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Anthropologies and Singularities in Marginalia of the Volume *"În căutarea esenţei umane în epoca hiper-individualismului – Antropologie filosofică, culturală şi medicala [In Search of the Human Essence in the Age of Hyper-Individualism. Philosophical, Cultural and Medical Anthropology]"*, Lumen, 2025, authors Marius Dumitrescu & Anca Sava

Antonio SANDU [1]

[1] PhD. prof. habil., „Ştefan cel Mare" University, Suceava, antonio1907@gmail.com, ORCID: http://orcid.org/0000-0001-6605-3453

Abstract: *This review examines "În căutarea esenţei umane în epoca hiper-individualismului – Antropologie filosofică, culturală şi medicală [In Search of the Human Essence in the Age of Hyper-Individualism. Philosophical, Cultural and Medical Anthropology] by Marius Dumitrescu and Anca Sava, a significant interdisciplinary work bridging philosophical and biomedical anthropology. The volume introduces the concept of anthropological singularity—a critical threshold where traditional frameworks of human development become insufficient for predicting societal evolution. The authors analyze hyper-individualism as a symptom of profound alienation within hypervisual culture, where algorithms increasingly shape identity and social interaction. Through balanced critique, they articulate possibilities for preserving essential humanity amid technological transformation, avoiding both technophobic rejection and naive celebration of progress. This work offers a crucial conceptual framework for navigating contemporary challenges of transhumanism, artificial intelligence, and human-machine interfaces while maintaining continuity with fundamental human values. The book addresses academics and general readers concerned with authenticity, community, and human dignity in the twenty-first century.*

Keywords: *Marius Dumitrescu; Anca Sava; technological singularity; hypervisual culture; hyperindividualism.*

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Introduction

We find ourselves today at a point of inflection in human history, a threshold of a singularity not merely technological, but also anthropological, where the very nature of our humanity is called into question. In this context of radical transformations, the volume *In Search of the Human Essence in the Age of Hyper-Individualism*, authored by Professor Marius Dumitrescu in collaboration with Professor Anca Sava and published by Lumen Publishing House, emerges as a necessary and courageous intervention in contemporary debates about what it means to be human in the twenty-first century.

This work represents a felicitous encounter between two complementary perspectives: philosophical anthropology, represented by the contribution of Professor Marius Dumitrescu, a philosopher with a substantial body of work in the field of philosophical anthropology and the philosophy of psychoanalysis, and biomedical anthropology, brought with finesse and rigor by Professor Anca Sava. Together, the authors succeed in constructing a unified theory of the current human condition, situating their analysis at the intersection of the biological and the cultural, the material and the spiritual, the individual and the community.

What makes this volume particularly relevant to the current moment is precisely its capacity to articulate a plea for preserving humanity in the face of the threat of progressive dehumanization, for awareness of human essence in an era characterized by fragmentation, exacerbated individualism, and increasingly pronounced dependence on technology. This is not a book of "technological apocalypse," but rather a work of profound reflection on how we can navigate the challenges of our age without losing our fundamental identity.

Anthropological singularity and the crisis of traditional humanism

The entire argument contained in the volume brings to mind a central concept, though not explicitly stated as such: that of anthropological singularity. This structures the volume's entire argumentation and can be configured as a notion constructed on the model of technological singularity, but with far more profound implications for understanding the human condition. While technological singularity is generally understood as that moment in the history and becoming of humanity when artificial intelligence becomes self-sufficient in relation to human intelligence, anthropological singularity, as we can conceptualize it from the authors' vision, marks that critical point at which the laws of social development, of traditional human development, are called into question or become insufficient to predict the future development of society.

The authors do not fall into the trap of technological simplification. Anthropological singularity cannot be reduced to a mere consequence of technological progress but must be situated in a much broader context of cultural, social, and even biological transformations. The current moment of singularity is characterized by the transition toward a visual culture—which the authors discuss by hypostatizing it into a hypervisual culture, in which the preponderance of software or algorithms tells us what to believe, whom to accept, whom to reject, how to manifest ourselves in a particular society.

This analysis of the transition from traditional humanism to what is generally called post-humanism or neo-humanism acquires profound dimensions when placed in the context of the decline of community and the rise of hyper-individualism. This is not merely a shift in philosophical paradigm but a structural transformation of how we understand ourselves as human beings and how we relate to one another. It is, ultimately, a crisis of the very measure of humanity.

Hyper-individualism as a symptom of contemporary alienation

One of the most incisive analyses in the volume concerns the phenomenon of hyper-individualism, which the authors identify not as a primary cause but as a symptom, a superficial manifestation of a much deeper alienation. Here, the implicit dialogue with Karl Marx becomes evident, but the authors move beyond Marxist economic reductionism to explore the alienation of the individual not from their labor but from their fundamental substrate, from the very collective human consciousness that confers upon man the measure of his own humanity.

The hyper-individualization discussed by Marius Dumitrescu and Anca Sava is not a deliberate political project, nor even a planned technological project, but an anthropological given, an intrinsic tendency of modern social evolution. Society tends, in an almost inevitable movement, from a form in which community predominated toward a form in which the individual predominates. This hyper-individualization causes certain cultural anchors, certain modes through which for centuries or millennia we have represented our own humanity, to be interrupted, to be called into question, and ultimately to be rejected by a large minority, still, of the population that claims the status of human being.

The paradox the authors discover is striking: hyper-individualism leads not to a stronger affirmation of authentic individuality but to a common loneliness in the face of the machine, to an isolation that makes authentic communication and discussion in a humanistic manner, with a

veritable human presence, impossible. The hyper-isolated individual is not freer but more alienated from himself and from his fellows.

The encounter between philosophy and medicine: the biological and the cultural

The interdisciplinary structure of the volume, which brings together philosophical anthropology with biomedical anthropology, is not a mere juxtaposition of perspectives but a methodological necessity imposed by the very nature of the subject matter addressed. This concerns the encounter between the biological and the cultural, the understanding that human essence cannot be reduced to either its purely biological dimension or its purely cultural or spiritual one.

Professor M. Dumitrescu's approach brings into discussion the entire tradition of philosophical anthropology, from Plato to contemporary phenomenology, exploring the ways in which Western thought has attempted to define and understand the human condition. Perspectives that include psychoanalytic analysis, the study of human becoming, and the exploration of fundamental existential themes provide the theoretical framework with depth and nuance.

Complementarily, Professor A. Sava's contribution introduces the biomedical dimension, essential for the concrete understanding of the human body, its vulnerability, its limits, but also its potential. This medical perspective is not reductionist but integrative, recognizing that the biological dimension of human existence is inextricably linked to psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions.

The encounter between these two perspectives creates an especially fruitful analytical framework for exploring contemporary problems related to transhumanism, human biological enhancement, human-machine interfaces, and all the other challenges that characterize our era. The authors succeed in maintaining the balance between technological enthusiasm and humanistic prudence, between openness to the future and fidelity to what essentially defines us as human beings.

Hypervisual culture and new forms of control

Another central aspect of the analysis in the volume is the understanding of how the transition to a predominantly visual and hypervisual culture transforms not only how we relate to information but the very structure of our thinking. The authors observe with acuity how

algorithms and artificial intelligence guide our choices, model our preferences, and influence the manifestation of identity in social space.

This analysis does not fall into technophobic paranoia, but neither does it ignore the real dangers. The authors recognize that the use of artificial intelligence is not problematic in itself; the real problem consists in the power relationship between man and technology. The book thus becomes a plea for a conscious humanity, for a humanity in which we use artificial intelligence, not it uses us.

This distinction is crucial and structures the entire vision of the book. It is not a matter of rejecting technology or returning to an impossible and moreover undesired pre-technological state. It is a matter of maintaining clear consciousness of our human purposes and of using technology as an instrument in the service of these purposes, not as an end in itself that comes to define and control us.

Preserving humanity in the post-human era

Perhaps the most important contribution of the volume consists in the way the authors articulate the possibility of preserving humanity even in the context of a transition toward what many call post-humanism. This is not about a rigid conservatism that rejects any change but about a mature vision that recognizes that any authentic transformation must preserve continuity with what is essentially human.

The book thus becomes a work of constructive resistance, a defense of humanity not through the negation of change but through the affirmation of those values and principles that transcend technological and social changes. It is a plea for humanity 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, and all future versions to remain fundamentally human, to preserve the connection with the anthropological substrate that defines us as a species and as a civilization.

The authors are aware that this struggle for preserving humanity is not easy and does not have a guaranteed outcome. The forces pushing toward dehumanization are powerful: the economic pressure of maximum efficiency, the seduction of technological power, the attractiveness of an apparent transcendence of human limits. Nevertheless, the book conveys a message of tempered hope, suggesting that the struggle is worth waging and that the outcome is not predetermined.

Contemporary relevance and future challenges

The volume by M. Dumitrescu and A. Sava acquires special relevance in the context of recent developments in the field of artificial

intelligence. The emergence of increasingly sophisticated AI systems makes the questions raised by this book increasingly urgent. How far can we go in the direction of integrating technology into our lives without losing our human essence? How can we maintain autonomy and authenticity in a world where algorithms sometimes know us better than we know ourselves?

The book does not offer simple answers to these complex questions, but it offers something perhaps more important: a conceptual framework for thinking about these problems in an integrated manner. This interdisciplinary approach is essential for navigating the challenges of the future.

A special merit of the volume is also the fact that the authors do not limit themselves to purely theoretical analysis but direct their attention also to the practical implications of the transformations they discuss. Whether we speak of the impact of technology on interpersonal relationships, of transformations in the medical field and healthcare, or of how education must be rethought to prepare young people for a rapidly changing world, the book offers valuable perspectives and suggestions for reflection.

Conclusions

The volume *In Search of the Human Essence in the Age of Hyper-Individualism* by Marius Dumitrescu and Anca Sava establishes itself as a major contribution to contemporary debates about the nature of humanity in the technological age. Through the felicitous encounter between philosophical anthropology and biomedical anthropology, through incisive analyses of phenomena such as hyper-individualism and anthropological singularity, and through the capacity to articulate a balanced vision between openness to the future and fidelity to human essence, this book becomes essential reading for anyone interested in the challenges of our era.

This is not a book of reactionary resistance to progress, nor a naive celebration of technology. It is a mature work of philosophical and scientific reflection that invites us to think seriously about what it means to be human today and what it should mean to be human tomorrow. It is, ultimately, a plea for a conscious humanity, for a humanity that preserves its own measure even when traversing zones of singularity and radical transformation.

In an era when we are bombarded with apocalyptic discourses about the end of humanity or with utopian visions about transcending human limits, the book by M. Dumitrescu and A. Sava offers something rare and precious: a middle way that recognizes both the dangers and the opportunities of the current moment, and that invites us to participate consciously in shaping our common future.

The special merit of the authors consists in their capacity to remain rigorously interdisciplinary without falling into superficiality, to be critical of the present without becoming nihilistic, and to be optimistic about the future without becoming naive. This balancing of perspectives makes the volume a valuable resource both for the academic environment and for the general public interested in fundamental problems of human existence in the twenty-first century.

The book addresses not only specialists in philosophy or medicine but all those who live and feel the tensions of our era, all those who ask themselves how to remain authentic in a world that seems to value more and more algorithmic conformism, how to preserve the connection with other people in a society of common loneliness/singularity, how to cultivate their humanity in a culture that sometimes seems to devalue it.

This is a book that deserves to be read, meditated upon, and discussed by all those who ask themselves serious questions about the direction in which humanity is heading and about the responsibility we each have in shaping this direction. Ultimately, the volume by Marius Dumitrescu and Anca Sava reminds us that the future is not predetermined, that the anthropological singularity we are traversing is not a fatality but a challenge that invites us to profound reflection and conscious action.

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Dumitrescu, M. & Sava, A. (2025). *În căutarea esenței umane în epoca hiper-individualismului – Antropologie filosofică, culturală și medicală [In Search of the Human Essence in the Age of Hyper-Individualism. Philosophical, Cultural and Medical Anthropology*]. Lumen.