

# WHAT REALLY MEANS TRANSDISCIPLINARITY FOR A MODERN NATIONAL ACADEMY? ACADEMIC EVOLUTION OR INVOLUTION BASED ON SOME RELEVANT STATISTICS AND INFORMATION FROM ROMANIA?

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**Abstract.** *National Academy of Romania and the French source of its model are confronted in the first part of this paper, in a statistical manner, starting with the necessity of transdisciplinarity for this major cultural, educational and research institution. After a brief introduction underlying the academic educational value of transdisciplinarity and its impact on modern scientific research, this paper details some major aspects connected to the Romanian Academy. Unfortunately, the Romanian Academy remains a copy damaged over time or even unsuccessful in the last eight decades, and no longer has anything in common with the quality, morality and integrity of its model, the French Academy. The contagion suffered from the contact with the Romanian society and the rest of the deeply corrupt and immoral national institutions affected the Romanian Academy with greater intensity and severity and had a much greater impact in relation to that found on all other state institutions. Some final remarks are important for a better understanding of a national academy for academic education and also for modern research.*

**Keywords:** *national academy, source of model, transdisciplinarity, evolution, involution, statistics, confrontations, inter-, multi-, and cross-disciplinarity.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Transdisciplinarity becomes by simplification and for the most part a simple cultivated conversation, critical and sprinkled with a lot of inherent misunderstandings, which impose revisions and even reformulations, keeping the quality of transmitter of information, about efficient and even optimal forms of collaboration, but also about rules for solving the increasingly complex problems of reality (Serres, 1991) [1].

The integral and structured approach of the future of transdisciplinarity in the fields of academic knowledge and scientific research reveals, in Basarab Nicolescu's opinion, a common bond in the *sacred and sacredness* (Caciuc, 2000, p. 313) [2] and leads to a *fusion of the subject with the object* of knowledge, which generates both an extended acuity and a much improved deductive-anticipatory capacity. A future subject to increasingly accelerated changes in the type of thinking, knowledge and scientific investigation, capable in real time of discovering trends, structures, formal or informal perspectives, continuously placed in an interactive relationship with the stages of knowledge mapping, focused on

instability or transformation, but also on symbiosis or regeneration, this type of future will intensively develop any transdisciplinary approach. This is the evolution expected in this 21st century and its accelerated dynamics will place transdisciplinarity beyond the values and aspirations of each individual discipline, towards a true knowledge of the human condition, coherently structured through practical actions and through the consequences of acts of knowledge and investigation.

Beliefs, fine arts, architecture, and music will permanently restructure transdisciplinarity. As an example of the diversity of the future, even multiplied faiths will coexist more intensely, from cold faith or offensive atheism to fundamental faith or metaphysical thinking, from weak faith or focused on piety, tolerance and respect, to existential faith or the search for harmony in human life, from faith as occultism to theophanic faith in a self-creative universe, from theosophical faith or focused on rational knowledge of reality, to critical or non-reductive faith, etc. (Caciuc, 2000, p. 314-316) [2]

The relationship between the mind and the world will constantly change, having as important effects on transdisciplinarity in the immediate future as in the medium or long term.

The reality of the world is also produced and structured as an interpretation, which over time forms conflicting traditions of thought, which can give rise to "*returns*" (Vattimo, 1983) [3] or transformation processes through "*unlimited semiosis*" (Eco, 2007) [4].

Among the absolutely necessary requirements for the new transdisciplinarity of the future, the following can be distinguished: i) reducing the complexity of reality through knowledge and scientific research; ii) obtaining effectiveness through or based on contextualization; iii) achieving integration through open confrontations; iv) the development of reflexivity through recurrence (Hirsch Hadron, *et al.*, 2008) [5].

The transdisciplinarity of the future will seek more intensively the integration of form with content, this separation being a deeply conventional one, specific to discursive analysis and nothing more. The conflict of open transdisciplinarity questions can and will certainly give way to creating tension in the medium and long term.

Transdisciplinarity will not be practically identical to mediation, but rather will remain a permanent "model of the fusion of horizons" (Gadamer, 1975) [6].

The clarification of such a fusion of horizons will only be possible with the help of a dialogue, a real one that will start from the preserved traditions of existing knowledge, against the background of a perpetual confrontation between the past, present and aspirations for the future... (Caciuc, 2010, p. 327) [2].

The transdisciplinarity of the future will become by simplification and for the most part a simple cultivated conversation, critical and sprinkled with inherent misunderstandings, which will impose revisions and even reformulations, keeping the quality of transmitter of information, about efficient and even optimal forms of collaboration, but also about rules for solving the increasingly complex problems of reality (Serres, 1991) [1].

Naturally, for us Romanians, the closest guide on the map of transdisciplinarity was, is and will remain for a long time also Basarab Nicolescu:

*"Transdisciplinarity leads to open attitude towards myths and religions and towards those who respect them in a transdisciplinary spirit [...] there being no privileged culture in relation to the others. The transdisciplinary approach is itself transcultural."* (Nicolescu, 1996) [7].

## 2. SOME RELEVANT STATISTICS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY

This introspection into the importance, and role of statistical restitution of the Romanian Academy, especially of the evolution or involution over time, from the moment of its appearance until now, should reveal or not a natural extension of its real model. The French Academy, the profound model of the Romanian Academy, had always and still has a stable, constant composition of only 40 members. This issue is a true landmark of French culture, from the year 1635 when the French Academy was practically founded by Cardinal Richelieu. If one of the French Academy's members does not die or is not dismissed for a serious act as an illegal or immoral deed, another Frenchman has no way of ending up among the "immortals", as all academics in France are known. But this limit is also relativized, there are always vacancies within this venerable academy. Currently, the number of vacant places is 5, and thus the actual average occupancy is only 87.5%. Placed or located 2,300 kilometres away, in Bucharest, a well-known city especially in the interbellum period as "Little Paris", the Romanian Academy, which only completed 155 years of existence in 2021, could have, according to the law and its statute, a number of 181 members. Currently, the much younger and more extensive Romanian Academy has 90.6% occupancy average rate (164 members).



Source: Communication supported by the author at SRS - "Octav Onicescu" Romanian scientific seminar on statistics on 28.04.2022, *Statistical tools for measuring transdisciplinarity, a tribute to the mathematician Dan Barbilian, alias the poet Ion Barbu.*

**Fig.1:** Side-by-side images of the original French Academy model (right) and the Romanian Academy copy (left) (35 versus 164)

Thus, that things not only seem, but are actually more complicated than ever and everywhere, in Romania its national academy, currently has five other "so-called academies" and this at a time when its population and its cultural traditions have barely represented less than a quarter of those of France. In detail, here are the following five political academies as really clones:

- i) Academy of Technical Sciences (ATS);
- ii) Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS);

- iii) Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (AAFS);
- iv) Romanian Academy of Scientists (RAS);
- v) Academy of National Security Sciences (ANSS).

Each of these clones of national academy has hundreds of full and corresponding members, most of them benefiting from allowances and other substantial advantages (Table no. 1):

**Table no. 1:** Estimated statistics\* from the clones of national academy's links

Academy's abbreviation	Data access link	(Re)establishment Year	Branches	Current number of members	
				Total*	of which: titulars
ATS	<a href="https://astr.ro/">https://astr.ro/</a>	1997	6	250	150
AMS	<a href="https://www.adsm.ro">https://www.adsm.ro</a>	2004	6	230	190
AAFS	<a href="http://www.asas.ro">http://www.asas.ro</a>	1962	6	140	80
RAS	<a href="https://www.aosr.ro">https://www.aosr.ro</a>	1996	9	230	132
ANSS	<a href="https://www.assn.ro">https://www.assn.ro</a>	2012	1	20	16
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>28</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>568</b>

Note\*: Data were taken by the author from the most recent tables presented on the detailed links of the abbreviated institutions (in total they were slightly rounded or approximated to the first level – using tens)

In the end, it seems that either someone was missing from the lists or there were not enough secondary academies, in 2015 another one appeared or, more correctly, one more was established by law 129/2015, one which is as useless as all the others based on all the final results in education and scientific research. It is about the Romanian Academy of Legal Sciences (RALS).

*How could all these simple statistics be rationally explained?*

*Or even more clearly, what moral or deontological coverage do these numbers have, when all these clones of a national academy do not materialize into something evolutive and useful, even when they seem to have a real cultural impact?*

*Could anyone coherently justify such a thing as evolutive or more properly as unevolutive trend?*

Whoever she or he is and however well she or he may be guided by the most honourable intentions, she or he will still remain circumspect, and this is especially because academic life does not seem to be important to anyone in Romania, and its real impact on middle school, high school and academic education, but above all, on scientific research is almost *nil*, in the context of an increasingly worrying functional illiteracy and minor results and contributions of national research in the Romanian GDP.

While the number of these academies increases, renamed, re-established or reoccupied, with newer or older names, most of their titular members are looking for any kind of allowances or positions, even for special or additional pensions, out of imaginary needs or out of conceits lacking real coverage and pragmatism. Finally, in Romania, the share of innovative enterprises in the total number of companies is continuously decreasing and that of auxiliary academies is constantly increasing with no real result, except the sum allocated from the state budget to exist. In the more recent period, between 2018 and 2020, compared to 2016-2018, the share of economic agents as real innovators decreased by 3.9%, and the number of secondary (auxiliary) academies practically increased to 6 (after 2015), respectively by 20%.

### 3. SOME HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Ioan Maiorescu, Titu Maiorescu's father, was practically the one who first proposed, in 1860, "*an academic society that would concentrate the activity of Romanian scholars... for the culture of the language, for the writing of national history*". The first institutional form was named the *Romanian Academic Society* and was established on April 1, 1866. On March 30, 1879, by a special law, the *Romanian Academic Society* became a national institution, under the name of the *Romanian Academy*. (Berindei, 2006) [8]

From the very beginning, the role of this institution should have been that of a forum for morality and scientific independence. The number of founding members of the *Romanian Academic Society* and later that of the *Romanian Academy*, but only for a short period of time, followed the initial French model, being approximately 25 in total. However, it is also true that the first president of the *Romanian Academic Society* was none other than Ion Heliade Rădulescu, who fulfilled this position with the utmost rigour until August 1, 1870. Later, that is, until the end of the millennium, the same *Romanian Academy* brought together almost 134 years, almost 1500 members, of which: 980 Romanians (from the 25 founders to 375 full members, plus 178 honorary members, but also 361 corresponding members, as well as 41 members elected post-mortem) and a number of 514 foreign members (404 honorary or titular members, 109 correspondents and one elected posthumously). Among the latter, there were representatives of large European nations such as France, with a number of 163 members (31.7%), followed by Germany, with 60 members (11.7%), then Italy, with 48 members (9.3%), but also the USA with 39 (7.6%) and England with 22, (4.3%) etc. (Rusu, 1999; 2010) [9,10].

The institution, newly founded after 1879, was initially a national encyclopedic society, becoming essential for Romanian spirituality, through its cultured people from the country and abroad. His concerns extended to the arts, letters and science. Since then, the *Romanian Academy* had to function as a national forum of recognized personalities of

scientific, literary and artistic research, and the academicians had the obligation to be "*moral and independent persons in their works of any nature*".

From June 9, 1948, by Decree no. 76, the Romanian Academy was abolished, establishing instead a completely different institution, politically titled the Academy of the Romanian People's Republic. This institution, like all communist ones of Soviet origin, was placed under proletarian and implicitly harmful influences. As a necessary parenthesis, it should be recalled that the first Russian academy was founded on January 22, 1724, by Dimitrie Cantemir with the support of his good friend, Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz, and the result remained known as the Petersburg Academy of Sciences which became, finally, in the Russian Academy of Sciences. But this honest and well-intentioned achievement of one of the great Romanian intellectuals had nothing in common with what turned out to be the popular communist academies, mostly of the Soviet type, permanently under the harmful influence of Russia and oriented in the strictly political way towards communism, anti-traditional and anti-national in relation to the culture of the state where an *Academy of a People's Republic* was being re-established...

Certainly, it was not about a transformation of the Romanian Academy, but the provisions of the decree given between 1948 and 1989, during the communist dictatorship, practically abolished the old institution, there being no clause to ensure continuity between the two. The new list of members of the *Academy of the Romanian People's Republic* included almost entirely new names of communist political personalities, not at all cultural or scientific members, with certainty proven by censorship and subsequent purges as anti-Romanian, from Mihai Roller to Simion Iagnov, from Nicolae Profiri, at Ștefan - Marius Milcu, etc. In a few years, the institution turned into the *Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania*, and the awarding of the title of academician became only a political act, with similar echoes even today, the criterion of scientific erudition and intellectual morality being replaced by those of "*healthy origins*" and "*merits of the unique party*"...

The initial prestige of the Romanian Academy did suffer too much anyway, after, out of purely political interests, this institution then called the *Academy of the Romanian Socialist Republic*, received as new members two illiterate people, in the persons of the spouses Elena and Nicolae Ceausescu. After 1990, when democracy reappeared in Romania, the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania formally resumed its old name *Romanian Academy* [11, 12], without succeeding in becoming a real democratic institution, not even after more than three decades...

After the institutional Sovietization of the Romanian Academy, one began to feel the almost total lack of humility of those moral leaders, capable of resigning or asking for forgiveness in public, whenever it was necessary or out of respect for ordinary people and their communities. Among the members of such an institution, neither the truth nor morals or professional ethics were valued anymore, even among the devoted and learned, previously able to recognize their serious errors committed more or less accidentally. The loss of academic virtue was increasingly clear to the extent that their words, acts and deeds were in complete contradiction with each other, but also with the initial institutional purpose of the Romanian Academy, all being placed under the impact of political extremism and dictatorships.

To show, however, that there was still some discernment of the system in the last thirty years, noting at the same time a "demonetization through academic excess", but also from the exacerbated pride of the new members, it was finally established by law that only the members *The Romanian Academy* is officially given the right to bear the title of "*academician*". All these trends belong to the last three decades, in a context in which it was not considered necessary to reduce everything to a single national academy, but it had already multiplied six times, generating a veritable inflation of academics, and from the French model with 40 academic chairs of which only around 35 were usually occupied, in Romania, it was established that a number of over 1000 titular and corresponding members, all academics, These aspects could be sufficient to describe the academic degradation... At the same time, although the national model was clearly based on the French model, the post-war copy and all that followed became a Soviet one: "*because only in the Soviet model is scientific research done inside the Academy*" (Mircea Miclea, former Minister of Education, *PressOne*).

Finally, perhaps it would be necessary to officially recognize that there were some unpleasant events and traditions in the first years and some even disastrous ones in the last years of the existence of the Romanian Academy. Events of this kind were admittedly fewer in the early years, but significantly more and more serious in the last ones. Thus, after its establishment, Andrei Vizanti, elected as a corresponding member in 1882, was removed after 1903, as a result of the fact that he left the country to avoid being punished for embezzlement of public funds. Another famous example in its essence is constituted by the controversial academic, Alexe Procopovici, whom Eugen Lovinescu said was "*the man who wrote nothing*".

But what happened during the communist period remains unmatched by the institutional extremism,

even by the total abdication of all minor institutional principles, as well as by the lack of a minimum of morality. Thus, the maximum academic degradation has its beginning as an intense and unfinished process in 1974, when Elena Ceaușescu, fundamentally illiterate, was elected a titular member, and 11 years later, in 1985, Nicolae Ceaușescu, a notorious illiterate himself, became both a titular member and honorary president of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania. After 1990, there should not have been any of the previous members in the new Romanian Academy, none of those who participated and voted for these people, but there are still academics today, who consider themselves completely innocent and moral among them...

Elena and Nicolae Ceausescus, both ignorant and even illiterate, became, in a purely political manner, academics, but they would not have succeeded without the clear support of the other supposed academics, all of whom lack the minimum decency or a minimum of common sense or morality. Even if these two illiterate people, who made up the dictatorial couple, were first executed, and then excluded post-mortem from this completely fake academy, especially after December 26, 1989, there was no general resignation, nor was it requested, or at least an individual act of regret or remorse or a desire to repent in relation to real academic meritocracy, of any voter of their quality, completely falsified by academics. The same happened with other politicians of the time, like Manea Mănescu, who became a full member of the Romanian Academy, as early as 1974, and who was excluded only on February 2, 1990, or like Suzana Gâdea, who was stripped of her title due to some criminal convictions. The real Romanian Academy today is deeply compromised in relation to its historical purpose and completely dishonoured in its moral essence, by all those who voted then, without resigning instantly or later, after natural remorse for truly virtuous people...

Beyond the lack of respect for traditions, for the efforts of a people mocked and implied for history and the past, the lack of obvious morality, the absence of minimal decency and ethics, the fraud of some assets belonging to the academy (the examples regarding the fraud of lands of the Romanian Academy by leasing harmful, by selling them below the price or simply giving them away, after which unimaginable processes took place with their final verdict), as well as the fraud of public money, some of which disappeared under the signature of contemporary academics (the example of the 2.8 million lei, representing allowances of some deceased academics, money falsely paid to others, during nine years, etc.), evidence appears more and more frequently that underlines a serious incompetence of some of the members of the current Romanian Academy (the most eloquent

example being the relatively recent one of August 27, 2020, when the Romanian Academy issued a statement in which conspiracy theories about e 5G and a gross fake about WHO).

The time has probably come or will come as soon as possible and the doors of the Romanian Academy, an institution too often politically rechristened, the beneficiary of many immoral solutions, focused on a scientific knowledge that is increasingly out of date or even limited, will close of its own accord in relation to the current international status, as well as on an increasingly restricted recognition, if not almost lost as a moral impact, isolated in the rigid universe of rival unidisciplinarity, with perverted deontology, unadapted to many of the international projects and teams, and in several fields where it had historical traditions even deprofessionalized. If these gates are ever to be reopened, the act will probably be done gradually, after a large part of these false generations from which these 1,000 academicians have sprung have naturally passed away, others in trials to avoid deprivation of freedom, and the completely immoral scientifically under the pressure and fear of the material consequences of an eternally practised plagiarism. Maybe some future Romanian academics will be rediscovered, inside but also outside the traditional Romanian space, who will be able to close the gates of false knowledge, excessively politicized, immoral, as well as that lacking good expertise or real skills ...

#### 4. SOME FINAL REMARKS

To have a more comprehensive view of the future of the Romanian Academy, and of the cohesion or unity as a structured academic universe of the spirit of a nation, initially multiplied through inter-, cross-, and multidisciplinary one needs many more theoretical types of research and practical investigations, based on statistics and information.

However, even this paper can be a good example, showing that the academic universe must be a transdisciplinary one, to be evolutive, and especially useful for a nation, for its education and scientific research. Any national academy requires deep moral foundations and overall evolution analysis, especially in the form of more clearly defined statistical terms not only in mathematical language but also in historical information.

Because nothing can be more disastrous for any community or country, than the proliferation of a completely immoral type of intellectual, as an old Romanian proverb bitterly states, because "*morality is identical for the soul of a people, with health for the human body!*" Another proverb, a German one this time, always keeps a well-deserved place for new generations of researchers and intellectuals who are truly moral and willing to contribute and replace the elderly in academic and scientific communities, in human societies that behave stably,

in orderly and truly wise: "Only three glasses are always needed: the first for health and good mood, the second for creation and wisdom, and the third for sleep and ... rest." [13]

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