OVIDIUS UNIVERSITY ANNALS

ECONOMIC SCIENCES SERIES

Volume XIV
Special Issue

Economy and Society

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Year 2014

OVIDIUS UNIVERSITY ANNALS ECONOMIC SCIENCES SERIES

Volume XIV Special Issue

Economy and Society

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Section I Current Economic Aspects

Religion and Economic Development

Ciurlică Răducu-Iulian
Ovidius University, Constanța
ric69eu@yahoo.com

Abstract

In this paper, I will try to present the constructive connection that can be created between religion and economy. I will also try to approach the principles of Max Weber, a famous german sociologist who refers at the religious deontology and the spirit of capitalism.

Printed Media in Romania, Between Communication Exigencies and Economic Needs

Codău Alexandra
Ovidius University Constanța
ada_codau@yahoo.com

Abstract

In the present paper, we make an analysis of the manner how, in the framework of a profound economical and financial crisis, printed media in Romania abandoned the fundamental exigencies – provide correct information and educate public-in order to save itself from financial point of view and how that leads inevitably to less consideration from mass media consumers.

Key words: printed media, crisis **Classification J.E.L.** Z00, Z1

The Importance of Environmental Resposibility in Firm Financial Performance

Dănilă Alexandra
Horga Maria-Gabriela
"Ovidius" University of Constanta
alexandradanila14@yahoo.com, gabi_horga@gmail.com

Abstract

Ensuring environmental protection is one of the three pillars of sustainable development. Identifying the factors that lead to enterprise financial performance must take into consideration environmental factors. Research in the field showed an increasing importance of such factors in obtaining financial results.

Present paper aims to demonstrate the link between environmental responsibility and firm financial performance, using statistical tools. Research was conducted in Romanian tourism sector and is based on a survey among employees of enterprises within this sector. In addition to this, financial documents of the investigated sample were studied in order to collect data for results' correlation.

Key words: environmental responsibility, return on equity, turnover growth, firm financial structure, correlation coefficients.

J.E.L. Classification: Q50.

Development of the Railway Freight Transport System – Evolutions and Perspectives regarding the Transport Corridors

Dediu Magdalena
Faculty of Economic Sciences, The "Lower Danube" University of Galati
magdadediu@yahoo.co.uk

Abstract

Promoting the railway freight transport is a priority in the policies and laws of the European Union. This is due to the fact that railway transport is cleaner and more efficient than the other ways of transport, producing less carbon dioxide emissions as compared to road transport. At the same time, it is a safer way of transport, with an rate of accidents significantly lower than road transport. By this paper, the author aims at outlining the new tendencies shown in the railway transport against the approaches of the European Union towards creating of a unified trans-European transport network (TEN-T).

Key words: Transport, Railway, TEN-T, European Union, Corridor.

Classification J.E.L.: R42

Economic Evaluation of Policies for Creation of Railway Transport Corridors in Europe – Case Study for Micro-level Corridor A

Dediu Magdalena

Faculty of Economic Sciences, The "Lower Danube" University of Galati <u>magdadediu@yahoo.co.uk</u>

Radu Riana Iren

Faculty of Economic Sciences, The "Lower Danube" University of Galati raduriana@yahoo.com

Abstract

The analysis of options represents a key aspect of this paper, representing the basis for the comparison of economic policies for creation of European transport corridors at the same time. The policy options that will be considered initially have been identified from the Commission documents and have been broken down into specific actions. The option analysis presented in the following consists in the examination of expected effects in the major dimensions of policies (e.g. the economic and social effects), of potential transformation aspects as well as of synergies offered by the short-term options.

Key words: Evaluation, policies, Corridors,

Micro-level, Transport Classification J.E.L.: R48

Tax Evasion within European Union - VAT Fraud

Horga Maria-Gabriela
Dănilă Alexandra
"Ovidius" University of Constanta
gabi_horga@gmail.com, alexandradanila14@yahoo.com

Abstract

Tax avoidance and tax evasion are two major problems which have significant negative effects on national economies, mostly undermining budgetary revenue collection and leading to failure in achievement of redistributive tax system objectives. These issues are addressed very seriously within the European policy agenda, the European Union's concrete ways of strengthening the fight against fraud and tax evasion.

VAT is one of the most fraud taxes, as it represents one of the most important component of indirect taxation. Many types of fraud schemes have been developed in order to avoid VAT payment within European Union.

This study is intended to analyze all types of VAT evasion within Member States of the European Union, from the simplest scheme, the classical carousel fraud, to the recently developed schemes, such as cross-invoicing scheme or contra-trading scheme.

Key words: tax evasion, VAT fraud, carousel fraud, cross-invoice, contra-trading. **J.E.L. Classification:** H26.

Research Concerning the Way the Community Perceives the Influence of Culture on the Economic and Social Life of a City

Juganaru Mariana
"Ovidius"University of Constanta, Faculty of Economics
<u>juganaru.mariana@yahoo.com</u>

Juganaru Ion-Danut
"Ovidius"University of Constanta, Faculty of Economics
<u>juganarudan@yahoo.com</u>

Abstract

We observed that, most of the times, the aspects related to economy, society, culture, education and not only, are analyzed separately, both under theoretical aspect (in the context of some school disciplines, university courses, studies and research) and practical approach (embodied in the establishment of development strategies and implementation projects). If we take as a reference the content of each activity, on one side, and the complexity of the human being (as a three-dimensional being: biological, social and rational) and of the system of his needs, on the other side, we will be able to notice that, among the areas mentioned (economy, society, culture, education), there are significant interdependencies.

Knowledge, quantifying and valuing these interdependencies should be a concern for policy makers at micro and macroeconomic level, in setting development policies.

In this paper, we intend to present a few aspects, from a wider study conducted within a research project, which shall confirm the mentioned interdependencies.

Key words: interdependencies, culture, society, economy

J.E.L classification: M 31

The Effect of Public Debt on Economic Growth

Moraru Camelia

Ph.D. Student, Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest

<u>cami.moraru@yahoo.com</u>

Popovici Norina

"Ovidius" University, Faculty of Economic Sciences, Constanta

norinapopovici@yahoo.com

Abstract

The influence of debt on macroeconomic stability and the ability to restart growth has been a constant concern since the Second World War period. In recent decades, public debt has increased considerably in most countries. Upward trend of public debt was accompanied by an increase in public spending, in some cases these costs have reached levels difficult to sustain. This is the case of Romania. This paper is divided into two parts. In the first part is shown the evolution and structure of public debt in Romania, and the second part aims to test the link between public debt and growth in the Romanian economy. The research aims to verify if the economic theory is respected, whether between these two variables is set a negative relationship.

Key words: overhang, economic growth, GDP, public debt

J.E.L. Classification: H60, H63, H68

Testing the Ricardian Model: Do the Data Confirm the Assumptions?

Muntean Mihaela-Carmen
Alexa Ioana-Veronica
Toma Simona Valeria
Faculty of Economic and Business Administration,
"Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati,
mihaela_c_muntean@yahoo.com,
ioana.alexa@ugal.ro, simona.toma@ugal.ro

Abstract

The insight of David Ricardo's international trade theory can be proved by the way he managed to capture the economic problems of his era and by the fact that his theory is still studied and applied in the construction of new economic models and theories. Ricardo has accepted Adam Smith's idea, that the "absolute advantage" determines domestic output and trade between countries, under the assumption of perfect mobility of factors of production. The aim of this paper is to do an empirical analysis of Ricardo's model not only to test the validity of his assumptions, but also to see what are the main categories of goods that the European Union, the United States and Japan export and which specialization should each of them choose.

Keywords: Ricardian model; international trade; country specialization, comparative advantage

JEL Code: Z190

Competition Internalization in the European Market Economy, as an Objective of Romanian Economic Programs and Strategies

Niţu Oana
Faculty of Economics, "Ovidius" University, Constanta, Romania
oana.oprisan@yahoo.com
Niţu Claudiu Valentin
Faculty of Dimitrie Cantemir Christian, University Bucharest
valynitu@gmail.com
Tileagă Cosmin Virgil
Faculty of Economics, "Lucian Blaga" University, Sibiu, Romania
cosmin.tileaga@yahoo.com

Abstract

The Competition Policy is - by its two components: in a specific language known as "antitrust" and state aid - a barometer of market operation, a component of a functional market economy. Although this chapter makes no direct reference to macroeconomic indicators, the promoted policy is defined by discipline, the behavior of economic actors in the market. The success of the competition policy is reflected in the existence of a strong cultural competition expressed at the level of the economic operators by respecting the game rules set by the legislation.

Key words: competition policy, strategies, markets

JEL classification: F 10, D40

The Controlling Function by Means of a Performance Management System

Niţu Oana
Faculty of Economics, "Ovidius" University, Constanta, Romania
oana.oprisan@yahoo.com
Niţu Claudiu Valentin
Faculty of Dimitrie Cantemir Christian, University Bucharest
valynitu@gmail.com
Tileagă Cosmin Virgil
Faculty of Economics, "Lucian Blaga" University, Sibiu, Romania
cosmin.tileaga@yahoo.com

Abtract

In recent years, the market for on-demand CRM applications suffered especially in the segment of small and medium companies because of the concerns about the cost and the complexity of on request implementations. CRM on demand is a good choice for companies that want to implement standard processes that can use data structures "out of box" with little or not at all internal IT support and does not require complex or real-time integration with back office systems.

Keywords: CRM, companies, SCM, ERP **JEL classification:** M10, M11, M15, M2, G21

The Influence of Business Simulation on Students' Entrepreneurship

Ploae Cătălin
"Ovidius" University of Constanta
<u>catalinploae@gmail.com</u>

Abstract

Business simulations games in education are a valuable asset, as well as their potential benefits are unquestionable. In industry, sophisticated simulators are used to train operators where a mistake on a complicated process could have very expensive or disastrous consequences. This is particularly true of the nuclear industry. Providing managers and operators with simulated but realistic environment before they have to make their decisions on expensive and potentially dangerous technical processes has proven to be a very effective training approach. Simulations are now also being used to help the academic students. Computer simulations help individual students to practice the business decision making without making huge losses in a real company. Involvement simulation into a subject curriculum altered the teacher-centric classroom into the learner-centric, where the participants are collaborate with each other, make decisions and solve the problems. These changes also transform the teacher into a coach and a guide in the classroom by allowing students to make experiments help encourage high-level thinking to hypothesize what might happen with their firm in different circumstances: increase/decrease short-term debt, pay the dividends or issue the shares and etc.

Key words: Business, Entrepreneurship, Knowledge, Simulation games

J.E.L.: M15

A Perspective on the Quality of Banking Services

Popovici Norina
"Ovidius" University, Faculty of Economic Sciences, Constanta
<u>norinapopovici@yahoo.com</u>

Moraru Camelia

Ph.D. Student, Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest
<u>cami.moraru@yahoo.com</u>

Abstract

The business world is becoming increasingly competitive and the profitability of those involved in economic life depends increasingly of operational efficiency of specific activities undertaken. To ensure optimal functioning, they have to know, apply and comply with the conditions and requirements of the market economy using the most efficient products and services offered by banks.

This paper was developed to highlight the products and services through which it is possible to effective and efficient integrate financial and banking activities in the economy. This paper focuses more on the pragmatic side of the banking system, providing data on the operation and use of banking products and services that make easier to understand the financial mechanism, emphasizing the duties and responsibilities of the banking system as a leading intermediary in the transfer of funds and the completion of payments.

Key words: services, quality, satisfaction, Pearson coefficient

J.E.L. Classification: G20, G21, L10

Section II Fundamental Social Values

The Woman as a Product. A Case Study on Moxa's *Universal Chronicle* (1620)

Boboacă Iuliana-Valentina State University of Pitesti iuliana_boboaca@yahoo.com

"For most people of the Renaissance, the woman is at least suspicious and more often, dangerous."

Delumeau

Abstract

The objective of this study is to illustrate the role women played in society, over the years, with an emphasis on the lexical structures that denote family and relations, in Mihail Moxa's "Cronica universală" (1620). The gender stereotype (requiring a person to act or dress a certain way) and gender discrimination (the unfair treatment of a person based on his or her gender) are closely analyzed throughout the text.

Keywords: woman, role, society **Classification Code**: J710

Diferences in Society Outlined Through Stand-up Comedy

Bogdan Alina
Lower Danube University of Galati, Faculty of Letters
alina_bogdan_89@yahoo.com

Abstract

To approach humour many turn to different topics they find in their everyday life. One specific cathegory of humour which does this is stand-up comedy.

Performers use this type of humour to outline and at the same time to present in fronth of an audience the problems that society has but are not openly dealt with.

And at the same time it tries to expose the fact that state institutions are not acting the same for each and every individual and that some differences are made.

Keywords: security, society, stand-up comedy, humour

J.E.L.: F52

Historical, Political and Ideological Influences in Translating Literature for Children

Chifane Cristina
"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Faculty of Letters
cristinachifane@yahoo.com

Abstract

The relationship between history and the translation of children's literature refers on the one hand to the historical development of scholarly interest in the field and on the other hand to the revolutionary changes in the society's perception of children and childhood. This paper aims at shedding some light upon both aspects with an emphasis upon the influence of politics and ideology in translating literature for children. The foregrounding idea is that any translation implies some degree of manipulation which is even greater in the case of children's literature translation due to the didactic, ideological, moral, ethical and religious norms involved in the process.

Key words: children's literature, diachronic perspective, manipulation, translation strategies. **J.E.L. Classification**: I24, Y8, Y90.

The Religious Ethics of the Ecclesiastical Community in the History of Romanians

Ciobanu (Niță) Janeta Ovidius University, Constanța adrianjani@yahoo.com

Abstract

Any Romanian living in the 21th century cannot avoid the concept or the reality of God in the historicity of his own nation. The culture, art, literature a.s.o. are overwhelmed by the presence of God. In Romania, when one speaks about God, speaks about Church. The Church – the mother of the Romanian nation – as the poet defines it, is the source of culture, also of people's treasure of knowledge, as the Savior says: "This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent-Jesus Christ" (John 17, 3), which means that we should acknowledge or be aware of the true belief, in order to acquire the pledge of the eternal life together with God. Only a man that knows his faith can have a comprehensive view on the world and its spirituality, being thus kept out of the danger of slipping to foreign teachings, with no doctrinal foundation.

Keywords: Church, education, Christian Ethics, Christianity

JEL Codes: Z120

Social Work and Spiritual Therapy in the Salvation of the Modern Man from Moral Collapse

Ciobanu (Niţă) Janeta
Ovidius University, Constanţa
adrianjani@yahoo.com

Abstract

In a purely consumerist world, deeply rooted in the beauty of this planet, addicted to tangible and material things, talking about spirituality, God and moral aspects of everyday life is more than abstract. Even so, one cannot deny that there are still people concerned with the spiritual dimension of the world. But the things that pull us from ignorance and the epicurean way of thinking are suffering and death, which do not provide enough meaning to existence and life. Therefore, indirectly, we can identify two kinds of people: those who can handle life's tests (disease, suffering, difficulties of all kinds etc.) for people of faith know that suffering and illness can be overcome in Christ - Doctor souls and bodies -, and others who feel confused and without any support to the tests, because their hope lies within themselves or other people, although these things cannot satisfy the thirsty soul's desire for God.

Keywords: social work, disease, suffering, Church

JEL Codes: Z120

The A.S.C.R. Member Sandu Tudor and the Christian Paradigm

Ciornea Carmen,
Pantazi Doru-Emanuel
"Ovidius" University of Constanţa, Theology Faculty
carmenciornea@gmail.com,
doremanuel pantazi@yahoo.com

Abstract

This article's main purpose is to emphasize the main directions in the researches regarding the relations between the Romanian State and the Romanian Orthodox Church during 1925-1928, using the specific research's instruments of micro history. During this period, Sandu Tudor was a member of the Christian Students' Association. This membership allowed him to discover the discrepancy between YMCA, an inter-confessional, missionary Christian organization, founded in 1844, in Great Britain, which existed under the patronage of a protestant inspired Christianity, but which had orthodox values.

Key words: Sandu Tudor, micro-history, ASCR, orthodoxy

J.E.L Code: B

The Social and Misionary Role of Ortodox Church

Ciurlică Răducu-Iulian
Ovidius University, Constanța
ric69eu@yahoo.com

Abstract

The present paper intends to show the atributions that the Church is fulfiling in the daily society both from the social point of view as also the misionary point of view. I will also describe the connection between social and misionary role. The purpouse of this paper is to determinate the trajectory that the Church syllabus is following through social and misionary activities.

Keywords: Church, misionary, social, Christ, salvation.

J.E.L. Code: Z12

Asceticism and Spirituality in Modern Times

Coisin Marius Marcel University of Costanța maryus.marcel@yahoo.com

Abstract

From the approaches anti - religious of the nineteenth century and much of the twentieth century, we see the end of the second millennium, a return to the deep religious concerns. Instead, Orthodox Christianity do not has known this transformation and remained faithful Christian spirituality as it has manifested since apostolic times, in the province of Scythia — minor. Meanwhile, Western rationalist vision led to conflicts and disputes in discourse and practice of the Church in matters of spirituality and asceticism. Born in the cradle of the Romanian Orthodox spirituality in the province of Scythia Minor and later perfected in the direct exercise of ascetic practices in the Egyptian desert, St. John Cassian gather in his person the values of Christian spirituality of the early church and gives them with a love and remarkable understanding to Western ascetics. Thus, through the voice and work of St. John Cassian, the Christians of the Orient offers a generous gift for Western Christians who claimed communion in Eastern spirituality during to the early Christian church to the asceticism born and perfected in the Egyptian desert, leading to further development of an exceptional spirituality in the West.

Key words: Spirituality, asceticism, unseen warfare, uncreated energies, communion. **Classification Code**: Z120

Ecumenism - Ecumenical - Orthodoxy

Coisin Marius Marcel University of Costanța maryus.marcel@yahoo.com

Abstract

Christian ecumenism as it manifests itself in Scythia Minor, in the first three centuries of patristic church that interests us here (IV, V and VI), is as complex as the ecumenical movement of the twentieth century, different historical circumstances.

Key words: Ecumenism, ecumenical, unity, dialog.

JEL Classification: Z120

Theories about Fashion as an Influential Factor in the Society

Crează (Cornilă) Liliana "Ovidius" University of Constanța liliana.cornila@yahoo.com

Abstract

Fashion always had a deep impact on society and was appreciated and studied by many sociologists such like Malcolm Barnard, Georg Simmel, Herbert Blumer or even Thornstein Veblen. The will of differentiation and the desire of the individual to comply to a social norm are also illustrated throughout the entire history of fashion, and the sociological theories paying a special attention to this subject, analyzes the clothing as phenomenons of fashion or as symbols of a social status. The upper class, having a lot of spare time and resources, developed a great taste for fashion and were always concerned of how they look. At the other pole we find the lower class, the ones that can be inspired by the upper class and actually trying to copy their style within the limitations of their possibilities.

Key words: fashion, society, identity, upper class, lower class.

J.E.L. Classification: Z13

Romanian Symbol - Costumes, Traditions and Inspirations

Crează (Cornilă) Liliana "Ovidius" University of Constanța liliana.cornila@yahoo.com

Abstract

The beauty and diversity of the Romanian folk costume, is the emblem of members recognition of a community, a mark of ethnic identity, is a means of communication, witness of civilization stages, evolution and structure mutations, with highly visible meanings nowadays, especially in the last century - the fastest transformation scene. An important influental piece of art was the Romanian embroided peasant shirt who had a deep impact on famous designers such as Yves Saint Lauren, Jean Paul Gaultier, Kenzo but also royal blood like Queen Elizabeth and Princess Mary, wife of the Crown Prince Ferdinand. The embroidered peasant shirt (romanian term - ie) is the leading opera created by the contribution of countless generations of women, ciphered in ornaments, good aspirations, happiness and beauty of our people.

Key words: Romanian, folk, art, tradition, inspiration.

J.E.L. Classification: N9

From the Need for Responsibility as Philosophical Investigation to Responsibility as a Product of Moral Conscience; Methods of Operationalization

Croitor Ecaterina
"Stefan cel Mare" University of Suceava
<u>ecaterina_croitor@yahoo.com</u>

Abstract

Responsibility represents one of the most important human and social attributes, based essentially on a conscious attitude – also giving rise to its socio-historical determination, evolution and structure. Its subject matter undergoes many changes in the process of historical development of human society, always indicating the human demands, needs and interests of an era, while its distinct concrete forms preserve as a defining component the reference made to human relationship, to the interaction between human beings.

Human beings posess not only the ability to feel, but also superior mental abilities, such as self-awareness and intellection, while their sociability, capacity to love and care for their fellow human beings strengthen their power to guide their actions based on their moral principles and ideals and thus to assume moral responsibility.

Key words: responsibility; freedom; self-consciousness; moral character.

J.E.L. Classification: M14, I29, Y80

The Scandal of the Goncourt Prize - Vintilă Horia

Dîrmină Mădălina-Violeta
The University of Pieşti, The Faculty of Letters
dirminamadalina1987@yahoo.com

Abstract

A public figure endowed with a broad cultural horizon, Vintilă Horia maintains his place among the controversial cluster of novelists belonging to the period of exile. The fact that he became the winner of the Goncourt Prize for the novel Dumnezeu s-a născut în exil (God was born in Exile) has generated a wave of controversy.

Keywords: The Goncourt Prize, scandal, exile, character/protagonist, anguish

JEL Code: Z190

The Publicist Ion Vinea's Literary and Economic Directions

Dumitra (Manea) Alina Ramona University of Pitesti, Faculty of Letters alina_dumitra@yahoo.com

Abstract

Concerned about the permanent evolution of the Romanian society both from the literary and economical point of view, Ion Vinea remains one of the most ardent supporters of Lovinescian synchronism.

His activity as a publicist highlights his forward-looking spirit displayed in the relevantly expressed opinions, which prepared the mentor of the avant-garde Romanian constructivist school, the Director of "Contimporanul".

The pleasure of the attentive observation of the Romanian realities (economic, social, political, literary, etc.) which has its starting point in many collaborations and journalistic achievements, reached the acme of perfection in pamphlets – genuine "x-rays" of Romanian economic context. His ironies, supported by objective observation of the state of affairs of the Romanian economy of the time, were impulses of necessity of economic, cultural, etc. modernization.

Thus, through his work, I. Vinea remains, certainly, the promoter of literary and economic trends in the context of the 20th century.

Keywords: banking, economy, modernism, finance, taxes.

J.E.L. Classification: Z11

On Style and Language in Arthur Schopenhauer's Philosophical Writings

Dumitrache (Vârlan) Cecilia-Iuliana "Ovidius" University of Constanța, Faculty of Letters varlan_c@yahoo.com

Abstract

The present paper aims at examining the main characteristics of Arthur Schopenhauer's style of writing philosophy.

A. Schopenhauer was the first in the history of German philosophy who wrote philosophical texts that people actually enjoyed reading. Therefore, his style and language became our point of interest, since they are responsible for the easiness of text reading and the accessibility of the reader to the depths of the author's thought.

After a short biographical part, the paper briefly discusses the issues raised by the language of philosophy, and examines – in its main part – the features of Schopenhauer's style.

Key words: Schopenhauer, style, language, German philosophy.

JEL Code: Z00

Peripheral Lives and Riots in Modern Europe: 3 Case Studies- Paris 2005, London 2011, Bucharest 2012

Ganea Marcela
Ovidius University, Constanța

y4ww@yahoo.co.uk

Udrescu Mircea

Artifex University of Bucharest, Faculty of Management and Marketing
udrescumircea@yahoo.com

Abstract

This article is meant to emphasize that modern societies allow discrepancies between social and professional categories that result into a peripheral way of living even if the categories involved are not physically located at the peripheries of the cities.

Economic inequalities and poverty, lack of equal opportunities, malfunctioning systems and political abuses resulted into social discontent that brought people in the streets in many countries in Europe during the first decade of the 21st century. Protests were interpreted and reflected by the media in a twofold way: while in some countries they were interpreted as expression of democratic rights, in other countries they were seen as an unacceptable, violent way to ask for social rights.

In Western and Eastern European countries such protests caused concern. Armed forces confronted and annihilated the actions of the masses in the streets.

Key words: economic inequality, street movement, protests, double standards, media coverage. **J.E.L.**: D6, I3, P1.

Gendered Geographies and the Economy of Bodily Topographies: The Representation of Border, Body and Space in Jeanette Winterson's *The Passion* and *Gut Symmetries*

Lazăr Mihaela-Cristina
Ovidius University of Constanța, Faculty of Letters
mihacryss@yahoo.com

Abstract

In this paper, I will approach the body as a spatial metaphor and discuss Jeanette Winterson's "The Passion" and "Gut Symmetries" comparatively, in light of their engagement with the concept of border. While "The Passion" depicts the city of Venice a trope of female corporality, "Gut Symmetries" insists on the analogies between the body and the universe. I analyse the correspondences between the description of Venice as an amphibious (and ambiguous) land, and Villanelle's mixture of male and female characteristics. In "Gut Symmetries", the amalgam of ancient philosophy, superstring theory, quantum physics, Kaballah and Tarot puts into perspective the hollowness of categorizations and limits. I apply a geopolitcal and psychoaanlytical reading grid, using Anne McClintock's concept of border loss, as well as Lacan and Kristeva's theories. I will argue that both novels strive to reinforce a paradigm of unity.

Key words: border, body, the Real, the abject

Classification J.E.L.: Z19

Narrativizing Disease, Consuming the "Other": Food, Illness and Gender Stereotypes in Jeanette Winterson's Written on the Body

Lazăr Mihaela-Cristina
Ovidius University of Constanța, Faculty of Letters
mihacryss@yahoo.com

Abstract

This paper tackles issues of gendered authorship and the connection female writing/female body in Jeanette Winterson's novel, "Written on the Body". I interpret the cancerous body of Louise from "Written on the Body" as an excessive body: the multiplication of cells in her diseased body is a metaphor of the transgressive, unbounded female body. The body turns against itself and engenders alienation, being perceived as an alien object. In the novel, disease is an equivalent of love, because both disrupt the borders of the self, threatening with the dissolution of the limit between self and other. Love is manifested as an urge to consume the body of the lover, as the tendency to be fused into a unified body. I also set out to investigate the gender indeterminacy and narratorial identity of "Written on the Body", and to shed light on the conundrum of the genderless narrator of this novel.

Key words: body, gender, consumption, disease, queer

Classification J.E.L.: Z19

The Genesis of a Compressed Society Ruled by Dictatorial Forces thru Terror Installment

Malciu Mihaela Denis University of Ovidius, Constanta denisa_zaher@yahoo.com

Abstract

The latest novel by Alexandru Ivasiuc, "The crawl fish" ("Racul", Albatros Publishing House, 1976), deals with the human condition, excelling thru parables, psychoanalysis, a world of contrast and human decay up to zoomorphism. Alexandru Ivasiuc used different literature genres to bring into debate the problem of individual loneliness, political, ethical and social themes of his contemporaneity. Living in actuality and process, he harbor's stasis and eternity utopia, easily wielding the artistic artifact technique. Today's novel reader "The crawlfish" will be surprised by the freshness of the subject, by the paralelism that can easely be made between it and the social, political and moral context of its time. Alexandru Ivasiuc stratifies the truth in his novels, creating a protective shield against Communist censorship without dimming the force of dogma and the ethos's echantment in any way. Third person storyteller fiction novel, "The crawl fish" is full of political, social, behavioral issues and reaction regarding institutional anomalies of the main characters or different social groups.

Keywords: Human condition; parallelism; ethos; social;

JEL Code: A19

Self Identity Tension onto Compensation, Secret Will Mythology (Gnosiology Study upon *Night Knowledge* Novel Theme)

Malciu Mihaela Denis University of Ovidius, Constanta denisa_zaher@yahoo.com

Abstract

Alexandru Ivasiuc (born July the 12th 1933, Sighet - died March the 4th 1977, Bucharest), known and renown journalist and essayist during 1967-1977, managed to awake thru his writings (essays, short stories and novels) public interest and time critics. His appearance as a novelist was steep and surprising due to the fact that this writer had the courage to tackle social, politic and existential tendency subjects of realism and an extremely sharp sense of criticism. But his works generally treated subjects that could annoy the newly installed and strongly supported by the Communist Block political class in the country. This is the reason of which the reader wakes up most of times in front of some encrypted texts with a communist march musicality, but from which the alarm signs come like extreme sounds that the author raises with desperation almost, looking at the social, political and system abnormalities.

Key words: gnosiology; metalepsys; egocentrism; atomization; zoomorphism; **Classification JEL**: A19

The Political Speech in the Play O scrisoare pierdută [A Lost Letter]

Moldovan Anda-Elena
The University of Piteşti, The Faculty of Letters
moldovan.anda_elena@yahoo.com

Abstract

The article proposes to analyze the political speech in the comedy O scrisoare pierdută by I.L. Caragiale. I will analyze the speeches of the characters Farfuridi and Caţavencu from scene I, act III, respectively the scenes V, VI, VII of the same act, from a semantic and pragmatic perspective. Both characters want to candidate for the position of deputy and the means to achieve their goal are different. The speeches of the two characters breaches the principle of the logical non-contradiction, the conversation maxims and the politeness rules, thus leading to create the effect of lack of logical-semantic organisation and lack of diplomacy in interpersonal relations. The author's purpose is to get the comical effect by irony of the demagogue politician, embodied into the two characters.

Key words: the principle of cooperation, conversation maxims, positive / negative politeness, interactional movements, language acts.

JEL Code: J190

Anton Holban's Refuge through Prose during the Communist Regime

Moldoveanu Mirela
Ovidius University, Constanta
moldoveanu_mirela88@yahoo.com

Abstract

Communism thought that the literature and the writers were their instruments. Few were those who had the courage to write what they felt and express their outrage at the misery that surrounded them. Others were content just to express their feelings, to put on paper their own life experiences or even create a Paradise, a world different from the one in which they lived. Through his psychological and erotic prose, under the sign of authenticity, Anton Holban tried to analyze the depths of the self, and to analyze also those around him.

Key words: communism, Identity, literature, Otherness, Self-searching

Classification J.E.L: Z13

The Origins of Byzantine Music

Murariu Marius Constantin
"Ovidius" University of Constanta, Faculty of Theology
marius_padrinio@yahoo.com

Abstract

The concept of "Byzantine Music" was identified in various ways by being given several definitions, according to the sense of musicologists that had taken charge of describing the phenomenon. A more conclusive definition points out the fact that byzantine music is the art of song in the Orthodox Church, which maintains a significant popular composition, resulting from the interaction of several ancient musical cultures and which appeared, developed and was disseminated under various forms of manifestation, in areas and with civilizations that were part of the Eastern Roman Empire, as well as with nations sharing the same religious affiliations, until present date. The crystallization of Byzantine music at its core was achieved in the shadow of controversy, which spread out until the 19th century, between the theophanic religious movement – represented by the ecclesiastic centers of grand citadels and the ascetical movement – monasteries located in the wilderness of Egypt, Palestine and Syria.

Key words: Byzantine music, ecclesiastic chant, psaltic chants.

J.E.L. Classification: I290.

Psalms in the Primary Church Neotestamentary and Patristical Testimonials

Murariu Marius Constantin "Ovidius" University of Constanta, Faculty of Theology <u>marius_padrinio@yahoo.com</u>

Abstract

Psalms occupy a focal point in Christian spirituality and worship. The use of psalms in the primary Christiam worship is recorded in the writings of the New Testament. Aside from scripturistical pasages, which make reference to the use of psalms by the first Christians, starting with the Apostles, there are numerous literary proofs, according to which psalms were appreciated and practiced by the Church to the same extent as this occurs today. Most Apostolic Fathers and Apologists use quotes from psalms or make statements regarding the psalm rituals in the spiritual life of the first Christians.

Key words: psalms, Christianity, worship, Primary Church.

J.E.L. Classification: I290

A Paradoxical Destiny and a Paradoxical Era

Onofrei Margareta University of Pitești onofrei_ada@yahoo.com

Abstract

The interwar Romanian period is marked by important socio-economic changes; in that general context, Tudor Arghezi is a writer whose destiny is similar with these paradoxical changes.

The article focuses on the following aspects: the development of the interwar society through cultural aspects, the course of a destiny based on the contrasted coincidences, the undulated evolution of a writer/a literature in accordance with the social environment.

The conclusion of the study is that Arghezian destiny is a reference mark for a paradoxical era and the interwar period is a frame of reference for him in a continuous interrelation.

Key words: paradox, interwar, destiny

JEL Classification: Z11

The Relationship between Church and State throughout History

Pantazi Doru-Emanuel,
Ciornea Carmen
"Ovidius" University of Constanţa/ Theology Faculty
doremanuel_pantazi@yahoo.com

Abstract

There are increasingly more competent opinions debating the situation of the Orthodox Church and even Christianity in the context of a globalized society. Basically, this debating is determined by the ideological and behavioural context of the modern man who, during the last century, entered a new stage of civilization development, "jumping" from the industrial stage to the technoinformational stage. Could this represent a possible end of man? The catastrophe has been announced even since the beginning of the twentieth century by a number of researchers. In the twilight of history, just like a genuine Noah's ark, the Church is forced to re-evaluate its experience in order to discover viable solutions in order to save, heal and preserve the whole human beings in Christ. The Church reacted to this internal crisis of the human society from the first three Christian centuries, through confession, martyrdom and communion, combined with the perfect brotherhood between bishops and priests, between the clergy and the people, in the name of God.

Key words: State, Church, mission, globalism, secularization;

Cod J.E.L.: B

Literature under Communism

Dumitrescu Maria Magdalena
Ovidius University, Constanta, Faculty of Letters
magdaldec@yahoo.com

Abstract

During the time when politics was involved in people's personal lives to the highest level, an approach of the communist literature era can not be analyzed independently of the environment in which it was created. So, the present work aimed at the socio-political context of the time and especially literature that was harshly judged over the years. When analyzing, I take into account literary groups that have tried for the sake of art, to fight the regime, censorship and rigors.

Key words: communism, literature, culture, literary groups, socio-political **Classification J.E.L.**: Z13

Postmodern Anticipations during Communism

Dumitrescu Maria Magdalena
Ovidius University, Constanta, Faculty of Letters
magdaldec@yahoo.com

Abstract

This paper aims to present a group of writers who created and published quality literature during the communist period. These members of the School of Targoviste, who managed to write a literature that predicts European trends within a time when access to information was limited in our country. They managed to write quality literature in a totalitarian era that fell within the atypical, by breaking the canons imposed by the communist censorship.

Key words: communism, School of Targoviste, literature, literary groups, socio-political **Clasificare J.E.L.**: Z13

Fictions that Kill in Man in the Dark

Pascu Alina-Oana
Ovidius University of Constanta – Faculty of Letters
alinapascu22@yahoo.com

Abstract

Within the powerful subliminal message of the terrible story August Brill unveils to us, as readers, stands the overt strength of storytelling as one of the defining identitary features, through which we reveal important characteristics of our identity by means of the narrative act. In this way, Auster distinguished between the different diegetic levels that acquire a central part in the identity construction process.

Key-words: identity, metafiction, storytelling, intertextuality, intermediality. **J.E.L. Classification**: Z1.

Intermediality and Identity Metafiction in Paul Auster's and Jonathan Safran Foer's Novels

Pascu Alina-Oana
Ovidius University of Constanta – Faculty of Letters
alinapascu22@yahoo.com

Abstract

As part of their literary manifestations, both Auster and Foer employ to a great extent various intertextual and intermedial features such as films retold by the characters in the novels, stories heard or read, images or articles drawn from magazines or elsewhere, excerpts from poems, theatre or novels, letters written by imaginary characters, photographs, all these contributing to the overall frame constituting the identity metafictions belonging to the two authors.

Key-words: identity, metafiction, identity metafiction, intertextuality, intermediality. **J.E.L. Classification**: Z1.

The Theme of Death and of the Self in Max Blecher's Works

Peftiţi-Dobre (Ciobotaru) Anamaria Ovidius University, Faculty of Letters ana_c0@yahoo.com

Abstract

The discourses of Max Blecher's characters, in fact of the same auctorial mask endlessly multiplying, remind us of the philosophy promoted by Heidegger, Kierkegaard, Jaspers and Husserl.

In order to understand Blecher's character, we must start, just like Heidegger in Being and Time, from understanding the time he lives in. But the narrator-character's time in Blecher's novels is conceived starting from death.

The analysis of death does not imply, for Heidegger, the study of what somebody really feels at the time of death, it involves the meaning of imminent death for someone enjoying life to the full.

Key Words: *Despair, Self, Unreality, Reality, Death.* **J.E.L. Classification:** Z – Other Special Topics

The Identity of Paratopie in Max Blecher's Novels

Peftiți-Dobre (Ciobotaru) Anamaria

Ovidius University

ana_c0@yahoo.com

Abstract

This approach has a starting point in Dominique Maingueneau's statement in his Literary Discourse. The protagonist finds himself in an eternal self-searching as he declines both his identity and background, being secluded due to his incurable deasease, fighting and trying endlessly to create a new identity of his own, the so called "paratopie".

Key Words: Self-searching, Paratopie, Literary spaces.

J.E.L. Classification: Z – Other Special Topics

Bodily Resurrection and the Mystery of the Bodily Transformation in 1 Corinthians 15

Pleșca Gianni
Ovidius University of Constanta
gianniplesca@yahoo.com

Abstract

The idea of restoring the human being and all creation reflects the ratio of the Pauline vision on the reality of the resurrection act and moral training of the members of the Christian Church in Corinth.

In our research we sought to identify specific elements distinct for the Pauline teaching on how Christ accomplished salvation of the world and fulfilled human mission to complete whole creation by His resurrection from the dead, becoming the agent of transformation of the human being in its entirety, in order to ensure ownership of eternal life, existential reality that is derived from the Resurrection of Christ.

Keyword: resurrection of Christ, 1 Corinthians 15, bodily resurrection, bodily transformation, **J.E.L. Classification**: Z120

Καινή Κτίσις: The Vision For A Life in Christ In The 2 Corinthians 5:17

Pleşca Gianni

Ovidius University of Constanta gianniplesca@yahoo.com

Abstract

Person of Christ is the center of Pauline theology. Saviour's redemptive work involves restoring all people and raising their perfect state Risen Jesus Christ by the power of God.

In this context, the Apostle Paul uses the phrase καινὴ κτίσις to express the human condition of life in union with Christ by the grace of God the Holy Spirit poured out upon us.

In our research we sought to identify specific elements Pauline teaching on both how the new creation is accomplished in Christ (2 Cor. 5: 17) and the process of transformation and spiritualization of the entire creation, the basis of reconciliation with God to participate in the new life in Christ.

Keyword: reconciliation, καινή κτίσις, new man, new creation, life in Christ,

J.E.L. Classification: Z120

The Translator behind the Scenes

Praisler Alexandru
"Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati
<u>alexandru.praisler@ugal.ro</u>

Abstract

In keeping with the demands of the contemporary globalising digital era, communication is heavily supported by the Internet. Addressing an international audience and having societal goals, public institutions resort to carefully designed web pages to carry the message across frontiers, cultures, strata. Engaged in these inter- and intra-cultural communicative endeavours are translators, whose presence is not always manifest, yet whose contribution to conveying and filtering information is essential. Looking into policies of advertising translation services for the community and into textual manifestations of linguistic expertise or lack thereof, the present paper aims at conferring visibility to the translator behind the scenes and at raising awareness with regard to his/ her role in a minority language speaking society. The case study proposed is that of sample documents and pages made available on or in connection with the official site of the Romanian Police.

Key words: communication, translation, international community, web site, public institutions **J.E.L.** classification: Z19

The Role of Media in Society

Săvescu (Ghenghea) Elena Stefan cel Mare University of Suceava Letters and Communication Sciences Faculty liana_savescu@yahoo.com

Abstract

Our study will analyze, in a quite light manner the media roles in society. Of course, a throwback in time, at the moment of appearance of the first newspaper, was necessary.

The second part of the study comprises a series of items related by the current passing transformations regardless of media type. Thus, nowadays, the press is more interested in getting the financial gains, than in its role as a main source of information.

Key words: Newspaper, media, information, society, people

The Concept of Man in Ancient Mesopotamia

Vizante Dan
"Ovidius" University of Constanța
schitulvidra@yahoo.com

Abstract

Around the year 3000 BC in Mesopotamia, today's Iraq, based on archaeological research, the earliest civilizations in the Middle East were founded. The Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians and the Israelites and other nations, later will appear on the map of history, being organized in small states. In fact, about five thousand years ago, from the turn of the fourth and third millennium BC, we can talk about the great early cultures and religions

The legacy that the amazing Mesopotamian civilization left to mankind is undoubtedly invaluable. It was felt throughout the ages, helping, in some cases, modeling a new spirituality. It is believed that the Mesopotamian cultural elements made their way also in the Greek philosophical thinking, of Thales of Miletus, the young Aristotle and Zeno of Kition.

Key words: man, Mesopotamia, Sumero-Akkadian, Assyrian-Babylonian, god.

J.E.L. Classification: Z12

The Spiritual Being and Communion of Man with God, His Fellow People and All of Creation

Vizante Dan
"Ovidius" University of Constanța
schitulvidra@yahoo.com

Abstract

The existence of the whole creation was not made from an internal necessity of God, but by virtue of His love, the main reason of the creation lying in His goodness.

By creation, the man was supposed to become the connecting link with the whole nature of God, for the man was not destined to isolate himself, but on the contrary, to personalize the world, the universe, being saved through the human.

The man is created by God in a single act, as if the creatures were created only by word, in the case of man, God made the body from the dust and breathed into his nostrils the "breath of life" and made him a living soul. In the conclusion it is showed through the words of Saint Ambrose of Milan that the soul is built in the image and likeness of God.

Key words: God, human, spirit, body, soul.

J.E.L. Classification: Z12

