A. MIHU: SOCIOMETRIA — ESEU CRITIC
(Sociometry — a critical essay)
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Sociometry, as a measurement of the "social distance" appeared concomitantly with the book of its "spiritual father" — J. L. Moreno, *Who shall survive?*

Opposing A. Comte's macrosociology and even the institutional sociology of E. Durkheim, the sociometry takes upon itself, experimentally, the rule of the social structures in statu nascendi. It substitutes to the old notion of socius of Giddings the notion of social atom, defined as "a scheme of reciprocal attraction and repulsion cast from two sides concomitantly: from the part of individual, and from the part of the groups to whom they belong or are rejected from".

While a doctor in Austria, he got to know the serious social and psychical tensions in a camp in Vienna where people of various nationalities of the Hapsburg Empire were detained. J. L. Moreno reached the idea to study the social and psychological topography of the restricted groups with the aim of eliminating the tension among people by way of elective organization of the groups according to the preferences of their members.

This is the background upon which sociometry laid its foundations as "quantitative treatment of the preferential interhuman relations" and as a theory of psychological orientation of the society. "The essence of sociometry", J. L. Moreno stated, "is the doctrine on spontaneity and creation".

The book is not intended — as shown by the author — to present an apologetical, non critical exposition of sociometry. Proceeding from the idea that in the study of Moreno's sociometrical conception just as for understanding the whole sociometrical theory a distinction is necessary between the theoretical objectives and its methods, the author substantiates its survey on this basis. So, in the first part, Moreno dwells on the problems related to the object of of sociometry, as part of the "social universe", the nature of the sociometrical matrix, the inter-individual relation; the genesis of the sociometrical matrix, spontaneity and creativity — basic concepts of sociometry —; the small group — a central element of the configuration of "microscopical" social life and its relation to the individual and society.

To the question "Who shall survive?", Moreno formulates a whole theory of the sociometrical revolution which would have as aim the achievement of such a social reality in which the sociometrical matrix would manifest to the utmost spontaneity and creativity, and the "exter-

nal society" would not be an impediment to this liberation, but on the contrary, a stimulative factor.

The author stresses that in sociometry the content of the notion of social revolution is fundamentally different from that in Marxist science.

The second part of the book deals with the sociometrical methods and seems to be the most interesting one. With good reason it stands out that Moreno's principal merit, unanimously appreciated by the specialized literature, is of having worked out a complex of methods most conspicuous by their undeniable originality born from reality and from the successes obtained by the progress of knowledge in several sciences.

From the *sociometrical test* proper which spotlights the preferential state of individuals in the small group, passing through the *test of social configuration*, which reveals the structure and the general state of preferential relations at the level of small group, up to the *psychodrama* which is aimed principally at the liberation of the spontaneity and creativity of the individual, as well as at the elimination of affective tensions occuring in the life of individuals and of small groups, the author presents a detailed review of these methods of evaluation of the socio affective relations between people.

The survey also includes considerations on the use of sociometrical methods in the study of inter-individual relations and relations between small groups in the conditions of socialism.

By its structure, by its documentary character and by its entire orientation, A. Mihu's "Sociometry" is a welcomed Marxist reconsideration of sociometry.

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