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EDITOR'S NOTE

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Abstract

In 2025, we commemorate the centennial of the first sociological field research campaign conducted in Greater Romania in 1925 by Dimitrie Gusti's Sociological School in the village of Goicea Mare, Dolj County, Oltenia Province. The centenary of this remarkable milestone in the history of Romanian sociology calls for a special commemorative issue of *Sociologie Românească*, the journal founded by Dimitrie Gusti in 1936. The current issue includes eight original contributions emphasising the main achievements of Romanian sociology, particularly from the perspective of field research. This thematic issue pays tribute to Romanian sociology and to those who contributed to its foundation, continuation, and revival during the interwar, communist, and post-communist periods.

Keywords: Romanian sociology, Dimitrie Gusti, Monographic School of Bucharest, Goicea Mare.

In 2025, we commemorate the centennial of the first sociological field research campaign conducted in Greater Romania in 1925 by Dimitrie Gusti's Sociological School in the village of Goicea Mare, Dolj County, Oltenia Province. This event marks the true beginning of Romanian sociology as a scientific discipline. With the establishment of the Sociological School of Bucharest by Dimitrie Gusti, Romania connected to the international scientific community. Field research is an essential component of sociology as a social science, and the commencement

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of field-based sociological research in Greater Romania in 1925 represents the definitive structuring of sociology as a mature scientific discipline.

The centenary of this remarkable milestone in the history of Romanian sociology calls for a special commemorative issue of *Sociologie Românească*, the journal founded by Dimitrie Gusti in 1936. The current issue includes eight original contributions emphasising the main achievements of Romanian sociology, particularly from the perspective of field research. This thematic issue pays tribute to Romanian sociology and to those who contributed to its foundation, continuation, and revival during the interwar, communist, and post-communist periods.

Bogdan Bucur opens this thematic issue with a comprehensive analysis of the Monographic School of Bucharest (1910-1948), tracing its theoretical, methodological, and institutional legacy. As he observes, “with the establishment of Romania’s first and only school of sociology, by Dimitrie Gusti, Romania – alongside the United States of America, France, Germany or the United Kingdom – became one of the few countries in the world that developed a national school of sociology closely connected to the international scientific community”.

In their paper, Marian-Gabriel Hâncean, Marius Geantă, Bianca-Elena Mihăilă, and Cosmina Cioroboiu focus on social clustering of health behaviors in rural Romania through the personal network analysis by conducting tablet-assisted interviews with 83 adult residents in Lerești (Argeș County). As authors emphasized, “social clustering patterns in health behaviors indicate whether interventions should target individuals or social groups, yet detecting these patterns requires network-level data”.

Sorin Mitulescu and Aurelian Giugăl return to Goicea Mare after a century looking at the Romanian village, from the Gustian monography to the approach to the processes of change. The paper mitigates for a methodological renewal of the monographic model supporting the understanding of contemporary rural dynamic as well as identification of suitable development policies.

The theoretical and methodological framework of Vlad Coșmeleață’s contribution draws on the legacy of Gusti’s Sociological School, focusing on fieldwork and direct observation.

Based on a qualitative approach, the paper analyses the challenges faced by homeless individuals living in Bucharest in obtaining potable water, as well as in accessing toilets and maintaining personal hygiene.

The paper by Stelian Frunză, Simona-Nicoleta Vulpe, and Cosima Rughiniș analyses how the traditional fiddler (Lăutar) profession is transmitted across generations among Roma musicians in Buzău County. Using Goffman’s concept of moral career and theories of cultural capital, the authors reconstruct family trees across several generations in seven families. The study combines external analysis with an insider perspective contributed by a co-author who is himself a practicing traditional fiddler.

The research of Alin Baraitaru and Ana Rodica Stăiculescu adopts a holistic, community-centred perspective inspired by Dimitrie Gusti's sociological school and its monographic tradition of studying rural life in context. Based on a mixed method approach (structured survey, participant observation, and interviews), the paper is focused on how the 2024 bus line introduction impacts on peri-urban Romanian community (Moșoaia, Argeș county).

Another rural-based study comes from Broșteni village (Vrancea county) where authors Costel Cocîiu and Cosima Rughiniș used Dimitrie Gusti's conceptual apparatus of "frames" and "manifestations" as an analytical tool when researching the experience of the water crisis. Based on ethnographic research and an auto-ethnographic perspective, the paper supports the relevance of monographic tradition in understanding contemporary reality.

Based on mixed-method research, the paper of Veronica Oancea explores the way Romanian women 50+ face anti-aging narrative in virtual and corporeal spaces. Besides, according to the author, a paradox is revealed: "older women become invisible within mainstream publicity while hyper-visible as targets for beauty and health markets".

Sociologie Românească has proposed a thematic issue dedicated to original research contributions focusing on field research and its historical development. This initiative aims not only to honor the founders and continuers of Romanian sociology but also to stimulate critical reflection on the discipline's future directions in alignment with international scientific trends.

We conclude this editorial note with a reflection expressed by Bogdan Bucur in the *Monographic Legacy* chapter of the article that opens this special issue of *Sociologie Românească*: "sociology cannot exist without direct engagement with social reality, and social reality cannot be improved without a reform project aimed at the well-being of the community". This principle remains today a vital benchmark, guiding both theoretical inquiry and field-based sociological practice in contemporary Romanian sociology.

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