

SOCIOLOGICAL MONOGRAPHS AND THE RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL ATLAS

TOWARDS A METHODOLOGY OF RURAL RESEARCH

VERONICA DUMITRA CU

The Institute of Sociology of the Romanian Academy

This article attempts to realize a radiography of rural life through the inventory of some research methods and techniques in the Romanian rural communities. The sociological monographs, including the sociological rural atlas, were the epitome of Gustian sociology. The research of the social reality function of some key aspects – economic, political, religious level – would provide a more comprehensive perspective to isolated elements that, otherwise, cannot make up a complete picture of the Romanian village. Hence, the monograph brings unity to past and present realities. The dynamic character of sociology, focused on by the Sociological School of Bucharest can be tapped into nowadays too. The sociologist is called forth more than ever to interfere in the social life. In this case, the methodological tool is very useful. Through the Social Atlas, the problems of rural communities can be diagnosed and can be foreseen and thus some serious problems which take place in a social dimension can be averted. Hence, the Social Atlas project is very useful for the research of rural life, the books of maps which compose this research tool capturing the progress of social change.

“Sociological studies teach us to discover and to understand the historical truth that the village is the sanctuary where the manifestation of life of the Romanian people took refuge and endured (...); the village is the embodiment of the Romanian life in a small edge of humanity. Through pantheist tenacity, the village is the keeper of the metaphysical relations of the nation with eternity. In the depth of the village mysterious and unsuspecting secrets still illuminate, the truths which it spreads form the best symbol of a nation’s science, a new science, which relies on an encyclopedia of life”.¹

The monograph research of the Bucharest School was inaugurated in 1925 by the Seminar of Sociology from the University of Bucharest, while being initiated 15 years before by Professor Dimitrie Gusti (1910). The Sociological School of Bucharest started the series of sociological monographs as a possibility of

¹ D. Gusti, *The introductive study*, p.72 apud M. Diaconu, C. Constantinescu, I. Herseni. (2007). *Traian Herseni în critica vremii*, Pitești: Ed. Universității din Pitești, p.19.

researching the social life. Professor Gusti noted that: “sociology will be monographic or it will not be at all.”² Through this, he specified that the research of social reality must have an interdisciplinary character, the mission of a sociologist being that of exploring social life through field research.

The sociological monographs, including the rural sociological maps constituted the reference point for Gustian sociology. The research of social reality on some aspects – economic, political, religious – would provide a more comprehensive perspective to isolated elements that, otherwise, cannot make up a complete picture of the Romanian village. The projection of sociological monographs through the organization of interdisciplinary teams represents “a synthesis in time and in space of a corner of the country”³, a general view through which it can embrace the realities of past and present, in a temporal unity.

Dimitrie Gusti pleaded, first and foremost, for an actional sociology: “militans sociology”. “The national reality is a decisive condition of social life through which a work of a state can be organized”.⁴

“Knowing the country is the best way to serve it”⁵ coins the militant character of the Gustian sociological system which specifies that in order knowing existing social realities “we need an encyclopedia of cities and villages; we need a Romanian sociological map.”⁶

The dynamic character of sociology, focused on by the Sociological School of Bucharest can be tapped into nowadays too. The sociologist is called forth more than ever to interfere in the social life. But, in order to succeed, he must have a comprehensive knowledge of the problems that the fortress is confronted with. In this case, the methodological tool is very useful.

The projection of rural sociological maps implies the detection of social transformations of realities in time. For the reproduction of the situation in time, it is necessary to elaborate successive and cumulative maps. When we refer to successive maps “it is marked the level of factual situations in time” and we refer to a change at a national or local level and for the determination of changes on a global level there are projected cumulative maps, which reflect the increases and the decreases in time.

Immanuel Wallerstein (1974), the founder of global system, indicates for the determination of regional changes the interval of 25 years and for the periodicities of the global system’s evolution, he uses stages such as: 1450–1640, 1600–1750

² Dimitrie Gusti. (1969). *Opere*, Texts, comments, notes by Ov. B. dina and Octavian Neam u, Bucure ti: Ed. Academiei, vol. I, p. 334.

³ Idem.

⁴ M. Diaconu, C. Constantinescu, I. Herseni. (2007). *Traian Herseni în critica vremii*, Pite ti: Ed. Universit ii din Pite ti, p. 23.

⁵ Dimitrie Gusti. (1969). *Opere*, Texts, comments, notes by Ov. B. dina and Octavian Neam u, Bucure ti: Ed. Academiei, vol. I, p. 334.

⁶ Idem.

etc., therefore larger periods of times⁷. In this respect, the maps should reflect certain patterns of development.

The construction of sociological maps entails an interdisciplinary work. It is not just a demographic, economic, ethnographic, religious, occupational atlas or one that can capture merely the migration phenomenon. The rural sociological atlas captures all these phenomena. The mission of the atlas is to give a general view on changes from the social reality.

A sociological atlas means that the research team should collect demographic, economic, occupational or emigrational data. All this information describes an aspect of social life, emphasizes some changes that take place in society. The social reality can be captured only by restoring a given state of society at a given time. The functioning of a society can be understood by grasping the changes at his structural level, precisely pointed out by social maps.

For the construction of the sociological atlas we do not need just to process data, but a comprehensive knowledge of social reality, the pervading of the sociologist into the real world through investigations and surveys, in order to capture the main aspects of social life, from the demographic aspects to the quality of life. For his construct, the zonal or regional sociological researches are necessary. The regional or zonal research contributes to the socio-spatial scientific knowledge.

THE REGIONAL AND ZONAL RESEARCH IN SOCIOLOGICAL SCHOOL OF BUCHAREST

Zonal research intends to give up to exhaustive research of a village and to restrict the researches through sociological monographs. The zonal researches of the problems can fall into the category of regional integration. As Dimitrie Gusti says: "a village cannot be isolated, because it is a part of a group of villages that share a common regional territory". The settlement of a village is not a pure spatial phenomenon. A series of functional branches are founded between a village and neighboring region."⁸

Although Dimitrie Gusti studied the monographs of all villages and cities, at last he opted for a solution given by Anton Golopentia. This considered the statistical regional comparative research as substitute to monographs. Golopentia specified that he "observed the approach of such comparative researches which can allow the exploitation of monographs results through regional, statistical and map-drawing studies."⁹

⁷ Abraham Dorel. (2000). "Atlasul sociologic al schimb rii sociale din România postcomunist " in *Romanian Sociology*, no. 1.

⁸ Matei Ion. (1980). "Cercet ri zonale i preocup ri urbanistice în concep ia lui Dimitrie Gusti" in H. Stahl. (1980). *Dimitrie Gusti: critique studies*, Bucure ti: Ed. tin ific i Enciclopedic , p. 312.

⁹ Idem, p. 315.

The research, like Henri H. Stahl said, provides some information about the places of the village in a certain typology and then about the spreading of a certain type of villages. For zonal researches more methods are identified:

- The pilot-village method, inaugurated by the Nerej researches, follows the knowledge of a certain kind of location and his characteristics. The interdisciplinary teams of students achieved documentation about that sort of village, and then they studied a certain type of problems for placing the pilot-village in a certain region.
- The method of direct-study of the zone, utilized by Anton Golopentia and Mihai Pop in 1939, following the study of territorial development and local problems.

For the spatial organization of the village and for the zonal researches of social realities we will follow two vital elements: territorial vision and the focus of the monographs on certain essential problems.¹⁰

The regional research is important because it facilitates the knowledge of reality from a socio-spatial point of view. Utilizing the concrete data from researches and a typology of villages, we can build the sociological rural atlas as a tool of knowing social life. Thus, typological maps can be built (on cultural, religious and economic areas). Also, the data taken from researches can be utilized in databases for other researches and also as a way for scientific documentation.

The sociological typologies are, as Dimitrie Gusti pointed out, tools that make a link between the theoretical and practical (empirical) levels of sociological research.

The regional research highlights the importance of social indicators that pave the way to comparative, statistical researches and can diagnose a certain territory from the development point of view.

One of the founders of the project regarding zonal research (influenced by Frederic Le Play and E. Demolin) was Patrick Geddes.¹¹ Geddes proposes the slogan “Survey before Action”, in other words the foundation of an action based on a synergy between ecology, economy, politics and anthropology. Composing an interdisciplinary team, Demolins succeeded to elaborate a new methodology which combines sociology and geography. For him, “the place” that Le Play was talking about, represents not only a geographical place, “not just a place in space, but also a tragedy in time”.¹² His methodology was based on “Simultaneous Thinking” method (simultaneous thinking facilitated by the superposition of maps-drawing)

¹⁰ Ibidem, p. 316–317.

¹¹ Abraham Dorel. (2000). “Atlasul sociologic al schimbării sociale din România postcomunist ” in *Romanian Sociology*, no. 1, p. 5.

¹² Stahl Henri H. (1975). *Teoria și practica investigațiilor sociale*, București: Ed. tiințific și Enciclopedic, vol. 2, p. 43.

which entails the study of a natural region where the city is seen in connection with the transformation of its surrounding area.¹³ The Chicago School applied on a wide scale the Geddes working plan.

This zonal research method was used in the territorial systematization actions started in 1949 by Stefan Popovici, when summary monographs were attempted, using the method initiated by Geddes, “simultaneous thinking”. Researches were made in 1949 in Hunedoara until in 1956, in Constanta, Tulcea, Bistrita and Arge . The territorial systematization falls into the category of the research on urban-rural area for posterior territorial arrangements and for the reorganization of networking locations. In order to draft the territorial systematization, a typological complex of social indicators was created.

For the construction of social maps, we can take in account the following methods:

- “the pattern of social net and the systematization problem”, mentioned by Henri Stahl, the recording of territoriality and social structure during the research;
- The main method proposed by Stahl – “social archaeology”;
- The problem of mental maps in geopolitics.

THE METHOD OF TERRITORIAL SYSTEMATIZATION

First works about territorial systematization were made in 1938–1939 within the sociological movements from Bucharest.¹⁴ The sociological School of Bucharest wanted to achieve a research about population’s health, for the experimentation of sociological methods in sanitary domain. Doctor G. Banu extended his studies from the pattern of sanitary net to all social aspects organized on the administrative territory.¹⁵

Surprising some social phenomenon on a certain territory we can synthetize the stamping of social structure on the field. As H. Stahl said, the territory is humanized, the nature is socialized and it can be understand only through an historical study. In this way, geographical and social studies must be together. The geography must be understood as human science, in other words, it must be a connection between people and the living territory.

It was built some “blank form maps” with the purpose of surprising social changes cartographically. It was made an administrative division inside the

¹³ Abraham Dorel. (2000). “Atlasul sociologic al schimb rii sociale din România postcomunist ” in *Romanian Sociology*, no. 1, p. 5.

¹⁴ Stahl Henri H. (1975). *Teoria i practica investiga iilor sociale*, Bucure ti: Ed. tiin ific i Enciclopedic , vol. 1, p. 39.

¹⁵ Idem, p. 39.

country's boundaries (for example, demographic densities maps). Registering only the average values from the villages, average density of population, we can observe some changes in the way that the population is distributed connected with historical processes. The cartographers have a multidisciplinary character because we can judge spatial presence of many phenomenon and that thing can guide us upon some causal correlations.

The problem of territorial systematization, underlined by Henri H. Stahl, deserve to be studied on some aspects:

- zonal research has an administrative boundary;
- that step ask for an interdisciplinary synthesis;
- taking in consideration a space inside an administrative unity can make attention upon urban-rural relation, the zone being a periurban area and the city has a considerable influence upon the village; taking in consideration such a delimited territory, administrative and periurban area, it can impose the adjustment of considerable attention to facts which are taking place in that geographical area;
- it must take into account not only geographical area, but also the understructure of that space, including network system (railways, streets, seaport arrangements), but also the enclosed households and the buildings were the people work (factories, building sites, mines).¹⁶

THE METHOD OF SOCIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Bounded by geographical and historical places, Stahl proposes another method, social archaeology. This method presumes the reconstitution of the past through the analysis of material residuum of juridical, social and economical structures. The method of observation, the description and interpretation of natural objects and places, can be restored through the composing of photographs on large scale and of maps which can surprise some "past traces".

A series of marks are emphasized, marks which can show the nature of village location, the presence of some historical traces which can reconstitute the past of settlement and which can frame it in a historical typology and the way of economical organization of geographical landscape. Henry Stahl reminds of so-called "socio-graphical signs"– sinks, micro-relief's different from natural ones, "phitological signs"– different colors of plants after the nature of soil which they grow, "pedagogical signs"– different colors of soil, after its immediately substructure, "hygrometric signs"– zones sooner dryed than other and "topographical signs".¹⁷ All this signs give us information about the oldness of

¹⁶ Stahl Henri H. (1975). *Teoria i practica investiga iilor sociale*, Bucure ti: Ed. tiin ific i Enciclopedic , vol. 1, p. 40.

¹⁷ Idem, p. 196–197.

location, its interior structure, economical used techniques, how the plots were made, the nature of location: agricultural, pastoral, with networking and hydrographical nettings. Having all this information, the sociologist can make a classification of villages depending on historical oldness, the character of location, the way of geographical and social organization. These data can be used especially by archeologists who can cartography some zones where they can find historical traces. With the contribution of this data it can be made zonal cartographies which can indicate the character and the way of organizing the locations and their zonal distribution.

The study of social morphology (it is considered the sociology's annex) takes in consideration a typology of socio-economic formations, as well as the study of human collectivities and of formal and informal social groups.¹⁸ We don't have to study just the objects or things from social reality but, first of all, we, the sociologists, have to study and the way that people have transformed them in their actions. Within the investigations, the territorial limits which can be traced on the map through a line have great importance, but some unclear delimitation interferes, as Henri Stahl said. For example, the passing from urban locations to rural locations. Besides geographical spaces, there are also social spaces, which can't be delimited. Cartographically, only statistical average value can be represented.

Also, the isolated facts can be hardly transformed into maps, as Stahl specified. It can't be represented through a line or delimitation, but, at most, through a score method, marking with some signs the special villages where a social phenomenon is present. A method mentioned by Stahl is that of "social isobaric curve". This is used in cartography when we talk about demographic pressures (for example demographic densities, women or men's percent).

The sociological research must follow not only the problem of space from the geographical point of view, but also from the architectural point of view. In this way, we deal with the problem of town-planning and of territorial systematization.

In this passing from exhaustive monographs of villages to summary monographs, urban-rural monographs from territorial systematization, the sociologists from the School of Bucharest consult foreign works, especially the researches from Germany or USA.

Between the two world wars it can be find researches about regions. There were delimited so-called "nodal regions", the connection between places and things and the methodology was developed in USA and Germany.¹⁹

¹⁸ Stahl Henri H. (1975). *Teoria și practica investigațiilor sociale*, București: Ed. tiințific și Enciclopedic, vol. 1, p. 204.

¹⁹ Abraham Dorel. (2000). "Atlasul sociologic al schimbării sociale din România postcomunist" in *Romanian Sociology*, no. 1, p. 6.

THE REGIONALIZATION SUBJECT AND MENTAL MAPS IN GEOPOLITICS

The adjacent notions and sometimes superposed on the concept of region are: “area”, “territory”, proximity, central area, geopolitical area.²⁰ The regionalization subject involves a delimitation of some spaces on the following reasons: geographical, cultural, political, ideological, economical reasons. For answering the main question: “how could be defined a region?” Deutsch suggests the answer through another question: “How many sections from the Earth area are making together a membership more than others?”²¹

Same section can belong to many regions: geographically, it can belong to a region and politically and culturally to another region. The regionalization can induce changes in social space. In this way, we can talk about an “advance of regional frontiers” with their ideology, their signs and their symbols.

The region is not just a geographical cutting up. The region brings with it the filling of space and the ideas people are working with to settle a legitimate space. Haushofer suggests the term of “pan-idea” for the designation of aggregate between an ethnic and what it is considered to be the territory of legitimate expansion.²² Pan-ideas can remodel an identity space through some “cognitive maps”. Shills specify that the people have a mental, cognitive map of their own representation. The geopolitics of representations took notice the modeling of people’s mental space through the tracing of mental frontiers. Professor Ilie Badescu in “Treaty of geopolitics” makes the distinction between ethno mental maps – “the collective points of view of a space” and “ideological maps”– “the vision of some groups towards the representation of space”²³. Ideological maps are those that the politicians, diplomatic and other stakeholders are working with.

An example of ideological map is that of Huntington. He ignores ethno-mental representation of people and imposes the tracing of some cultural frontiers between civilization blocks.

From the ideological point of view, mental maps have a projective character. Another example of projective map is that proposed by Thomas Barnett, an American geostrategist which projected the so-called Pentagon Map on which he traced security regions (The Functioning Core) and the insecurity area (The Gap)²⁴ or the areas with political and economic stability and those without political and economical stability and which are vulnerable to terrorist attacks. He divided the world in two areas: a functioning core of developed countries with political stability, which are in a process of global integration and nonintegrated areas, sources of threatening for the international security. The map projected by Thomas

²⁰ B descu Ilie. (2004). *Tratat de geopolitic* , Bucure ti: Ed. Mica Valahie, p. 267.

²¹ Idem, p. 267.

²² Ibidem, p. 294.

²³ Ibidem, p.189.

²⁴ <http://www.thomaspmbarnett.com/weblog/>

Barnett is an adventurous projection came from American offices which catalogue the people in good and bad, vulnerable or not. The project proposed by Thomas Barnett is an ambitious one, but it is realized for american interest and objective: the project of neoconservative democratization of world, the integration of areas in a democratic core.

The maps can be used for people's interest, but also against them. These can be used also as manipulation tools and can provoke geopolitical or logistical wars. In this way, the projection of some maps can influence the destiny of people and nations.

THE METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH. THE ATLAS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS. THE WORKING PATTERN OF RURAL POVERTY/ DEVELOPMENT MAPS

The Social Atlas is a series of maps which can surprise some components of social life on localities or zones. This can be built by a series of indicators which can surprise the dynamism of social life on a certain territory.

The drawing of Romanian social atlas is founded, as CURS mentions, on:

1. Statistical data of population census from January 1992, statistical annuals and other publications from CNS;
2. Polls on representative sample at national level;
3. Studies and polls at regional level (on historical or cultural areas) and zonal region.²⁵

The construction of a Romanian social atlas was projected after 1990 by CURS, through the achievement of social mobility studies, of the manner of leaving, of social structure or on the attitude of population regarding social, political, religious changes.

An atlas of social problems should surprise the dynamic of social life changes, from the socio-demographical and economical changes to the building of a value of social welfare of some regions or geographical and cultural zones. The atlas shouldn't surprise isolated facts, but a whole system of social processes.

Lately, the map of social problems and especially those of rural poverty/development played an important role in the Romanian social policy. The maps of poverty diagnose the profile of welfare indicating the zones/regions/localities where the poverty is concentrated.

There are many ways to study and diagnose the poverty depending on the methodology used for the construction of maps.

The projection of maps for community poverty was realized in 1998 by the PNUD team. There were elaborated two methodologies, one for localities and other

²⁵ Abraham Dorel. (2000). "Atlasul sociologic al schimbării sociale din România postcomunist" in *Romanian Sociology*, no. 1, p. 4.

for urban areas. They are speaking about relative poverty; a locality is poor in comparison with other localities.

“The poor communes were identified based on two dimensions of community poverty, one is the cause and the other is the effect.

Starting from 10 indicators there were constructed 4 partial dimensions referring to:

1. Biological capital of commune (demographical dependence rate)
2. The infrastructure of commune (factorial score computed by: the habitable surface on residence, number of telephone subscriptions per 1,000 inhabitants and the degree of concentration of population in the biggest village of the commune).
3. The human capital of the commune (factorial score computed by: education stock, the weight of population employed in agriculture and the number of employees on the enterprise from commune per 1000 inhabitants).
4. Demographical phenomenon (factorial score computed by: birth rate, emigration rate and temporary departures, through the change of residence).

The cause – dimension of poverty in the commune was obtained as factorial score of partial dimensions 1, 2 and 3 and the effect – dimension was the factorial score of partial dimensions 2, 3 and 4. So, community human capital and the infrastructure were considered causes and effects of commune poverty. The poverty/development of country’s communes was estimated depending on the obtained dimensions.²⁶

Another method for the construction of poverty map was achieved by World Bank in 1998. It was constructed an index measured on 11 criteria, classified on 6 dimensions:

1. the structure of population which don’t favor development (% in agriculture in 1992, % inhabitants of 60 and over, employees in the commune per 1,000 inhabitants)
2. socio-demographic poverty (birth rate, temporary migration rate, emigration rate)
3. habitable area of residence (square meter)
4. modern equipments (TVs per 1,000 inhabitants, telephones per 1,000 inhabitants)
5. the index of agricultural resources ($1 * \text{number of cattle} + 0,35 * \text{number of porcine} + 0,12 * \text{number of sheep} + 0,04 * \text{number of birds}$)/ number of agricultural land in property.
6. urban access

For each of 6 dimensions was building an index as factorial score. In the next step it was determined the community poverty/ development index, as factorial score of those 6 indexes”.²⁷

²⁶ St neulescu Manuela, “The rural poverty map in Romania”, www.iccv.ro

²⁷ Idem.

Another method proposed is that of aggregate index. The development or the poverty of village can be measured as a combination of material, human, social, biological capital.

For the measuring of rural development index it can be used the socio-demographic indicator (the demographic phenomena of poverty identified through low birth rate, a great emigration rate and great temporary emigration rate), human capital (measured as the weight of population from agriculture and industry, number of registered scholars, number of doctors and number of professors), economical capital as index of agricultural resources.

The index of agricultural resources, used by World Bank for the construction of poverty map in 1998 is measured as weighted average of animals from household, using the scores: 1 for cattle, 0,35 for porcine, 0,12 for ovine and 0,04 for birds divided on agriculture hectare land.

The capital of infrastructure is measured as modern endowment of households through the number of TV subscription, telephone subscriptions per 1,000 inhabitants and habitable capital (habitable average area per person).

Using the aggregation method, standardized values of index are gathered in a synthetic index and, after that, through cluster method there can be identified localities with developed or poor community capital.

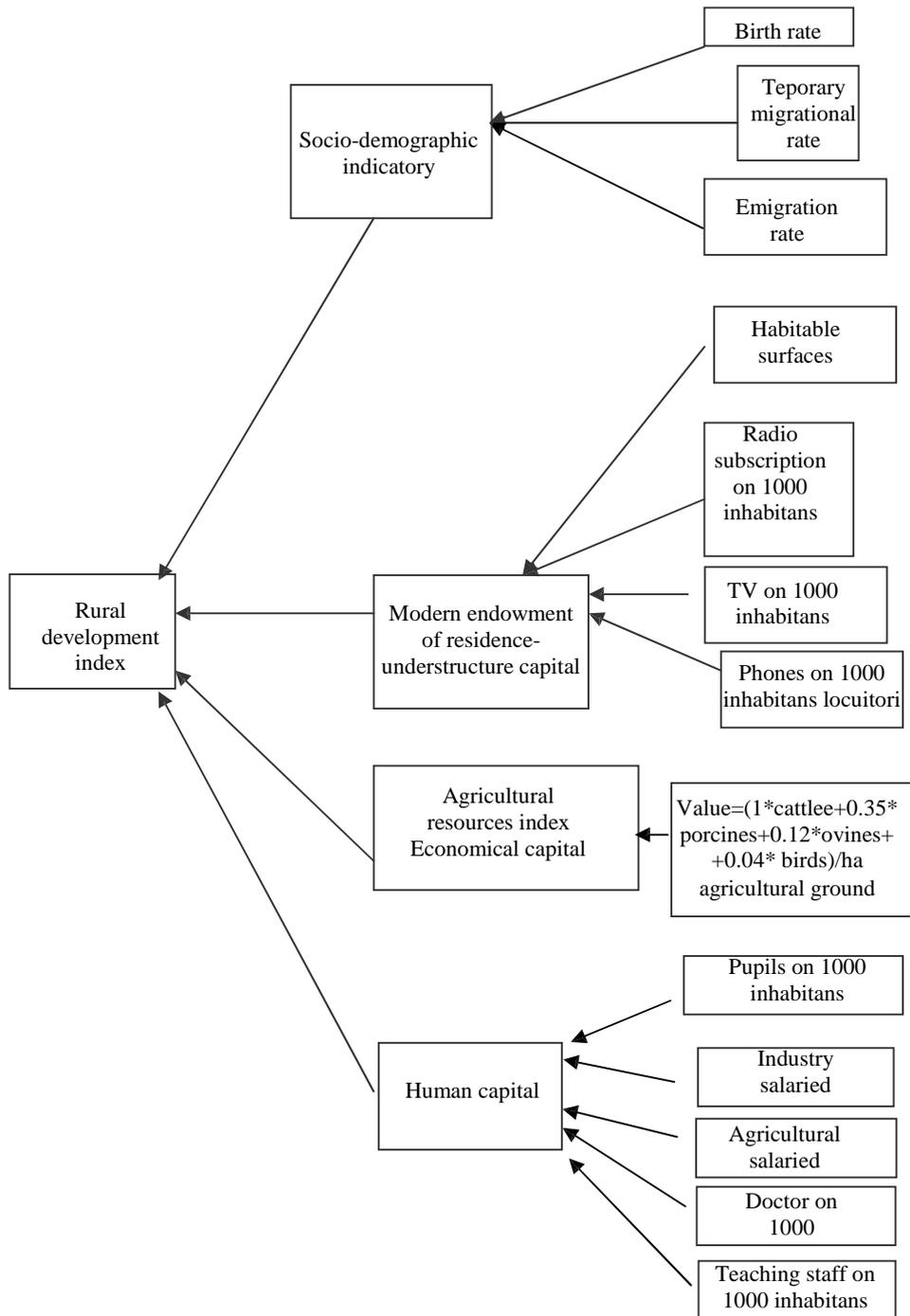
An important role for understanding of rural development is given by the demographic potential of communities. The villages with lower birth rate and raised migration are poor villages.

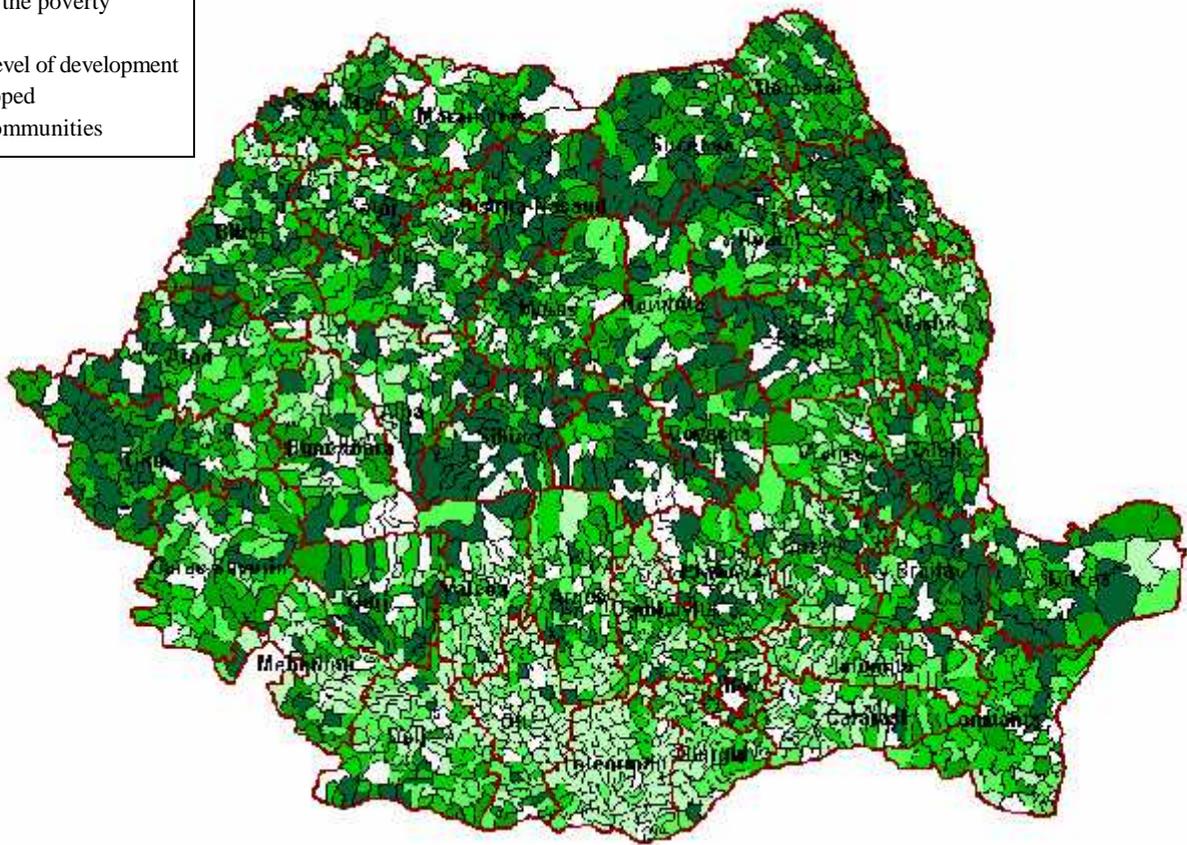
According to the economic factor, an important role is played by household's resources, reevaluated as consumption of households, understood as stock of material welfare.

Human capital is important in a community; it shows human potential of development, the degree of rural education, the percent of salaried persons. The modern endowment of households and the habitable surface of households show the degree of rural modernization.

The map show us that the chain of poverty is lengthening from the North–West of the country to South and South–East of the country, where the poverty is accentuated. Everything takes the form of poor communitarian capital passage. The map of development index emphasizes the fact that the rural poverty is more accentuated in the North–East of the country and in the South of the country, and also in the West. The most affected districts concerning the communitarian capital are those from the North–East of the country, Vaslui, Neamt, Botosani and Bacau, Vrancea, than the districts from the South of the country, Ialomita, Teleorman, Olt, Dolj, Dâmbovi a, Vâlcea, Arge . In the South–East of the country, communities under poverty are in Constanta, C l r a i, Ialomita and, partially, Tulcea. Developed and more developed communities concerning communitarian capital are those from the North, in the middle and in the west of the country.

THE MEASURING OF POVERTY/ DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGE DEPENDING ON RURAL CAPITAL





The main sectors of poverty are in the East and in the South of the country where there are many people occupied in agriculture, the understructure is poorer and the education is lower. Also, in these areas, the infant mortality is bigger. The progress of communitarian development is influenced by the birth rate, mortality rate, and, if we can follow demographic progress, we can observe a superposition with the development level of villages. The infant mortality is bigger in the north-east and in the south of the country, where there is a low level of development index.

Also, the poverty island is situated at the periphery of the country and the poorer communities are situated toward the periphery of the districts. The pole of the poverty can be considerate the South of the country, where the natality is very low and the infant mortality is relatively raised with a natural spor (births– deaths) negative, (–6,81 at 1000 inhabitants). Concerning human capital, there is a very small number of employees, many of them being concentrated in big cities. The south of the country is exposed to communitarian poverty concerning not only demographical aspect but also economical, social and emigrational aspects. The index of communitarian development shows us the problem of poverty, how we can take action and where, concerning the area of rural underdevelopment.

Social book of maps can be very useful for the diagnosis of some social problems in certain regions or localities. These express the changes which took place in a course of time on regional areas or on localities. Starting from the study of these maps, we can act for the improvement of fortress life, through reforms for social life.

The atlas, as book of maps, can confer information about all changes which take place in time on some social and geographical areas.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIOLOGICAL ATLAS

The atlas represents the pulse of a community, the way how that community is organized and its progress. Through social atlas it can be diagnosed the problems from rural communities and it can be a warning upon some serious problems from a social space.

Among the objectives specified by Dorel Abraham for the construction of social Atlas:

- the substantiation and development of regional research for the construction of Atlas
- the identification of main sorts of habituating on geographical area
- the determination of occupational progress and of levels of education
- the determination of socio/demographical structure
- the determination of the relation between the households, the quality of life, demographical behavior and the style of life
- The identification of local problems

- The determination of behavior, attitudes and religious feeling of population
- 110 – The progress of political behavior after 1990
- The determination of interethnic studies at regional level.²⁸ 16

The construction of Social Atlas can provide some information upon the way of organization and the pattern of changing of some regions and geographical zones. The worry about some problems from rural life can be express through maps collection which can diagnose the estate of a community. These represent a radiography of rural life with all changes from the community and the sociologist should construct and investigate different ways to study the villages and to propose different solutions for the improvement of the quality of life for the development of rural communities.

REFERENCES

- Abraham, Dorel.** (2000). „Atlasul sociologic al schimb rii sociale din România Postcomunist ” în *Sociologie Româneasc* , nr. 1, 2000.
- B descu, Ilie.** (2004). *Tratat de geopolitic* , Bucure ti: Ed. Mica Valahie.
- Diaconu, M., Constantinescu, C., Herseni I.** (2007). *Traian Herseni în critica vremii*, Pite ti:Ed. Universit ii din Pite ti.
- Gusti, Dimitrie.** (1969). *Opere*, vol. I, Texte stabilite, comentarii, note de Ov. B dina i Octavian Neam u, Bucure ti: Ed. Academiei.
- Stahl H.** (1975). *Tehnica i metoda investiga iilor sociologic*, vol. 1 i vol. 2, Bucure ti: Ed. tiin ific i Enciclopedic .
- Stahl H.** (1980). *Dimitrie Gusti: studii critice*, Bucure ti: Ed. tiin ific i Enciclopedic .
- St nculescu, Manuela.** *Harta s r ciei rurale în România*, www.iccv.ro.
<http://www.thomaspmbarrett.com/weblog/>

²⁸ Abraham Dorel, *Atlasul sociologic al schimb rii sociale din România postcomunist* , (*The sociological Atlas of social changes from postcommunist Romania*) in *Romanian Sociology*, no. 1, 2000
