

## NOTES AND REVIEWS

**Adrian Otovescu, *The Conservation of the cultural identity within Romanian immigrant environment in Europe*, National Museum of Romanian Literature Publishing, Bucharest, 2013, 331 p.**

The appearance in the “Aula Magna” of the study collection “The Conservation of the cultural identity within Romanian immigrant environment in Europe” presented by the prestigious publishing house of the National Museum of Romanian Literature proves that the theme approached by Adrian Otovescu is a present social and cultural one.

Its relevant title exemplifies the primary objective of the research, which is “the knowledge process of cultural identity preservation” (p. 9) in within Romanian immigrant environments. The paper work is judiciously structured into eight chapters each one coming with a scientific argument.

The first chapter tries in theory an overview of the sociological and anthropological aspect about Romanian communities abroad. It defines the concepts and theories of migration, social identity and cultural identity. Starting with the types of the Romanian migration (economical, political, cultural) Mr. Otovescu is trying a radiography of the geographical distribution of the Romanian Diaspora.

In the second chapter, “The migration in Europe or the road to a new identity (pp. 44–72), the author uses statistics to prove the evolution of the immigrant population in Europe despite the extended global economic crisis. The results are complemented by “A historical and quantitative analysis of socio-demographic characteristics of the population emigrated from Romania” (p. 12).

The third Chapter, “The constitutive factors of national identity and the dimensions of Romanian identity (pp. 73–99), addresses the specialized terminology of migration sociology such as: ethnic identity, European identity, national and Romanian one in parallel to the basic indicators that can and operate the concepts of national and Romanian identity” (p. 12).

As an addition to the scientific steps taken here, the fourth chapter “The methodological and theoretical coordinates, the analysis of the cultural identity” (pp. 101–137), defines the types of identity, theoretical concepts of the cultural and social identity and the approach of the current research concerning the cultural identity. To concretize his theoretical arguments the author researches two case studies: the Romanian immigrant communities from both Italy and England.

This way he tries to outline an identity profile using the migration stages, his reason being assessing this kind of identity with help from case studies and biographies of some Romanian immigrants such as in chapter V – “The Romanian immigrant community in Italy and the main features of their cultural identity” (pp. 139–205)

We also have chapter VI – “Preserving cultural identities in the Romanian community in England” (pp. 206–234). Both chapters can be the base of comparative research. Chapter VII highlights the importance of the institutions, programs and the promotion of the Romanian cultural organizations abroad (pp. 235–262). It does not focus on the role of the church, as the author himself claims, it is too complex and deserves a separate treatment in detail (p. 13).

The last chapter “Internalizing the changes by Romanian immigrants and their self evaluations of intercultural experiences” (pp. 263–278), is based on some personal self analysis of five subjects, in which they tell their immigrant experience in writing at home. It is shown here their personal awareness of the cultural changes in their own judgments and thoughts about immigrant life in countries such as France, Spain, Greece, the Netherlands, Kuwait.

Their confessions help shape an identity profile of the immigrants that had expectations, fear, and emotions. They have accepted new cultural codes in relation to personal identity, trying to adapt to them so they can be more easily tolerated.

The paper work concludes with a selective bibliography (pp. 279–291), topical, appendices and summary in English.

The study can be considered a theoretical and applied manual its target being the national identity and the concern on how to keep it alive in the Romanian immigrants communities in Europe. At the same time, it can be a guide to the concept of national identity, with a solid statistical basis.

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