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## IASI - MEETING PLACE FOR PEOPLE AND IDEAS STUDY OF THE SCIENTIFIC TRIP

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### Key words:

- sociology of science,
- scientific tourism,
- congress tourism,
- Lumen

### Abstract:

Posed the question whether the conference report can serve the community of scholars believe a paradigm shift? Three major qualitative research methods were adopted: content analysis of the literature, the method of participant observation and case study of the conference (LUMEN 2014 Conference. From this Inquiry Theory in Social Sciences) described here.

The journey was described, the same scientific event, an assessment and impressions. It is also a review of the scientific event, analysis of changes in scientific views under the influence of new ideas and contribution to clarify the nature of tourism research.

It has been found that it is difficult to determine the direct impact of a single paper, even the plenary. It can be for people interested in the subject inspiring. But more important is the indirect effects, through the publication of such content on the scientific publications of global coverage.

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### INTRODUCTION

LUMEN name is the acronym of: Logos, Universality, Mentality, Education, Novelty. LUMEN is the vanguard of humanities and social sciences, scientific society and a British publishing house "Lumen Media Publishing", cooperating with the company Elsevier and others. LUMEN is a publisher of books and four scientific periodicals, including: "Postmodern Openings" and "Romanian Journal for Multidimensional Education".

Lumen Association; Lumen Research Center in Social and Humanistic Sciences; Lumen Publishing House was the organiser, and personally – Prof. Dr Antonio S. Sandu, President of the Association, and Research Assistant Ana Caras, co-director. Lumen Ass. is organiser of regular international conferences. This time it was the fourth edition of the conference titled: "Logos, Universality, Mentality, Education, Novelty. LUMEN 2014 Conference. *From Theory to Inquiry in Social Sciences*"; Iasi, Romania, April 10-12, 2014.

In addition, however, discuss and-reviewed this scientific event, the article presents a more general regularities concerning the functioning of scientific institutions. One such institution is the scientific conference. We can talk about the specific scientific tourism [3, 6, 8]. Scientific tourism is a form of tourism whose main motivation is the interest in science or the need for studies and scientific research. Journey to the scientific conference is a form of the scientific tourism, and of the congress tourism, too.

### PROBLEM AND METHODOLOGY

Whether and how the conference report can serve the community of scholars believe a paradigm shift (in the meaning adopted by Thomas Kuhn [7])?

Three major qualitative research methods were adopted: content analysis of the literature, the method of participant observation - the author was one of about 150 scientific conferences, including 50 international, in which he participated. The third case study is described herein conference. Also the journey was described, the same scientific event, an assessment and impressions.

## **JOURNEY**

The journey began in the early morning on Wednesday 04/09/2014. The author arrived at the airport, gave the baggage to Bucharest (still does not let the lack of an international agreement) and flew to Warsaw. From there to Bucharest - no surprises. In Bucharest, it was necessary to find the entry point of the Romanian airline. On the flight Bucharest - Iasi announced 40 minute delay, but it came out more than one hour. Plane before landing behaved abnormally, but managed to happily land.

At the airport, the author was greeted by Prof. Antonio S. Sandu, LUMEN leader and chief organizer of the conference. On the evening scheduled meeting among a small circle of invited speakers. City Iasi has about 110,000 inhabitants today. There are many historic buildings [9]. In particular, there is Petre Andrei University and the headquarters of the LUMEN organization. Walking between a hotel and the place of the conference the author had the opportunity to visit Palas Mall, the business center and convention center. Only the weather was not good - it rained almost non-stop.

After completion Prof. Sandu drove the author from the hotel to the airport, and on the return trip from the conference proceeded the same way, but of course in reverse order. There were no surprises.

## **PROGRAM OF THE CONFERENCE**

Thursday, April 10, 2014, was officially the first day of the conference. Verdi Congress Hall in the new municipal Congress Centre was the place of opening and beginning the Conference. Before starting the expectation rather pleasant, of course, the music of Verdi. The delay was only 15 minutes.

In Plenary Session performed only scholars from Romania. There are five instances in the Romanian language, with simultaneous translation into English. The papers related to various socio-cultural, as health, ethics, religion, and even magic.

But more interesting was the Second Plenary Session - international in content and form. Prof. Emilia Taysin from the Russian Tatarstan in the paper *From Inquiry to Theory and Back Again* has taken the issue of the relationship gnoseology, epistemology and theory of science. W. J. Cynarski [photo 1] came from a similar perspective in the paper *The new paradigm of science suitable for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*. It was a 30-minute lecture, showing paradigm to measure the 21<sup>st</sup> century science. Romanian philosopher, Professor Traian D. Stanciulescu presented his concept of light and the language of semiotics light of life. Probably he does not know that Prof. Sedlak [10] described similar issues already 30 years ago. It was almost as by Ken Wilber's "Theory of Everything" [11]. Stanciulescu explained his theory, even the paranormal. In turn, Oxana Soimu, here representing Spain, presented the political conditions of Moldova, as an important factor in favor of the production of biofuels in the country.



**Photo 1.** Keynote lecture on the new paradigm of science

In the afternoon we continued our deliberations took place in Petre Andrei University. They were the thematic parallel sessions, papers and posters. They were devoted to separate areas: Communications, Applied Philosophy, Law, Psychology and Educational Sciences, Methodology, Anthropology, Management, Political and European Studies, and Social Work and Sociology.

In the session "Social Work and Sociology" the author was interested in the program included on a lecture Maria-Magdalena Lupchian (Romania): *Public space in contemporary Romanian city - evolution, functionality, perception*. He wanted to compare the scene Mrs. Lupchian the theory of urban sociology grown in Poland. Unfortunately, the speaker did not show up. This session was dominated by reports of young researchers from Romania and Russia, people with good knowledge of English and a fairly good discernment in the literature. From about 4:30 p.m. within the Third Plenary Session we had a call by skype with Sana Loue, Professor of psychology from the U.S. The thing related to mental disorders and innovations in therapy - the work S. Loue, R. Kargas, C. Carlton: *The therapeutic form community: An innovative intervention for mental illness*.

Philosophical debate covered topics such as postmodernism and pornography and cosmopolitanism in modern art. I was wondering if they are not already Trailers collapse "love of wisdom". But were there also valuable as criticism P. Ackroyd's "The Plato Papers" [1] developed by Dr Clementina Mihailescu from Romania<sup>1</sup>. It was also about the axiological reform in the economy (paper by B. Popoveniuc, Romania). Thursday's deliberations lasted until the hour 8:40 p.m. On the evening of the day it was planned dinner at the pub, decorated in English style. In this way, the author met here with local custom that people smoke at the table, and women more often than men.

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<sup>1</sup> Incidentally review is sometimes better than the peer-reviewed work.



**Photo 2.** Prof. Dr Antonio S. Sandu, leader of the LUMEN Association and head of the LUMEN Conference (Iasi 2014).

On the second day - on Friday, April 11 thematic sections deliberations lasted from 9:25 to 19:00. Presentations included the following postmodern ethics of responsibility, the use of modern media in education, ideological illusion (feminism), social organization, social control, social cohesion, corruption as a moral issue, etc. Prof. Tudor Pitulec drew attention to the problem of emigration of Romanian young people - emigrated 2,000,000, or approximately 10% of the population. This is due to residual communisation and sovietization of Romania, the lack of "social soul" and respect for social position. According Pitulec, blocks of flats are areas makes it impossible for civic activity and this kind of socialization, and are the result of a deliberate policy of social disintegration.

Last Plenary Session included presentations Tomita Ciulei, Contiu Soitu (Romania) and Rina Manuela Contini (Italy), which concerned the selected issues of philosophy, social policy, acculturation, disability and health. On that day, the meeting lasted for hours. 19:10 and the closing of the conference - its main part [photo 2] took place.

For two days of the conference (April, 10-11) took the "Book Exhibition" of the Lumen Publishing, with an option to buy books. In contrast, on the third day (April, 12) planned a trip to Bukovina, and an exploratory workshop.

## **ANALYSIS**

Scientific conference is similar to some ritual ceremonies. In particular, the above described the conference as a fourth next, satisfies the requirement of cyclicity [5]. Master of ceremonies, opening and closing the conference was its main organizer - Prof. Sandu [photo 2], which also led several sessions of the meeting.

Also, the role of the invited speaker is a significant distinction, and a lecture at the plenary session - the voice of momentous importance. But how much can modify the accepted ideas? If this is the paradigmatic changes in the process fairly stretched in time. Although anti-positivistic breakthrough occurred around the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, today in the social sciences is quite often seen positivist approach - in the language and method

How many participants were inspired by a lecture Cynarski a new paradigm of science? As Lumen is an organization of the avant-garde, the subject met with the organizers of interest (highlighted in the conference program). And the participants? This does not directly investigated, but some facts on this point (confirmed), such interest a few people closer

scientific cooperation. Probably the only publication of the complete work on the websites of scientific bases Elsevier Scopus and Thomson Reuters will trigger greater resonance in the scientific community. However, international conference is to this first step. In contrast, the inspirations resulting from the collision of their own ideas with others will gradually grow in the minds of the participants, even as an inspiration to the opposition - the antithesis. It is difficult to overstate the value of this type of travel [6]. This kind of tourism is an important fact for the sociology of science, helping to fulfil the postulate an open exchange of knowledge and integrating scientific community [cf. 2]. It is a specific form of *Non-entertaining* tourism [4], because its main purpose is strictly scientific effects.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Multi-disciplinary concept of this conference was its great asset, meeting the first criterion, it just described new paradigm. Generally, a large share of young researchers here probably stems from the rejection of the ideology of Marxism. But do not replace it uncritical postmodernism? There was, however - as it happens currently at various conferences - accented genderism and other ideologies.

It was a conference of media (website, call by skype with several people from the world - a form of teleconferencing, virtual sessions with video presentations), not counting the traditional form as oral presentations (and, moreover, multimedia) and poster. The participants received both materials in paper and electronic (CD), plus *Catalog Editorial Lumen 2014*. An abstract book [12] contains 220 abstracts (384 pages) in English. Meanwhile, abstracts published works. Planned to publish are full texts in the Publication of Proceedings / Elsevier, and then also in Thomson Reuters.

This very diligently and effectively spent time was an opportunity for the exchange of new knowledge. Scientific level was generally good, and organizational efficiency - without complaint. This all means that we can determine the success of the conference presented here both participants and organizers.

However, as regards the impact of a single paper, even the plenary, it is difficult to assess unambiguously. It can be for people interested in the subject inspiring. The conference, through publications presented, discussed and peer reviewed work, disseminates new knowledge. Internet and scientific resources provide her access to a global scale. However, the question: "How conference paper can serve the community of scholars believe a paradigm shift" - is not yet possible at this time to answer. Item will require further research - both in the same or in similar research environments.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Photos made by Ana Caras, courtesy of the LUMEN Association.

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