

BOOK REVIEWS

Aristide Cioabă, Constantin Nica (coord.)

Sistemul politic din România: actori, instituții și provocări, Bucharest, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations Publishing House, 2014, 817 p.

The volume *Sistemul politic din România: actori, instituții și provocări* [*The Political System in Romania: Actors, Institutions, Challenges*] integrates current and pertinent analyses concerning the structure and the functioning of the Romanian political system, following the fundamental aspects of its organization, along with the relevant mechanisms of its functioning. Methodological, the volume approaches an explicative model based on the systemic and structural-functionalist evaluations applied to the social system, to the national community and to the state from Romania, following three main directions: political actors, decisional institutions of the powers of the state and the endogen and exogenous provocations which emerge in the system functionality.

Product of the recent researches of a group of authors from the Political Systems, Theories and Institutions from the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, preoccupied by the political system from Romania, by the institutions and political class, in a relation with the democratic consolidation process and implication in the decisions and function of the European Union, the book proposes an analysis of the major political and interdependent subsystems.

The Introduction, "Power and Liberty in Different Configurations of the Romanian Political System", signed by the one of the volume's coordinators, Aristide Cioabă defines the terms and the specific theoretical zone of the research. The Researcher explains the preoccupation of the volume for the "problematic of the formal and informal organization of the Romanian political system and (...) its functional mechanisms in the configuration process and its changes, mainly after the communist fall, through the transition to a democratic pluralist regime. The investigation circumscribes this idea to the specific framework and methods of the comparative perspective in the contemporary political science" (p. 11). The relation power-liberty in the context of democratic consolidation in Romania is analyzed not only from the terminological and democratic-liberal historical-conceptual perspective, but also by using an investigation of the institutional and constitutional arrangements from Romania, observing that "we have in the Romania Constitution the fundamental elements able to circumscribe and to activate the maintained mechanisms of exercising the delegate to the government by the people powers, in reasonable limits of a democratic regime" (p. 67).

The volume consists of three parts. Part I, entitled "Actors, Participation and Political Behaviors" is structured on two levels: "A. Parties and Civil Society" and "B. Participation and Political Culture". In the first part, Constantin Nica analyzes the political parties, considered inseparable actors by the democratic political systems, the mono-party East-European communist failure and the pluralist alternative opening, the genesis, evolutions and political parties systems characteristics. Discussing the role and the function of the political parties, Constantin Nica approaches the promotion of the social and national social corpus interests, the programs and the doctrines, the electoral function which confirms to be "indispensable to any political pluralist and democrat system" (p. 196), along with the government function and that of influencing political power. The analyst shows that: "The stake of the exercise of power, combined with that of its influence is evident in terms of social normality, and it becomes stronger in times of historical rupture, as that from 22 December 1989 until the eve of 2000s". The present chapter investigates all the aspects regarding the functional aspects of the political parties in Romania, considered as entities in development, able to react democratically through dialogue, representatively and socio-political interaction, demonstrating democratic competences. "The phenomenon of ideological-doctrinal compatibility between all parties across the spectrum, was imposed from the first years after 1990 and has become an outcome of the operation of representative democracy, of expression and of promoting the interests of all economic, professional, social and ethnic structures" (p. 254).

In the chapter entitled "Civil Society and the Groups of Interests – Anatomy and Action in the Public Space", Constantin Nica, relating the phrase "civil society" to an expression of the political pluralism in Romania, seen as a sum of different political parties forces: legal and voluntary associations of citizens constituted on the similitude of convictions and interests, but outside politics and politicization, following the fulfillment of public objectives considered important for the state. The groups of interests and the pressure groups are defined distinctively, the former, through the transparent political dialogue, and the latter, discretely, through actions of influence. The complexity of the political system is given by the manner in which the groups of interests render more permeable as well the frameworks of political parties, as those of the organizations of the civil society *per se*.

Pol. Sc. Int. Rel., **XII**, 1, pp. 172–180, Bucharest, 2015.

Opening the second segment of the first part, "B. Participation and Political Culture", Bogdan M. Popescu analyzes "The Elections and the Electoral System. The Parliamentary Elections in 2012 and the Perspectives of the Electoral Reform" starting from a short presentation of the evolutions of the electoral system after 1989, emphasizing in its analysis the profound relations between the electoral system and the democratic regime. Then is discussed the role of management of the elections in correlation with the electoral system of the country, "the relevant themes associated with the electoral management and its implications". As following the investigation refers to the perspective of an electoral reform, "a theme launched after the first parliamentary elections in 2008 and reiterated after the elections of December 2012" (p. 280). Lorena Stuparu investigates "The Political Culture. Historical Antecedents and Current Traits" synthesizing the idea of a mix political culture in Romania, multi-strata, in conformity with the diverse levels of awareness of the "values of the city (the law, justice, authority, virtue, norms, respect, dignity, freedom, rights, and tolerance): a political 'culture' of the inadequacy mix with unexpected moments of 'punctuality'" (p. 321). In the study "Political Attitude and Civic Participation" Lorena Stuparu shows that the concrete expression of interiorizing the political culture values is the civic participation, an ideal which can be achieved. Observing the civic oscillating attitudes, between the indifferent one and the combative one, the author proposes as a test of the active and participative citizen, the lack of understanding and the obedience in front of the obedient understanding of the citizen in front of the abuses of power.

The second part, entitled "The Institutional Subsystems of the State Powers" is composed of several studies signed by Aristide Cioabă and it debuts with the topic "The Parliament within the Structural Aggregate of the Current Political System". Thus the Parliament is investigated as an important part of the central nucleus that exercises power, next to the government, the public bureaucracies and the instances of the judicial power. "The new institutional framework of the democratic political system (after December 1989 – our emphasis) was configured naturally starting from and organizing itself against the national representative institution – *the Parliament* – as it was consecrated in the doctrines of the separation of powers in the modern state of liberal-democratic inspiration" (p. 349). Studying this institution from the historical political perspective, from that of political philosophy and from the functionalist-comparative perspective characteristic for the political sciences, the author investigates also the role of the President of Romania within the structural democratic system showing that the constitutional attributions are either exceeded or under-fulfilled and identifying the deviation of the real authorities from the legal ones of the real presidential authority especially in the case of President Traian Băsescu. The Executive is analyzed as expression of a government responsible with the elaboration and materialization of the public policies, then it highlights the importance of the elaboration and realization of the public policy, then the importance of judicial authority for the state functioning is emphasized, along with the legal role of guarantor of the supremacy of the Constitutional Court in relation to the conjectural one, of political actor, which the Constitutional Court performed during the recent years in Romania. The second part ends with a portrait of the public administration as a sum of institutional structures with theoretical role of functional capacities of the state, arriving at the following conclusion: "Within the system of the Romanian public administration the bureaucratic dysfunctions and the rigidity of the relations with the citizens or with other organizations are "capitalized", in a specific manner", as opportunities for corruption (p. 558).

"The Political Class and the Requirements of the Democratic Government" is the general theme of the third part. The first study is signed by Aristide Cioabă and it treats the "Theoretical General Framework and the Structural Profile of the Post-Communist Political Class", starting from an interesting discussion concerning the interdependence between the political class and the type or the characteristics political regimes. The ample analysis conducted proves the failure of the political class in Romania, partially due to the liberal and democratic proven deficit and in part due to the failure to implement in practice the mechanisms of "horizontal responsibility". This was triggered by the blockage of the functioning of the system of *checks and balances*, by the tragedy of the overlapping of the individual interests over the public ones often cancelling the latter, which "favors and aggravates the phenomena of corruption and inefficiency of the rule of law" (p. 609). The next study entitled "The Electorate and the Selection of the Political Class", signed as well by Aristide Cioabă emphasizes the diverse deficiencies in relation to the desiderate of directing the selection process after moral and rational criteria, sub ordered to the idea of assurance / guarantee of the responsibility of the representatives of the destinies and interests of the collectivity (p. 631).

The forth part, entitled "The Political System and the New Challenges" opens with the theme "The Semi-Presidentialism and Its Functional Equilibriums. Options for the Revision of the Romanian Constitution", and is analyzed by Gabriela Tănăsescu. The analytical perspective followed emphasizes the especially important role performed by the relation of the presidents to the other state powers confronting the personalities of the characters in key positions in state, and of their political styles with the structure of the parliamentary majorities. The author shows that "in the evolution of the semi-presidentialism in Romania a determining role was played by the dialectics circumscribed precisely to the rapport of the presidents and of the political leaders of the parliamentary majorities and of their political behavior to the constitutional *design* drawn in 1991" (p.

693-4) highlighting in different perspectives an obsolete character of “the preeminence deprived of political responsibility of certain leaders enlightened by a Divine gift, of the historical personality situated outside the democratic control” (p. 698). The next subject, “The Democratic Consolidation: Uncertainties and Regressive Temptations”, signed by Aristide Cioabă, broadly evaluates the sideslips of the democratic consolidation and the modalities to measure scientifically this democratic consolidation, marking also the slippages generated by the unbalance of the state powers, the most flagrant case being the defiance of the Parliament. Gheorghe Ciascai in his study “The Political System between National Sovereignty and European Integration” runs a radiography of the opportunities and challenges generated by the accession to the European Union, analyzing then the political nature of the European Union and the competences of the Union, considered as a political entity *sui generis* with sinuous evolutions toward a political-juridical identity organized around the treaties and of the European “integrative” common interest. These particularities govern the relation between the European Union and the member states. The Guardians of the Union and of the treaties as the author calls the European Commission and the Court of Justice have prerogatives of control over the member states, among which, the most powerful is considered the *infringement* procedure. Romania’s role is associated to the paradoxical European political postmodernity: Romania is a full member but can not capitalize on his membership in the Union through successful participation in European decision-making process. Ruxandra Iordache signs the study “The Participation in Decision-Making of the Romanian Authorities in the European Union – the Case of Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020” confirming the conclusions of the previous study in regard to this particular situation. “In what concerns the Romanian participation to the negotiations concerning MFF, in the stage that corresponds to the political agreement, several conclusions are more important. The relation of Romania to the European mechanism is still “work in progress” from the perspective of the theoretical approaches that place the accent on the process of learning ‘as you go’ of the processes and manners of action in the EU decision institution. There is a natural need for a period of assimilation of a true ‘culture’ of mutual trust and respect that took place in the older member states (...)” (p. 805).

The final considerations of the book (signed by Aristide Cioabă) underline the importance of the democratic consolidation, and the importance of the consolidation of the rule of law, of the in-depth learning of the rules of the political game observing the democratic rules, of the responsibility of the political class, of the ameliorated formalism and bureaucracy for a functional and rational bureaucracy, eliminating the clienteles’ cultivation, of the corruption and arbitrary accomplishing the stability and functionality of our democratic system, and, through these aspects we can assess the importance of this fundamental research for the specialists, for students and for the democratic culture in Romania.

Henrieta Anișoara Șerban

Lutgard Lams, Geert Crauwels and Henrieta Anișoara Șerban

Totalitarian and Authoritarian Discourses. A Global and Timeless Phenomenon?, Oxford, Ed. Peter Lang Academic Publishers, 2014, 349 p.

Totalitarian and Authoritarian Discourses. A Global and Timeless Phenomenon? edited by Lutgard Lams, Geert Crauwels and Henrieta Anișoara Șerban is an interdisciplinary accomplishment arguing the thesis of the universality of totalitarian discourses (and of discourse of totalitarian type, as it is considered here the authoritarian discourse).

The introduction explains the theoretical views and the methodology of the volume, interestingly structured in three parts: “Creation – Identity and Memories,” Mass Communication and Official Discourse”, and “Power Structures – Politics and Truth”.

The theoretical argument “Totalitarian Discourse: The New Snow White/Society in the Discursive Wooden Mirror” signed by Henrieta Șerban finds a detailed illustration in the case studies approaching the situation of totalitarian or authoritarian discourse or of aspects that characterize them in diverse countries and at different moments, making the volume more convincing. There are several powerful defining angles undertaken by the author, among which we have selected the following: “Totalitarian discourse is a symptom of fear and guilt, widely spread into society, illustrating both the aim of political power of indoctrination, mobilization and the thorough transformation of the human being, and the failure of governance, ‘the incapacity to govern the country through ‘normal’ authority and executive measures’¹. Due to this inability of normal governance, the civilian individuals become an army of ‘homocuses,’ indoctrinated toy soldiers, enrolled in the mechanism of the totalitarian society” (p. 23).

¹ S. Žizek, *Did Somebody Say Totalitarianism? Five Interventions in the (Mis)Use of a Notion*, London, Verso, 2011 (2001), p. 119.

Răzvan V. Pantelimon approaches the myth of Che Guevara in the Cuban political discourse, Geert Crauwels analyzes literary autobiographic discourse as totalitarian discourse, Arvi Sepp discusses Nazi poetry, Soonhee Frayssé-Kim investigates the North Korean totalitarian discourse, Jorge V. Tigno and Jean Encinas Franco approach the dictatorial discourse in Philippine, Lutgard Lams evaluates the symbolical construction of the contemporary Chinese discourse, the mystifying discourse about the Soviet soldier in the Yugoslavian press is analyzed by Ivana Dobrivojević, and the pathos of the Soviet press is evaluated by Ruta Marcinkevičienė. The volume includes an analysis of the myth of military indispensability in the Burmese political culture conducted by Ko Ko Thett, an investigation of the totalitarian discourse and of the rule of anti – in Ceaușescu's Romania in the vision of Viorella Manolache, as well as the approach of the characteristic aspects of the totalitarian discourse in Tunisia of Ben Ali in the analysis of Abdenbi Sarroukh. All these serious and varied case studies confirm under specific aspects parts of the theoretical argument elaborated by Henrieta Șerban, in diverse spaces and varied periods of time, stretched up to contemporary times, overcoming thus the consecrated classification, more limiting from a conceptual point of view: fascist, Nazi, communist and post-communist discourses.

Another conceptual opening of the paper is the avoidance of the chronological structuring or simply on combined historical-geographical criteria of the volume. Instead, the totalitarian discourse is interpreted in the three above mentioned parts from the three dimensional perspectives, relevant for the analysis and emphasized in the theoretical argument: the discursive power to create identities and memories, by the chapters signed by Pantelimon, Crauwels, Sepp and Soonhee Frayssé-Kim; the totalitarian discursive power of influence via the official media (analyzed in the works of Jorge V. Tigno and Jean Encinas Franco, Lutgard Lams, Ivana Dobrivojević, and Ruta Marcinkevičienė); and, the reifying power of the totalitarian discourse through the reification of the power structures and of the relation between politics and truth (see the chapters signed by Ko Ko Thett, Viorella Manolache, and Abdenbi Sarroukh).

The totalitarian temptation (or the authoritarian temptation seen as a form of the first, but with a more limited transformative power than in totalitarianism and with an imposing presence but almighty, as in totalitarianism) is real, although some may not embrace this part of the analysis. The presence of discourses that identify enemies or "melt" the individual subjectivity and alterity, or they become vehicles for the transformation of the national leaders in myths, or demonize the dissonant voices, all in an ideological language, ambiguous, heavy and artificial that tends to replace the natural language (*langue de bois*) are clues for the explanation of the successful survival of the totalitarian discourse. In 1976 *La tentation totalitaire* was published by Jean-François Revel, who investigated the appetite of the individual for totalitarianism and the appetite of the western left for the "dreams" of the powerful socialism, if not even for something more radical. In 2009, also in the French space and under the same title the work is republished, completed though by the idea of an essay of the totalitarianisms of transcendence, the thesis of totalitarian violence is emphasized by Jacques Pons who argues that violence is sustained by a religious drive. This volume, edited by Lutgard Lams, Geert Crauwels and Henrieta Anişoara Șerban has not only the merit to emphasize the religious dimension of the totalitarian discursive manipulation, of the supreme leader or the paradox millenarism of the totalitarian society, but also apparent in discourse, but also the audacity to sustain the idea of universality and of the relative independence of certain geographical spaces or of fixed temporal landmarks. This idea does not involve the indiscriminating treatment of all subjects, the lack of difference from case to case, but it underlines the striking similarities beyond the differences generated by culture, history or the natural language. Among these similarities, interesting is the argument of *particularism* brought always to the fore by the representatives of the totalitarian regimes and seen as a protection against any criticism that can be then rejected due to the lack of sophistication and access to the subtleties of language, culture or history.

The universality of the totalitarian discourses of the discourses of totalitarian type is identifiable also in the disguising attempts of the populist or xenophobe discourses, or even in the double standards still present in the third millennium. Thus, if we accept this perspective, the study of totalitarian discourse is real and relevant, and it is sustained to the fore of contemporary research as a foundation for the comparative research of the characteristics and transformations of the European political discourse nowadays, and beyond, in the world, widening the sphere of investigation past propaganda and manipulation and selecting and analyzing the manipulation of the individual, of the institutions and eventually of the entire society through discursive manipulations and from here to notice the dramatic changes induced into the social fabric and the individual nature.

In fact, this volume contributes both to linguistic pragmatics, now applied to totalitarian discourse and to the political philosophy of the totalitarian discourse, closely inter-related. We understand how are legitimated all these discourses through some variation of discourse about the "bright future", as a paradox, already present, through a total emancipation of whatever past, insufficiently "bright" from an ideological standpoint, and thus "backward", and through an emancipation from the so-called inadequate values and symbols which are too closely related to the past. This sort of artificial discursive realm that results, generates an "artificial" society, formed out of "artificial" members of society that, certainly, can be situated anywhere, anytime.

Ruxandra Iordache

Henrieta Anișoara Șerban, Cristian-Ion Popa (coord.)

Filosofie politică republicană. Ipostaze moderne și contemporane, Bucharest, ISPRI Publishing House, 2014, 314 p.

This volume entitled *Republican Political Philosophy. Modern and Contemporary Landmarks* is a collective work that capitalizes the results of the research program “The Idea of Republic in Modern and Contemporary Political Philosophy” led by the researchers directed by Scientific Researcher I, Ion Goian, PhD at the Institute of Political Science and International Relations (2011-2013).

The volume consists of the three parts: Historical Landmarks, Contemporary Approaches of Republicanism and Documentary. The theoretical background of this republicanism is capitalized in the contemporary studies that can be considered a republican revival of the ancient political ideas of the Greek city and the Roman republic, developed by the thinkers of Italian Renaissance, of the thinkers of the 17th and 18th centuries, and by the “founding fathers” of the USA.

“Historical Landmarks” debuts with the study “Machiavelli and the Classical Republicanism: Contemporary Interpretations”, by Ion Goian who interprets that Machiavelli’s represent the origin of modern republicanism. Also, English republican thinkers (James Harrington, John Milton or Algernon Sidney) are crucial to the studies of civic republicanism, centered on Machiavelli and the liberalism of John Locke contributing the basic ideas of the American republic. “American Republicanism – Political History and Philosophy” by Henrieta Anișoara Șerban further analyzes the English liberal democratic and republican theoretical sources welded into the American Constitution and democracy, emphasizing republican history, events and mechanisms in their fascinating inter-relation. The next study, “Republican Ideas in Contemporary Political Philosophy” of Viorella Manolache approaches various dimensions of modern and contemporary republican theory, within a complex and in-depth analysis, not avoiding the analyses of republican practices, mainly in Europe and in Romania.

Enache Tușa entitles his substantial contribution “Projects and Visions of the Republican Form of Government in Romanian Society” and approaches the particular republican itinerary of ideas and institutions in Romania. Conducted since the beginning of the 19th century and until today, the investigation points to a specific quest of accustoming to the European republican path, which at times valued the pre-modern elements and at times went around them, seen as obstacle elements, which did not favour the implementation of modern elements such as: the Roman law, the civil relations, the citizens’ rights, etc. a glorious republican moment was marked by the reforms carried along by the scholars and legislators around Alexandru Ioan Cuza.

Part II, “Contemporary Approaches of Republicanism”, starts by “Neorepublican Public Philosophy” by Cristian-Ion Popa, a study dedicated to the interpretation of the *public policies* built around social causes answering to the entitlements of certain groups and their relation to liberalism or/and democratism and social-democracy.

“The Compatibility of the Republican Theory of Pettit with Rawlsian Liberalism” by Sari Florescu approaches the theories of *freedom as non-domination* and *justice as fairness* from the two philosophers analyzed. The author investigates the extent of the compatibilities of these two, and the extent of their complementarities. The research also approaches the characteristics of a space of “contestatory democracy” (Philip Pettit) open by republican incentives, and becoming a “cooperative venture for mutual advantage” (John Rawls) of central importance for liberal democracy, too.

“American Republicanism: Several Conceptual Landmarks” by Henrieta Anișoara Șerban investigates the American philosophic republicanism in its characteristic elements. Is nowadays republicanism the heritor of the pluralist and patriotic American republicanism of the Fore Fathers? The study identifies the fundamental republican political values still valuable and discussed by present-day American thinkers.

The third part, “Documentary”, is composed of two interesting studies of Philip Pettit and Quentin Skinner, in translation. Philip Pettit discusses the ideal of freedom as non-domination and its importance within the philosophical debates. Quentin Skinner also interprets the republican perspective on freedom, as to be free is not to be dominated and to live in a free state is to be un-dominated neither by inner institutions or individual nor by external forces, or corporations, etc.

“Republicanism: One More Inquiry into the Coherence of a Concept”, is an interview with William Stearns, American theoretician specialized in political culture, who approaches republicanism from a philosophical, discursive and symbolical perspective, with interest for civic participation and communitarian cohesion, republican values, virtuous civism, and most importantly, freedom.

The “Succinct Glossary of Main Personalities, Concepts and Events of Republicanism”, by Henrieta Anișoara Șerban, is actually quite sizable, a useful instrument, identifying the main elements for the study of republicanism. It synthesizes them with a clear view over the ensemble of the topic, revealing the complexity of the republican issues.

This substantial work succeeds to cover a very important topic of contemporary political philosophy with relevance for the Romanian political philosophical debates and for the democratic practice, alike.

Alexandra Vasile

Angela Botez, Henrieta Anișoara Șerban, Oana Vasilescu, Marius Augustin Drăghici and Gabriel Nagăț (coord.)

Thomas Kuhn on Revolution and Paradigm in the Development of Science, Bucharest, Pro Universitaria Publishing House, 2014, 510 p.

Structurally conceived and edited with a respect for the (im)posed – (dis)posed norms of rigorously scientific anticipatory vision, with the intention of anticipating and resolving any demands an expert reader might raise in a post-lecture mode and on a Kuhnian note – “now I know what happened, this makes sense (...); what was for me just a list of facts has now become a recognizable pattern”, the volume *Thomas Kuhn on Revolution and Paradigm in the Development of Science* traces and recommends an analytical trail with milestones already suggested by a *dual approach* towards both *traditions and event landmarks* – the 50 year anniversary of the publication of the book *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* and the 90th anniversary of Thomas Kuhn’s birth (1922).

Not at all aleatory, the present volume is un-synopated and a further volume in the same *Philosophy of Science* series (published by the Romanian Academy Publishing House) – a series started in 1978 with Angela Botez as its initiator, catalytic spirit and scientific endeavour coordinator – in the sense of a *traditio*’s philosophical canon: simultaneously reclaiming and relevant.

Any activity dedicated to the subject’s approach – which can seem to be, when first reading the texts included in the book, a consolidate(ing)-exegetic endeavour (six volumes have been edited so far) of a nucleus of local and international specialists, an editorial aim for scientists and philosophers, researchers and teachers was intensified and amplified through establishing particularizing contacts (see the dialogue between Angela Botez and Thomas Kuhn, and his reply on the 9th May 1995) and/or by intentional, analytical delimitations of a reflex of the notorious author (i.e. erosion) already apparent within the Romanian space with an intention of re-launching it in an actualized form [for instance, at the moment when we are transmitting the present signal, one can mention the convincing study *Kuhn, Lakatos and the Paradigm Change in British Political Economy in 1979* by British researcher Ian Browne, included in the present issue of *Romanian Review of Political Sciences and International Relations*].

In fact, the published volume offers a fundamental comparative analysis of both Kuhn’s ideas and the landmarks of Romanian philosophical thinking, and/or offers a pertinent reappraisal of the aforementioned philosophical systems, with an accent upon reaffirming *specific Kuhnian markings*: a reconfiguration of the analytical spectrum of investigation regarding an examination of scientific activity and an interpretation of its results, through promoting new standards in scientific historiography by accepting any initiative of re-conceptualizing scientific changes and imposing a pattern of historical-sociological approaches, as applied to the contemporary philosophy of science.

The commentary *About Scientific Certainty in Kuhn’s Works*, by Marius Augustin Drăghici, confirms the separation of studies included in the present volume (just) from any *polishing or routine re-reading* of Kuhn’s texts, while stating that said text [texts] do not explicitly target the originality of the author’s work but rather “throw a light to help us in understanding Kuhnian concepts and reconciling differently perceived and momentarily received periods, circumscribed by the *Structure*’s moment and post-interval as a means of examining the dynamics of scientific knowledge.” One also decodes the analytical – directive method of designing an “around” as a modality of non-limited inclusion inside the already – mentioned best-seller, or rather as a possibility of appraising any aspects targeting Kuhnian concepts *of before and after* the sparkling of the event marked by the work’s publication/reception.

The particularizing character of our recently published book is a distancing from any obvious risky automatism, through investing any coordinators with a (strict) sense of identifying advantages and specificities, at any price, in the sense in which the directorial/ guiding collective for the present volume discerningly applies rules of information trial and assembly, or classifying and structuring ideas and content in accordance with certain criteria and relationships, through *an equation of coordination endeavors with a symbology of cardinal landmarks which serves to confirm/ administer realistic analytical directions*.

If the objectives noted are (a)pproved from the “control tower” of research by Angela Botez and (a)ccredited by academic Gheorghe Vlăduțescu or university professors Ioan I. Roșca, Gabriel Nagăț (in his *Scientific Revolution as a Kuhnian Concept. A Comment about the Return Journey from the Structure*) abundantly uses the method of reader guidance (animated by a *curiosity* of careful examination and marked by the impact of the first volume Kuhn published, *The Copernican revolution*) in the direction of a *primordial return*. An intention of examining the entire Kuhnian corpus of works is thus established using Kuhnian self-evaluatory mechanisms, and accented by permanent slidings between “a kind of unknown hermeneutics” and “the silent abandonment of *conceptual continuism* in favor of a revolutionary epistemological and social fracture”, banking upon a review of *essential pre-Kuhnian* elements and of *graduality* – an important result of *extraordinary research* (and favoring *normal research* much less).

By avoiding the pertinently-panoramic character of analytical coordinates already demonstrated in Angela Botez's *Introduction* to the volume [with a (selective) echo: in directing lines traced by philosophy of science specialists – H.W. Newton-Smith, Paul Hoyningen-Huene, Ilie Părvu, Mircea Flonta, Angela Botez, Gabriel Nagât, Henrieta Anișoara Șerban, Dragoș Băgu or Marius Augustin Drăghici; in translations belonging to the historian – relativist school – Roger Trigg, Larry Laudan, Friedrich Stadler, Steve Fuller, H.-J. Dahms, M. Schorner, Christian Dambock, Christoph Limbeck-Lillienau, David Rabouin; and / or in *Kuhnian Philosophical Confluences* publicized in translation by Jacobs Struan, Alexandru Boboc, Jan Barbour, Xavier de Donato Rodriguez, Sergiu Băran, Narcis Zărnescu or Valentin Teodorescu etc.], one cannot help but underline the method and the analytical instruments used, which recommend a new lecture grid for Kuhn's works, already interpreted by an appeal to *the rule of two*.

The authors' new option is not unfounded, taking into account the fact that it certifies any notes within the book's restorative opening pages already stated and commented in the text *Relationships between History and the Philosophy of Science* by confessingly establishing the *duality* of Kuhnian involvement in reconfiguring an intersectingly – philosophical historical profile, uniting both *communication* and *rapprochement* in the inter – and not intra – disciplinary sense and contrary to Kuhn's warning which states *that both the history and the philosophy of science must continue to exist separately, as two different disciplines*.

If in a Lyotardian acception *the rapporteur was a philosopher*, in the Kuhnian score the status of a historian – chronicler acknowledges his *double vocation* – open towards research in both the history and the philosophy of science – overtaking *any description* and relying on *structure* which offers an almost-sociological approach to history and philosophy, seen as sources which produce knowledge, and in which, non-equally, criticism can be substituted for research as a formulation ready to generate a new, totally different field of study.

Hence the *double option* already expressed in the Kuhnian statement that history represents a potential grant for rationally rebuilding the sciences, banking on an "autonomy of historical understanding"; and philosophy reclaims a *covering law model*, by offering an articulated version of history's image.

The way/criteria of archiving *the two registries* ensures precision and professional competence guarantees for any information processed by the volume's coordinators, already interested in systematized Kuhnian concepts, interpretations of Kuhn's works and exhaustive treatment of conflated historical philosophies of science; Angela Botez, "*A Historicist-Mutational Vision of the Development of Science: Popper, Kuhn, Toulmin, Feyerabend, Lakatos, Agassi*"; "*Confluences of Historist Philosophy of Science (Th. Kuhn, M. Polanyi, C. O. Schrag) and Blaga's Philosophy*"; Henrieta Anișoara Șerban, "*The Concept of the Paradigm in Thomas Kuhn's Work*"; Marius Augustin Drăghici, "*About Scientific Certitudes in Thomas Kuhn*"; Xavier de Donato Rodriguez, "*Goodman, Kuhn, Panofsky and Gombrich about Science and Art*" (translated by Oana Vasilescu); Jan Barbour, "*The Role of Paradigm in Religion*" (translated by Oana Vasilescu) and Gabriel Nagât, "*The Kuhnian Concept of Scientific Revolution. A Comment about the Return Journey from the Structure of Scientific Revolutions*".

The volume brings to attention Mircea Flonta's appreciated study "How will the *Structure of Scientific Revolutions* be understood by a reader of Wittgenstein?" and Alexandru Boboc's "Science and Knowledge in Cassirer's Philosophy of Symbolic Forms" – but also notes, in a balancing note, any opinions, comments or reactions of Kuhnian works' predecessors, disciples and critics (Robin Collingwood, Michael Polanyi, Ian Hacking, Paul Hoyningen-Huene, Larry Laudan, Michael Devitt or Ernan McMullin), who both actualize and value the paradigm of American philosophy (via Devitt, McMullin, Hoyingen-Huene, R. Rorty), and the Kuhnian school (Toulmin, Lakatos, Feyerabend), while focusing upon the philosophy of science in both its constructivist and deconstructivist instances.

Angela Botez notes in her *Introduction* that the volume "once again illustrates the diversity of Kuhn's philosophical work" and underlines "the conscious, voluntary limitations which occur when accenting some of Kuhn's innovative sources, as well as a confrontation between his approach and the general perspective dominating the field of Anglo-Saxon philosophy of science almost without any opposition, could equally stimulate both an interest and a receptivity of any reader towards them".

With an accent upon the correctly – proportioned non-limitative approach, the directions offered a place within the same *dual registry* note both an option for a *reading in terms of singularity* which would reassess Kuhn's visionary originality/ uniqueness [with equal reference to any importance awarded to the Kuhnian *mutationist dynamics* and to *incommensurability* (included in a *tension-dominated* relationship with the idea of *scientific progress*, seen as the matrix's ordering capacity, when associated to a paradigm, to solve any *puzzles/problems*) but also of *subjectivity* (perceived as a theory choice with maximal role in stimulating any values which can engender dissonances, or as a mode of interfering in science's normal way of functioning) or *sociality* (as regards any community involved in formulating conclusions on the basis of observation, and of choosing solutions for controversial theories), and the preference for a *desingularizing process*, definitory of any approach unable to exclude Kuhnian predecessors such as – Bradley, Collingwood, Polanyi, or surprising convergences between Kuhn and Blaga (see in this sense Angela Botez's and R.T. Allen's studies).

From the perspective of interdependence between Quine, McMullin and Feyerabend, as well as any encyclopedi(zing) exigencies, (see in this sense "Th. Kuhn" in the *Encyclopedia of Philosophy and Humanistic*

Sciences, Bucharest, All Publishing House, 2004, p. 562), Kuhn's vision of the history of science acknowledges first-rank informational networks by correlating them with "normal science"'s (de/in-signs) and finding them able to sustain unexpected paradigm mutations, which serve to embody a revolutionary formulation of *paradigm change* ("a solid structure of conceptual, theoretical, instrumental and methodological acquisitions") to another structure (a sum of "anomalies"), in order to understand and explain nature "completely, objectively and truly".

The effects of such an *actively-dialogal approach* (see Thomas Kuhn, "Relationships between the History and Philosophy of Science") have an effect upon the *shell* of significant variables inside the internal structure of real science, from whose core "*the scientific community* – a primary unit producing science –, *the paradigm-discipline matrix*, including the main cognitive operations of the scientific group, *normal science* – the applications of paradigm to real institutional domains of scientific research, *the scientific revolution* – as a result of normal science's crisis, or *the incommensurability of successive paradigms*" are all included [Angela Botez, *The Historist – Mutationist Vision of the Development of Science* (Popper, Kuhn, Toulmin, Feyerabend, Lakatos, Agassi, Sneed, Stegmüller)].

In Henrieta Anişoara Şerban's opinion (as presented in her work *The Concept of the Paradigm in Thomas Kuhn's Works*) any scientific endeavor establishes its own contor(ing) roadmaps while searching for landmark(s), and identifies the definition of the *paradigm concept* (whether *accepted or renewing* in its essence) both as an instrument/image, and an *exemplary status*, thus ensuring a real opportunity of revealing "any competition between fragments of scientific communication" with the avowed purpose of scientific element discovery, and not of "self-justification".

Equal to the "rule of two", the volume *Thomas Kuhn – on Revolution and Paradigm in the Development of Science* constitutes a decidedly active argument in tracing new directions with an interest in the paradigmatic lecture grid, and/or formulating a cumulative measure which does not diminish the mechanism of solving the Kuhnian puzzle through *assimilation- selection- solution*.

Viorella Manolache

Viorella Manolache (coord.)

Romanian – Moroccan Forms of Manifestation in the European Space, Bucharest, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations Publishing House, 2014, 259 p.

This volume on *Romanian – Moroccan Forms of Manifestation in the European Space*, coordinated by Viorella Manolache, has the merit of rethinking, reorienting and debating the connections, the partnerships and the Romanian-Moroccan relations – a historical, political, diplomatic, economic, commercial, cultural well-known reality, with a consolidated tradition, but insufficiently studied with scientific and academic approaches within academic groves.

This is why the current volume is a necessity and an imperative that targets to shed light on various issues pertaining to Moroccan-Romanian connections on the one hand, and to Moroccan-Romanian connections with Europe, on the other hand.

The volume is a highly thought work that recommends itself through the balance between the texts in French and English, through the thematic concerns raised and studied, and through the problematic brought to the fore.

Beyond the intellectual and diplomatic value outlined in the Allocutions Chapter, the volume consolidates its importance through the insightful contributions of scholars and researchers who hammer on interesting topics. The importance of this volume also lies in both its structure and its textual corpus.

Viorella Manolache assumes that the *rewriting of space* brings to the fore certain clarifications maintained on the coordination of current European interests, reaffirming the architecture of what could be accepted as a *plane table for the state of the places* (p. 38). Such conceptualization is important in the ways through which, the *Romanian-Moroccan va-et-vient inside cultural space* retrace the double universal and global trajectories and itineraries anticipating unlimited connections on the cultural level.

Ian Browne argues, following Burke's use of the concept of tradition, that such a concept can be re-used to give substance to the idea of membership within a social, moral and political community, in its effects on the nation, and that the idea of membership is seen as precondition to some sort of embedded identity.

The researcher suggests that affective relationships, such as cherishing, held towards one's tradition are bound up with the idea of a country having a narrative, as opposed to having a history, whereby the narrative turns into a structure imposed upon the past in order to make meanings of the past in terms of a nation's conception of the present in its goals and achievements (41).

If Ana Maria Negoită considers the correlations between the trading spaces and the dynamic ones – see, the Qaysariya model in her case –, Abdelmjid Kettioui, however, discusses the cultural ramifications and

repercussions in approaching *The Specter and Allure of "Turning Moor": The White Captive and the un/Happy Tiding in Thomas Pellow's Account of Captivity and Adventures in Barbary (1740)*, assuming that "Turning Turk" not only meant that some English subjects were converting to Islam, but more broadly and significantly that the English society was adopting new procedures and identities that were based on a Mediterranean experience (64).

Eliza Răducă reconfirms the historical and cultural facts, dealing with the particular reflexes on which the French culture maintained a strong impact, both on the Moroccan and the Romanian cultures. Within the same register, François Bréda suggests an inedited perspective, using a personal filter when discussing Shawkat Seif Eddine.

Unclosed to a single perspective and to a rigid, punctual perspective, the volume is open to few incidental studies, those which approach the *Moroccan Diplomatic Encounters with Early Modern Europe: Spain in Moroccan Embassy Discourse* (Layachi El Habbouch), *Religion, Revolution and the Public Sphere* (Abdelaziz El Amrani), *"Terrorism" and the Politicisation of Religion* (Monaim El Azzouzi), *Arabisation Policy in Education in Morocco* (Marouane Zakhir) or *Eastern European Non-Power in the Interwar Period: Definitions and Ways of Actions* (Cristina Arvatu Vohn).

These contributions, albeit framed within general conceptualizations, strengthen the particular themes of the volume while valorizing and maximizing the immediate impact of the overall topic.

The Place of Romania and Morocco in Europe's Geopolitical Space (Zeljko Mirkov) is highlighted in this contribution, and reminds us that recent (modern) history holds many answers through a comparative overview of many modern nations in their predicaments.

Adina Burchiu with her *Stages in the Romanian-Moroccan Relations Dossier*, a pertinent study, or the openings, solutions and the proposals of Lucian Jora in his *EU Public Diplomacy Towards the South Mediterranean Countries – Instances of Intercultural Cooperation at Work to Support Economic and Political Interests* fall within the same vision and enhance the multidisciplinary approach of this volume.

The study about *Humanism in Particularism: A Brief Feminist Incursion into a Muslim Story* (Henrieta Anișoara Șerban) closes the chapter and opens the final one which dynamically inventories the cultural and artistic experiences relevant to the Romanian-Moroccan interrelations (see for example, Carmen Burcea, Gheorghe Manolache, Valentin Trifesco, Claudia Moscovici or Mohammed Al-Sadoun).

Every study and the volume itself as a coherent unity deliver strong and necessary intellectual and scientific arguments, pertinent to Europe as a meeting point of Romanian and Moroccan relations throughout various junctures in history.

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