

HOSPITALITY, RELIGIOUS CONSCIENCE AND “EUROPEAN WORLD”

**4-5 March, 2016, Faculty of Roman-Catholic Theology
of the University of Bucharest**

“Religion, the Sacred and Hospitality” was the theme of the International Conference held on March 4-5, 2016, in the Faculty of Roman-Catholic Theology of the University of Bucharest. The event was organized by *Council for Research in Values and Philosophy*, Catholic University of America, Washington D.C., The Roman-Catholic Theological Institute of Bucharest and the University of Bucharest.

The declared aim of the Conference was to analyze from the perspective of the EU founding values – solidarity, subsidiarity, human rights, freedom, democracy etc. – and that of the history of religions and civilizations the different answers that Europeans give to the asylum applications of “the guests – political and economic refugees”. The thesis that led to this initiative was that the history of religions and civilizations constitute a valuable source of solutions applied to similar situations to those we face currently and that, primarily, the hospitality was one of the founding values of the community and human conscience. The examining of the hospitality value and place in the human consciousness in general and in religious conscience of mankind was thought as approach that imposes essentially “the revisiting” of the fundamental texts and traditions of Greco-Roman, Jewish, Christian and Muslim civilization. As a result, the Christian model of hospitality – the transformation of the alien and/or the enemy in guest, recognition of him as a “true man,” considering him as a possible divine messenger and mediator of “the meeting with the invisible divinity” – was analyzed along with other models and practices in the context of “the great social and religious challenges” that the migration phenomenon addresses to “the European world.” The perspectives adopted for this purpose have been subsumed to religious anthropology, history of religions, phenomenology of religion, sociology of religions, religious orders history, philosophy, cultural and political philosophy, spiritual theology, pastoral theology, political theology, social theology.

The fifty-nine lecturers in the program Conference – mostly professors, priests, researchers who work or study in Romania, Russia, France, Belgium, Germany, China, Iran, Egypt, Austria, Kazakhstan, Israel, Switzerland –, but also the numerous public, contributed to a genuine, substantial and nuanced debate, to a framework of ideational and spiritual enrichment.

Gabriela Tănăsescu

**POST-COMMUNIST SOCIETIES IN FOCUS
THE 6TH CEPOS ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**8-9 April 2016
University of Craiova**

The Center of Post-Communist Political Studies (CEPOS), established in November 2012 under the aegis of University of Craiova, Romania, hosted between 8 to 9 April 2016 in the House of the University of Craiova the 6th annual International Conference: *After Communism. East and West under Scrutiny*. As intended the organizers, the annual CEPOS International Conferences has become “an event that is both history and present”, that involves both the perspectives of the researches in the field of Communism and Post-Communism: research experiences and scientific knowledge, that, 25 years after the fall of communism, explores emotional detachments, but also a peculiar involvement creating and exploiting the inter-disciplinary developments of the East-West relations in the fields such as: political sciences, history, economics and law.

The study of the recent history of the former communist space in connection with the Western world was achieved in this 6th annual edition of the International Conference *After Communism. East and West under Scrutiny*, according to Conference’s Book of abstracts, in the following exemplary coordinates: more than 120 participants – professors, professionals, doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, more than 100 papers and reports presented, 18 countries participating: Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Kosovo, Georgia, Greece, Germany, Iraq, Kuwait, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Spain, Turkey, Hungary, United Kingdom, members of Organizing and Scientific Committees from 5 countries, indexing in 13 international databases and services, 4 issues of *Revista de Științe Politice. Revue des Sciences Politiques* in 2016. It is worth mentioning that *Revista de Științe Politice. Revue des Sciences Politiques* has registered for its issue in April 2016 13.600 results, being indexed and abstracted in multiple relevant international databases, services and library catalogues.

The panels sessions held in April 8 have been: “Political Theories & Ideologies” in parallel with “Institutions, Policies & Regional Developments”, “Transitions, Local Governance and Justice Reform” in parallel with “Administration, Identity, Mobility and Human Rights in European System”, “Education Policies, Human Resources and Social-Economic Outcomes” in parallel with “Education and Cultural Life in Between Communism and Post-Communism”. The panel that I attended, “Institutions, Policies & Regional Developments”, chair Cătălina Georgescu, Ionuț Șerban, Cosmin Gherghe, University of Craiova, included the following papers: Gabriela Tănăsescu (Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations of the Romanian Academy, ISPRI), “Romania’s democratic consolidation in the last decade”; Lorena-Valeria Stuparu (Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations of the Romanian Academy, ISPRI), “Some controversial issues of current Romanian civic culture”; Radu-Cristian Petcu (University of Craiova, Faculty of Social Sciences), “Multiplicity and divides of memory regimes in the European polity identity”; Mihaela Ghența (National Scientific Research Institute for Labor and Social Protection, INCSMPS Bucharest), “Employment in health and social assistance sector in European Union”; Jelena Trajkovska-Hristovska (University “Ss Cyril and Methodius”, Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus”, Skopje, Macedonia), “The Lawmaking

function of the Macedonian Parliament between the ‘constitutional *formalia*’ and ‘constitutional *realia*’”; Gabriela Motoi, Veronica Gheorghită (University of Craiova, Faculty of Social Sciences), “The consequences of economic recession on the quality of life in Romania, between 2009 and 2013”; Xhemail Limani (Kliment Ohridski University, Bitola, Faculty of Security Studies, Skopje, Macedonia), “Implementing police power; national and international standards”; Gabriela Rusu-Păsărin (University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters), “Immediate and long term effects of public information. National Health Card in Romania”; Ryabtsovsky George Vladimirovich (The Russian Presidential Academy of Economy and Public Administration, RANEPA), “The connotation of the ethnic factor in the social space of the Russian Federation”; Samson Masalu Peter Paschal (University of Bucharest, Doctoral School of Law), “A case-study of regional and global integration ongoing process – the legal, economic and social implications facing countries such as Romania in ongoing integration process”; Florin Nacu (“C.S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor” Social and Humanistic Research Institute, Romanian Academy, Craiova), “The socialist trend in the modern Romania and its influence on the social structures”; Mihaela Bărbieru (“C.S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor” Social and Humanistic Research Institute, Romanian Academy, Craiova / University of Craiova, Faculty of Social Sciences), “Analysis of the Romanian political scene in the election year 2016”; Mihail Dan Dogaru, Izabela Bratiloveanu (University of Craiova, Faculty of Law), “Theoretical and practical considerations on the legal characteristics of the factoring contract”.

The first panel session of the second day of the Conference, intituled ‘Revolution and Politics’, chair Parmena Olimid, Cătălina Georgescu, Cosmin Gherghe (University of Craiova), comprised the following papers: Jan Bureš, “Communist Revolution in Czechoslovakia: transformation of the political system after February of 1948”; Petr Just, “Are direct presidential elections systematic constitutional features in parliamentary regimes? Case study of the Czech Republic and Slovakia”; Mitchell Belfer (Metropolitan University of Prague, Department of Political Science and Humanities), “The manipulation of Revolution: assessing Iranian exportation through European eyes”; Jakub Charvát, “The origins of electoral systems for the founding elections: a Central European perspective”, all four from Metropolitan University of Prague, Department of Political Science and Humanities, Czech Republic. The other panels have been: ‘Security and Diplomacy in National and Euro-Atlantic Environment’ in parallel with “Transition, Media, Imagology, Communications and Geopolitics”, and the student panel sessions.

By the specialized and impressive participation from Romania and especially abroad, by the level of arguments and conclusions – as it will could be discovered in the articles of the four successive issues of *Revista de Științe Politice. Revue des Sciences Politiques*, 2016 –, by the tone and the atmosphere of the debate, the 6th Annual International Conference: *After Communism. East and West under Scrutiny* can be considered as one of Romania’s most important scientific manifestations in the sphere of political research.

Gabriela Tănăsescu

**THE STAGIRITE AND “DOCTOR ANGELICUS”
FOR OUR TIMES 15th April 2016**

**International Society Thomas Aquinas (SITA), Romanian
Section Faculty of Roman-Catholic Theology, University of
Bucharest Roman-Catholic Theological Institute of Bucharest**

The great ancient and Christian philosophies, *Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas*, have constituted the theme of the annual conference of the International Society Thomas Aquinas (SITA), Romanian Section. The prestigious event has been held on 15th April 2016 under the auspices of the Romanian Section of SITA, the Faculty of Roman-Catholic Theology, University of Bucharest, and the Roman-Catholic Theological Institute of Bucharest. The intention of the organizers has been this year to “speak about Thomas of Aquinas in the light of his intellectual sympathy to Aristotle in order to celebrate the 2 400 birth year of the philosopher from Stagira”. The Conference session has successfully responded to this intention, many presentations being dedicated to the way in which Thomas has commented the arguments of the vast work of Aristotle – physics, logic, metaphysics, ethics, politics etc. – in order to highlight “how much hospitable the Greek thought was, and still it is for Christian faith”, what constitutes the greatness and the limits of Aristotle’s philosophy, what kind of fruits produced the dialogue between faith and reason. The relation between Aristotle and Thomas has been presented including the interpretations devoted by Thomist thinkers from the XXth century: Jacques Maritain, Étienne Gilson, Ralph McInnery and others.

After the opening speech addressed to the participants by Wilhelm Dancă, the President of the International Society Thomas Aquinas, Romanian Section, there have been presented the following papers: Hubert Bernard (Catholic Institute in Caen, France), *Jacques Maritain et Aristote*; Bressolette Claire (University of Montpellier, France), *Intuition in Jacques Maritain’s philosophy: thorough or reconfigured Aristotelian heritage?*; Wilhelm Dancă (University of Bucharest), *The Commentary on the Metaphysics of Aristotle. On determinism and Providence*; Sorin Băiculescu (Romanian Academy), *Metaphysics in Aristotelian sense, emergence and supra-determinism in science*; Tănăsescu Gabriela (“Ion I. C. Brătianu” Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, Romanian Academy), *On “beatitudo perfecta” or the Thomist theory of happiness*; Lorena Stuparu (“Ion I. C. Brătianu” Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, Romanian Academy), *Interpretations of the meanings of tragedy in Aristotle*; Cristian Bălănean (University of Bucharest), *The intentionality of knowledge problem in Aristotle, Thomas and Popper*; Nicolae Eduard Dominic (University of Bucharest), *The desire in the act of knowing*; Florina-Rodica Hariga (“Al. Ioan Cuza” University of Jassy), *Fragments of Aristotelian ethics concerning the concept of “akrasia” and the possibility of educating the will*; George Chiriță (Bucharest), *A historical distance whereby it becomes intelligible the presence of the soul as trace: between Aristotle and Thomas*; Adrian Niță (University of Craiova, Romanian Academy), *Form and material in the theme of soul-body ratio. Leibniz between Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas*; Gabriela Blebea Nicolae (University of Bucharest), *The Commentary on Aristotle’s Politics: How democratic is democracy*; Cozan Dorin (“Al. I. Cuza” University of Jassy), *Aristotle in Thomas’ cell. Meanings of the concept of friendship in Aristotle’s vision and Thomas Aquinas’ interpretation*; Iovan

Drehe ("Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj), *On "the real opinion" as a political virtue at Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas*; Andrei Bereschi ("Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj), *Aristotelian political morphology in two medieval models: Thomas Aquinas and Dante Alighieri*; Mihai Maga ("Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj), *Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas as political authorities in the discourses of fourteenth and fifteenth centuries Central Europe Universities*; Robert-Ştefan Sabotici (University of Bucharest), *Plato: elements of continuity in Aristotelian philosophy*.

This annual SITA conference, like the other editions, represented a genuine forum of discussion for the passionate researchers and scholars of "Doctor Angelicus" work, the immensely influential philosopher, theologian and jurist in the tradition of scholasticism who, under Aristotle's influence and by delimitation from him, has given the highest expression of both natural reason and speculative theology and has definitely marked thereby the Western thought.

Gabriela Tănăsescu

Jean Monnet Programme

The *University of Oradea* and the *Institute for Euroregional Studies Oradea-Debrecen*,
International Conference:

THE EVALUATION OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EUROPE

01-03 June 2016

Oradea, România

Jean Monnet Programme

Project number – 553194-EPP-1-2014-1-RO-EPPJMO-MODULE

Cross-border cooperation evaluation successfully combines two relevant dimensions of European studies: cross-border cooperation and the evaluation method with its specific steps and instruments, in order to create a new direction for study and research. This new direction will concentrate on studying elements specific to cross-border space such as: infrastructure, education, public administration, economy, tourism, industry, etc.

Through research we can gain a better level of understanding of this type of development as well as identify opportunities for constructive dialogue with local, national and Euroregional decision makers. Research done in the field of cross-border cooperation can also lead to identifying instruments that lead to higher degrees of EU policy governance thanks to factors such as increased access to European Funds. The dialogue between institutions and cross-border research can benefit sustainable growth in line with the Europe 2020 strategy.

The cross-border space represents an interesting topic for study as the combination of elements that make up this space provide researchers with case studies aimed at generating solutions to more than one national community that lives near to the area: cross-border solutions improve the quality of life for people in neighbouring communities, develop cooperation between institutions, promote sustainable development and reduce discrepancy among regions. These objectives are connected with those of the Europe

2020 strategy that underline opportunities for new jobs, research and education, reduction in poverty as well as sustainable climate and energy solutions.

The main aim of the conference is to provide a forum for discussion and exchange of experience and knowledge on such issues as: cross-border cooperation and strategies inside the European Union and between European Union and its neighbours, instruments and structures of cross-border cooperation, evaluation of cross-border cooperation.

The conference includes four workshops with the following themes:

1. Cross-border cooperation at the EU borders,
2. Cross-border cooperation at the European Union Eastern border,
3. European instruments used in cross-border cooperation,
4. Cross-border cooperation structures.

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(ANNUAL)

**SUMMER SCHOOL CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
THE LAST MAN. NOSTALGIA, PHILOSOPHY AND POST-POLICIES**

Edition June 22-24, 2016

The Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu”,
Romanian Academy, Bucharest

The Summer School (with international participation) suggests a generous topic – *The Last Man. Nostalgia, Philosophy and Post-Policies* – and also a scientific and ideational debate. We count on a crossover views and projects that were launched into research and which assure an unmediated contact between the Institute and the university and post-university environment. It also facilitates the cooperation between the *magister* with the *attendant/the favored assistant*, and this has implications in the strategy of a *later new start* (which was redesigned, re-conceptualized) and of a new beginning of the Last Man. In fact, we aim to design an exercise advised by imagination and by a *re-composition of a disintegrations* which were pre-announced by the obituary of philosophy (too).

The main argument of such demarche targets the release of couple-thinking/in-coupling thinking pressure, and it recommends overcoming/solving deficiencies of *mechanism of two* and of exhausting guides of dual rules. The goal is the launching of a special director register/an irrigator of plus-sense, through *third order stake*: philosophy quits the clarifier attribute in order to offer the vital tool *orientation*; if the “philosophy” term includes its plural operation, than the mix between philosophy and policies can ingrain the post-humanism another imaginative appeal (an extended imaginary), certifying that it exists a post-humanistic reading grid of political philosophy, that could be theorized; hence the meaning of circuit (shorting) of the experiment, which is inventoried through a possible interrogation of *what-remains-after-human*, condition/rest that could foresee, in the loraux-ian meaning, the applied management of “political” term, which has more than one meaning (*no policy can be real without being imagined*). Thus, we count on a possible making position regarding the *philosophy crisis* and the *philosophy of the crisis*, through returning to the deep meaning of Greek word *krisis* and through a recovery of *origin*

reference/ a primary time, marked by “*endemisms*” as apocalyptical and revealing acts/ processes and procedures.

The project is designed, initiated and developed by The Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu”, Romanian Academy, through the contribution of Political Sciences Department (counseled by Professor and Researcher Ion Goian). It has an innovative and unique approach, indicating on the schedule board of Summer School the announced topic, and has real implications in/for current tense environment, without ignoring or quitting incursions in the table of classicized values.

Designed on the open trails of research, fitted with three intersections, The Summer School completes *the 1st meaning*- section of event-lectures (having guests like Theodor Paleologu, Ion Dur, Ion Goian and Gheorghe Dumitru) whit the *second meaning* of the lectures moderated by researchers of The Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu”, Romanian Academy (Viorella Manolache, Lorena Păvălan Stuparu, Henrieta Anișoara Șerban, Bogdan Popescu, Lucian Jora, Florin Müller), by prestigious professors (Maria-Ana Tupan, Marina Roman) or by lecturers and researchers, members of (international) scientific community (Ian Browne, Nicolae Drăgușin, Ana Maria Negoită). The first pleadings highlight the *meaning of three* – through colloquia with students, doctoral and post-doctoral students and young researchers belonging to the faculties of Bucharest, Craiova, Suceava, Baia-Mare, Arad, Cambridge or Ukraine.

Speeches, event-lectures, book launch (Cristian-Ion Popa, *Encyclopedia of fundamental Works of current political philosophy. Contemporaries: 1971-1989*), *round tables, exploratory workshops and thematic debates* converge towards a unique and tentacular structure, with an expected impact, certifying the sense carrier act, with a low tide in the alloy of philosophy and politics.

Viorella Manolache

Translated by Adina Ionelia Burchiu