

**Polemical Social Representations in
Transition European Societies: the Case
of Monarchy in Romania (1989 – 2009)**

By Nicolae Drăgușin

- Research questions
 - how do the resources of the collective imaginary in the national history shape actors, behaviors and public discourses in the political sphere?
 - Could social representations be a tool in the struggle for power?
 - If so, in which conditions?
 - How did social representations of monarchy –nucleus and peripheral elements- evolve as a result of political significations?
 - In which way the polemical social representations pro and anti-monarchy generate and establish democratic behaviors in a society that experienced a totalitarian regime for almost five decades?

- Working hypothesis.
 - polemical social representations which fuel the pro and anti-monarchy streams ground democratic behaviors in a society that experienced a totalitarian regime for almost 50 years. Precisely, the main features of the representations of monarchy relates rather to idea of change than to the one of kingdom.

- Objectives

- The analysis of generation and the content of social representations (SR) regarding the monarchy in three particular phases: the epoch of Kingdom (1866 – 1947), the communist period (1948 – 1989) and the post-communism.
- The concentration of the investigation on the polemical social representations that generate the pro and anti-monarchy streams in post-communism: nucleus and peripheral elements of the SR, the processes of anchoring and objectification, the dimensions of SR (information, the field of representation and attitude), factors of construction and change, the interaction of the SR, propaganda, ideology.
- The role of the political SR (particularly polemical SR in Romania) as originators of democratic behaviors and ferments of change.

- Methodology
 - Case study (answer questions: how? Why?)
 - Interview (group interviews and creative interviews)
 - Content analysis