

A Hypothesis on the Origin and Synchrony of the Romanian and Western Medical Sociology

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Abstract: The present article focuses on the eating habits of the population of interwar Romania, as rendered in the monographic research of the Sociological School of Bucharest, founded and led by Professor Dimitrie Gusti. It also investigates the health state of the Romanian citizens, mainly, but not exclusively, of those from rural areas. Our sources of information on the nutrition and public health of interwar Romania consisted in the studies and research carried out in the 1918–1948 period by the Sociological School of Bucharest, published in scientific journals and books edited under the scientific authority of Professor Gusti. In this respect, we have examined, almost in its entirety, the relevant work published by the Monographic School on the subject of nutrition and public health. The present article aims, therefore, to summarize the sociological studies and research carried out in the interwar period, at national level, which we above mentioned. It also aims to bring forward, for further critical scrutiny, a hypothesis regarding the synchrony between the Romanian medical sociology (of Gustian origin) and the similar scientific movements from the Western countries.

Keywords: *sociology of food; medical sociology; Sociological School of Bucharest; interwar Romania; Dimitrie Gusti.*

Cuvinte-cheie: *sociologia alimentației; sociologie medicală; Școala Sociologică de la București; România interbelică; Dimitrie Gusti.*

Preliminary Thoughts on the Theoretical Landmarks and Methodological Limitations

In the interwar period, the Sociological School of Bucharest developed an exhaustive monographic method of investigation and study of the Romanian village [which was seen at the time, rather fittingly, as “terra incognita” (Butoi, 2015, 165)]. This method was based on the integrated research of four major frameworks (cosmological, biological, historical and psychological) and four manifestations (economic, spiritual, moral/legal, political/adminis-

trative), in the attempt to contribute, on scientific grounds, on the improvement of the poor living conditions of the Romanian peasantry (Gusti, 1946; Rostás, 2005; idem, 2009; Bucur, 2011a; idem, 2013a; idem, 2013b, idem, 2016a). Based on this comprehensive and well-known theory of the frameworks and manifestations of social life, professor Dimitrie Gusti (founder and leader of the Sociological School of Bucharest) developed a working strategy for the monographic research of the Romanian society, with the help of his assistants and collaborators. This plan represented an absolute novelty due to its total contradiction with the theoretical sociology of the time, practiced

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