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**THE INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
AND COMMUNICATION (ACUM 2022) AND THE NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF THE ROMANIAN SOCIOLOGISTS SOCIETY,
27-28 OCTOBER, 2022**

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Corina SESERMAN¹

Abstract

On the 27th and the 28th of October (2022), the 11th Edition of the International Colloquium of Social Sciences and Communication (ACUM 2022) and the Romanian Sociologists' Society National Conference took place in Brașov. The event was jointly organized by the Faculty of Sociology and Communication at the Transylvania University of Brașov together with the Romanian Sociologists' Society. Thus, two biennial scientific events were merged: the 11th edition of the international conference in social sciences and the national congress of the Romanian Sociologists Society. Over 110 papers were presented during the conference.

Keywords: global challenges, digitalisation, post-socialism, social responsibility, conference.

The 11th Edition of the International Colloquium of Social Sciences and Communication (ACUM 2022) and the National Conference of the Romanian Sociologists Society were jointly planned and benefited from the oversight of the Faculty of Sociology and Communication at the Transylvania University of Brașov, as well as the Romanian Sociologists' Society. The event took place between the 27th and the 28th of October 2022.

The organizers opened the conference by outlining its thesis. Above all the goal of the conference was to explore the ways in which individuals encountered extraordinary events in their everyday lives and how those events could lead to extreme or unusual decisions on their part. The current social and political

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environment is as challenging as it has ever been for social scientists and their inquiries. Every field has seen tremendous developments and great innovation in terms of concepts, methodology and scientific advances. To quote the organizers:

“People work differently, the educational process has suddenly changed its parameters, everyday life is unpredictable, attitudes are strange, the rules are new, political decisions are difficult to understand, communication is paradoxical, violence is at an unusual level, discrimination takes atypical forms and so on”.

Due to these out of the ordinary and outlandish changes to the social and political order, there is a dire need for high quality social sciences to provide understanding and insight. Therefore, the joint proceedings of the 11th Edition of ACUM and the Romanian Sociologists’ Society National Conference invited a broad selection of social scientists to contribute with exceptional studies on a variety of topics. Some approaches were unconventional, others were reflective of present-day social behaviour, of processes that appear because of the regulatory or legal framework, or due to rigid institutional practices and relationships².

Because of the wide array of topics, the themes covered by this event allowed for panels with diverse perspectives, niche subjects and categories, managing to capture the main objectives set by the organisers. Varied panels such as “Timescapes of Postmodernity”, “Digital Transition and Society”, The Social Bifurcation of Reality Diverging Vocabularies and Ontologies of Science – Trusting and Distrusting Worldviews, Symbolic Geographies and Identity Landscapes, The Politics of Space During Post-socialism and “International Relations in a Transforming World Ongoing Issues and Global Challenges” were all represented during the two-day event. Apart from the panels the conference hosted two main events – a SSR Workshop on the subject of Academic Social Sciences Today, as well as the SSR Board Meeting and General Assembly.

In addition to the wide array of panel topics the conference also offered its participants an international environment which catered to a complex exchange of concepts and methodologies concerning a variety of studies that deal with current social and political challenges. The international nature of the event was clear since the opening session, as the keynote speakers themselves were from countries such as Poland, Spain or Sweden. The opening event was officiated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Florin Nechita, on behalf of the Braşov Faculty of Social Sciences and Communication and by Prof. Dr. Carmen Buzea, on behalf of the Romanian Sociologists Society. Both officiants highlighted the healthy presence from most Romanian universities offering study programs in Sociology. The value of the academic interventions was also outlined during the panel presentations, where the international quality of the conference was once more clearly visible. The international participants that were present came from a vast array of countries ranging from the US to Bangladesh. Most major university centres in Romania

² More information regarding the administrative aspects of the conference can be found at: <https://acum.unitbv.ro>.

were also represented. Regardless of whether they were local or foreign, all participants had interesting presentations and insightful interventions. Further details on the conference's papers and proceedings can be found on the conference website: <https://acum.unitbv.ro>.