

ROMANIA
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE



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Dear Colleague,

“Carol I” National Defence University is initiating a discussion on the very fundamentals of science, the paradigms that determine strategically the trends of research conducted in most of nowadays scientific disciplines.

We are currently launching a **call for contributors to an international collective volume** that will be published by the Swiss Publishing House *Tricorne Editions* (www.tricorne.org), at the **end of May, 2012**.

The purpose of the volume is to synthesize and to compare the openings and limits of two major scientific theories, the General Systems Theory and the Processual-Organic Theory, in various scientific disciplines. We welcome authors from both the natural sciences and the social sciences and humanities that are able to synthesize the impact of one of the afore mentioned paradigms upon their field of interest.

If, after reading all the details of the call, you decide to join our undertaking, please send us by e-mail a **short outline (10-20 lines)** of the chapter you want to propose, no later than the **20th of February, 2012**.

The first version of the full chapter should be sent to the Editors no later than the **30th of April**.

I. PRELIMINARIES

By realizing the fact that in most cases scientific research must overpass the empirical stage, both “naïve” and dysfunctional in tackling complex research problems and also the reality that nowadays coexist multiple ways of doing science, with nonequivalent and noncumulative results, the researcher could rightfully be concerned with choosing the most appropriate paradigmatic framework able to sustain the interrogative process. Thus, it does make sense to question the implicit premises that one has accepted as the basics of “normal science”.

The General Systems Theory constitutes an interpretative framework frequently invoked in research activities. Although concepts such as “system”, “interaction”, “structure”, “functionality” are ubiquitous, evidence show that very few of them are genuinely “systemic”. F. Capra’s analysis on the causal-mechanistic horizon in which remain immobilized disciplines such as Biology, Economy, Psychology or Medicine is still actual (“The Turning Point”,1982). In spite of the “ecological problem” outbreak and its incentive to reflect deeper on the idea of “wholeness”, Kuhn’s paradigmatic revolutions fail to manifest on a large scale. Quite surprisingly and perhaps more than the natural sciences, the social sciences are stuck with the oversimplifying casual principle according to which “if A then B” with slight nuances and thus ignoring the complex interdependencies that systems thinking postulates.

The Processual-Organic Theory provides an interpretation schema that is non-equivalent to the systemic one. Within the processual horizon investigating informational processes is fundamental. The human social existence and its incumbent objects of study are viewed as processualities, existences that are in far from equilibrium states, able to redefine and rebuild themselves on different functional principles. In the new optic the chief relevance is held by modeling the processes involved in the objects’ existence and their becoming, rather than identifying structures and functions.

By the ontological, epistemical and praxiological openings made possible by the two theories, they become two major “candidates” for the status of “paradigm”, interpreted as an adequate framework of choice for future scientific research.

II. PROPOSED VOLUME TITLES

1. *Systems and Processualities: A Critical Approach of Two Attempts to Explain Existence;*
2. *Paradigms of Science: An Inquiry into the Possibilities and Limits of the General Systems Theory and the Processual-Organic Theory*
3. *The Science behind Science: An Inquiry into the Possibilities and Limits of the General Systems Theory and the Processual-Organic Theory*

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* Note: the titles of the chapters are at the choice of the authors.

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IV. INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

- **Page setup:** A4, portrait, margins - 1 inch;
- **Paper Title:** Times New Roman, Bold, Center, Size 15;
- **Author's Name:** Times New Roman, Italic, Center, Size 13, Surname / NAME;
- **Text:** Times New Roman, Justify, Indent at 0,5 inches, size 11, line spacing 1;
- **References:** In accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style (**Author-Date system**). For more details see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
- **The length of the chapters should range between 10-20 pages.**

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