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**Review of the volume *Expertiza etica si actiune sociala*, author Mihaela  
FRUNZA, published at  
Tritonic Publishing House, Cluj**

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**Review of the volume *Expertiza etică și acțiune socială*,  
author Mihaela FRUNZA, published at Tritonic  
Publishing House, Cluj**

**Ana Caras** <sup>1</sup>

**Abstract**

*This article represents the review of the volume *Expertiza etică și acțiune socială*, which is written by author Mihaela FRUNZA. The purpose of the article is to expose the main defining aspects brought into discussions by the author, and also to expose the original elements identified in the content of the volume.*

**Keywords:**

*review, ethical expertise, social action, Mihaela Frunza.*

**Introduction**

Volume *Expertiza etică și acțiune socială* appears in the context of awareness of the need for ethical expertise in institutions of all kinds, but especially in the specific socio-humanistic and biomedical research. The author exposes the content of this volume in order to affirm the specific and independent character of ethical expertise.

Through five chapters are carried out conceptual delimitations, on ethics expert and ethical expertise in the Romanian socio-economic and medical context.

There are also treated the concept of ethical expertise in terms of research ethics, ethical issues in biomedical research, ethical aspects of research in the socio-humanistic disciplines, and are exposed some applications of ethical expertise, customizing on ethical counselling.

**Presentation of the reviewed text**

Ethics, both social and medical, is poorly developed in our country, the specialized literature being limited, which is why in my

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opinion this volume represents a significant contribution to the field of ethics.

Throughout the reviewed volume, the author manages to cover important issues regarding the ethics status in the social humanistic and biomedical domains, and its transposition in the conduct of individuals in the communities.

In the first chapter, *Despre expertiza etică și expertul de etică în România. Elemente pentru un profil etic adaptat contextului românesc*, the author makes demarcation of ethicists roles, the skills of the expert in ethics, and correlations between philosophy and ethical expertise.

Research ethics is a field equally recent and very dynamic (Frunza, 2011, p.36), the author references to what Iltis argues, that much of what today passes as self-evident minimal standards in medical research on human beings is the result of a long process of careful research on human subjects (Iltis, 2006 cited Frunza, 2011, p.36).

The second chapter has a clarifying nature regarding the implications of ethics in human subjects research. In subchapter *Despre ce fel de "cercetare" este vorba în etica cercetării?* it can be seen the author's intention of defining the concept of research on human subjects, which makes reference to the Belmont Report definition, that research is any type of manipulative observation or any form of study on human beings, whose aim is to develop new knowledge which differ by any manner of current medical or professional practice (Belmont report, cited Frunza, 2011)

The chapter, *Aspecte etice ale cercetării biomedicale*, discuss challenging experiments that led to the construction of biomedical ethics, the ethics of biomedical research legislation and case law, which is based on the case study, evaluation and expertise in the regulatory framework of research in Romania.

There are presented gradually a number of case studies, which refers to important periods in the humanity development that conducted to the real construction of the biomedical research ethics. Therefore case studies like the scandal of the Nazi medicine, Tuskegee experiment, the total corporal irradiation at the Cincinnati University, are some of the famous cases brought into discussions by the author, in order to emphasize how those issues influenced the coagulation of the research ethics.

The author uses also important references, codes and international legislation in order to sustain the legal framework of the

domain studied. It is argued during the volume that research ethics is not reducing itself at the clinical ethics, but includes also relevant aspects for other types of research.

In my opinion the chapter in discussion succeeds to cover relevant aspects in biomedical research study, and in addition to the aspects already exposed, I must emphasize the relationship between the ethics and vulnerability. There are treated the problem of the vulnerable populations and the assisted reproduction customizing on Sabyc case.

Through the last two chapters, the author successfully manages to discuss issues in social science research. There are exposed the ethical issues from social humanistic research ethics.

In the end the volume, the author refers to the case of (bio)ethics committees and to ethical counselling, as applied ethical expertise.

### **Conclusions**

The research initiated by the author Mihaela Frunza affirms the necessity of ethical expertise not only in the biomedical domain, but also in all the social- economic institutions. The ethical expertise requires a systematic and consistent training. It is facilitated by the study of philosophy, but it is possible by following other formative routes. The formative routes must focus on moral philosophy, ethics, applied ethics and other disciplines components.

This paper is based on three different experiences, represented by bibliographical research experience, teaching experience and teamwork experience.

Steps taken by author Mihaela Frunza led to structuring a work dealing in a scientific manner, ethical issues in research expertise, understanding through social action, the concept of action research.

### **References**

Frunza, M., (2011) *Expertiza etică și acțiune sociala*, Editura Tritonic, Cluj