ORIENTED TOWARD FORMAL OBJECTIVES—AND LEARNING, UNDERSTOOD AS A CONTINUOUS, SELF-DIRECTED PROCESS INTEGRATED INTO THE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL EXPERIENCES OF ADULTS. THE FINDINGS REVEAL A PREDOMINANT FOCUS ON FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS, WHILE INFORMAL LEARNING, SELF-DIRECTED DEVELOPMENT, AND PREPARATION FOR LATER LIFE REMAIN INSUFFICIENTLY EXPLORED. CONCEPTUAL AMBIGUITIES IN DIFFERENTIATING EDUCATION FROM LEARNING ALSO LIMIT THE CURRENT RESEARCH’S ABILITY TO UNDERPIN EFFECTIVE LIFELONG LEARNING STRATEGIES. THE STUDY EMPHASIZES THE NECESSITY OF AN INTEGRATED, EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH, THE EXPANSION OF EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATIONS, AND THE FORMULATION OF COHERENT EDUCATIONAL POLICIES THAT PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING AS A FUNDAMENTAL CONDITION FOR ACTIVE AGEING, WELL-BEING, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN ROMANIAN SOCIETY. THESE PERSPECTIVES PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR BOTH RESEARCHERS AND POLICYMAKERS TO ADVANCE RESEARCH AND PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION AND LEARNING FOR THE THIRD AGE.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*RESEARCH; EDUCATION; LEARNING; THIRD AGE*

---

**Carmen PALAGHIA**  
*„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Romania*  
carmen.palaghia@uaic.ro

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING – A SOCIAL MALADY**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A SERIOUS, EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND WELL-ORGANIZED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY THAT VIOLATES THE RIGHT TO LIBERTY, SECURITY, AND THE RIGHT TO LIFE OF HUMAN BEINGS AND INVOLVES PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND THEN PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL COERCION OF THE VICTIMS. ACCORDING TO EUROSTAT, OVER 7,000 VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ARE REGISTERED IN THE EUROPEAN UNION EVERY YEAR, BUT THE REAL FIGURE IS MOST LIKELY MUCH HIGHER, AS MANY VICTIMS REMAIN UNREPORTED. AT EUROPEAN LEVEL, THE MAJORITY OF VICTIMS ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS, BUT THE NUMBER OF MEN IS ALSO INCREASING, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF FORCED LABOR EXPLOITATION. THE REAL DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING REMAIN UNKNOWN, AS IT IS AN OBSCURE PHENOMENON AND DISGUISED AS APPARENTLY LEGAL ACTIVITIES. IT IS A SOCIAL PROBLEM OF EXTREME GRAVITY, WHICH HAS RECENTLY EXPERIENCED AN ALARMING INCREASE AND WHICH HAS TRANSFORMED INTO A GLOBAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, WHICH PRODUCES MILLIONS OF HUMAN TRAGEDIES. IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ALL THE ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE ACCORDING TO AN EXTREMELY WELL-CALCULATED PATTERN AND WE WITNESS PARADOXICAL SITUATIONS IN WHICH GIRLS ASSUME THEIR ROLE, ACCEPT COLLABORATION WITH TRAFFICKERS, GAIN THEIR TRUST, BEGIN TO BE REWARDED BY THEM AND OBTAIN FAVORS. THEY THUS BECOME MEMBERS OF CRIMINAL GROUPS AND CAN END UP TAKING OVER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OR EVEN TAKING CARE OF THE ORGANIZATION AND PROPER FUNCTIONING OF THE TRAFFICKING ACTIVITY, PERFECTING IT, SINCE THEY KNOW WELL THE SITUATION OF THE VICTIM, AND THEREFORE THE POSSIBLE POSSIBILITIES OF ESCAPING FROM THE DOMINATION OF THE EXPLOITERS; PRACTICALLY THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED THE "NIGHTMARE THAT FUNDAMENTALLY TRANSFORMED THEIR STRUCTURE", TURN INTO RESOURCES OF CRIMINAL GROUPS.*

---

### **KEY WORDS:**

*HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ORGANIZED CRIME, VICTIMS, SOCIAL PROBLEM*

---

**Carmen PALAGHIA**

„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Romania  
carmen.palaghia@uaic.ro

## **SOCIAL WORK AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*CURRENTLY, THE RESEARCH REVEALS THAT ROMANIA IS A COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, BUT ALSO DESTINATION FOR THE LARGE HUMAN TRAFFIC NETWORKS THAT EXPORT VICTIMS AND RECRUITERS ALIKE, AND THE UNCERTAIN STATISTICAL DATA AND GAPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK REPRESENT ONLY A PART OF THE FACTORS THAT FAVOR THE EXPANSION OF THE PHENOMENON. THE INCLUSION OF VICTIMS IN EXISTING SUPPORT PROGRAMMES IS A PROCESS BASED BOTH ON THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT BY SPECIALISTS AND ON THE DECISION OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS TO ACCEPT THOSE SERVICES. THERE ARE SITUATIONS IN WHICH VICTIMS REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL PROTECTION, BUT AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME THEY RECONNECT WITH SPECIALISTS FROM THE REGIONAL CENTERS OF THE NATIONAL AGENCY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND AGREE TO REFER TO AND INCLUDE THEM IN SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, SUCH AS: PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING, FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT, PROVIDING SHELTER AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ARE TRAUMATISED PEOPLE WHO REMAIN EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO TRAFFICKERS. THE INTERVENTION OF THE PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER MUST BE PROMPT BECAUSE, AS THE MAIN AGENT OF THE INTERVENTION, HE MUST COORDINATE WITH CELERITY AND EFFICIENCY THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM, HE HAS PERMANENT AND DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE VICTIMS, FOLLOWING PRIMARILY THEIR SECURITY, MEDIATES THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM AND THE REFERENCE PERSONS, MAKES DECISIONS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS, PERMANENTLY CHECKING AND UPDATING THE NEEDS OF THE SURVIVING VICTIMS OF SUCH TRAUMATIC EVENTS.*

### **KEY WORDS:**

*SOCIAL WORK, VICTIMS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING*

---

**Carmen PALAGHIA**

„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Romania

carmen.palaghia@uaic.ro

## **THE AGGRESSOR-VICTIM DYNAMIC IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

---

### **Abstract:**

*THE GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2022 REPRESENT THE LARGEST EXISTING DATASET ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, WITH INFORMATION ON MORE THAN 450,000 VICTIMS AND 300,000 (SUSPECTED) DETECTED WORLDWIDE BETWEEN 2003 AND 2021. THE DYNAMICS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ARE CHANGING; IT IS BECOMING AN INCREASINGLY GLOBAL AND TRANSNATIONAL PHENOMENON, WITH MORE NATIONALITIES AND MORE COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION DETECTED THAN BEFORE. THE GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2024 REVEALS THAT AFTER A MARKED DECREASE IN THE DETECTION OF VICTIMS DURING THE COVID -19 PANDEMIC, THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS DETECTED GLOBALLY IN 2022 INCREASED SHARPLY AGAIN AND EVEN SURPASSED PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS, RISING BY 25% COMPARED TO 2019. THIS MAY PARTLY BE A REFLECTION OF IMPROVED DETECTION CAPACITY, BUT IT IS LIKELY ALSO A REFLECTION OF THE FRAGILITY WE SEE IN EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE: AS CLIMATE DISASTERS, CONFLICTS, AND DISPLACEMENT CONVERGE AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES CASCADE, VULNERABILITIES ARE GROWING AND SOME OF THE PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF THOSE CRISES ARE PUSHED DIRECTLY INTO TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION, OTHERS ARE LEFT WITHOUT HOMES AND PROSPECTS AND AT HUGE RISK OF TRAFFICKING, WHILE OTHERS STILL ARE EXPOSED DUE TO STRUCTURAL RISKS CREATED BY BY LOW INCOMES AND INSECURITY. **HUMAN TRAFFICKING** IS A CRIMINAL ACTIVITY THROUGH WHICH LARGE PROFITS ARE MADE WITH LOW RISKS, CAUSING SEVERE EFFECTS ON THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF ITS VICTIMS. WE ANALYZE DEVASTATING MANIPULATION TECHNIQUES USED BY UNSCRUPULOUS TRAFFICKERS TO KEEP THE VICTIM IN EXPLOITATION*

FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, SUCH AS FACILITATING ADDICTION TO ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND **GASLIGHTING**. THE VICTIM DEVELOPS **STOCKHOLM SYNDROME, TRAUMA BONDING**, A KIND OF COMPLICITY SYNDROME INTO WHICH THE AGGRESSOR DRAWS HER. SHE BECOMES CONVINCED THAT SHE IS LOVED, HIS ONLY ALLY, CONFIDANT, AND TRUSTWORTHY PERSON, WHO CANNOT LEAVE HIM "IN DIFFICULTY," EVEN WHEN EVERYONE ELSE IS AGAINST HIM. THERE ARE SITUATIONS IN WHICH THERE IS A VERY FINE LINE BETWEEN PRIVATE LIFE AND CRIME, AND SPECIALISTS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS ARE ALMOST UNABLE TO INTERVENE. **THE MAIN CONCLUSION IS THAT THE PHENOMENON OF TRAFFICKING IN GIRLS AND WOMEN IS STARTING TO BECOME INVISIBLE**, AND VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAN APPEAR IN STATISTICS AS VICTIMS OF **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**, AND SOMETIMES EVEN OF **FEMICIDE**.

---

**KEYWORDS:**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AGGRESSORS, VICTIMS, TRAUMA BONDING, GASSLIGTING, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, FEMICIDE.

---

**Edi BESERMAN**  
*Făgăraș Research Institute*  
edibeserman@gmail.com

## **THE SOCIAL LIFE OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS AFTER THE INTERVENTIONS OF THE AMBULANCE FOR MONUMENTS: FROM SAFEGUARDING TO COMMUNITY VALORIZATION**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*MANY OF ROMANIA'S HISTORIC MONUMENTS ARE IN AN ADVANCED STATE OF DEGRADATION, ENDANGERING BOTH THE CULTURE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND, AT TIMES, PEOPLE'S LIVES. THE LACK OF INTEREST, RESOURCES, OR EXPERTISE FROM AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITIES GENERALLY CONTRIBUTES TO THIS SITUATION, AND HISTORIC MONUMENTS BECOME RUINS WITHOUT THEIR VALUE BEING RECOGNIZED. THE AMBULANCE FOR MONUMENTS, A PROJECT OF THE MONUMENTUM ASSOCIATION, AIMS TO SAFEGUARD SOME OF THESE MONUMENTS THROUGH THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF COMMUNITIES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, NATIONAL AND LOCAL SPONSORS, AND AN ACTIVE NETWORK OF VOLUNTEERS. IN THIS PAPER, WE ANALYZE WHAT HAPPENS WITHIN COMMUNITIES AFTER THE AMBULANCE FOR MONUMENTS COMPLETES THESE INTERVENTIONS. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE AIM TO SHOW THE WAYS IN WHICH COMMUNITIES MANAGE TO VALORIZE HERITAGE BUILDINGS ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN MADE SAFE. USING BOTH QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE METHODS, WE HIGHLIGHT HOW MANY OF THE MONUMENTS CAN HOST VARIOUS CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ONCE AGAIN BECOME TOURIST ATTRACTIONS.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*AMBULANCE FOR MONUMENTS, CULTURAL HERITAGE, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, SAFEGUARDING HISTORIC MONUMENTS*

---

**Viorica Mariana NEDEL**  
*„Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad, Romania*  
vioricastirbnedel@yahoo.com  
**Remus RUNCAN**  
*„Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad, Romania*

## **ETHICAL CHALLENGES IN THE INTERACTION BETWEEN SOCIAL WORKERS AND BENEFICIARIES: PERSPECTIVES AND SOLUTIONS**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL WORKERS AND BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SERVICES IS GROUNDED IN ETHICAL VALUES SUCH AS RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY, CONFIDENTIALITY, AND SELF-DETERMINATION. HOWEVER, IN PRACTICE, SITUATIONS FREQUENTLY ARISE THAT GENERATE COMPLEX ETHICAL DILEMMAS, REQUIRING BALANCED DECISIONS BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF BENEFICIARIES. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE MAIN ETHICAL CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED IN DIRECT INTERACTION WITH BENEFICIARIES, SUCH AS MANAGING SENSITIVE INFORMATION, ESTABLISHING PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES, RESPECTING AUTONOMY IN CONTEXTS OF VULNERABILITY, AND NAVIGATING INSTITUTIONAL OR CULTURAL PRESSURES. BASED ON A THEORETICAL ANALYSIS AND PRACTICE-BASED EXAMPLES, THE ARTICLE PRESENTS SOLUTIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR ETHICAL INTERVENTION, INCLUDING THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPERVISION, CONSULTING PROFESSIONAL ETHICS CODES, AND DEVELOPING REFLEXIVE SKILLS. THE ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR CONTINUOUS TRAINING AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TO ENABLE SOCIAL WORKERS TO MANAGE RELATIONSHIPS WITH BENEFICIARIES ETHICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO THE STRENGTHENING OF PROFESSIONALISM AND TRUST IN SOCIAL SERVICES.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*ETHICAL DILEMMAS, SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP, CONFIDENTIALITY, SUPERVISION*

---

**Dorota SZABAN**  
*University of Zielona Gora, Poland*  
d.szaban@is.uz.zgora.pl

## **MEASURING THE DEMOGRAPHIC ATTRACTIVENESS OF PLACES: A NEW APPROACH TO ANALYZING POPULATION CHANGE IN POLAND**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE AIM OF THE PRESENTATION IS TO INTRODUCE AN ORIGINAL PROPOSAL OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC ATTRACTIVENESS INDEX (DAI) — A SYNTHETIC MEASURE DESIGNED TO ASSESS AND INTERPRET THE POPULATION POTENTIAL OF POLISH MUNICIPALITIES. THE INDEX CAPTURES DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES SUCH AS DEPOPULATION, AGEING AND MIGRATION, LINKING THEM WITH SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SPATIAL DIMENSIONS OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT. BASED ON DATA FROM STATISTICS POLAND (GUS), IT COMBINES INDICATORS RELATED TO MIGRATION BALANCE, NATURAL INCREASE AND POPULATION STRUCTURE INTO A NORMALIZED COMPOSITE MEASURE. THE CONCEPT DRAWS ON THE IDEA OF PLACE CAPITAL — A COMBINATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES THAT SHAPE PEOPLE'S ATTACHMENT TO AND PERCEPTION OF A PLACE. IN THIS PERSPECTIVE, DEMOGRAPHIC ATTRACTIVENESS REFLECTS THE SOCIAL QUALITY OF SPACE AND THE CAPACITY OF TERRITORIES TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN INHABITANTS. THE DAI OFFERS A USEFUL ANALYTICAL AND PLANNING TOOL FOR DIAGNOSING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL AND DESIGNING EVIDENCE-BASED URBAN AND REGIONAL POLICIES RESPONSIVE TO CONTEMPORARY DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES.*

---

### **KEY WORDS:**

*DEMOGRAPHY, AGEING SOCIETY, DEPOPULATION, SOCIAL INDEX*

---

**Andreea Cătălina FORTU**  
*National Administration of Penitentiaries, Romania*  
andreea\_catallina@yahoo.com;

---

## **PERSONALITY DISORDERS IN DETENTION: APPLIED RESEARCH AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*PERSONALITY DISORDERS CONSTITUTE CRITICAL RISK FACTORS INFLUENCING MALADAPTIVE BEHAVIORS, LOW LEVEL OF IMPULSE CONTROL AND DIFFICULTIES IN ADJUSTMENT WITHIN PENITENTIARY ENVIRONMENTS. UNDERSTANDING HOW THESE DISORDERS RELATE TO PATTERNS OF MISCONDUCT, COMPLIANCE, AND PARTICIPATION IN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS IS ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING EVIDENCE-BASED CORRECTIONAL POLICIES AND INDIVIDUALIZED PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS. THE PRESENT APPLIED STUDY AIMS TO EXAMINE THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PERSONALITY DISORDERS, TYPE OF OFFENSE, AND THE LEVEL OF INSTITUTIONAL ADAPTATION AMONG INMATES FROM THE BUCHAREST–JILAVA PENITENTIARY. THE STUDY EMPLOYED A QUANTITATIVE, CORRELATIONAL RESEARCH DESIGN USING A SAMPLE OF 83 INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS, ALL EVALUATED DURING THE STANDARD PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FACILITY. TO IDENTIFY PERSONALITY DISORDERS, THE STRUCTURED CLINICAL INTERVIEW FOR DSM-5 PERSONALITY DISORDERS (SCID-5-PD) WAS ADMINISTERED BY TRAINED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS. ADDITIONAL DATA REGARDING THE INMATES' BEHAVIORAL FUNCTIONING—SUCH AS THE FREQUENCY OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS, NUMBER OF REWARDS, AND PARTICIPATION IN PSYCHOSOCIAL ACTIVITIES—WERE OBTAINED THROUGH THE ANALYSIS OF PENITENTIARY RECORDS, ENSURING AN OBJECTIVE AND TRIANGULATED DATA SOURCE. THE FINDINGS INDICATE SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE CORRELATIONS BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF DIAGNOSED PERSONALITY DISORDERS AND THE FREQUENCY OF DISCIPLINARY MEASURES, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF CLUSTER B PATHOLOGIES (E.G., ANTISOCIAL, BORDERLINE, NARCISSISTIC TRAITS). INDIVIDUALS WITH MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER FEATURES EXHIBITED HIGHER BEHAVIORAL INSTABILITY, LIMITED FRUSTRATION TOLERANCE, AND INCREASED RULE-BREAKING BEHAVIORS. CONVERSELY, NEGATIVE CORRELATIONS EMERGED BETWEEN PERSONALITY DISORDERS AND ADAPTIVE INDICATORS, SUCH*

AS ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATIONAL, VOCATIONAL, OR THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS THE FREQUENCY OF INSTITUTIONAL REWARDS. THESE RESULTS SUGGEST THAT INMATES WITH PRONOUNCED PERSONALITY PATHOLOGY FACE CONSIDERABLE CHALLENGES IN BENEFITING FROM REHABILITATIVE OPPORTUNITIES AND MAINTAINING CONSISTENT PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR WITHIN THE CORRECTIONAL SETTING. THE STUDY'S OUTCOMES EMPHASIZE THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF COMPREHENSIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, PARTICULARLY DURING INTAKE AND PERIODIC RE-EVALUATIONS. EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONALITY DISORDERS ALLOWS CORRECTIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS TO DESIGN INDIVIDUALIZED INTERVENTION PLANS, INTEGRATING ELEMENTS OF COGNITIVE-BEHAVIORAL THERAPY, EMOTIONAL REGULATION STRATEGIES AND STRUCTURED SKILLS TRAINING TAILORED TO THE SPECIFIC PERSONALITY CONFIGURATION OF EACH INMATE. SUCH INTERVENTIONS HOLD PROMISE FOR IMPROVING BEHAVIORAL SELF-MANAGEMENT, REDUCING AGGRESSIVE OR IMPULSIVE INCIDENTS, AND ENHANCING MOTIVATION FOR TREATMENT PARTICIPATION. FURTHERMORE, THE IMPLICATIONS EXTEND BEYOND PENITENTIARY PSYCHOLOGY. FINDINGS PROVIDE RELEVANT INSIGHTS FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT CONCERNING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND RECIDIVISM REDUCTION. ADDRESSING PERSONALITY PATHOLOGY IN A TARGETED AND SYSTEMATIC MANNER CAN CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING INMATES' COPING RESOURCES, IMPROVING POST-RELEASE ADJUSTMENT, AND ULTIMATELY REDUCING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH REOFFENDING. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE STUDY UNDERSCORES THE VALUE OF INTEGRATING CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE WITH INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE REHABILITATION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*PERSONALITY DISORDERS, PSYCHOLOGICAL ADAPTATION, DETENTION, REHABILITATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT*

---

**Lucian BIRU**

*Jilava Penitentiary, Bucharest, Romania*

*biru.luc@gmail.com*

---

**FROM BURNOUT TO RESILIENCE: THEORETICAL  
AND PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES  
IN PENITENTIARY SOCIAL WORK**

---

**ABSTRACT:**

*THE STUDY “FROM BURNOUT TO RESILIENCE: THEORETICAL AND PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES IN PENITENTIARY SOCIAL WORK” EXPLORES THE COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OCCUPATIONAL STRESS, PROFESSIONAL BURNOUT, AND COPING STRATEGIES AMONG SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE PENITENTIARY SYSTEM. WORKING IN A RESTRICTIVE INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERIZED BY EMOTIONAL OVERLOAD, LIMITED AUTONOMY, AND BUREAUCRATIC PRESSURES, PENITENTIARY SOCIAL WORKERS FACE HEIGHTENED RISKS OF BURNOUT AND PROFESSIONAL EXHAUSTION. THE RESEARCH SAMPLE CONSISTED OF TEN SOCIAL WORKERS FROM THE BUCHAREST–JILAVA PENITENTIARY (2 MEN AND 8 WOMEN). TWO INTERNATIONALLY VALIDATED INSTRUMENTS WERE APPLIED: THE MASLACH BURNOUT INVENTORY – GENERAL SURVEY (MBI–GS) FOR ASSESSING EMOTIONAL EXHAUSTION, CYNICISM, AND PROFESSIONAL EFFICACY, AND THE COPE QUESTIONNAIRE, WHICH EVALUATES COGNITIVE, BEHAVIORAL, AND EMOTIONAL COPING STRATEGIES. FINDINGS AIM TO IDENTIFY CORRELATIONS BETWEEN BURNOUT DIMENSIONS AND COPING STRATEGIES, EMPHASIZING THEIR ROLE IN FOSTERING PROFESSIONAL RESILIENCE. THIS STUDY CONTRIBUTES TO UNDERSTANDING THE PSYCHOSOCIAL MECHANISMS THAT SUPPORT ADAPTATION AND EMOTIONAL STABILITY IN CORRECTIONAL SOCIAL WORK, WHILE OFFERING PRACTICAL DIRECTIONS FOR INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT, PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, AND RESILIENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*BURNOUT, RESILIENCE, COPING, PENITENTIARY SOCIAL WORK, OCCUPATIONAL STRESS*

---

**Cristina Amalia DÂMBU**

*Research Institute for Quality of Life, (România)*

*cristina.dambu@iccv.ro*

**Simona STĂNESCU**

*Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian*

*simona\_vonica@yahoo.com*

## **A SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO PATIENT SAFETY IN ROMANIAN HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE AIM OF THIS STUDY IS TO EXPLORE HOW PATIENT SAFETY IS ADDRESSED BY HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN ROMANIA AND TO DEVELOP A SYSTEMIC FRAMEWORK THAT INTEGRATES SOLUTIONS AND METHODS FOR IMPROVING SAFETY PRACTICES IN MEDICAL FACILITIES. PATIENT SAFETY, AS DEFINED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, REFERS TO MINIMIZING UNNECESSARY HEALTHCARE-RELATED RISKS TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL, CONSIDERING AVAILABLE KNOWLEDGE, RESOURCES, AND CONTEXT. IT IS FUNDAMENTALLY THE PATIENT'S RIGHT TO AVOID PREVENTABLE HARM, INCLUDING HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS, MEDICAL ERRORS, AND RISKS STEMMING FROM INFRASTRUCTURE OR EQUIPMENT. GIVEN THE COMPLEXITY OF PATIENT SAFETY, A LINEAR APPROACH IS INSUFFICIENT TO CAPTURE THE INTERPLAY OF INFLUENCING FACTORS. A SYSTEMIC PERSPECTIVE IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL TO IDENTIFY CONNECTIONS AND KEY DRIVERS THAT CAN ENHANCE SAFETY OUTCOMES. WHILE PATIENT SAFETY IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED AT THE EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL LEVELS AS A CRITICAL ASPECT OF MEDICAL PRACTICE, RESEARCH ON THIS TOPIC REMAINS LIMITED IN ROMANIA. THIS STUDY SEEKS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE KNOWLEDGE BASE BY IDENTIFYING THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FACTORS AFFECTING PATIENT SAFETY IN ROMANIAN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES AND BY PROPOSING A GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF SOLUTIONS AND METHODS. SUCH A FRAMEWORK MAY SERVE AS A FOUNDATION FOR ADAPTING PATIENT SAFETY STRATEGIES TO THE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL UNITS.*

### **KEYWORDS:**

*PATIENT SAFETY, WELL-BEING, HEALTH POLICIES, SOCIAL POLICIES, QUALITY OF LIFE*

---

**Ioan Mihail DAN**

*"1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Romania*  
dan.mihail@uab.ro

## **DIVORCE AND FAMILY TRANSFORMATIONS IN ROMANIA: THE IMPACT ON SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND COMMUNITY COHESION**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE STUDY AIMS TO ANALYZE DIVORCE TRENDS IN ROMANIA OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENTS IN BIRTH RATES, MORTALITY, AND NEGATIVE NATURAL GROWTH. THE RESEARCH EXAMINES HOW FAMILY TRANSFORMATIONS, GENERATED BY THE INCREASE IN DIVORCE RATES, INTERSECT WITH MACROPOPULATION DYNAMICS AND IMPACT COMMUNITY COHESION.*

*METHODOLOGY: THE ANALYSIS USES STATISTICAL DATA FROM NATIONAL CENSUSES, AS WELL AS DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS. THE STUDY APPLIES COMPARATIVE AND LONGITUDINAL METHODS, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF CORRELATING DIVORCE RATES WITH DECLINING BIRTH RATES, RISING MORTALITY, AND THE DEEPENING OF NEGATIVE NATURAL GROWTH. REGIONAL DIFFERENCES AND URBAN–RURAL VARIATIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED. THE DATA SHOW THAT DIVORCE RATES HAVE INCREASED STEADILY DURING THE ANALYZED PERIOD, BEING MORE PRONOUNCED IN URBAN AREAS AND IN ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED REGIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, BIRTH RATES HAVE EXPERIENCED A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE, MORTALITY HAS REMAINED HIGH, AND NEGATIVE NATURAL GROWTH HAS DEEPENED, ACCENTUATING DEMOGRAPHIC DECLINE. DIVORCES CONTRIBUTE TO THE RISE OF SINGLE-PARENT AND RECONSTITUTED FAMILIES, WHILE FAMILY INSTABILITY CORRELATES WITH DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES. AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL, DIVORCE WEAKENS SOCIAL COHESION, ALTHOUGH INFORMAL SUPPORT NETWORKS AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES CAN PARTIALLY OFFSET THESE EFFECTS.*

*CONCLUSIONS: DIVORCE, CORRELATED WITH LOW BIRTH RATES, HIGH MORTALITY, AND NEGATIVE NATURAL GROWTH, REPRESENTS A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR THE POPULATION SUSTAINABILITY OF ROMANIA. PUBLIC POLICIES MUST INTEGRATE FAMILY SUPPORT MEASURES, INCENTIVES FOR INCREASING BIRTH RATES, AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SOLIDARITY.*

---

### **KEYWORDS**

*DIVORCE RATE; BIRTH RATE; MORTALITY; NEGATIVE NATURAL GROWTH; FAMILY; COMMUNITY COHESION; PUBLIC POLICIES*

---

**Geta MITREA**  
„Stefan cel Mare” University of Suceava, Romania  
geta.mitrea@usv.ro

## **TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES AND VULNERABLE CHILDHOODS: EFFECTS OF PARENTAL MIGRATION AND THE RESPONSE OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, MIGRATION HAS REPRESENTED THE MOVEMENT OF POPULATIONS FROM SOME AREAS TO OTHERS IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES. NOWADAYS, PARENTS FROM ROMANIA HAVE EMIGRATED TO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN EUROPE, AND THIS PHENOMENON HAS LED TO THE EMERGENCE OF THE VULNERABLE CATEGORY OF CHILDREN LEFT „HOME ALONE” IN THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. IN THE SAME TIME TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES HAVE EMERGED AS A NEW TYPE OF FAMILY FOR ROMANIAN EMIGRANTS. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY WAS TO IDENTIFY THE RESPONSE PROVIDED BY SOCIAL SERVICES AND RELATED DOMAINS SPECIALISTS SUCH AS: TEACHING STAFF, PSYCHOLOGISTS, MEDICAL PERSONNEL, POLICE OFFICERS, SCHOOL COUNSELORS. THE SOCIAL SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN LEFT „HOME ALONE” BY THEIR EMIGRANTS’ PARENTS IN OUR COUNTRY RESPOND TO THEIR NEEDS? ARE SUFFICIENT OR NEW ONES ARE NEEDED TO BE DEVELOPED? WE APPLIED AN ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE, WITH MIXED QUESTIONS OPENED AND CLOSED ONE, FOR OUR QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHOD, TO SPECIALISTS THAT WORK WITH CHILDREN LEFT „HOME ALONE” WITH PARENTS GONE ABROAD. THE MAIN RESULTS OF THIS RESEARCH, ISSUED THAT VULNERABLE CHILDREN OF TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES EXPERIENCED ANXIETY, ANGER AND FEELINGS OF PARENTAL ABANDONMENT AS THE FIRST NEGATIVE EMOTIONS WHEN THEIR PARENTS WENT TO WORK ABROAD AND THEY REMAINED BEHIND. THIS NEW SITUATION OF „HOME ALONE” CONTRIBUTED TO PREMATURE MATURATION AND THE TAKING OVER OF PARENTAL ROLES, WHEN NEEDED. THE DESIRE TO PROVIDE A BETTER LIFE FOR CHILDREN, LACK OF MONEY AND SHORTCOMINGS WERE THE MAIN REASONS BEHIND THE PARENTS’ DECISION TO EMIGRATE. VERY IMPORTANT IS THAT SPECIALISTS WHO HAVE WORKED WITH „HOME ALONE” CHILDREN WARN SOCIETY AND THE FAMILY OF*

*ORIGIN ABOUT THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON THE SOCIO-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THIS CATEGORY OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN. AS A FINAL CONCLUSION WE CAN STATE CURRENT SOCIAL SERVICES ARE INSUFFICIENT; SOCIAL POLICIES AND CONCRETE MEASURES ARE NECESSARY IN THIS AREA TO LIMIT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THIS PHENOMENON ON FUTURE ADULTS BOTH IN ROMANIA AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES, VULNERABLE CHILDREN, SOCIAL SERVICES, MIGRATION, HOME ALONE, ROMANIA*

---

**Ion COZMA**

*„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia  
ioncozma48@yahoo.com*

**Galina LUȘMANSCHI**

*Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova  
galina.lusmanschi@usm.md*

**Adrian TIRAU**

*Controlling energy manager, University of Stuttgart, Germany  
tirauadrianioan@gmail.com*

## **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERNAL COMMUNICATION EFFICIENCY, EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION AND ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERFORMANCE**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS PAPER ANALYZES THE ROLE OF BUDGET EXECUTION AS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR ASSESSING THE PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF FORECASTING METHODS IN ENSURING FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE AND TRANSPARENCY. THE STUDY INTRODUCES THE EMOTC METHOD AS AN ECONOMETRIC TOOL DESIGNED TO ANTICIPATE BUDGET INDICATORS BASED ON HISTORICAL FISCAL DATA. BY APPLYING EMOTC, DECISION-MAKERS CAN IDENTIFY TRENDS, SEASONAL PATTERNS, AND POTENTIAL RISKS IN PUBLIC REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES. THE PAPER HIGHLIGHTS PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS IN ROMANIA, SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES FROM EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES, WHERE ECONOMETRIC FORECASTING MODELS ARE INTEGRATED INTO PERFORMANCE-BASED BUDGETING FRAMEWORKS. THE FINDINGS SUGGEST THAT EMOTC STRENGTHENS EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING, IMPROVES RESOURCE ALLOCATION EFFICIENCY, AND ENHANCES PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY. THE RESEARCH EMPHASIZES THE NEED TO INTEGRATE FORECASTING TOOLS INTO BUDGET MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN ORDER TO MODERNIZE PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND INCREASE CITIZENS' TRUST IN GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PERFORMANCE; FORECASTING METHODS; EMOTC; ECONOMETRIC MODELING; FISCAL POLICY; PERFORMANCE-BASED BUDGETING.*

---

**Oana Andreea GROSU**  
*State Pedagogical University “Ion Creangă” of Chișinău, Moldova*

**THE KOCH TREE THREE-PHASE DRAWING PROTOCOL: AN ORIGINAL MODEL FOR ASSESSING AND INTERVENING IN ACADEMIC ANXIETY IN RESEARCHERS**

---

**ABSTRACT:**

*THIS ARTICLE INTRODUCES AN ORIGINAL THREE-PHASE DRAWING PROTOCOL, INSPIRED BY THE PROJECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF KARL KOCH'S TREE DRAWING TEST. THE CONCEPT AIMS TO ASSESS AND THERAPEUTICALLY ADDRESS ACADEMIC ANXIETY IN YOUNG RESEARCHERS. THROUGH THE THREE STAGES – “THE TREE OF THE WORLD” (THE PERSON'S PERCEPTION OF THE WORLD IN GENERAL, IMPLICITLY THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT), “ME AS A TREE” (CURRENT EGO STATE) AND “THE TREE OF DREAMS” (ASPIRATIONAL SELF) – A VISUAL AND RELATIONAL MAPPING IS MADE BETWEEN THE PERCEIVED ENVIRONMENT, THE CURRENT SELF AND INTERNAL RESOURCES. THE STRUCTURE USED AS A DUAL METHOD ALLOWS IT TO FUNCTION SIMULTANEOUSLY AS A DIAGNOSTIC TOOL, IDENTIFYING GRAPHIC SIGNS SPECIFIC TO ANXIETY AND THE POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF TRAUMA, BUT ALSO AS A THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION, INITIATING PROCESSES OF AWARENESS, COGNITIVE RESTRUCTURING AND RESOURCE ACTIVATION THROUGH GUIDED DIALOGUE.*

---

**Keywords:**

*ACADEMIC ANXIETY, PROJECTIVE DRAWING, TREE TEST, RESEARCHERS, THERAPEUTIC ASSESSMENT, PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERVENTION*

---

**Adrian TIRAU**

*Controlling energy manager, University of Stuttgart, Germany*

*tirauadrianioan@gmail.com*

**Ion COZMA**

*„1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia*

*ioncozma48@yahoo.com*

## **TRENDS AND DIRECTIONS IN STUDIES ON INTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE IS TO IDENTIFY AND ANALYZE EMERGING TRENDS, RESEARCH DIRECTIONS, AND CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STUDY OF INTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION WITHIN THE PUBLIC SECTOR. USING A BIBLIOMETRIC APPROACH, THE RESEARCH EXAMINES SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS INDEXED IN MAJOR INTERNATIONAL DATABASES IN ORDER TO MAP THE EVOLUTION OF THE FIELD, HIGHLIGHT INFLUENTIAL AUTHORS, JOURNALS, AND KEYWORDS, AND IDENTIFY THEMATIC CLUSTERS THAT DEFINE CURRENT RESEARCH AGENDAS. THE ANALYSIS PROVIDES INSIGHTS INTO HOW INTERNAL COMMUNICATION IS CONCEPTUALIZED IN RELATION TO ORGANIZATIONAL CLIMATE, MOTIVATION, EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT, AND PUBLIC SECTOR PERFORMANCE. RESULTS REVEAL INCREASING SCHOLARLY INTEREST IN COMMUNICATION EFFECTIVENESS, DIGITAL COMMUNICATION TOOLS, PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT, AND THEIR IMPACT ON JOB SATISFACTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY. THE FINDINGS CONTRIBUTE TO A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY APPROACHES THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN COMMUNICATION PRACTICES AND HUMAN RESOURCE OUTCOMES, OFFERING VALUABLE GUIDANCE FOR FUTURE RESEARCH AND FOR IMPROVING COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES WITHIN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*RESEARCH TRENDS, ORGANISATIONAL COMMUNICATION, PUBLIC SECTOR, KNOWLEDGE MAPPING*

---

---

**EMERGING CHALLENGES AND  
INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES  
IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

---



**Edi BESERMAN**  
Făgăras Research Institute  
edibeserman@gmail.com

---

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGION AND MODERNITY  
THROUGH THE LENS OF SECULARIZATION THEORY AND ITS  
ALTERNATIVE THEORIES**

---

**ABSTRACT**

*SINCE THE VERY BEGINNINGS OF SOCIOLOGY, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGION AND MODERNITY HAS BEEN A CENTRAL TOPIC AND WAS VIEWED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH THE PERSPECTIVE OF SECULARIZATION THEORY. ONLY IN THE 1960S—MARKED BY THE EMERGENCE OF NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN THE AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN CONTEXT—DID THE HEGEMONIC STATUS OF THIS THEORY BEGIN TO BE CHALLENGED. IN THIS CONTEXT, ALTERNATIVE THEORIES OF SECULARIZATION EMERGED, ARGUING THAT MODERNITY DOES NOT LEAD TO THE DECLINE OF RELIGION BUT RATHER TO ITS VITALITY.*

*THIS PAPER AIMS TO EXPLORE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGION AND MODERNITY THROUGH BOTH SECULARIZATION THEORY AND ITS ALTERNATIVE FRAMEWORKS: DEPRIVATIZATION, RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY, PLURALISM, INDIVIDUALIZATION, AND SPIRITUALIZATION. THE FIRST SECTION IS DEDICATED TO SECULARIZATION, WHICH I BRIEFLY DEFINE AS THE DECLINE OF RELIGIOUS POWER AND INFLUENCE BROUGHT ABOUT BY MODERNIZATION PROCESSES. I PRESENT THE MAIN PROCESSES CITED IN THE LITERATURE—FUNCTIONAL DIFFERENTIATION, RATIONALIZATION, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, PLURALIZATION, AND PRIVATIZATION—HIGHLIGHTING THEIR EFFECTS ON RELIGION AS DESCRIBED BY SECULARIZATION THEORISTS.*

*THE SECOND SECTION DISCUSSES THE THEORY OF DEPRIVATIZATION, WHICH ARGUES THAT RELIGION RE-EMERGES IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE. THE THIRD SECTION ADDRESSES RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY, WHICH STARTS FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE RELIGIOUS PERSON IS A RATIONAL ACTOR AND INTERPRETS THE RELIGIOUS FIELD THROUGH THE LOGIC OF THE MARKET IN TERMS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND. THE FOURTH SECTION IS DEDICATED TO THE THEORY OF RELIGIOUS PLURALISM, WHICH MAINTAINS THAT MODERNIZATION PROCESSES*

*LEAD NOT TO DECLINE BUT TO A PLURALIST CONTEXT IN WHICH MULTIPLE RELIGIONS COEXIST.*

*THE FIFTH SECTION DISCUSSES THE THEORY OF INDIVIDUALIZATION, WHICH ARGUES THAT MODERNIZATION PRODUCES NOT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF RELIGION BUT A TRANSFORMATION OF ITS SOCIAL FORMS—FROM TRADITIONAL TO INDIVIDUALIZED FORMS. THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS DEVOTED TO THE THEORY OF SPIRITUALIZATION, WHICH ESSENTIALLY ADVANCES THE SAME IDEAS AS INDIVIDUALIZATION BUT USES MORE DIVERSE METHODS AND OFFERS GREATER ANALYTICAL DEPTH.*

*THE CHAPTER CONCLUDES WITH A SECTION OF CONCLUSIONS IN WHICH I CRITICALLY EVALUATE THE EMPIRICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THESE THEORIES, NOTING THAT THEY RELY ON DATASETS THAT DO NOT ALLOW THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF INDIVIDUALIZED FORMS OF RELIGION. WITHOUT THIS, WE CANNOT ACHIEVE AN ACCURATE UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGION AND MODERNITY.*

---

**KEY WORDS:**

*RELIGION, MODERNITY, SECULARIZATION, INDIVIDUALIZATION, DEPRIVATIZATION, PLURALISM, SPIRITUALIZATION*

---

**Yanka PAVLOVA**

„St. Cyril And St. Methodius” University of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria  
q.pavlova@ts.uni-vt.bg

## **SOCIAL MEDIA, GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES AND DIGITAL WELL-BEING: NEW SOCIAL CHALLENGES IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE PAPER EXAMINES THE PSYCHOSOCIAL EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA USE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, EMPHASIZING INTERGENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN COMMUNICATION, EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION, AND DIGITAL WELL-BEING. THE RESEARCH IS BASED ON AN ONLINE SURVEY CONDUCTED WITHIN THE ERASMUS+ BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMME “THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION ON YOUNG PEOPLE” IN MAY 2025, INVOLVING STUDENTS FROM SIX EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE RESULTS SHOW THAT PARTICIPANTS FROM GENERATION Z SPEND AN AVERAGE OF ONE TO FIVE HOURS PER DAY ON SOCIAL MEDIA (MAINLY TIKTOK AND INSTAGRAM), PRIMARILY FOR ENTERTAINMENT AND SOCIAL INTERACTION. RESPONDENTS REPORT COMMON EXPERIENCES OF ANXIETY, COMPARISON, AND DIFFICULTIES IN EXPRESSING EMOTIONS ONLINE, WHILE ALSO DEMONSTRATING AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR DIGITAL BALANCE. THE FINDINGS HIGHLIGHT THE NECESSITY OF INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO ADDRESS THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES OF THE DIGITAL AGE.*

---

### **KEY WORDS:**

*SOCIAL MEDIA; DIGITAL WELL-BEING; GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES; DIGITAL COMMUNICATION*

---

**Veronica DUMITRAȘCU**  
*Institute of Sociology, Romanian Academy*  
veronica.dumitrascu@gmail.com

## **UNDERSTANDING DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE: THREATS AND CHALLENGES IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*IN AN ERA MARKED BY INSECURITIES AND CHALLENGES, THE CONCEPT OF DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE HAS BECOME IMPORTANT IN MANY FIELDS SUCH AS POLITICAL SCIENCE, GOVERNANCE, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES. IN A CHANGING WORLD WITH NUMEROUS CRISES AND UPHEAVALS, UNDERSTANDING THE FACTORS THAT LEAD TO THE EROSION OF DEMOCRACIES IS ESSENTIAL FOR BOTH SCHOLARS AND POLICYMAKERS. THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE, AND VARIOUS CRISES HAVE RESHAPED SOCIETAL AND POLITICAL PRIORITIES, SHOWING THAT RESILIENCE SHOULD BE VIEWED THROUGH ITS STRATEGIC, INSTITUTIONAL, AND SECURITY DIMENSIONS. THE PAPER IDENTIFIES KEY DETERMINANTS AND INDICATORS OF DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE, CONSIDERING INSTITUTIONAL, SOCIETAL, NORMATIVE, AND GOVERNMENTAL ASPECTS. IT ALSO CONSIDERS THE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO "DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING," POPULISM, AND THE RESURGENCE OF AUTHORITARIANISM IN CERTAIN REGIONS OR COUNTRIES. THROUGH COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES, THE DISCUSSION EMPHASIZES THAT RESILIENCE IS A COMPLEX PROCESS CAPABLE OF LEARNING FROM CRISES AND MAINTAINING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, INSTITUTIONAL TRUST, AND STATE LEGITIMACY.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*RESILIENCE, DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE, INSTITUTIONAL TRUST, CRISES, LEGITIMACY*

---

**Marie LEONTE**  
„Stefan cel Mare” University of Suceava, Romania  
m.leonte.univ@gmail.com

## **INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY, BETWEEN OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITS FOR SOCIAL POLICIES**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EVOLUTION IN EUROPE IN GENERAL AND IN ROMANIA IN PARTICULAR, A NEW GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL POLICIES IS GRADUALLY EMERGING: INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY. RATHER, IT IS A PRINCIPLE OF SOCIAL LAW IN THE MAKING, WHICH ACQUIRES ITS OWN CONTENT AND A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL SYSTEM. THE DECLARED AIM IS TO MAKE INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY A REMEDY THAT MANAGES, IN THE MOST SATISFACTORY WAY, A WHOLE RANGE OF CHALLENGES PERTAINING TO A WIDE RANGE OF FIELDS, FROM ECONOMICS TO CLIMATE CHANGE, FROM SOCIAL WORK TO CULTURAL INTERCONNECTIVITY. THE SEDES MATERIAE FOR INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY IS REPRESENTED BY ART. 3 PAR. (3) § 2 OF THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION, ACCORDING TO WHICH, "THE UNION SHALL COMBAT SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND DISCRIMINATION AND PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PROTECTION, EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN, SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS AND THE PROTECTION OF THE CHILD'S RIGHTS", THE PRINCIPLE APPEARING ALONGSIDE THE PRINCIPLE OF SOCIAL COHESION, PROVIDED FOR IN THE SAME PARAGRAPH. AS STATED IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION OF 9 SEPTEMBER 2015 ON THE REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION, RESULTS AND OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR FOR ACTIVE AGEING AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS (2017/C 316/15), SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS IS ONE OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF A HUMAN SOCIETY BUT ALSO A KEY ELEMENT, A TOOL, TOGETHER WITH ACTIVE AGEING, FOR ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS OF THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A COMPETITIVE, PROSPEROUS AND INCLUSIVE EUROPE. AT THE SAME TIME, TOGETHER WITH EQUITY BETWEEN YOUNG AND OLDER PEOPLE, INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY REPRESENTS, IN THE SENSE GIVEN TO IT BY THE GREEN PAPER ON*

*AGEING ENTITLED FOSTERING SOLIDARITY AND RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS, THE COMPLETION OF SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR OUR SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM. IN SOCIAL POLICIES, THE DIFFICULTY IS TWOFOLD, AS IT IS NECESSARY TO DESIGN POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND MEASURES THAT GO BEYOND THE LIMITED TERM OF A GOVERNMENT MANDATE, BUT ALSO TO ADAPT THEM TO THE LEGAL CONCEPT, THAT TENDS TO INCLUDE A NEW VARIABLE: GENERATIONS THAT CURRENTLY DO NOT EXIST IN THE PARADIGM OF SOCIAL POLICIES. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF RESPONDING TO CONTEMPORARY SOCIO-ECONOMIC REALITIES, IN REASON OF ITS BEING CLAIMED BY MULTIPLE FIELDS, AND THUS UNDERGOING CONTINUOUS MUTATIONS, IT CARRIES WITHIN IT, THE RISK OF INEFFECTIVENESS. THAT IS THE VERY REASON WHY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS CURRENTLY CARRYING OUT A LARGE CONSULTATION TO CONSOLIDATE ANOTHER – SIMILAR – PRINCIPLE, THE INTERGENERATIONAL FAIRNESS.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY, SOCIAL COHESION, ACTIVE AGEING, INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE, INTERGENERATIONAL FAIRNESS*

---

**Isa YESILDAG**  
*University of Lodz, Poland*  
isa.yesildag@edu.uni.lodz.pl

## **WHEN AI MEETS PRESTIGE IN ART**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) INTRODUCES NEW CREATIVE POSSIBILITIES IN THE FINE ART MARKET; HOWEVER, ITS ACCEPTANCE AND MARKET VALUE ARE ALSO SHAPED BY INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND PRESTIGE. USING DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF MAJOR ART INSTITUTIONS AND AUCTION HOUSES INCLUDING CHRISTIE'S, SOTHEBY'S, MOMA, THE BARBICAN CENTRE, AND ARS ELECTRONICA BETWEEN 2018 AND 2025, THE STUDY EXAMINES HOW INSTITUTIONAL NARRATIVE FRAMES LEGITIMACY FOR AI ART. THE FINDINGS SHOW THAT AI ART GAINS PRESTIGIOUS NARRATIVE BY INSTITUTIONS, CURATED EXHIBITIONS, AND MARKET POSITIONING, RATHER THAN AUTHORSHIP ALONE. THEY ALSO PROVIDE INSIGHTS INTO HOW INNOVATION AND SUPPORT FROM ART INSTITUTIONS AFFECT THE VALUE AND RECOGNITION OF AI ARTWORKS.*

---

### **KEY WORDS:**

*FINE ART, AI ART, GENERATIVE ART, CULTURAL PRESTIGE, ART INSTITUTIONS, ART MARKET*

---

**Maria VLACHADI**

*University of Crete, Greece*

*mvlahadi@yahoo.gr*

**Aggeliki CHARALAMPOPOULOU**

*Democritus University of Thrace, Greece*

*charalampopoulou90@gmail.com*

## **MIGRATION REFUGEE CRISIS AND BORDER ISSUE: THE CASE OF EVROS**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THIS STUDY EXAMINES THE MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS IN EVROS, FOCUSING ON MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES, THE ROLE OF GREEK AND INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES, AS WELL AS THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACTS. IT ANALYSES GREECE'S DETERRENCE POLICY THROUGH THE MILITARIZATION OF THE BORDERS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FENCE AND THE USE OF HIGH-TECH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS (DRONES, THERMAL CAMERAS, LRAD). FURTHERMORE, IT ANALYSES THE GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, AS WELL AS THE IMPACT ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES. THE STUDY SUGGESTS IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY, STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ASYLUM AND SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*MIGRATION-REFUGEE CRISIS, EVROS, DETERRENCE POLICY, MILITARIZATION, GEOPOLITICAL TENSION*

---

**Victor STOICA**

„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania  
victorstoica06@gmail.com

**Ioan-Sebastian BUDUROI**

„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania  
ioansebastianbuduroi@gmail.com

**Malina VARTOLOMEI**

„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania  
florinavarto@gmail.com

---

**THE ARCHITECTURE OF FEAR: A SOCIO-POLITICAL FRAMEWORK  
FOR UNDERSTANDING HOW VALUES SHAPE  
THE FEAR OF TECHNOLOGY**

---

**ABSTRACT:**

*THIS ARTICLE PRESENTS A THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK TO EXPLAIN WHY RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES OFTEN GENERATE DEEP AND POLARIZING SOCIAL FEAR. THE AUTHOR ARGUES THAT PUBLIC REACTIONS TO INNOVATIONS SUCH AS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, 5G, MRNA VACCINES, OR BIOTECHNOLOGIES ARE NOT MANIFESTATIONS OF IGNORANCE OR IRRATIONALITY, BUT RATHER THE PREDICTABLE RESULT OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND DEEPLY ENTRENCHED FUNDAMENTAL VALUE SYSTEMS. THE PAPER POSTULATES THAT KEY IDEOLOGIES—PARTICULARLY CONSERVATISM, WHICH VALUES STABILITY, TRADITION, AND HIERARCHY, AND PROGRESSIVISM, WHICH FAVORS REFORM, INNOVATION, AND EQUALITY—ACT AS "PERCEPTUAL AND MORAL FILTERS." THESE FILTERS DETERMINE WHICH ASPECTS OF A TECHNOLOGY INDIVIDUALS FOCUS ON (E.G., THE RISK OF SOCIAL DISRUPTION VERSUS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS) AND IMBUE THEM WITH EMOTIONAL AND MORAL SIGNIFICANCE. THROUGH SPECIFIC CASE STUDIES, THE ARTICLE DEMONSTRATES HOW INDIVIDUAL ANXIETIES ARE SOCIALLY AMPLIFIED AND TRANSFORMED INTO A "CULTURE OF FEAR," SHIFTING THE DEBATE FROM THE TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INNOVATION TO A BROADER CONFLICT OVER COMPETING VISIONS OF SOCIETY. ULTIMATELY, THE PAPER BUILDS A HOLISTIC MODEL THAT CHALLENGES THE 'DEFICIT MODEL,' OFFERING A SOCIO-POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE IN WHICH THE FEAR OF TECHNOLOGY IS UNDERSTOOD AS A LOGICAL, ALBEIT EMOTIONALLY CHARGED, REACTION TO PERCEIVED THREATS TO IDENTITY, SECURITY, AND MORAL VALUES.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*TECHNOLOGY, FEAR, SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF RISK PERCEPTION, VALUE SYSTEMS*

---

**Adriana CĂRUNTU**  
*University of Bucharest, Romania*  
ingrijiripaliative@yahoo.com

## **MODEL OF PALLIATIVE INTERVENTION FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE WHO ARE CANCER SURVIVORS**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*VERBAL AND EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST FEMALE CANCER SURVIVORS IS A PROBLEM WITH IMPACT ON DISEASE PROGRESSION AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE PROCESS.*

*IN THE ONCOLOGICAL CONTEXT, VULNERABILITY IS AMPLIFIED BY UNCERTAINTY, ANXIETY, DEPENDENCE AND PAIN, AND VERBAL AGGRESSIONS, WHETHER FROM THE PARTNER, FAMILY OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS, BECOME TRAUMAS THAT AFFECT PSYCHOLOGICAL RECOVERY AND THE PATIENTS' ABILITY TO MANAGE THE DISEASE.*

*THIS ARTICLE PROPOSES A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PALLIATIVE INTERVENTION MODEL, CENTERED ON EARLY IDENTIFICATION, COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT AND CONTINUOUS SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF VERBAL VIOLENCE.*

*THE MODEL FOLLOWS FOUR FUNDAMENTAL DIRECTIONS:*

- SYSTEMATIC SCREENING FOR THE RECOGNITION OF EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE IN ALL STAGES OF CARE.*
- PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERVENTION FOCUSED ON REDUCING ANXIETY, INCREASING RESILIENCE AND REBUILDING SELF-IMAGE.*
- SOCIAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT ORIENTED TOWARDS COMMUNICATION RE-EDUCATION AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT.*
- THE INTEGRATION OF THE PALLIATIVE TEAM IN THE ROLE.*

*THIS RESEARCH STUDY WAS CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 01.01.2025 AND 30.10.2025 ON A NUMBER OF 100 CANCER SURVIVORS WHO RECEIVED PALLIATIVE CARE IN THE SAINT NECTARIOS PALLIATIVE CARE CENTER, BUCHAREST.*

*THE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHOD WAS USED: INTERVIEW AND DIRECT OBSERVATION.*

*- PALLIATIVE CARE PROVIDES THE OPTIMAL SETTING FOR SUCH AN INTERVENTION, AS IT EMPHASIZES TOTAL SUFFERING: PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL, AND VERBAL VIOLENCE IS A TRIGGER FOR DEEP PSYCHOLOGICAL SUFFERING.*

*THE PRESENTED MODEL HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR SPECIFIC TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE FOR ALL PALLIATIVE*

*CARE PROFESSIONALS AND EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE DOCTOR, SOCIAL WORKER, PSYCHOLOGIST AND FAMILY. THUS, THE INTERVENTION NOT ONLY REDUCES THE IMPACT OF VERBAL VIOLENCE, BUT ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF WOMEN WITH CANCER.*

---

**KEYWORDS:**

*SURVIVOR, VIOLENCE, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, PALLIATIVE CARE*

---

**Cristina TOMESCU**  
*Institute For Quality of Life Research, Romania*

## **COMBATING DISINFORMATION AND THE ROLE OF CRITICAL THINKING**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*IN OUR TIMES, CHARACTERIZED BY RAPID INFORMATION FLOWS AND DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY, DISINFORMATION HAS EMERGED AS A CRITICAL THREAT TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES, SOCIAL COHESION AND ACCESS TO ADEQUATE INFORMATION. THE PRESENTATION EXAMINES THE MECHANISMS BY WHICH DISINFORMATION SPREADS ON DIGITAL PLATFORMS AND ANALYZES THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS THAT MAKE INDIVIDUALS SUSCEPTIBLE TO MANIPULATIVE NARRATIVES, DISINFORMATION. IMPORTANT IN THE DISCUSSION IS THE ROLE OF CRITICAL THINKING, WHICH BECOMES A COGNITIVE SKILL THAT ALLOWS INDIVIDUALS TO EVALUATE INFORMATION, QUESTION SOURCES, AND RECOGNIZE MANIPULATION TACTICS. THE PRESENTATION TALKS ABOUT THEORIES REGARDING DISINFORMATION AND ABOUT COMBATING DISINFORMATION BY CULTIVATING CRITICAL THINKING IN SOCIETY.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*DISINFORMATION, SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS, COMBATING DISINFORMATION, DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING*

---

**Dumitru BATÂR**  
*„Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu*

## **FACTORS AND CONDITIONS THAT TRIGGER AND REQUIRE CHANGES IN THE DYNAMICS OF PEASANT FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL-MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*HUMAN COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE LOCATED IN RURAL-MOUNTAIN AREAS, ARE DEFINED BY GEOGRAPHIC, CULTURAL, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BELONGING. THE VILLAGE AND THE PEASANT HOUSEHOLD REPRESENT THE CORE OF RURAL LIFE, ENSURING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND THE PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONS. MODERNIZATION HAS BROUGHT STRUCTURAL CHANGES TO HOUSEHOLDS AND DIVERSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS, INFLUENCED BY BOTH ENDOGENOUS FACTORS (INFRASTRUCTURE, HUMAN CAPITAL, EDUCATION) AND EXOGENOUS ONES (NATURAL RESOURCES, DEMOGRAPHY, ECONOMY). THE FAMILY PLAYS A CENTRAL ROLE THROUGH ATTRIBUTED AND ACQUIRED STATUSES AND ROLES, REFLECTING SOCIAL STRATIFICATION. THUS, THE PEASANT HOUSEHOLD REMAINS A KEY UNIT BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERNITY, ADAPTING TO CONTEMPORARY DEMANDS.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*HUMAN COMMUNITY, VILLAGE, MOUNTAIN RURAL VILLAGE, PEASANT FAMILY, PEASANT HOUSEHOLD, ROLE, STATUS*

---

**Elena DOBRE**  
*Institute For Quality of Life Research, Romania*

## **THE NEW FINANCING MODEL IN SOCIAL SERVICES FOR OLD – MONEY FOLLOWS THE BENEFICIARIES**

---

### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE PROPOSED TOPIC FOR ANALYSIS, ENTITLED "THE DYNAMICS OF SOCIAL SUPPORT POLICIES FOR THE ELDERLY IN POST-DECEMBER ROMANIA, IS A VERY TOPICAL ONE AND CONCERNS THE SITUATION OF THE ELDERLY, THEIR NEED FOR CARE, AND THEIR ACCESS TO INTEGRATED, PSYCHOSOCIAL, AND SPIRITUAL SERVICES DESIGNED FOR THIS CATEGORY. THE CHOICE OF THIS TOPIC TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE PHENOMENON OF POPULATION AGING, A WIDESPREAD PHENOMENON FACED BY MORE AND MORE COUNTRIES, WITH EXTREMELY POWERFUL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES. VULNERABILITIES SUCH AS INCREASED SPENDING ON HEALTHCARE, SOCIAL SECURITY, AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE ARE IDENTIFIED, ALONG WITH THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DECLINING PUBLIC REVENUES AND A REDUCTION IN THE LABOR FORCE. THIS SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECT HAS LED TO INCREASED DISCUSSION ABOUT OLDER PEOPLE AND THEIR NEEDS. OLD AGE REPRESENTS A STAGE IN A PERSON'S LIFE, CHARACTERIZED BY A SERIES OF PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGES THAT GIVE RISE TO NEW NEEDS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REQUIRING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SERVICES TO MEET THOSE NEEDS. WITHIN THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS OF STATES, HOWEVER WELL ORGANIZED THEY MAY BE, VULNERABILITIES ARE IDENTIFIED, SUCH AS INCREASED SPENDING ON HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL INSURANCE, AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, COUPLED WITH THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DECLINING PUBLIC REVENUES AND A REDUCTION IN THE LABOR FORCE.*

---

### **KEYWORDS:**

*AGING POPULATION, ELDERLY CARE, SOCIAL SUPPORT POLICIES, POST-DECEMBER ROMANIA, INTEGRATED SERVICES, SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM, VULNERABILITIES, HEALTHCARE SPENDING, SOCIAL SECURITY SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC IMPACT*

---