

## THE LEGACY OF DIMITRIE GUSTI FOR THE POST-WAR SOCIOLOGY

Cătălin Zamfir – University of Bucharest

*The author evaluates the influence of the scientific personality of Dimitrie Gusti on the Romanian sociology and society, in four main aspects. One direction refers to the constitution of sociology as a science in Romania, with international prestige and a broad national involvement. The second direction refers to the creation of sociology as a science of the nation, with the mission of creating self-knowledge in the Romanian society and to further social modernization. This led to a dominantly descriptive and empirical orientation of sociology, based though on a high level theoretical conception. This orientation contributed to the development of the Romanian sociology in the heavily ideological communist period. The third direction of influence refers to the involvement of sociology in social reform, which persisted after 1945. The fourth direction refers to the creation of a strong sociological school, which managed to survive the instauration of the communist regime and to create a school modeled on the antebellum achievements.*

The outstanding men of science influence the subsequent scientific and social-cultural evolution in various ways. Some influence through the papers they wrote, their life being quickly forgotten after their death, except for the texts remaining after them. Other influence more through their activity of establishing institutions of culture. The influence of other men of science is a combination of the previous two. I think the latter is the case with Dimitrie Gusti. He contributed to the revival of sociology after the war both by his papers and by the late effects of the institutions, culture and sociologic movement that he established.

I would synthesise the legacy of Dimitrie Gusti in four directions.

The first legacy: the revival of sociology in Romania and its endowment with an outstanding scientific, cultural and social prestige, possibly unique worldwide. It is no matter of coincidence that Dimitrie Gusti was elected President of the Romanian Academy. The Bucharest school of sociology established by Dimitrie Gusti was one of the most articulate national sociologies worldwide, among the top 5 countries in Europe, acknowledged as such as shown by the fact that he was commissioned the responsibility of organising the 1939 World Congress of Sociology. The Bucharest school of sociology became a *national movement* in Romania. Sociology came forward from, simply, the academic perimeter and encompassed wide segments of population not just among the Romanian intellectuality. The peasants, particularly, were receptive to the sociological action of promoting the village.