
BOOK REVIEW

Bonea, G.V.: VIOLENȚA BAZATĂ PE GEN: ABORDĂRI TEORETICE ESENȚIALE, Editura Sigma Educational, Bucharest, 2020, p. 191

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Odd enough, the revised book has been published in the “*Contemporary Dilemmas*” collection of the Sigma Educational Publishing House, Bucharest, in 2020, during unprecedented times of a global pandemic, through which the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations (UN) have issued repeated warnings about an increased risk of gender based violence due to the “anthropause” phenomenon and the drastically – and forcefully – modified human behaviors. A worldwide increase of incidents of violence against women has been reported since the severe anti-Covid-19 lockdown measures have first been implemented in early spring 2020, and continued throughout most of the rest of the year (see Menegatti et al., 2020; Ornell et al., 2020; Vora et al., 2020).

What else, then, if not a more than topical contemporary dilemma is gender based violence in times when people are exposed to such drastic changes of behavior and attitudes brought along by the Covid-19 crisis? The book is obviously a result of long-lasting research efforts, but as coincidence has it, it saw the print in a year 2020 that makes the title and subject become even more alluring for professionals such as sociologists, social workers, psychologists etc., but not only. As we find out from the inscription, “*Gender Based Violence: Essential Theoretical Approaches*” (in original: *Violența bazată pe gen: abordări teoretice esențiale*) is a book dedicated to all those who consider gender based violence an affection that harms not only the society, but also the individual, both aggressor and aggressee. Georgiana-Virginia Bonea, researcher at the Research Institute for the Quality of Life (ICCV) next to the National Institute for Economic Research “Costin C. Kiritescu” of the Romanian Academy, dully respects the promise throughout the book, maintaining a line of presentation that allows the reader to understand the content either from a social or an individual perspective. Sociology and psychology intertwine to pinpoint gender based violence.

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The first part of the book (pp. 20-105) is dedicated to the theoretical aspects concerning gender based aggressivity and violence. Different types of gender based violence are dedicated separate sub-chapters (family violence, community violence, racial violence, state violence, discrimination, cultural violence, economic abuse, trafficking etc.), being then backed up by theories that can explain why such kinds of violence occur (patriarchal theories, feminist theories, social learning theory etc.).

The second part (pp. 106-119) is dedicated to the social policies existing around gender based violence. Such policies are undoubtedly attributed with an important role towards combatting violence. The focus then draws to the efforts made by Romania in combatting gender based violence, yet the author warns that, although looking at social policies abroad might be helpful, these should not be simply replicated within the national context, but adapted to the socio-cultural specifics of Romania (p. 107). Thereupon, the use of a comparative research design for this second part seems more than appropriate: Romania in chapter II.2. versus the rest of the world in chapter II.3., with concluding remarks following shortly thereafter.

The third part continues the comparative analysis, this time between Romania and the European Union, using statistical data from various Eurobarometers and choosing a feminist design in order to highlight some trends of gender based violence in Romania (pp. 120-139). The fourth and final part of the book (save the Conclusions) deals with the perceptions around the image of the woman and the image of the man in the contemporary society, highlighting that the roles within couples or families have changed once mentalities have changed as well.

To round up, the current Covid-19 crisis might itself accelerate some alterations in human mentalities, which, at their turn, can possibly effect on the roles of men and women in society and, subsequently, might also lead to particularities or peculiarities in gender based violence. A *contemporary dilemma* more than ever...

References

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