

Postmodern Openings

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Philosophical Pragmatism and Social Action Today

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Philosophical Pragmatism and Social Action Today

Daniel COJANU¹

This new volume of *Postmodern Openings* is devoted to the understanding of the practical impact that knowledge in all its forms has on the social environment.

Broadly speaking, pragmatism is the intellectual attitude related to action that consider thought more than a passive reflexion or representation of the reality. As a philosophical theory, pragmatism considers thought an instrument for prediction, action and problem solving. Pragmatism highlights the link between knowledge and action and is concerned only with the useful knowledge, the one that can be transformed into social action. In the postmodern world, when informational flows and new media technologies create new forms of social interaction, a pragmatic assessment of knowledge is more urgent than ever.

This volume contains valuable contributions of researchers who adopt this perspective. They analyse specific situations in various fields of activity. For instance, Hoda and Gupta's study investigates the importance of customer oriented models of microfinance institutions. The study focuses on faith-based model that characterize the communities of different religions. According to them, a loan portfolio of a microfinance institution is also a good indicator of sustainability of this model. Following the method of philosophical pragmatism and social action, the authors studied the cycles of borrowing and repayment, the effectiveness of microfinance performed by religious organizations besides the loan motivated by charity. The study checks also if the organizations apply discriminatory financial policies against those of another belief (Hoda, Gupta, 2014).

The following analysis evaluates the geostrategic potential of Russian Federation on the former Soviet countries (Cebotari et alia, 2014). In his paper, Fedor Cătălin presents some practical aspects of social integration and rehabilitation of the offenders (Fedor, 2014).

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The volume also includes an interpretation of Rorty's critique of technical alienation of man. It is interesting to identify among the sources of alienation the metaphysical concerns (Cucu, Lenta, 2014). The pragmatic attitude must be kept away from the excesses of speculation that lose the contact with the concrete existence, but also from technical excesses that reverses the relation between man and machine.

The volume is harmoniously completed by an epistemological analysis of human religiosity, of the human-divine relationship as an insurmountable structure of the human condition. The pragmatic and anthropological consequences of science-religion dialogue are also investigated. (Terenc-Vlad, Andrieș, 2014) The article that examines the impact of values on education is placed as a conclusion at the end of the collection (Esi, Posteuca, 2014). Postmodernity is the era when the postulates of modernity are dramatically questioned: the unconditional trust in reason and unlimited progress, the power of education to eradicate all kind of social evil, the capacity of science to solve all the problems of mankind. A greater attention to values and to how they stimulate the strategies of instrumental reason may constitute an antidote to existential disorientation that man experiences today.

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