

**INFORMATION WARFARE, UNDER SCRUTINY. EVENT  
DEDICATED TO THE LAUNCHING OF THE FIRST ANALYSIS AND  
EVALUATION STRUCTURE OF THE INFORMATION WARFARE  
AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION IN ROMANIA**

The Institute of Political Science and International Relations “Ion. I. C. Brătianu” (ISPRI), under the aegis of the Romanian Academy, created a new structure of unique scientific research by its way and its mission in Romania – the Laboratory of Analysis of the War of Information and Strategic Communication (LARICS). With clear objectives and a separate agenda, LARICS aims to provide expertise and analysis on internal and external events in Romania and the Republic of Moldova, to evaluate and monitor the international press and thus to become an early warning source for possible public misinformation campaigns triggered on the territory of the two states in the context of the current information warfare.

Thus, on April 26, 2017, in the Aula of the Romanian Academy, the Institute of Political Science and International Relations “Ion. I. C. Brătianu”, in partnership with the Black Sea University Foundation (FUMN), organized the Launch Conference of the Laboratory, inaugurating its official functioning at ISPRI. The event enjoyed a special interest, manifested by the presence of the numerous scientists, academics, university professors, diplomats, journalists, students as well as other interested intellectuals. The event was opened by the Secretary General of the Romanian Academy, Victor Voicu, who welcomed the initiative, saying it was necessary especially in the context of the threat of the Russian Federation to Romania and the EU, exercised through the weapons of the informational war. He also called public attention to the fact that we are witnessing a “Romanian hybrid war against the Romanians” and that this is in fact the most dangerous type of war for the Romanian society. Then, Mr. Voicu, as moderator, introduced Professor Ioan-Aurel Pop, rector of Babes-Bolyai University, who began his speech by finding that the information warfare is so easy and productive today because the receiver of the information is for better or worse rather “*tabula rasa*”. “There is a danger for generations that can be bombarded with any information because of lack of knowledge,” he said, pointing out that the best tool against propaganda and information intoxication is “the human brain that we must cultivate and educate.”

The academician continued his speech presenting examples of speeches and “truths” used by Hungary in a veritable “communication and information warfare” waged with Romania, their success being based precisely on the wretched ignorance of the Romanian society and on the lacking care for education in Romania. The event continued with the speeches of Academician Daniel Dăianu, Professor PhD Cătălin Zamfir, and Ambassador Cristian Diaconescu, member of the LARICS Expert Council, who welcomed the initiative and found the need for such a research structure in Romania. Ambassador Cristian Diaconescu emphasized that the having such a Laboratory in the Romanian Academy does not seem to him a minute accomplishment, because “the issue of the informational, world-conscious and explicit information warfare (...) from a political point of view is recognized in Romania. Either the political vector in Romania is unaware of the danger

and the vulnerabilities in the long run, or has its own reasons for tacit, which would be a very interesting and complicated issue,” he added, bringing three examples of information campaigns that blocked decisions of foreign policy at international level, in which Romania was involved.

At the end of the conference, the floor was given to University Professor Dan Dungaciu, PhD, ISPRI Director and LARICS initiator. The Professor pointed out that LARICS will not focus first only on “fake news”, as many other organizations around the world already do, for the simple reason that this concept is too vague. LARICS will rather focus on analysing social media and the mechanisms of mistrust in institutions and leaders – the “geopolitics of mistrust”, based on which the informational warfare is successful not only in Romania but also in the EU. “If we only relate to those who released false information, if we do not seek to understand the environment in which information was released, then we missed at least half of the picture, perhaps the most important half. In this sense, we are interested in the lack of trust in the institutions, in the social fabric of the respective community. Institutional distrust is directly proportional to the effectiveness of an informational warfare,” explained Professor Dan Dungaciu. In conclusion, the ISPRI Director presented concrete examples for the manifestation of the potential for mistrust in the social reality, believing that for the time being Romania resists the informational warfare coming from the Russian Federation, for a simple cause: there is “a lack of trust in the Russian Federation and the explicit messages that come from there.” The danger, on the other hand, comes from the existence of “distrust in social, political institutions in Romania. This does not mean that a confrontation with Russia does not exist or will not exist. It will exist through middlemen. We will be confronted in the coming years with such a kind of beating in which there will be messages from Budapest and Moscow,” he added. The guests had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the issues of interest during the conference, at a public reception following the conference, where were present the members of the LARICS Expert Council and other key speakers.

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## **INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE**

***Contemporary Philosophy –  
problems, trends and perspectives***

**28 August – 02 September, Varna, Bulgaria**

Between 28 and 31 August, the international philosophical conference entitled “Contemporary Philosophy – Problems, Trends and Perspectives” took place in the Creative House of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Varna (Bulgaria). This congress was organized by the Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge (BAS) in collaboration with several foreign partners: the Czech, Slovak and Polish Academies of Sciences, the Romanian Academy, the Universities of Liege (Belgium), Belgrade, Novi Sad and Niš (Serbia), as well as of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The International Organizing Committee, chaired by Assoc. Prof. Bogdana Todorova, included scientists from each of the listed institutions.

Contemporary philosophy is called to remind people of their deeper self, of their humanity and finitude and this is the reason why the conference was gathered under the

Socratic idea regarding the modesty of knowledge, expressed in Latin: “Quantum scimus gutta est, ignoramus mare”.

The conference was attended by over 40 scientists from 10 European countries. The talks were distributed in six thematic panels: *Contemporary Logical Problems – Solutions and Interpretations*; *Value Conflicts and Radicalism*; *Religion and Politics*; *Contemporary problems of analytic philosophy*; *Contemporary philosophical frameworks of the theory of education*; *Rationality and non-rationality in philosophy and science*. The purpose of each panel was to outline the specific challenges that today’s world poses to each of the major philosophical disciplines – from logic, ontology and philosophy of science, through political philosophy and philosophy of religion, to aesthetics, philosophy of education, and comparative philosophy.

In the papers presented and during the lively discussions following them, the role of the philosophical reflection and argumentation in today’s public debate was treated from various points of view. However, the main perspective of the discussions was constituted by the reality of the world which we live in: a world made small by the globalization but also painfully divided by economic, religious, civilizational and other conflicts. The three working days of the Varna conference clearly showed that in spite of the dynamic changes during the last decades and despite the leading role of technology in our century, philosophy still has something to say about the topical problems of mankind. It is up to the international philosophical community to address these problems and focus their efforts on giving their specific contribution to solving them.

Among the papers presented, in the first section entitled, *Contemporary Logical Problems – Solutions and Interpretations* and chaired by Assoc. Prof. Kristyan Enchev, having as technical secretary Lubka Ilieva, the first speaker Dr. Vit Punčochář (Czech Academy of Sciences) presented the paper entitled *A Failure of Some Basic Logical Laws*; Assoc. Prof. Doroteya Angelova (ISSK-BAS), the communication *Logical Consequence in Relevant and Connexive Logics and Its Roots in Antiquity*, Prof. Bruno Leclerc (University of Liège, Belgium) spoke about *Giving an account of fictional discourse. Meinongian logics versus modal Logics*, and Corresponding member Prof. Angel Stefanov (ISSK-BAS), presented the paper *Dogmas in Science and Philosophy*. In the second part of the first day which was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Doroteya Angelova with the technical secretary Lubka Ilieva, Prof. Martin Tabakov (ISSK-BAS) presented the paper *A Hitherto Unnoticed Paradox in the Hare-Niemeyer System*, Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Obreshkov (ISSK-BAS), approached the topic *On a normative consequence relation as a tool in discussion about some modal logical systems*, Assoc. Prof. Kristiyan Enchev (ISSK-BAS) took under consideration the *Bulgarian Routes of Critical Metaphysics* and Lubomir Sirkov, PhD student (ISSK-BAS) communicated the paper entitled *Reconsidering the Paradox-Fallacy Nexus: on some issues with the Sorites and the Slippery Slope (and Other Fallacies)*. The next part, with the topic *Contemporary philosophical frameworks of the theory of education* was chaired by Prof. Vesselin Petrov and the technical secretary was Diana Petrova. Prof. François Beets (University of Liège, Belgium), the first speaker, addressed the following question: *Is teaching possible? Historical perspectives toward Whitehead’s theory of education*. As following, Assoc. Prof. Engelsina Tasseva (ISSK-BAS) addressed the topic *Mathematics education: some philosophical aspects*, Assoc. Prof. Rosen Lutskanov (ISSK-BAS) approached the topic *Learning Space Theory: Introducing Problem Hardness*. The next part was chaired by François Beets and technical secretary was Diana Petrova, including the presentations *Principles of the Metaphysical Basis of Whiteheadian Education*, by Prof. D.Sc Vesselin Petrov (ISSK-BAS), *Why Barney knows* by Assoc. Prof. Marina Bakalova (ISSK-BAS) and *Humanistic Communicative*

*Approach in Modern Education* by Prof Dragan Kolev & Assist. Prof Katarina Držajić (Pan-European University Apeiron, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina).

During the next days the conference proposed various interesting papers among which we are mentioning: *On Rationality of Legal Decisions*, by Prof. D.Sc Vihren Buzov (St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria); *Philosophical Analysis of Rationality of Economic and Political Decisions*, by Pepa Petkova, PhD student (University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria); *The Genesis of the Historiographical Notion of 'Second Scholasticism': The Dark Past of an Esteemed Concept*, by Assoc. Prof. Marco Forlivesi (Università degli Studi di Chieti-Pescara, Italy); *Inadvertent Authorial Creation Revisited*, by Dr. Zsófia Zvolenszky (Institute of Philosophy, Slovak Academy of Sciences); *Orthodoxy and politics: public, political and electoral stands*, by Assoc. Prof. Henrieta Șerban (The Institute of Political Science and International Relations, "Ion I. C. Brătianu", Romanian Academy, Correspondent Member of the Academy of Romanian Scientists); *Mahdism According to Ibn Haldun as a Means of Recuperating Power in the Context of Uncertainties and Domination in the Islamic Geography*, by Prof. Mehmed Dalkilic (University of Istanbul, Turkey); *Religious and Political determinants of war in Syria*, by Prof. Slobodan Neshkovic (SKAIN Academy, University Business Academy, Novi Sad); *Syria – the battle for the Paradise* by Assoc. Prof. Bogdana Todorova (ISSK-BAS); *The Radicalization of Religious Movements via Repertoire Identities*, by Prof. Ismail Demirzeen (University of Istanbul, Turkey); *The rediscovery of religious identity in post-communist Romania*, by Lorena-Valeria Stuparu, Scientific Researcher III (The Institute of Political Science and International Relations, "Ion I. C. Brătianu", Romanian Academy); *The Eastern European political values: A perspective on their identity*, by Gabriela Tănăsescu, (The Institute of Political Science and International Relations, "Ion I.C. Brătianu", Romanian Academy); *Radical Short-Circuits: Postmodern Theology / Radical Orthodoxy Values*, by Viorella Manolache, Scientific Researcher III (The Institute of Political Science and International Relations, "Ion I. C. Brătianu", Romanian Academy); *Pluralism of Values*, by Academician Alexandru Boboc (Romanian Academy); *Between the Secular and the Post-secular: The shadow of the Dwarf (Leszek Kolakowski)*, by Prof. Nina Dimitrova (ISSK-BAS); *Political and Artistic Radicalism in the 20th century: A Situationist Solution for an International Value Conflict*, by Oana Serban, PhDc (University of Bucharest, Romania); *Contemporary art and the conflict of Aesthetic values (Beauty /vs/ Daily experience)*, by Prof. Mihaela Pop (University of Bucharest, Romania); *Aesthetics of Silence in a World of Noise*, by Assist. Prof. Sylvia Borrisova (ISSK-BAS); *Understanding Paradoxes in Modern Philosophy of Psychiatry – On the Example of Factitious Disorder (F68.1)* by Dr. Mira Marcinow (Polish Academy of Sciences) and Dr. Krystyna Bielecka (Polish Academy of Sciences) on a topic regarding philosophy of psychiatry.

The lesson of the conference was the educative role and value of contemporary philosophy for these times as Constantin Rădulescu-Motru, the Romanian philosopher and psychologist enounced at the beginning of the 20th century.

Education and self-education is the key to a life well lived a life of quality that asks from the human beings to overcome themselves and to require the best first and foremost from oneself, as Epictetus said it, almost a couple of millenia ago: "How long are you going to wait before you demand the best for yourself and in no instance bypass the discriminations of reason? You have been given the principles that you ought to endorse, and you have endorsed them. What kind of teacher, then, are you still waiting for in order to refer your self-improvement to him? You are no longer a boy, but a full-grown man. If you are careless and lazy now and keep putting things off and always deferring the day

after which you will attend to yourself, you will not notice that you are making no progress, but you will live and die as someone quite ordinary. From now on, then, resolve to live as a grown-up who is making progress, and make whatever you think best a law that you never set aside. And whenever you encounter anything that is difficult or pleasurable, or highly or lowly regarded, remember that the contest is now: you are at the Olympic Games, you cannot wait any longer, and that your progress is wrecked or preserved by a single day and a single event. That is how Socrates fulfilled himself by attending to nothing except reason in everything he encountered. And you, although you are not yet a Socrates, should live as someone who at least wants to be a Socrates”.

*Bogdana Todorova  
Henrieta Anișoara Șerban*

**“CATALONIA – A CHALLENGE FOR EUROPE”  
Regionalization, Secessionist Trends,  
Territorial Autonomy: Risk Factors for Europe**

On November 8, 2017, at the Academy of Scientists of Romania, Ambassador Constantin Vlad, founder member of AOSR, personality of Romanian diplomacy and author of a remarkable cultural work, held the conference “Catalonia – a challenge for Europe” in the hall Human Rights, in the presence of a large audience, including personalities of Romanian science and culture, members of the academic body, researchers and students.

The theme of the conference was to analyze the situation in Spain through the process of obtaining independence from Catalonia, the historical region of Spain.

Following an approach from a number of perspectives: historical, political, ideological, economic, cultural and identity, the lecture enlisted Spain in the current geo-political framework as a member of the European Union and NATO. Ambassador Constantin Vlad mentioned essential data on Spanish history, culture and identity and argued that the Catalonia region is an integral part of Spain.

Secessionist tendencies, autonomy, by declaring independence, are not supported as a historical necessity, based on the right to self-determination, but have a political spring that is not legitimized by history and reality. The Catalan process is a challenge for the European Union and for Europe as a whole, as a precedent for other secessionist tendencies in Europe. The European project itself would have been vulnerable by such a precedent. The contention in the conference shows that the autonomy of the minorities does not imply the administrative-territorial autonomy. Democracy does not supplant the secessionist tendencies or weaken the sovereign state, and the rights of national minorities do not involve the question of autonomy. In a democratic state, the rights will work the same for the various minorities and for the majority. Regionalization and ethnic empowerment only weaken the state by violating the legitimacy of unity, a legitimacy if of a common history and culture. If we recall the example of Kosovo, the speaker signed, it becomes very clear that Romania is entitled to promote its national interests in the European Union, acting in the letter and spirit of the Constitution and according to the provisions of European and international law. Romania, and is, as the speaker pointed out, an example of a political approach to minority rights.

As shown in the press release of the Academy of Scientists in Romania elaborated to mark the event “President of the Academy of Scientists of Romania, Prof. Univ. Dr. Adrian Badea, said that the lecture was a true lesson of history, diplomacy and international relations, held by a reputable specialist in the field, which would also have been worth listening to the decision-makers. Professor Adrian Badea also underlined that Article 1 of the Constitution is the fundamental text that defines us as a state from a legal point of view and that it must be respected by all governments and all citizens of the country, regardless of whether they belong to the majority or ethnic minorities . This is the way, the president of AOSR stressed, the peaceful and harmonious cohabitation, the building of a common future in the values of the current values and norms of democracy, the affirmation of Romania in the European Union under the auspices of the EU principle of “unity in diversity”. The Office of Communication and Public Relations of the Romanian Academy of Scientists

### **THE OPENING OF THE LABORATORY OF SOCIOLOGY AND THE GEOPOLITICS OF RELIGIONS IN THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY AULA**

The Laboratory of Sociology and Geopolitics of Religions at the Institute of Political Science and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu” of the Romanian Academy was launched on October 31st, 2017, at the Conference “Does God Retaliate?” that took place in Auditorium of the Romanian Academy. The initiative of this laboratory belongs to Professor Dan Dungaciu, sociologist and Romanian specialist in geopolitics, director of ISPRI. The conference was opened by academician Victor Voicu, Secretary General of the Romanian Academy, in a speech titled, “Geopolitics Precepts of Religions Today. *Quo vadis Europa?*”, in which the speaker welcomed the idea of creating this Laboratory and emphasized the role that it can play not only for the academic and intellectual life in Romania, but also for the entire Romanian society.

The next speaker was His Excellency Varlaam Ploieșteanu, Patriarchal Bishop who, on behalf of His Excellency Patriarch Daniel, conveyed greetings for the inauguration of the Laboratory. “We appreciate this initiative provided the extremely complex contemporary society is also confronted with these religious problems ... Romanian society, as well as many contemporary societies, is facing serious religious illiteracy,” said the representative of the Romanian Orthodox Church. He reiterated some ideas spread in the public space because of this phenomenon and stressed that “this laboratory for sociology and geopolitics of religion is about to create literacy from a religious perspective, especially of younger generations, and this is very important”.

Other personalities also took the floor to emphasize the importance of the Romanian Public Life Laboratory and to show the willingness to participate in its activities representatives of other cults represented in Romania: His Holiness Robu, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Bucharest, Aurel Vainer, PhD, from the Jewish Community of Romania, and Mufti Iusuf Murat, leader of the Muslim Cult of Romania. Then, academician Răzvan Theodorescu, President of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Audio-visual Section of the Romanian Academy, stressed the need to set up such a laboratory, and Victor Opaschi, the State Secretary for Religious Affairs, expressed his appreciation for the idea of the interaction between specialists in politics

and religion: “Within the context in which, both at European and at the national level, the religious phenomenon is increasingly being analysed from an interdisciplinary perspective, it is of great importance to create such a study centre that brings together specialists in areas related to the delicate and complex interaction between the religious and the political aspects.”

At the end of the conference, Professor Dan Dungaciu presented several important contributions in the field of contemporary geopolitics. He argued the necessity of this laboratory from the perspective of the lack of a specialized institution in Romania, which would analyse in a scientific, competent way religious issues with political, social, geopolitical incidence and to convey the conclusions to the citizens, the political factors and the academic environment. The event was attended by academics, representatives of religious cults in Romania, teachers of political sciences, theology, philosophy and other related fields. The communications sustained during this conference will be published next year in a volume edited by the Laboratory of Sociology and Geopolitics of Religions of the Institute of Political Science and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu” of the Romanian Academy.

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**BOOK LAUNCHINGS OF THE WORKS OF THE  
RESEARCHERS OF THE INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL  
SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
“ION I. C. BRĂȚIANU” OF THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY,  
AT GAUDEAMUS INTERNATIONAL BOOK FARE**

Year after year, Gaudeamus International Book Fare becomes an institution and participating in this fare gains the contours of a tradition at the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu” of the Romanian Academy. 2017 was a good year for the researchers of the institute who were present there bearing fruits of their individual and collective activity. Their books were launched in the presence of personalities of the Romanian intellectual life and a sizable public.

Thus, on Friday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, at Gaudeamus International Book Fare took place the launching of the book signed by Dan Dungaciu and Petrișor Peiu in the presence of the authors and their guests. The volume published at Litera Press is entitled *Reunirea. Realități, costuri, beneficii* [in translation, *The Reunion: Realities, costs, benefices*]. The book was described by the speakers as a comprehensive analysis of the situation at the East of Prut River and of the future of the people inhabiting that space. The book highlights the poor strategic decisions that chased away the most active and gifted individuals. This is not propaganda for reunion, as it makes clear that the first union of Romania with Bessarabia was steep, but nonetheless reunion remains an option.

On Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of November there were launched several books published at the Publishing House of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu” of the Romanian Academy. Accordingly, the volume entitled *Orwell – Intelectualul anti-intelectual* [*Orwell – The Anti-intellectual Intellectual*], authored by researchers Viorella Manolache and Ian Browne was introduced to the public by

Professor Dan Dungaciu, PhD (the Director of the Institute) and Professor Cătălin Ghiță, PhD (from the Faculty of Letters of Craiova University). This work proposes a more complete introduction of the author to the Romanian scientific scene in a Romanian interpretation and a British perspective reunited by the topic and bibliography, but emphasizing different aspects of the theme.

Next was the book *Simbol și recunoaștere la Mircea Eliade. Semnificații religioase, politice și estetice* [*Symbol and Recognition at Mircea Eliade. Religious, Political and Esthetical Meanings*], second edition (revised and enlarged) signed by researcher Lorena Stuparu, PhD. The event took place in the presence of the Director of the Institute, Professor Dan Dungaciu, PhD and Professor Priest Wilhelm Dancă, Correspondent Member of the Romanian Academy, invited as specialist in the theme of the sacred at Mircea Eliade (with PhD in Philosophy on this topic). The book approaches a philosophical investigation of the polysemy of the notion of recognition (the symbol being defined as sign of recognition).

The most recent editorial apparition signed by Henrieta Anișoara Șerban, *Forme simbolice și reprezentări ale fenomenelor socio-politice* [*Symbolic Forms and Representations of the Social and Political Phenomena*] was introduced by academician Alexandru Boboc, who signed also the Preface to the volume, by independent researcher Ian Browne and by scientific researcher III Viorella Manolache, PhD, with the participation of the author and also of the Director of the Institute. The work starts from Ernst Cassirer's "symbolic forms" approaches the representations, the images and their role in contemporary society, in politics, society, individual and collective mind, in axiological architectures and in urban architecture, various from one context, political community and historical period to another.

One of the fundamental projects of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations "Ion I. C. Brătianu" of the Romanian Academy is the *Encyclopaedia of the fundamental works of political philosophy*. The volume *Encyclopaedia of the fundamental works of political philosophy. Contemporaneity 2000-2017*, concluding a very successful series, was launched in the presence of the Director of the Institute, next to the general coordinator of the project scientific researcher I Ion Goian, PhD, to the coordinators of the present volume, scientific researcher II Cristian-Ion Popa, PhD and scientific researcher II Henrieta Șerban, PhD, Professor Dumitru Borțun, PhD and of the authors of this collective volume, researchers of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations "Ion I. C. Brătianu" of the Romanian Academy, Lucian Dumitrescu, Ion Goian, Ana-Maria Iancu, Viorella Manolache, Florin Müller, Cristi Pantelimon, Cristian-Ion Popa, Bogdan M. Popescu, Lorena Stuparu, Henrieta Șerban, Gabriela Tanasescu, Enache Tusa. Through the works presented and analysed the volume presents and investigates important political concepts, themes and problems of theoretical and practical interest such as: democracy and dictatorship, the crises and the failure of states, liberalism, social-democracy, national identity, citizenship, social justice, human rights, recognition, globalization, terrorism etc.

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