

THE NEOINTERPRETATIVE METHODOLOGY. THE LEVELS  
OF FIELD ANALYSIS.  
RESEARCH REPORT ON THE LIPPOVAN COMMUNITY IN DOBRUJA

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*The Lippovans are a Russophone community with a history that still raises questions, yet mainly linked to the moment of the Reform of Patriarch Nikon, at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Taking into account the religious point of view, they are an archaic community ('old rite followers'), whose internal coherence is ensured primarily by their language (old Slavonic permeated with Romanian words) and traditions, and less by the Church or by local elites' capacity to knit together and develop the community's symbolic order. On the other hand, the "objective" order reveals the community's potential for development, where their economic infrastructure is centered outwards, most of the property being owned by people who are strangers to the place, while the resource derives from money earned working abroad or in other parts of Romania. Nevertheless, the Lippovans proved to be fully integrated in the Romanian territory, at least in Dobruja.*

**Key words:** *Lippovans, ethnicity, symbolic infrastructure, local symbolistic, 'povestariu'.*