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Book review | Social Construction of Reality as Communicative Action, author Antonio Sandu

Dan Ioan DASCALU¹

The latest work of Professor PhD Habilitated Antonio Sandu, *Social Construction of Reality as Communicative Action*, published by the prestigious publishing house Cambridge Scholars Publishing, amazes us from the very beginning with the variety, originality and depth of the topics addressed. It is said that the strong essences are kept in small containers, and it is precisely this what this paper, once again, seems to prove. Going through the 175 pages of the book, we manage to form an opinion on the research concerns of Professor Sandu.

Being the habilitation thesis of Professor Antonio Sandu, the paper seeks and succeeds to present us, briefly, the research area of the Professor. The reader will be amazed and impressed by the ease with which the author uses and combines, in an original synthesis, different theoretical visions belonging to philosophy, sociology, communication sciences and social work. On the other hand, it leaves a pleasant impression on the way in which Antonio Sandu manages to go from highly professional and in depth theoretical research, to actual research, developed with meticulous methodology and surprising and valuable results in the field of sociology, social work or communication sciences. In fact, the author is one of the few Romanian sociologists who succeeds in proposing original theoretical models in fields of social reality, and in the same time, to make empirical research in those fields, research guided by his own theoretical models which leads to enriching and refining those models.

One of the strengths of the theoretical contributions of Antonio Sandu is his theory on social constructionism. Starting from Keneth Gergen's vision on social constructionism, which he reinterprets in the light of other theoretical contributions, such as the ones on metanarrations, on the double deconstructive process, proposed by Jaques Derrid, on the communicative action of Jurgen Habermas, the theory of social fractals of

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Nicu Gavriluta, and many others, Professor Sandu tries, and succeeds, to elaborate a specific model of social constructionism and an original and well fundamented opening towards the semiotics of the social. In developing this model, in the practical researches that also contributed to its development, we don't have to oversee the author's use of appreciative inquiry.

Speaking of empirical research, and what is more important, researches started from an own theoretical model that contributes to enriching this model, the book refers to some of them, conducted with great methodological accuracy, by the author. Lets remember the ones refering to the social construction of ethnic identity, on the social construction of the doctor's identity or of the social worker.

Particularly interesting and valuable are also the contributions of Professor Sandu in the field of ethics. He proposes the model of an appreciative ethics. With great impact on the theory and practice of social work, but also on medicine, there are the theoretical approaches, but also the empirical researches connected to ethics of care and charity.

We cannot conclude this brief overview of the topic of Professor Sandu's book without mentioning his contributions to the development of the debates on a new ethical project, or better said, of the transformations of ethics in the context of transmodernity, of affirmation of transhumanism, of virtualizing the social space. An issue of immediate concern that affects the entire community of those researching the social reality.

Professor Sandu's book is, for the reader, a true intellectual adventure which, obviously, offers special satisfaction. It is not an easy reading, because the author takes us through different theories and authors, both as vision and research field, theories and authors which, most of the times, we didn't think they could be reunited as a starting point for an original theoretical concept, or of specific research that can reveal new aspects of certain social actions or well-know social activities. This is where the intellectual joy of the one privileged to read this book, comes from.

References

Sandu, A. (2016). *Social Construction of Reality as Communicative Action*. UK: Cambridge Scholar Publishing.