



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



Fondul Social European
POSDRU 2007-2013



Instrumente Structurale
2007-2013



MINISTERUL
EDUCAȚIEI ȘI
CERCETĂRII
ȘTIINȚIFICE

OIPOSDRU



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ

Investește în oameni !

FONDUL SOCIAL EUROPEAN

Programul Operațional Sectorial pentru Dezvoltarea Resurselor Umane 2007 – 2013

Axa prioritară nr.1 „Educația și formarea profesională în sprijinul creșterii economice și dezvoltării societății bazate pe cunoaștere”

Domeniul major de intervenție 1.5 “Programe doctorale și post-doctorale în sprijinul cercetării”

Titlul proiectului: “**Cultura română și modele culturale europene: cercetare, sincronizare, durabilitate**”

Beneficiar: **Academia Română**

Numărul de identificare al contractului: POSDRU/159/1.5/S/136077

Epistolary creativity and the emergence of a political and literary vocation at Niccolo Machiavelli

Tutor:

Prof. univ. dr. Viorel PANAITE

PhD candidate:

Bogdan-Cazimir Hâncu

*This paper was written within the project “**Cultura română și modele culturale europene: cercetare, sincronizare, durabilitate**”, cofinanced by the European Union and the Government of Romania from the European Social Fund through the Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013, funding contract no. POSDRU/159/1.5/S/136077.*

Bucharest, 2015



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



Fondul Social European
POSDRU 2007-2013



Instrumente Structurale
2007-2013



MINISTERUL
EDUCAȚIEI ȘI
CERCETĂRII
ȘTIINȚIFICE

OIPOSDRU



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Dynamics of power of power in the Machiavellian State	6
The interdependence between eroticism and power at Machiavelli	19
The Machiavellian wise man between eroticism and power	31
Conclusions	46
Bibliography	49



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



Fondul Social European
POSDRU 2007-2013



Instrumente Structurale
2007-2013



MINISTERUL
EDUCAȚIEI ȘI
CERCETĂRII
ȘTIINȚIFICE
OIPOSDRU



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ

Summary

Different from the usual patterns of analysis for the Machiavellian texts, our approach focuses on the amicable correspondence of the Italian thinker, the literary style and his tendency to rewrite the historiography and the political thinking on the basis of the Roman political culture and also on the complex analysis of Italy's situation, by introducing lyrical, dramatic and tragic elements in his political texts. This is why, in this research, we use the triangular method of analysis for the various documentary sources (amicable correspondence and the political and literary writings), correlating them in order to emphasize the three dimensions that still make Machiavelli so interesting for a research: the public dimension of the politician and diplomat, the public but also the private aspects of the scholar and the profoundly intimate and paradoxically dimension of the man who writes amicable letters with the same passion with which he wrote political theories for the liberation of Italy.

The goal of the first chapter resides in a fundamental issue: how can we define the relation between the Leader, the State, the political power and the eroticism, in Machiavelli's thinking, taking into consideration the fact that the relations between states, as the personal relations, are influenced by the power balance between the dominator and the dominated. Thus, we analyzed the manner in which *lo stato* manifests itself in the field of the political practices, as the fundamental purpose of those who desire or have the power, and the power relation existing between Fortuna and the political man.

The basis of the second chapter is the idea that the vision of the erotic dynamics between the dominator and the dominated is complementary to the Machiavellian theory of the dynamics of power in the State. The interdependence between the two human dimensions, *eroticism* and *politics*, manifestations of the intimate and public space, is not a simple mixture of vulgarity and gravity but a manner of understanding the contradictions, the originality and the modernity of the Machiavellian thinking.



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



Fondul Social European
POSDRU 2007-2013



Instrumente Structurale
2007-2013



OIPOSDRU



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ

In this chapter the analysis of the complex relation between eroticism and power starts from two important questions: to what extent the politics is the continuation of the sexual eroticism, by other means? And to what degree the private space, in which the sexuality unfolds, is really separated from the public space, of the political manifestation, in Machiavelli's works?

In the third chapter, we analyzed Machiavelli's theatrical piece *Mandragola*, starting from the premise that the literary space, and the comical one in particular, can become a projection of the politics. The image of the wise man found in *The Prince*, in *Discourses*, and in Machiavelli's correspondence, finds in *Mandragola* its feminine counterpart (in Lucretia), which completes, by her youth, the depth of knowledge.

The Machiavelli "scandal", built by denigrators and apologists altogether, was actually a process of individualization and of development of the political man in accordance with that of the State, which he serves or seizes. This process was based on the contradiction of the Machiavellian thinking: that of connecting the feeling of the finitude of human existence with the need of freedom and self determination, the taste for rationality with that for fantasy, the thinking with acting, in the knowledge of what it is and the intuition of what could be.

The key of understanding the game of humor, irony, depth and lucidity is clearly captured in this rewriting of a sestet from the 102 sonnet of the Petrarchian *Canzoniere*: "Però se alcuna volta io rido o canto,/Follo perchè io non ho se non questa una,/Via da sfogare il lio acerbo pianto". The idea of the coexistence of the contradictions is essential for the definition of the Machiavellian wise man. The alternation between the extremes "serious" and "superficial", solemn and comical, proposes an equal dignity for the two, asserting their coexistence in the human behavior as an image of vitality and wisdom.