

Available online at www.postmodernopenings.com

e-ISSN: 2069-9387; ISSN-L: 2068-0236

Postmodern Openings

2016, Volume 7, Issue 1, June, pp. 179-182

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Valentin MUREȘAN

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18662/po/2016.0701.12>

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Selection, peer review and publishing under the responsibility of LUMEN Publishing House.

How to cite: Mureșan, V. (2016). Thoughts on the New Ethics Expertise. Book Review. *Postmodern Openings*, 7(1), 179-182. Doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18662/po/2016.0701.12>

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Valentin MUREȘAN¹

Abstract

The paper is a book review of the book „Catre o noua expertiza etica – deconstruind valorile etice” (Towards a new ethics expertise – deconstructing ethical values), authored by Ana Frunza, and published by Editura LUMEN, Iasi, Romania in 2016.

Keywords:

towards a new ethics expertise; book review; applied ethics; Ana Frunza.

¹ Professor PhD, University of Bucharest, CCEA, Bucharest, muresan.valentin@gmail.com.

I met Ana Frunza in a phone conversation. A voice that was rather technical, specific for an organizer. I had no idea that an international conference with hundreds of participants can stand on the fragile shoulders of the young PhD student (now a PhD), whom I was soon going to shake hands with, and was about to discover we are haunted by common misunderstandings. Reason enough to start a collaboration.

I believe I am not mistaken when I say that this young Moldavian woman, proudly wearing the features that a God has spread over this part of the country, has a terrifying managerial talent. I dare to draw such a conclusion after discreetly observing her solve any current situations, as well as those of crisis: *without anyone noticing anything*. Or not, maybe I am wrong: you could feel, at times, her passing through the crowd like a friendly pale of wind.

Further on, I found out she is no less involved in the research, proof being her articles, international collaborations. The book released today grew on this bed of intelligent leaves.

We travel different trains. I am more „engineering” in philosophy, she has more of a hermeneutic approach. What I appreciate most about this book – and its author – is the spirit of tolerance and interdisciplinary cooperation. For Ms. Frunza travelled to Bucharest to meet Oxfordian philosophers and did not step aside from making „deconstruction” and „ethical management” coexist in her book. Similarly, I also believe the topic of moral communication, for example, is vital not only for phenomenologists, but also for the institutional and professionals ethics in general.

The topic of the book is discovering new forms of *ethics expertise* in the organizational context, while deconstructing a number of ethical values, such as „autonomy”, „liberty”, „justice”, „equality” etc. In order to move towards the earthly topics of ethics in public services, or in the field of social communication. A separate chapter is devoted to the „ethics management”, with its achievements and failures in Romania. The critical analysis of the ethics’ audit, the codes of ethics, the moral councils, up to the current legislation, provides a recomforting coloring applied to the approach presented in this book, balancing the scale which contains, on the other cymbal, the speculative subtleties of postmodernism. Indeed, the construction of „ethical infrastructures” has failed in Romania, primarily since it was wrongly conceived. And how could it have been well conceived since not until yesterday that we had a public debate on the matter? Not

even an academic one. Ms. Frunza's book is, in this regard, a pioneering book. No less hopeful is the concern of LUMEN Research Center in Social and Humanistic Sciences (where Ms. Frunza is working at), for such subjects that descend ethics from the ethereal sky of moral theories into the everyday dust of real social improvement. Our center of ethics is also engaged in such a project.

All these topics converge in the central (and original) concept of the paper, that of „supervision of ethics”. The supervisor of ethics is a character with multiple faces: of moral evaluator (hence the topic of the methods of ethical decision), of ethics consultant, supporter for the programs of ethics – a true „ethics expert” who is familiar with both the ethics management, and the specific of the activities in the organization he works in. Such a character is not yet in our legal reality. Through our joint efforts, hopefully will be soon. But even these hypothetical anchoring in the practical life have been achieved at the cost of a great effort, since they are the result of a theoretical re-evaluation and significant methodology. The professionalization of the ethics expertise and its openness towards the practice of social work – and other practical fields – represents other valuable openings caused by this work. I feel, along with the author, as a pioneer of institutional ethics in Romania, with more theoretical than practical achievements. The political market doesn't seem to need us just yet. But we must be glad that we can craft concepts or carve into shapeless blocks of Ideas, for only relying on our work, applauded and whistled by a small audience, others, in the future, will be able to fly. Ms. Frunza is also part of this generation of flyers. I am positive we will see her, years from now, passing as gracefully as she does now through the noisy crowds of congresses, to descend almost unperceived through the pipes and cables of the bowels of the great gathering, with hundreds of guests, and no one will know that such a fragile hand made „up there”, in the Aula, things to fit so well.

References

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Biodata



Valentin Muresan is professor of moral philosophy and applied ethics. His research interests cover various topics, from praxeology and philosophy of science, to ethical theories and ethics management (during the last 25 years). He published extensive commentaries on some basic works by Plato, Aristotle, Kant and Mill, as well as studies on analytical moral philosophy and ethics management. He translated or coordinated the translation of a great number of works in the analytic tradition (R.M. Hare, B. Williams, H. Prichard, G. Moore etc.) and edited a great number of volumes in Romania and abroad (Japan, USA). Prof. Muresan is a former Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Honorary Director of the Research Center of Applied Ethics and of the *Romanian Journal of Analytic Philosophy*. He is *Distinguished Research Fellow of Oxford Uehiro Center for Practical Ethics* and member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Applied Ethics and Philosophy* (Hokkaido University, Japan).