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**THE ACTUALITY OF LOGIC. BOOK REVIEW:
ELEMENTE DE LOGICĂ ȘI TEORIA
ARGUMENTĂRII, AUTHORS PROFESSOR PHD
SORIN-TUDOR MAXIM, LECTURER PHD
MARIUS-COSTEL EȘI. IAȘI, ROMÂNIA: LUMEN
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The Actuality of Logic

Book review: *Elemente de logică și teoria argumentării*,
authors Professor PhD Sorin–Tudor MAXIM, Lecturer PhD
Marius-Costel EȘI. Iași, România: Lumen Publishing House

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Abstract

Precisely due to the ubiquity of the logic in the human activity, the field has constituted a temptation for researchers in the area of mathematics, cybernetics and even artificial intelligence, fields that gradually take over logic from the hands of philosophers, articulating it as a new organon of science, in its attempt to formalize and even digitize the real. This exile of logic in the space of digitizing the real places philosophical logic in a cone of undeserved obscurity. It is therefore a necessary repair brought to the prestige of logic, each book that reinstates logic in the horizon of philosophy and argumentation, as in the current volume.

The approach initiated by the authors is that to explicit the mechanisms of thinking through logical-formal instruments – this – ensures Sorin Tudor Maxim and Marius Costel Esi – trains thinking into a process of interpreting reality, or in other words, establishing the meaning.

*This paper is a book review of the volume *Elemente de logică și teoria argumentării*, authors Professor PhD Sorin–Tudor MAXIM, Lecturer PhD Marius-Costel EȘI, publishes in Iași, România, at Lumen Publishing House.*

Keywords:

Book review; logic, theory of argumentation.

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Introduction

The first question that comes to mind while browsing the volume *Elemente de logică și teoria argumentării*, authored by Professor PhD Sorin–Tudor MAXIM and Lecturer PhD Marius-Costel ESI is, to what extent it can bring something new, in a field in which age is the same as that of philosophy itself, philosophy that has accompanied and somehow roamed a little, always drawing attention on its intrinsic rationality?

Elements of logic and the argumentation theory

Aristotle's courage of trying to institute an organon to guide human knowledge towards the truth is, today, one of the pillars that humanity relies on, in its affirmation as inhabitant of the world of culture and not only of the biological. Logic is present as background of the possibility of any manifestation of the human genius, even when, in its artistic search, or aspirations on mystical perfection, proposes the consciousness of an alternative world where one or other of the laws are being abolished, or find other formulations. Logic is therefore an area so old and so new, omnipresent and underestimated. The quintessence of the western genius raises logic to the status of mind legislator. This quality places logic in the area of symbolic, the operations of logic having a formal nature, which is why the authors draw attention on the need, simplicity, rigor and precision in the process of logical analysis which directly derives from using a formalized language (Maxim, Esi, 2015). Formalizing doesn't drain the thinking of its ontologic substrate, but rather shows that the ontos itself is, in itself, or at least in phenomenon, an expression of an order that appears to be secondary, manifested as logical principles, and in general of developing the forms of consciousness that are being managed in a logical manner.

Precisely due to the ubiquity of the logic in the human activity, the field has constituted a temptation for researchers in the area of mathematics, cybernetics and even artificial intelligence, fields that gradually take over logic from the hands of philosophers, articulating it as a new organon of science, in its attempt to formalize and even digitize the real. This exile of logic in the space of digitizing the real places philosophical logic in a cone of undeserved obscurity. It is therefore a necessary repair brought to the prestige of logic, each book that reinstates logic in the horizon of philosophy and argumentation, as in the current volume.

The approach initiated by the authors is that to explicit the mechanisms of thinking through logical-formal instruments – this – ensures Sorin Tudor Maxim and Marius Costel Esi – trains thinking into a process of interpreting reality, or in other words, establishing the meaning. The fact that “reality betrays the affiliation to a form of language” is a different way of saying that there is no reality in a subjective sense, outside a process of construction, of searching an interpretative consensus between different actors of communicative action (Maxim, 2010; Maxim, Lenta, 2014). This makes logic institute a metaprinciple that the authors call – starting from Rudolf Carnap (1972) – the principle of tolerance, which shows that “anyone can constitute a logic based on its own beliefs” (Maxim, Esi, 2015). Thus, the distinguished authors acquiesces the idea of subjecting the logic in the process of rationalizing the inner feelings, by instituting a logic in the very emotion of discovering the possible worlds. Subjective and not the objective is that which enables the generation of certain degrees of truth that are specific to reality itself. This is valid since the authors support the thesis according to which “rationality sends to the idea of a reality that can be described through a logical formalism”. The independence of context of reality can be found in the different invariants that punctuate the material world, attesting its structure and order. Subjective world admits invariants as forms of pure thinking that are specific to formal logic. This can be the subjective reason for which two millenniums of teachers in logic reiterate the formula “Socrates is human; Humans are mortal; Therefore Socrates is mortal”. It was the privilege of philosophy to epitomize the mortal Socrates, through this phrase, among immortals eternalized in knowledge.

This volume primarily has a teaching component, being addressed to philosophy students and not only, having real formative valences in shaping thinking based on the principles of logic and discursive reconstruction by applying argumentative strategies.

The authors propose to develop the critical dimensions of thinking, reinstating truth in its claim of right measure of communication. Oscillating between explanation and understanding, the volume *Elemente de logică și teoria argumentării* teaches the readers to orientate within the discursive intervals, thus being able to identify the rhetoric of convincing arguments formulated in a logical way.

As bibliographic resource, the volume can be placed, in our opinion, together with the most referential textbooks in the field of logic, among which we mention those of Professor Petre Botezatu - *Constituirea logicității*, 1983 and *Introducere în logică*, 1994, that have constituted, along with other, references plenary and magisterially valued by the authors of the present volume. We will not insist on the meaningful and extremely relevant references, which include over 100 critical references, allowing us to appreciate the profound scientific documentation of the authors, and the academic relevance of the paper.

Instead of conclusions

At the end of this review, last but not least, we must appreciate the clarity of exposure and the accessibility of the language, which transforms this book into a first class bibliographic resource, both for logicians in the academic field, and for teachers of social-human sciences that teach logic in the undergraduate field.

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Biodata



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