**Review of the
Volume
“Introducere in
sociologie”
[Introduction to
Sociology], Author:
Antonio Sandu,
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Loredana TEREC-VLAD¹

¹ PhD, Ștefan cel Mare University of
Suceava, loredana.vlad@fdsa.usv.ro

Abstract: Sociology is a discipline that helps us understand the social reality, the institutions, the deviance, the delinquency, and so on. As it is considered to be an important field especially nowadays, Antonio Sandu through his work "Introduction to Sociology" acquaints us with a series of fundamental concepts of this field, by bringing sociology to the level of socio-human disciplines that must be studied not only by a social category, namely the students, but by all those interested in this topic. In this paper we will review the book "Introduction to Sociology" by Antonio Sandu.

Keywords: *sociology, university course, Antonio Sandu*

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Sociology is a discipline that was completed relatively late and it was founded by Auguste Comte, who, on the one hand, defined sociology as "social physics". On the other hand, Weber makes important contributions as it was influenced by phenomenology "when it transfers social research from the constraining reality of social facts, understood positively, to the meaning of action as it appears to the social actor" (Sandu, 2016). Understood as a fundamental discipline for knowing reality, sociology excels today as an independent field, always materializing and perfecting its research techniques and tools. The work "Introduction to Sociology" by Antonio Sandu provides us with an overview of this field, thereby adding value to sociology.

The understanding of sociology presupposes the knowledge of the social, and this knowledge "is achieved in an analytical-empirical way, but also in a synthetic way, in order to elaborate some legitimacies that make possible the understanding of the society, of the institutions and social phenomena with as high a degree of generality as possible" (Sandu, 2016).

1. Towards a trans-disciplinary vision of sociology

Through his work, the philosopher and sociologist Antonio Sandu provides a trans-disciplinary vision of sociology, masterfully combining the knowledge of reality with Basarab Nicolescu's perspective on the levels of reality: "the levels of reality are coherent allowing for the transfer of information from one level to another level" and "the unification of the world" is being achieved through an area of "non-resistance" (Sandu, 2016, Nicolescu, 2007). The openness to transdisciplinarity is due to the idea of integral development of the "human being both personally and socially, culturally and spiritually." In this context, the author brings to the fore the branches of sociology, talking about: the sociology of culture, the sociology of education, the sociology of the family (Apostu, 2013, 2017; Vlad, 2017), the sociology of health, the sociology of the quality of life, the sociology of communication, the legal sociology or the sociology of politics.

2. Social institutions, power and socialization

A concept brought to the fore is that of power and the author masterfully describes the connection between social institutions and power. At the risk of being brief, we believe that one of the representative authors who made the most contributions in this area is Michel Foucault through the work "Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison" (Foucault). By analyzing the power *per se* and the power relations, Antonio Sandu

emphasizes that "the purpose of establishing punishment is control over the deed, but especially the virtualization of the deed" (Sandu, 2016). The postmodern society is a society of generalized surveillance, *express verbis* panopticon.

The social contract can be analyzed from the perspective of philosophers such as Jean Jacques Rousseau or Thomas Hobbes, as the latter emphasizes that man seeks his own interest, not taking into account the good of the other: *homo homini lupus*. The lines of argument that Hobbes follows are the representation, the obedience, and the third is based upon the relationship between protection and obedience. The exit from the natural state supposes the identification of the rational principles of the government, and in the absence of the social, legal or political institutions, man returns to a state previous to that when Rousseau created the social contract.

3. Status, role and deviance

The status and the roles that the individual plays in the everyday life can produce conflicts in the socialization process. Obtaining a status requires competition, and the roles can be beneficial for the development of the individual's personality. However, there are times when there may be conflicts of status and role, when the individual fails to live up to the expectations of the reference group. The marginalization and the exclusion create deviant behaviors; this social phenomenon is the "opposite to conformity" (Sandu, 2016) and it is understood as a deviation from the social values and rules specific to the membership group. Starting from here one can talk about the quality of life, viewed *ipso facto* as an analysis of social reality, i.e. a "unitary field of forces that interact and an important place is taken by the economic dimension along with the development and functionality of the social personality of the individual, the group and the community" (Sandu, 2016).

The work of Antonio Sandu brings to the forefront a complete and realistic perspective of sociology. For the people interested in the social phenomena, the deviance, the quality of life and the social institutions, reading the "Introduction to Sociology" is a *sine qua non* condition.

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