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Pasul următor:

Societatea Conștiinței sau Societatea Post-Adevăr?

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**CĂTRE SOCIETATEA CONȘTIINȚEI:
O CURSĂ CU OBSTACOLE POST-TRUTH**

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Francois Rabelais (1483 – 1553)

- “Science sans conscience
n’est que ruine de l’ame”

Abstract (I)

- “*O fantomă bântuie Europa*” avansau Marx&Engels în 1848 referindu-se la preliminariile comunismului - un experiment eşuat care a impus secolului XX zeci de milioane de victime. Păstrând proporțiile, vedem că o altă stafie cutreieră azi “viral” lumea *in toto*, “furând startul” Societății Conștiinței teoretizate de Mihai Drăgănescu și Menas Kafatos la pragul secolului XXI: anume **Societatea „Post-Truth”** - sintagmă în creștere cu 2.000% în 2016 față de 2015 cf. Oxford Dictionaries.
- **Post-Truth-ul**, care ar semnifica mai degrabă **Dincolo-de-Adevăr**, țintește destrămarea Adevărului Absolut (legat de Conștiința Fundamentală a Existenței, cf. Drăgănescu, 2003) - spre care năzuind, Homines Sapientes au evoluat de la hoarde la societăți digi-conectate - în puzderie de micro-adevăruri individuale sau de grup (*gangs*) pilotate de porniri dintre cele mai imunde ce anihilează bruma de solidaritate&coeziune definind o comunitate și încețoșând granița dintre adevăr și minciună, conform tacticilor marketingului comercial: “*So, if you don't know what's true, you can say whatever you want and it's not a lie*” (cf. Holmes, 2016).

Abstract (II)

- M. Drăgănescu **vede conștiința ca stare de conștiență complementată de un principiu moral decurgând din spiritualitate;** atunci omul actual ar putea să nu fie în măsură să creeze o Civilizație socio-umană a Conștiinței, cât timp genetica sa cerebrală, aplecată mai degrabă către egoismul sălbatic ancestral, domină achizițiile culturale epigenetice luminate de generozitatea față de aproapele. *“Noul normal”* de **Dincolo-de-Adevăr**, la care tocmai asistăm consternați, pare a-i da dreptate.
- O soluție avută în vedere de filosof ar putea fi o conștiență asistată artificial prin implantarea de „**proteze de conștiență**“ **neurocibernetice** menite să accelereze evoluția mentală a individului mediu împotriva curentului ce-l sustrage influenței spiritualității. **Problema** este timpul scurt rămas la dispoziția omenirii care-și sapă groapa, de zor și irațional, precipitând colapsul Terrei (văzut de unii eco-științifici către 2100) în urma schimbării catastrofale a climatului global, de care este probabil legată și *“noua ciumă”* asociată cu mutațiile imprevizibile ale unor virusuri comune (cf. Negoescu et al, 2020).

Terms

- English uses the term **consciousness** (or self-awareness) to designate a neural-behavioral state featuring capabilities of reflection and reaction found as adequate by the rest of the world, while being vigil.
- In Romanian **conscious** ('constient') is also (English-like) pointing to someone who can rationally place his/her Ego vis-à-vis of the world and him/herself.
- Besides, the Romanian 'constient' refers to someone endowed with a certain level of **conscience**: "I am 'constient' (aware) of my duties", where the attitude versus duties is already related to moral principles, to an axiology.

Terms II

- **Consciousness** appears related to knowledge in wisdom of many languages: in Romanian one can say “*Si-a pierdut cunostinta*” to signify losing consciousness.
- **Consciousness** is naturally human; its versions “contaminated” by technology or those purely technological are referred to by artificial ones.
- **Conscience** is yet more than what is involved by “*I am aware of*” (that expresses a potential for moral behavior), namely a non-hesitant (proved) availability to actualize this potential within the current behavior.
- At a higher level, **conscience** involves looking into the meaning of existence (for him/her and for others who do not possess necessary capabilities) by a philosophical and/or religious demarche.

Historical note on terms

- At the beginning of years 2000 a lot of confusion between **consciousness (c)** and **conscience (C)** did reign in both philosophers and laymen. Indeed, now c is meaning C only as the 4th, after 3 other contents, and marked as archaism (Merriam & Webster, 2020). M Draganescu in concert with his English co-workers (Kafatos et al) used that time consciousness for pointing to conscience, but, having already experienced some indecision (Draganescu 1998), a couple of years later he was making due distinction (Draganescu 2001), made firm in his last book (Draganescu, 2007).
- *According to Mihai Draganescu (2001) **consciousness** stands for a type of integrative information (structural-phenomenological and social) capable of understanding and knowing, knowing that knows, endowed with: feeling of to be, will, intuition and creativity.*
- Remind that in thinking of M. Draganescu structural information is related to (non-living) nature, while phenomenological information points to living matter studied by life sciences. Integration of structural and phenomenological takes place into the real human being; dissection by theoretical reasons may enlighten various balances between parts otherwise intimately merged when analysis progresses from the molecular and cellular level to organs, systems, mind and soul (Draganescu, 1990).

Society of Conscience

- The term of **Society of Conscience** was first introduced in 2000 by M. Draganescu (Said autor. Constiinta, frontiera stiintei, frontiera a omenirii. Rev. Filosof., XLVII, ian-apr 2000, apud Draganescu 2001), after Kafatos M & Nadeau R were launching the concept of Conscious Universe in 1999 (Said authors. The Conscious Universe: Parts And Wholes In Physical Reality. Springer, Oct 1999). There was an epoch of swift progresses in information technology, artificial intelligence, intelligent robotics, biological technologies and nanotechnology.
- Mihai Draganescu (2003) distinguishes several **types (or levels) of conscience**:
 - - current human conscience;
 - - conscience of next human being modified by bio-technologies (improved?);
 - - artificial "conscience" following the artificial consciousness produced by purely technological means;
 - - Fundamental Conscience of Existence (God, in believers' understanding).

Society of Conscience II

■ One can remark that between the two extreme levels of conscience, there are forms of “conscience” of artifact type (built or modified by humans) that may facilitate or, on the contrary, may prevent aspiration, of the current conscience towards the Fundamental Conscience of Existence.

- thus biotechnologies (e.g. those producing genetically modified organisms) may come with a positive contribution or on the contrary may be harmful to mankind;
- in the same vein, artificial consciousness may equip friendly or destructive robots.

Therefore the logical and benefic evolving from the first to the last level of conscience is not spontaneous but should be guided by a moral principle allied with human consciousness.

Consciousness and conscience

- The relationship between consciousness and conscience could schematize (Negoescu, 2017) as: **consciousness + moral principle = conscience.**
- Moral principle comes for a vast majority of humans from spirituality.
- *"Everyone, writes Mihai Draganescu (2003), has an empirical understanding of conscience and realizes that it stands for the highest level of his/her being. He/she then feels spirituality and spiritual experiences to be the very core of his/her conscience".*
- **In this view, unlike consciousness, conscience is exclusively human.**

Consciousness and conscience II

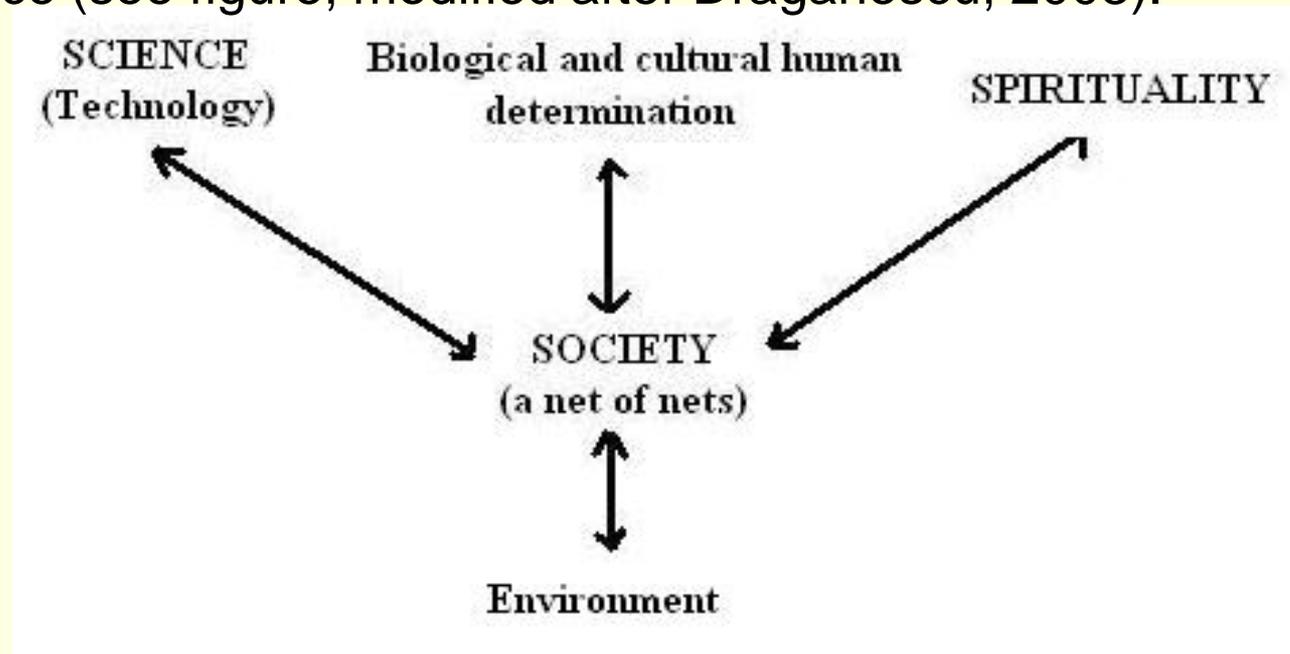
The extent of coupling of consciousness with moral principles may create several forms of conscience (Draganescu, 2001):

- - current human conscience, that alone seems unable, because of imperfectness of its genetic equipment, to build a true social-human civilization
- - cyborg, part man - part computer with a chip (implanted or not into the brain) aiming at increasing intellectual capabilities, so that quality of consciousness rather than moral propensity is affected;
- - conscience improved by modification of human genome; notice, however, that genetic engineering of human brain, possible in theory, is nowadays illegal in most law systems;
- - an Internet giant network with nodes possessing not only artificial intelligence but also quantum or other type of artificial consciousness; in symbiosis with human users this type of machine-awareness might acquire some attributes of human conscience;
- - **Fundamental Conscience of Existence - pure spirituality that transcends the mental and all other local forms of expression or interactions within neural systems.**

Societal interactions

Exercising conscience is mainly done in the social environment.

M. Draganescu's (2001, 2003) **social-human civilization of the future** would be by far towering biological needs of an aggregate of human individuals whose interaction would filter luminous parts present in all of them through the ***collective, social exercise of spirituality. i.e.*** by the collective conscience (see figure, modified after Draganescu, 2003).



Levels of conscience

- In this vein, Laws of Moses, giving early expression to **collective conscience**, codify social behavior of people; social sins acting against the group are mainly incriminated, rather than individual sins acting against him/her self. While the latter are health-redoubtable (we know how from medicine of lifestyle) ending sometimes in serious somatic illnesses, the former increase or exacerbate psycho-social stress responsible for more subtle forms of disease or death (e.g. sudden cardiac death in apparently healthy people, vide e.g. Negoescu 2003).
- The individual endowed with **higher conscience** is unselfish, generous; **generosity** is seen as the essentials of Christianity (as an example of spirituality) gathered in one single word. At the other end, a social value as bright as freedom, when practiced at **low levels of conscience** converts to **selfishness, greed and open contempt vis-à-vis of fellow man**. Social behavior since 1989 of many Romanians who took advantage of freedom achieved through sacrifice of others (Revolution heroes), may convincingly illustrate what means non-conscience, also illustrated by behavior of some individuals during SARS CoV 2 crisis in progress.

Drawbacks for conscience

- The question arises whether man's level of conscience (dependent on spirituality) could overcome at the societal level the destructive effects of those parts of his genetic inheritance directed to evil and aggression that prevent the progress of mankind towards a genuine social-human civilization.
- As M. Draganescu (2001) put, man of today might not be able to create a social-human civilization as his genetic apparatus dominates the epigenetic cultural acquisitions.
- Then a solution could be an artificially assisted consciousness by implantation of neurocybernetic "*consciousness prostheses*" that by means of significant mental enhancement would offer a better chance to moral rectitude in the average individual (id).

Ways to artificial consciousness

- **Neurocybernetic prostheses** are not a novelty in bioengineering or even in clinical engineering, fairly yet with much more modest goals than "treating" low levels of conscience.
- Thus, **neural engineering** aims at replacing a damaged part of the human brain, involved in cognitive functions, with integrated circuits (silicon mostly, but emerging molecular/quantum) operating on the known principle of the artificial neural networks.
- Other hopes appear related to **neuroelectronics** that refers to coupling organic substrata to electronic systems and devices (see Fromhertz et al, quoted by Draganescu, 2001, that have combined a silicon chip with the giant nerve cells of the snail *Lymnea Stagnalis* and succeeded a two-way communication).

Road to Society of Conscience: a race with hurdles: genetics but not only

- This road is so difficult, quotes M. Draganescu [3] the renown biologist and physician Grigore Traian Popa, because of the brain of present humans that can instrument both good and evil: its **genetics** remains tributary to **ancestral wild selfishness & violence** (some say such centers are located at “reptilian” brain base).
- They dominate in too many people **generosity, compassion, diligence & empathy** brought about by **species’ corticalization** in which Stefan Milcu (1994) was seeing the neurophysiologic mechanism of human continual evolution including conscience. In the same vein, M. Draganescu (1986) believed that, by exercising information, the cortex has already spread its “antennae” to the lower floor of the brain, the brainstem regulating the vegetative life, and further on by the cranial nerves to the peripheral organs: *“It would be possible that mental processes get manifest by such extensions throughout the body”*. It stands for a philosophical inference confirmed at least at the heart’s level (Negoescu, 2003).

Beyond-the-Truth (BtT) hurdle

- Unfortunately, the genetic, objective hurdle is complemented by a more subtle enemy rooted not in reptilian brain but in the very cortex of some theoreticians who are voicing since a couple of years the Post-Truth Society. They are claiming **the relativity of any of facts, things or feelings the people trust as true along their long history** from hordes to modern communities.
- The main target appears to us the Draganescu's Fundamental Conscience of Existence (an "intangible" of mind who may reside in philosophic or religious spirituality, see also Wolf,2018).
- Let's scrutinize Beyond the Curtain scientists, priests or both preach as Truth, adepts say: there is no such a thing like the universal truth, but only mine, yours, hers and his who fiercely compete: let win the best, because the Emperor is naked ! And, more ***"So, if you don't know what's true, you can say whatever you want and it's not a lie"*** (Holmes, 2016).

Expert views on BtT hurdle: history, tableau, solutions (from Grech, 2019)

- *At the end of 2016, in a reaction to the Brexit and to the US Presidentials, the Oxford Dictionary chose 'post-truth' as the word of the year, with +2,000% quotations vs 2015 (Wang, nov 2016). **"In 2019, 'post-truth' (mythology, nn) challenges the very notion of what should constitute a democratic and inclusive society.***
- *Society appears to be experiencing a moment when truth, norms, rules and traditions cannot be relied on as [...] to base decisions for the future. The consequences of the post-truth society are as palpable as a sense of helplessness, ambivalence and nihilism. **The common good, trust, responsibility, ethics and civic engagement are under attack.***
- *According to the polls, people don't trust the government, politicians, journalists and scientists, let alone bankers and business executives. Not even the Vatican has escaped this crisis of confidence.*
- *Truth does matter. **The most powerful antidote to the post-truth society is to have educated, engaged and well-informed citizens** who refuse to allow themselves to be blinded by the agendas of those who thrive from the erosion of trust."*

Expert views on BtT hurdle: how functions (from Enfield, 2017)

- << In our **“new normal”** (our marks), experts are dismissed and alternative facts flagrantly offered. This suspicion of specialists is part of a bigger problem
- We often defer to others’ expertise, and for good reason. The entire edifice of modern society only exists thanks to the division of labor, from construction to machine operation to medical treatment. The system works as long as we have trust in others’ knowledge, skills and intentions.
- **This cannot end well. We can’t afford to dismiss the testimony of those with scientific and technical expertise.** Like the airline pilots who we rightly trust to fly our planes, scientists have knowledge and skills that many of us both lack and need.
- The scientific community is responding with a growing counter-movement. A global March for Science on Earth Day in April 2017 saw more than 600 cities participate. Thousands have signed a **pro-truth** pledge, with commitments including “fact-check information to confirm it is true before accepting and sharing it”, “reevaluate if my information is challenged, retract it if I cannot verify it”, and “distinguish between my opinion and the facts”.>>

Expert views on BtT hurdle: fake news technology (from Enfield, 2018)

■ ***“Blurring the line between fiction and reality*** can be done for many purposes, starting with “having fun” and going all the way to “survival.” You cannot play games or read novels unless you suspend disbelief. To really enjoy soccer, you have to accept the rules and forget for at least ninety minutes that they are merely human inventions. If you don’t, you will think it utterly ridiculous for 22 people to go running after a ball. Soccer might begin with just having fun, but it can become far more serious stuff, as any English hooligan [...] will attest.

■ The truth is, ***truth has never been high on the agenda of Homo sapiens.*** If you stick to unalloyed reality, few people will follow you.

■ ***Commercial firms also rely on fiction and fake news.*** Branding often involves retelling the same fictional story again and again, until people become convinced it is the truth. What images come to mind when you think about Coca-Cola? Do you think about healthy young people engaging in sports and having fun together? Or do you think about overweight diabetes patients lying in a hospital bed? [...] Yet for decades [...] billions subconsciously believe in [Cola-health,nn) linkage.”

Expert views on BtT hurdle: what present people actually prefer (ibidem)

- ***“As a species, humans prefer power to truth.***
- ***We spend far more time and effort on trying to control the world than on trying to understand it*** — *and even when we try to understand it, we usually do so in the hope that understanding the world will make it easier to control it.*
- *If you dream of a society in which truth reigns supreme and myths are ignored, you have little to expect from Homo sapiens. **Better to try your luck with chimps.**”*

Expert views on BtT hurdle:

everybody for her/him self only (from Spencer, 2019)

- *"If future **historians look** back at this moment, surely they will marvel at what kind of **confused ideological belief system could compel someone to do something so selfish and, frankly, stupid.** [...].*
*Capitalism, to function, requires us to collectively deny the mere idea of the commons. As Margaret Thatcher once said, "**There's no such thing as society. There are individual men and women and there are families.**"*
- *As [...] Thatcher vocalized in very different ways, the ideological core of late capitalism is the supremacy of the belief in **one's individual beliefs and actions — regardless of how they make others suffer, or are morally or factually wrong.** The celebration of individualism in all its forms — including behavior, dress and actions — is intrinsic to this epoch of capitalism, exemplified in social media.*
- *If you take this [...] to its extreme, one might come to believe that we have the right to believe whatever we want to — even if those beliefs are immediately provably untrue: [...] **Freedom to believe in one's own, individual universe; freedom to pick and choose facts, and discard those that are disagreeable.**"*

Concluzii provizorii

- M. Drăgănescu vede conștiința ca stare de conștiență complementată de un principiu moral decurgând din spiritualitate; atunci **omul actual ar putea să nu fie în măsură să creeze o Civilizație socio-umană a Conștiinței, cât timp genetica sa cerebrală, aplecată mai degrabă către egoismul sălbatic ancestral, domină achizițiile culturale epigenetice luminate de generozitatea față de aproapele.** *“Noul normal”* de **Dincolo-de-Adevăr**, la care tocmai asistăm consternați, pare a-i da dreptate. Totuși „proteze de conștiență” neurocibernetică pe termen mediu sau corticalizarea speciei pe termen lung ar putea apropia **Societatea Conștiinței**.
- **Problema** este timpul scurt rămas la dispoziția omenirii ce, în climatul moral al Societății Post-Truth, precipită colapsul Terrei (văzut de unii eco-științifici către 2100) în urma schimbării catastrofale a climatului global (vide e.g. Negoescu et al, 2020) implicată probabil în *“noua ciumă”* asociată cu mutații virale imprevizibile precum COVID 19.

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Problema Adevărului

- "Atunci un Împărat tot ești!" I-a zis Pilat.
- "Da", a răspuns Iisus. "Eu sunt Împărat. Eu pentru aceasta M-am născut și am venit în lume, ca să mărturisesc despre **Adevăr**. Oricine este din Adevăr ascultă glasul Meu."
- Pilat I-a zis: "Ce este adevărul?" și a intrat înapoi în Pretoriu.

(Ioan 18, 37-38)