

Postmodern Openings

ISSN: 2068 – 0236 (print), ISSN: 2069 – 9387 (electronic)

Coverd in: Index Copernicus, IDEAS RePEc, EconPapers, Socionet,
Ulrich Pro Quest, Cabel, SSRN, Appreciative Inquiry Commons,
Journalseek, Scipio, CEEOL, EBSCO

**Review for the volume “Obiceiuri de nastere si botez in mediul rural”
(Customs of birth and baptism in rural areas), of the author Oana
Andreea Chivu Lumen Publishing House, 2011**

Ana CARAS

Postmodern Openings, 2012, Volume 3, Issue 1, March, pp: 161-163

The online version of this article can be found at:

<http://postmodernopenings.com>

Published by:

Lumen Publishing House

On behalf of:

Lumen Research Center in Social and Humanistic Sciences

**Review for the volume “Obiceiuri de naștere și botez în
mediul rural” (Customs of birth and baptism in rural
areas), of the author Oana Andreea Chivu Lumen
Publishing House, 2011**

Ana CARAS¹

Abstract

This article is a review for volume Customs of birth and baptism in rural areas and aims to provide the defining aspects of the text. The volume of the author Oana Andreea Chivu, published at Lumen Publishing House, appeared in the context of a continuous transformation of Romanian traditions and treats in a descriptive and comparative manner baptism rituals and customs from various regions of Romania rural area. Anthropological influences of Wallachian, Transylvanian and Moldavian's specific, this volume present how individuals adapt to the habits and traditions transmitted by mixing cultures.

Keywords:

Review, Customs of birth and baptism in rural areas, Oana Andreea Chivu, customs, significations, comparative analysis

¹ Ana CARAS - Ph.D. Candidate at the Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Politics Sciences, "Al. Ioan Cuza" University from Iasi, Romania, and Research assistant at Lumen Research Center in Humanistic and Social Sciences, Iasi, Romania. E-mail: annacriss20@yahoo.com

Literature review

The author Oana Andreea Chivu presents, through her book *Customs of birth and baptism in rural areas*, how people perceive these rituals and habits that are representative for them, and how their involvement in social life brings changes in traditions, and take over their cohabitation in rural areas. The nature of work can be observed in defining issues of the specific traditions of the Central and Southeast regions of Romania. Awareness theme is also in learning the habits replaced by modern practices, which may represent the start of a new traditional phase. Along its three chapters, the author makes the transition from introductory aspects in anthropology, regarding Romanian traditional customs, so that the practical part of work to provide a comparative analysis of baptism ritual, one of the most important and necessary practice order for a person to join in a religion, and also how this ritual is perceived; its influence and significances in individuals' view. Anthropological influences of Wallachian, Transylvanian and Moldavian's specific show how individuals adapt to the habits and traditions transmitted, and also the specific of cultures mixing. The author reviews the concepts of initiative character in the field of anthropology, managing to make the transition from aspects of general interest towards specific notions of traditions and rituals practiced in the studied area, thereby providing a multicultural meeting within the same community, the Berca village.

The manner of approaching the theme investigated is explorative, the presentation being made systematically, which provides the reader accessibility to the text, and facilitates the understanding of baptism ritual's specificity and its characterized influences in these three dominant regions. Ceremonies related to baptism, marriage and burial are considered very important, both for those directly involved as well as the family and close relatives. The significance of these traditions shows faith in divinity and respect for integrative community of the individual, showing once again the connection "individual - community – divinity". The author reveals that the most important customs that define the ceremonies of Romanians' life are those relating to baptism, wedding and funeral. The diversity of customs and different reporting of community members to features of dominant traditions transform

analysis in a representation of the rural for studied area. Community perception of the mystery of baptism, in a particularly religious mentality, is discussed in a direct relationship with the birth. Baptism is a very large impact on society, as was proven by the religious and social confessions made by parents and godparents. Origins and implications of traditions are presented in report to religion, connection seen from the individuals' perspective.

Conclusions

Customs of birth and baptism in rural areas unable to bring defining elements in understanding the specific Romanian's customs, presents modern influences which can alter members' belonging of a multicultural community at customs and traditions, and leave this area open to research, the author mentioning that the work has not exhaustive character, but rather may be an early research of examined topic.

We consider the work of Oana Andreea Chivu is an important source of information for researchers interested in the field of anthropology, as well as in the cultural and traditional fields representing Romanian rural areas.

References

Chivu, O. A. (2011) *Obiceiuri de nastere si botez in mediul rural*, Editura Lumen, Iași