

CONSTANTIN POPESCU
Life like Tragic Optimism – An Ecolonomic Perspective
ASE Publishing House, Bucharest, 2011

The distinguished Professor PhD Constantin Popescu from the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, who has accustomed us with a new approach in the field of the economic sciences, moving the focus from the purely material aspects of the human activity to the holistic ones, wrote a new book issued in 2011 by the well-known ASE Bucuresti Publishing House. The book is entitled “Life like tragic optimism – an ecolonomic perspective.”

As the title indicates, this is a book about life and its optimism, considered somehow tragic by an economist, who has been concerned for years with the balanced economic growth, based on production functions, rigorous from a mathematic point of view, and has done it successfully. How do we explain Professor Constantin Popescu’s new approach?

As any other science, the economic science has its limits and the ones trying to overcome them are fervently looking for research hints in other sciences, hints that could add perspective to their quest.

From the very beginning, medicine was one of the sciences that have inspired economists, along with the mechanics and the physics. Let us remember the fact that the economic circuit is similar to the blood circuit. Towards the end of the 20th century, the similarities between the two fields have been consolidated focusing on the nervous system, including the rational and the irrational features, highlighting the role of emotions and feelings in the decision-making process. We hear the terms neuroeconomics and psychoeconomics more often lately. In the same context we include the research of the author, leading to what he calls “ECOLONOMICS” and to which he has also dedicated a hymn (4th page of the book). I quote one line from this hymn only to stimulate your interest: “Ecolonomics means love: accomplish it in order to heal the man.”

The book addresses a new theory, if we can call it this way, the theory of the “living whole” and life is the most important part of this whole, as an expression of the systemic wisdom of this complex environment.

Based on advanced interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary studies, Professor Constantin Popescu has managed to synthesize a new paradigm expressed by “integrated whole”, analyzing economics as a living body, as part of ecology, calling it ecolonomics.

I confess that while going through this book I warmly recommend, I had the feeling that the author replaces the well-known picture of economics represented by economists through demand and supply curves, by a new one reflecting this field rather as work and love intertwining, meaning living in harmony with the micro and macro-universe, than demand and supply crossing. In lieu of the alleged invisible hand abusively invoked by some economists, Professor Constantin Popescu tackles the homeostasis of the living system (ecology), with inputs, transformations and outputs, in close connection with the other systems developed or not by man.

This perspective on economics, in which life, in all its complexity, must be the focus, as being a unique and irreversible experience in this world of transition, entitles us to claim that Professor Constantin Popescu, my former chair fellow, initiates a new approach of the economic science, based not only on the apparent and immediate profit, but also on the integrated whole benefit in which life translates in wisdom, harmony, knowledge, ecology, rationality, hope, faith, spirituality, culture and love.

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