

MUSIC AND HUMAN MOBILITY
REDEFINING COMMUNITY IN INTERCULTURAL CONTEXT 2016

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REDEFINING COMMUNITY IN INTERCULTURAL CONTEXT

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The cultural change, as a result of synergistic action of socioeconomic tensions (inertially opposed to cultural tradition), was the main topic of numerous anthropologists’ studies and of scientific events. Equally, the cultural change excited the great artistic spirits: poets, writers, philosophers etc. Some extra clarifications and terminological distinctions are required. As long as the social change engages socioeconomic and cultural tensions, a profound analysis of the dichotomous pair socioeconomic background – cultural background, and a similar analysis of the organic interdependence of these foundations of human societies are natural requirements. But, speaking of socioeconomic and cultural background, the first distinction to be made is between civilization and culture, a fundamental distinction present in the specialized literature since the dawn of anthropology, a distinction that has fuelled, regarding the associate meanings, by many theoretical disputes between the representatives of various schools, currents, directions, or cultural areas.

During centuries, the schematic, reductionist, atomized perception, born simultaneously with the philosophy of Enlightenment, extended until the thinking of the early last century, was abandoned in favour of understanding the relational complexity within social groups. The abandonment of the schematic rigidity would be foreshadowed by the German sociologist Ferdinand Tönnies, who focused his studies on the concept of *community* as a dynamic whole, without the recognition of his contemporaries. The German sociologist put the will – natural or rational – on the basis of the social relationships. The rational will (*Kürwille*) involves clearly differentiated meanings and ends, while the natural will (*Wessenswille*) derives from the temperament, the character, the intellectual attitude of each individual. Society (*Gesellschaft*) and community (*Gemeinschaft*) are distinct because there is a distinction between the rational and the natural will. Community is born as a living organism, based on the common heritage and on the values built within the natural framework of the life, organized in the spirit of the patriarchal coordination. The relationships characterizing the *Gemeinschaft* extend through common cultural heritage: language, beliefs, customs, rituals, and the community takes new shapes, more extensive. Therefore, community takes the form of a living organism, where the individuals remain united despite the centrifugal forces inside, unlike society, where individuals remain separate despite the centripetal tendencies. Although nowadays the term *community* has generated countless debates without any unanimous agreement on its conceptual delimitations, the dichotomous pair proposed by Tönnies, *Gemeinschaft-Gesellschaft*, still remains relevant. The foundations of this pair setting, the natural and rational will, are the bases of distinction between culture and civilization. A clear distinction can be made beginning with the products of culture and civilization. If, in the first case, the organic community’s products represent the symbolic goods, in the other case, society produces material goods.

Our main question is natural: what happens with the community nowadays, when society took over, through multiple media networks, almost the entire world? Can we design a research whose ultimate goal is to identify the role of the community in a world where intercultural contacts are an everyday reality? If we are able to design such a study, which would be the optimal level of the research: an individual research, or a research project? Each of these levels would be insufficient. Each of these possibilities of analysis would be limited, given the complexity of the topic. In these circumstances, we considered that the best way of focusing the analysis of such a broad area of research would be a multiannual conference, where worldwide professors, researchers and practitioners can provide expertise in each of their area of competence, in order to lead to a complex perspective on community nowadays, impossible to be covered by a single researcher or by a project team within a limited time of study. These were the scientific premises of designing the international conference *Redefining community in intercultural context*.

1 Λόγος, Τόπος, Κοινότητα. The first edition of the conference, organized by the Department of Military Sciences and Management from ‘Henri Coandă’ Air Force Academy (Brasov, Romania), in partnership with the Center for Research in Communication from the National University of Political Sciences and Administration (Bucharest, Romania), and with the European Network for Intercultural Education Activities (ENIEDA, Malmö, Sweden) between 16th and 18th of June, 2011, focused on the role of community in the contemporary society. Therefore, the first edition was named *Λόγος, Τόπος, Κοινότητα (Word, Place, Community)* and included the following topics: Intercultural Education; European Community / Globalization and Military Community / General Approaches. The scientific board was composed by important professors from 12 universities around the world (from France, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, United States, and Romania) and the first two keynote speakers were Eduard Khakimov, Udmurt State University, Izhevsk, Russia, specialist in intercultural education and migration, who presented the paper entitled *Constructive Redefining Community in Context of Intercultural Education* and Paul L. Landry, School of Law, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA, specialist in instructional leadership, who presented the paper *Globalization and Indigenous Language Loss: A Critical Analysis of Ecuador Language*. The papers proposed by the participants from Brazil, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, Nigeria, Portugal, Russia, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, and Romania, were assessed by the scientific committee and, finally, the best three papers were awarded: Sofia Chatzigeorgiadou, Eva Pavlidou & Virginia Arvanitidou (Greece) - *Differences in Loneliness and Social Behavior of Immigrant and Repatriated Preschoolers*; Grigore Georgiu & Alexandru Cârlan (Romania) - *Towards a Conjunctive Paradigm: A Critical Review of the Theories and Interpretations Regarding the Crisis of Cultural Identities in The Context of Globalization* and Jorge Luiz Antonio (Brazil) - *Techno-Art Poetry: A Redefined Community in Interdigital Context*. A selection of papers was published within the homonymous book, *Redefining Community in Intercultural Context*, ‘Henri Coandă’ Air Force Academy Publishing House, 2011, and further included in Web of Knowledge database.

2 Critical dialogue revisited: Challenges and Opportunities. The success of the first edition allowed the further extension of the conference. The second one, organized under the same subtitle as the previous one, in partnership with the same Center for Research in Communication, and with the European Society for Transcultural and Interdisciplinary Dialogue (ESTIDIA, Malmö, Sweden) in Brasov, between 14th and 16th of June 2012, focused on the European dialogue. The conference sections were: Security and Intercultural Education, Culture & Communities and Intercultural Education. Therefore, the conference was featured by the first ESTIDIA workshop entitled *Critical dialogue revisited: Challenges and Opportunities*. The conference extended and clarified its main goal:

The main goal is an exchange of experience between teachers, researchers and practitioners in the field of community dynamics. Moreover, we look forward to putting into practice the new ideas that will result from the cross-fertilization of teaching activities and scientific research. Our end-goal is to improve the quality of education and, consequently, personal and intellectual development. Last but not least, we are eager to disseminate the results of our multicultural dialogue within the academic community and beyond. (estidia.eu, 2012)

while the workshop intended to explore the dialogue connecting teaching and research creativities. The scientific board included professors and researchers from 18 universities and international associations from Albania, Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, United States, and Romania. The keynote speakers were: Cornelia Ilie, Faculty of Culture and Society, Malmö University, Sweden/ European Society for Transcultural and Interdisciplinary Dialogue (ESTIDIA), expert in pragmatics, institutional discourse analysis, intercultural rhetoric and argumentation theory, Maria Filomena Capucho, Centro de Estudos de Comunicação e Cultura, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Viseu, Portugal, expert in intercomprehension, and Alina Bângăoanau, Faculty of Communication and Public Relations, National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania, specialist in EU Communication, EU Public Sphere and EU Identity. In addition to the previous edition of the conference, there were participants from Albania, Canada, Israel, Moldova, Spain, Sweden and Turkey, plus a representative of the Council of Europe, Jean-Loup Berko. The best papers of the conference were: Aura Codreanu (Romania) - *Organizational Health Check. A Comparative Investigation into Organizational Communication Patterns*, A. Kyridis, B. Mucaj, Chr. Zagkos, E. Michailidis, P. Pandis, I. Vamvakidou, K. Tsioumis (Greece) - *Who is Afraid of the Greeks? What Second Generation Immigrants who Study in Greek Universities believe about Greeks*

and the Way in which they treat them and Angel Raluy (Spain) - *Can Intercultural Sensitivity at Tertiary Education be Enhanced Using Virtual Environments? A Practical Experience between a Polish and a Spanish University*. Starting with this edition of the conference, the selection of papers was included within a homonymous publication, included in IndexCopernicus database and in Web of Knowledge. Starting with this edition, the RCIC organizers started the cooperation with the organizers of *Structure, Use and Meaning* (SUM) conference, held in Brasov, at 'Transilvania' University, of every two years.

3 Ethni(city). The third edition of the conference was organized in cooperation with the same two partners, between 13th and 15th of June, 2013. The novelties of this edition were the topic: the relationship between ethnicity and community and the concept of 'green conference'. This concept arose from the need to give up any technological 'prostheses' and from the need the *RCIC community* in dialogue:

Scientific events themselves tend to turn into missed opportunities, in terms of human relations: an image that is worth a thousand words tends to replace texts, a metaphor tends to be replaced by a graph or an animation, a dialogue by a monologue. In this context of hunting success at scientific level, rigorously measured, **RCIC community** intends to engage in such an event that prioritizes human relationships. To do this, starting from this edition, the international conference *Redefining Community in Intercultural Context* will become a *green conference*, with no technological 'prostheses' or PowerPoint presentations. **Only people in dialogue**, in a city where ethnos is still alive, where the technologically unmediated human relationships flourish and where community reshapes itself beyond cultural barriers (afahc.ro, 2013).

The scientific board included, in addition to those of the previous edition, other professors from important universities in Portugal, United Kingdom, United States and Russia, and the keynote speakers were: Mariselda Tessarolo, Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Pedagogy and Applied Psychology (FISPPA), University of Padua, Italy, focused in her research on the field of human, interpersonal and cultural communication, who presented the paper entitled *The Conflictual Bases of Ethnicity and Pluralism*; Maria de São José Corte-Real, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal, a well-known researcher in the field of ethnomusicology, who presented the paper *Music, Social Cohesion and Citizenship: Omnis Civitas Contra Se Divisa Non Stabit*, and Nicoleta Corbu, College of Communication and Public Relations, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, interested in European identity, European public sphere, and framing analysis. The best papers were declared: Maja Muhić and Aleksandar Takovski (Republic of Macedonia) - *From Agora to Pandora: The Unprecedented Case of the Simple Skopje Square*, Hussain Al Sharoufi (Kuwait) - *Academic Writing Wizard: A New Web-Based Application for Teaching Academic Writing Using Lexical Cohesive Trio*, and Asher Shafir (Israel) - *The Names of Israeli Military Ranks and their Linguistic Analysis*. Similar to the previous edition, the best papers were published within *Redefining Community in Intercultural Context* journal, included in the also mentioned databases. In the same year, ESTIDIA organized its conference entitled *Dialogue-driven Change in the Public Sphere* between 3rd to 5th of October, in Bari, Italy. A selection of papers defended within this conference, edited by Professor Alberto Fornasari from 'Aldo Moro' University of Bari was included in 2014 within the special issue of *Redefining Community in Intercultural Context*.

4 Wor(l)ds. The fourth edition of RCIC international conference was organized only in partnership with a local association: 'Henri Coandă' Association for Research and Education (ASCEDU) between 21st and 23rd of May 2015, and focused on linguistic issues. The name of this edition was very eloquent: *Wor(l)ds*, and a particular proposed topic, in the area of linguistics, was *New Wor(l)ds*. The scientific committee was dramatically changed: the representatives of 19 important universities from Brazil, Israel, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Spain, United States, and Romania formed the scientific board. The keynote speakers were: Lucija Čok, Science and research centre / University of Primorska, Slovenia; Member of the Council la Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (SQAA); Member of the Institutional Evaluation programme (EUA EIP), European University Association, ex minister of education in Slovenia, focused on the formation of models of bilingual education in areas of linguistic and cultural contact and of didactics of intercultural communication, who presented the paper entitled *Culture in Languages – Multiplicity of Interpretations*; Eva-Maria Remberger, Institut für Romanistik, Philologisch-Kulturwissenschaftliche Fakultät, Universität Wien, Austria, expert in Romance linguistics, who presented the paper entitled *'I didn't say it. Somebody else did.'* *The Romanian Hearsay Marker Cică*; and Elena Buja, Faculty of Letters at *Transilvania University of Braşov*, Romania, specialist in first language acquisition and intercultural communication, with the paper *Iohannis and Ponta: The Winner and the Loser. A Non-verbal Communication Approach to the 2014 Presidential Election Campaign in Romania*. The papers, peer-reviewed, were defended within the conference panels

and the best papers were declared: Cristina Ariton-Gelan (Romania), *Gradualness of Iconicity in Semiotic Discourse*, Maria Pilchin (Moldova), *Xenology – One of the Solutions of the Recent Culture* and Alberto Fornasari (Italy), *ICT and Innovative Teaching. How to Build Skills for Generating Web 2.0 with Flipped Learning. A Case Study ITIS Majorana of Brindisi*. A selection of papers was included in *Redefining Community in Intercultural Context* publication.

5 Music and Human Migration. The fifth edition of the *Redefining Community in Intercultural Context* international conference was organized in cooperation with Institute of Ethnomusicology – Center for Studies in Music and Dance, of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, of the New University of Lisbon (FCSH/NOVA), Portugal. The scientific event, named *Music and Human Mobility*, was held in Lisbon, from 7th to 9th of June, 2016. The end-goal of the conference and the main topics were defined on the conference webpage, as follows:

The ICMHM'16 proposes theoretical and applied reflections, expression of good practices, critical perspectives and proposals in arts education, intercultural experience and understanding of citizenship; discussions and experiments about music composition, production and reception; and diversified interpretations of relationships between music and educational and cultural management around three theoretical topics, not limiting to them, departing from the relation between music and human mobility [...] The ICMHM'16 proposes also three areas of performance in workshops of vocal and instrumental music and dance / body expression (icmhm.org, 2016).

The scientific committee included important professors from Austria, Brazil, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom. The event consisted in: public presentations of the keynote speakers Michael Fuhr, Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, Germany, whose main interest areas are of identity, migration, and globalization, (Korean) popular music, aesthetics, cultural theory, and the history of ethnomusicology, and who presented the paper entitled *Borders, what's up with that? Musical Encounters and Transnational Mobility in K-Pop* and John Baily, Goldsmiths, University of London, United Kingdom, acknowledged as a world authority on the music of Afghanistan, and music in the Afghan diaspora, that defended the paper entitled *Music in Afghanistan and the Afghan diaspora, 1978–2016*; three parallel panel presentations, eight workshops coordinated by key-animators such as Mostafa Anwar (New University of Lisbon, Portugal) on accompanied classic and semi-classical Sufi singing; Veronica Doubleday, independent researcher and artist (London, UK) on Muslim women's domestic songs; and Kátia Leonardo, independent Artist (Portugal) and José Dias (New University of Lisbon, Portugal) on jazz and body expression; and roundtables. The participants involved in this event were professors, researchers, practitioners and PhD students from important universities or scientific/cultural institutions from Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Germany, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, UK, and US.

The next edition of the conference will be held in June 2017 in Bari, at 'Aldo Moro' University.

The most important conclusion regarding the international conference *Redefining Community in Intercultural Context* concerns the emergence of a scientific community, namely RCIC community, as was defined since its third edition. With a core group of academics and researchers from 'Henri Coandă' Air Force Academy, Brasov, 'Transilvania' University of Brasov, National School of Political Studies and Administration, Bucharest, 'Mihai Viteazul' National Intelligence Academy, Bucharest, New University, Lisbon, 'Aldo Moro' University, Bari, Padua University, 'Ismail Qemali' University of Vlora, ESTIDIA, Malmö etc., the conference has grown from year to year and has become a name in the scientific area. Moreover, the RCIC community is one of the scientific basins for other scientific events of thematic proximity. With over 100 articles totalling more than 1,000 pages published, many of them quoted in prestigious journals and scientific books published in important universities publishing houses in Europe, North America, and Asia, *Redefining Community in Intercultural Context* has become a brand, continuously targeting the purposes for which it was initially established.