

## ***FROM MODERN DISCIPLINARY “SCIENCE” TO POSTMODERN<sup>1</sup> TRANSDISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE***

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**Abstract:** After a short description of my quarrel with (the concept of) “science” and its derivatives (see previous Editorials in ETC in the last years) I enlarge the discussion with new arguments and new suggestions for further research. My starting point is that the concept of “science” is an obsolete one with bad consequences to the knowledge creation and even to “science” itself. “Science” is a post-feudal construction that modernity developed in its previous feudal structures instead of replacing them, and it is still taught in most universities today, in the postmodern times. Former “science” could be divided into “research” and “knowledge”, just in order to have more specific and clear distinction between a) (re)searching and b) finding something new. Some may say “knowledge” is too large and no distinctions can be made against philosophy and religion. So, what? The borders are futile in a globalized reality. The feudal arrogance of the (quasi) modern “science” needs to be replaced with the democratic meritocracy of any new idea able to enrich our knowledge. Old modern “science” started with disciplines as feuds with big walls and a feudal in the top of the hierarchy which is frightened of new ideas that could replace his monopoly with oligopoly or with a competitive market of new ideas. Of course the “scientific” feudal is interested in stealing new ideas, in borrowing others’ ideas and promoting them as being his merit. This old style structure of “scientific” research has a bad management and a very low rate of return. The side effect of any euro/ dollar invested in “scientific” research is still to be evaluated and to clearly appreciate its effectiveness. Nowadays, at least in Europe, research is a public/ social affair with low public effects and especially with private/ individual benefits. In Information Era, in Knowledge Economy, the accent is put nor to information, nor to knowledge, but to “science”, i.e. to an unclear reality of mixing up good intentions with personal interests and financial matters. Here could be found the roots of plagiarism, onerous contracts and a lot of imposture in the “scientific” life. This is a good explanation of lack of researches and studies in research management. I suggest interested people to converge the efforts to change this reality. No revolutionary movement is necessary; just honest attitudes and real interest in desocialization of “science”.

**Keywords:** “science”, research, knowledge, disciplinary research, transdisciplinarity, postmodernity

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<sup>1</sup> Just because there are many definitions of and attitudes towards postmodernity I confess my own one. By postmodern thinking I understand something (relatively) different of modern thinking, after modern period (closed at mid of last century, but in Romania about the eighties) and having some characteristic features: melting up of ideas, tastes, disciplines or former hierarchies. Also, I think modernity made disciplinarity and specialization as its great success, but postmodernity is melting disciplines, forming interdisciplines, then, postmodern thinkers try to fill up the empty space among disciplines and interdisciplines with new knowledge. In Romania, postmodern attitude was first of all in poetry and later in philosophy. Some make sharp distinctions between postmodernity and transmodernity, but I consider anything non modern is postmodern. **George Soros** is critical to the postmodern realities: “The postmodern idiom do not recognize reality, but only the narrative. I think this position is as erroneous as the illuminist positivism. The truth is somewhere in the middle. ...The extreme relativism of our postmodern society does not offer us a satisfactory criterion for truth and false, good and bad.” (Soros, 2007, p. 37) (my translation from Romanian).