

Author: Septimiu CHELCEA
Title: *Officialization of personal representation of private life. Case-study: The personal file of a University professor, 1950-1965*
Year: 2000
Published: Sociologie Româneasca (*Romanian Sociological Review*), 2/2000, p. 136-149

Abstract by: Constantin MÂRZA

This article discusses from a social psychology perspective the personnel file, a form of surveillance and control that has existed through the entire communist period in Romania. The archival material used deals with the 1950-1965 period. The working hypothesis is that such an empirical material may offer interesting suggestions about the ways in which individuals had to reinvent their self, due to the pressures of the moment. In order to describe these transformations, two empirical materials have been compared: on the one hand memories, informal interviews and autobiographies; on the other hand official autobiographies and answers demanded by the human resources departments. The comparison suggests contractions and expansions of time, the avoidance of the delicate issues (voluntary social amnesia), as well as a different logic of confession. The study emphasizes the advantages and the disadvantages of the personnel file as a social document. Finally the process of officialization of personal representation of private life is described.

Author: Mircea Comsa
Title: **An analysis of the response rate in national opinion polls**
Year: 2002
Published: Sociologie Româneasca (Romanian Sociology), 3-4/ 2002, p. 1-32

Abstract by: Constantin Marza

The present analysis belongs to the wider context of sample representativity and of the factors that modify actual sample reported to the projected ones. The article explores the present state of the response rate in some opinion surveys lead in Romania and the factors that determine it. Four categories of factors are identified, namely the characteristics of the subjects, of the field operators, of the research and the context / environment. The analyses use data gathered within several opinion surveys conducted by Metro Media Transylvania during 2000-2002. The main conclusions of the analyses were regarding the extent of the response rate, the factors influencing it, its evolution during the past 3 years, the motivation and effect of replacements on the survey data. The response rate in the Romanian survey is rather low (60%), due mainly to the quality of the sampling frame (the election lists) and not to the subjects' refusals (the refusal rate is rather low – 8%). Even if the selection of the interview operators is intentional, they still exert an influence on the response rate (higher response rates are obtained by the operators with an average experience, who do not have the residence in the locality were they apply the survey, who are interested in the research topic, having an under average scholar grades, and who wear few accessories). The response rate also depends on some characteristic of the research: it is higher in those surveys that are less imposing on the subject – shorter questionnaires, onewave interviewing. It also depends on some characteristics of the subjects, being higher in female subjects, from the rural area, more educated and more interested in the research topic.

Author: Cristina Chiru
Title: **Ethnolinguistic identity and vitality**
Year: 1999
Published: Sociologie Româneasca (Romanian Sociology), 4/ 1999, p. 33-47

Abstract by: Ana-Maria Mosneagu

The ethnolinguistic identity was built on situated identity theory and is not static, but dynamic, and situationally dependent. The concept of ethnolinguistic vitality is used to designate the socio-structural forces that determine a particular ethnic group's continued existence as a separate and active collective entity within heterogeneous societies. Bourhis, Giles and Rosenthal (1981) distinguished three dimensions: the status of the group in the larger society, demographic variables, and institutional support for the group. Bornman and Appelgryn distinguished five dimensions: institutional support, group status and power, maintenance of identity, maintenance of symbols, and threat to identity. But they emphasized that it needed to establish whether the five dimensions identified are universal dimensions of ethnolinguistic vitality, or whether they were merely products of the unique circumstances.

Author: Gabriel Badescu
Title: **Trust and democracy in transition countries**
Year: 2003
Published: Sociologie Româneasca (Romanian Sociology), 1-2/ 2003

Abstract by: Ana-Maria Mosneagu

Does the level of interpersonal trust matter for why democratization of the post-communist societies is slower than was expected short after the fall of communism, and, especially for why speed is so diverse among them? The analysis shows, based on cross-national survey data, that levels of trust tend to be lower in the Eastern-European societies than in the Western ones. It also indicates that at a society level interpersonal trust does not account for different speed and extent of democratization among Eastern-European countries. However, the article demonstrates that in each of the fourteen post-communist societies under study more trustful people tend to display more democratic values and a higher level of civic involvement. In addition, the study shows on Romanian data that higher interpersonal trust increases the chances that a person donates money for a non-for-profit organization.

The overall conclusion of the article is that in transitional societies trust is one of the scarce commodities that are needed for sustaining democratization.