

# POSTMODERN ACADEMIC RUBBISH

By Pablo J. DAVOLI

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I) Throughout the last years, I have started to perceive a leaden “atmosphere” which annoys me and has taken over our university senates and the different academic events, which take place in our country. <sup>(1)</sup> I essentially mean the sphere of “humanistic” and/or “social” knowledge. And, of course, I am generalizing because, without any doubt, there still are exceptions (Thank God!).

Our debates have been “tied” to certain “*common places*” as a rule. They orbit once and again around these places, trapped in their “gravitation force”. Ideas and their complex dynamics <sup>(2)</sup> have been confined within the “*limits of an authorized opinion*”. <sup>(3)</sup> This “scene”, which provides only a few “options”, all of them derived from the same philosophical and dogmatized “matrix”, “aborts” at the same time any epistemologically attempt, which could authentically be

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<sup>1</sup> Without prejudice of the aforementioned, and talking about an exclusively personal experience, I am fully aware of the fact that the problem posed is a reality in many places of the world.

<sup>2</sup> First and foremost, this process implies development and then, circulation, exchange and contrast of ideas “*on the go*”. Eventually, these may go through a synthesis. But, as it is logically supposed, there also occur transmutations and discards.

<sup>3</sup> The expression was coined by the Argentinean researcher and political analyst Adrián SALBUCHI (according to: SALBUCHI, A., “*El Cerebro del Mundo. De la Globalización al GOBIERNO MUNDIAL*”, fifth edition (updated and enlarged), Ediciones del Copista, Córdoba, 2010, page 51.

an alternative. Not for nothing, many people have denounced the imposition of a "*pensée unique*" (single thought). (4)

These "barriers" have been imposed by a "*politically correct*" ideological structure, completely functional to certain power factors that operate globally. The capacity of the said ideological "frameworks" to reduce thinking, to narrow and to direct debates and to delimit knowledge is truly fearsome. Such terrible effectiveness comes from, among other causes, having taken possession of the vast majority of the sources and fields in which the "*intelligentsia*", "*authors*", teachers and students sate and educate.

In short, all of us ("*intelligentsia*", "*authors*", teachers and students) repeat in essence the same. Our speeches articulate around dogmatized concepts about the "matrix" of the "*politically correct*" thinking. Therefore, the different "positions" supposedly theoretical and eventually, accepted doctrines (in front of the social, political, economic, etc., reality) do not essentially differ in almost anything.

But there is more: we have not only become obstinate "repeaters" of particular notions that -at most- are "recycled" to be given a new look or to "*make the most of them*". And no more... Besides, we do our "mechanical

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<sup>4</sup> We are not referring to the "*one-dimensional thinking*" pointed out by the German-Jewish philosopher and sociologist Herbert MARCUSE, whose intellectual contribution -in our opinion- had a singular importance in order to prevent the "outlines of the *authorized opinion*" from being overflowed in the last five decades.

By no means are we mentioning the "*pensée unique*" defined by the great German philosopher Arthur SCHOPENHAUER.

When quoting the expression, we are referring to the ideological paradigm artificially imposed on our times by the peculiar oligarchic, plutocratic, technocratic, cosmopolitan and globalizing elite, which has accomplished a global supremacy. Such paradigm is composed of an only and fundamental "*matrix*" and a very limited "collection" of secondary variants, derived from that.

gyroscopic" job using the same terminology. This "prefabricated and canned" glossary, deliberately prepared by our "teachers of the speech" (5) to operate at the service of the "politically correct" ideological structure. This allegedly academic and scientific (6) "neo-language" strengthens the "walls" of the narrow "passages" through which thinking is forced to wander at present. The "neo-chatter" constitutes a sort of reassurance for confining our ideas.

II) So, which is the result of this worrisome state of things? Regarding emotions, one of the most tangible effects is nuisance, extreme boredom, tedium... Actually, under those poorly stimulating conditions, scientific, theoretical and academic activities have become a waste of time. In general, our lessons, dissertations and debates have become -to a great extent- dull. Their contents are standardized. They twirl constantly around the same fundamental concepts and they are docilely tied to the same "ideas-force". (7) They use the same words catalogue to be expressed; a terminology that is subtly controlled.

It is true that these "ideas-force" present an evident wear and tear due to their never-ending repetition. But it is equally true that this alienating discursive mechanics, artificially established and supported thanks to the authentic power factors of the contemporary world, has "narcotized" a large part of our "intelligentsia". In other words: in spite of its "erosion", these "ideas-

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<sup>5</sup> The expression was coined by the Israeli journalist and writer Israel SHAMIR (according to: <http://www.israelshamir.net/Spanish/DiscourseSp.htm>; "Web site" consulted on 12/29/12).

<sup>6</sup> "Newspeak" is the expression coined by the British writer George ORWELL in his famous futuristic dystopian novel "Nineteen Eighty-Four".

<sup>7</sup> The "ideas-force" constitutes guidelines of men's thinking and action. They are part of the activity of those in charge: and the one in charge directs the ideas to the group subordinated to him, in a clear, brief, motivating and mobilizing way in order to solve a particular situation, to promote a project, to frame an acting, to reinforce a mission and/or to support a particular "view". The "idea-force" lies in the essence of this kind of messages. It is usually made up of a few words, containing strong symbolic connotations, capable of reflecting complete meanings and capable of strongly affecting the mood of its addressees.

*force*” still are extremely effective in the support of the dogmatic “*matrix*” which torments our intelligence because now it works as a wicked “*mantra*”. In this context, the debates that are held at present translate divergences that are merely “internal”. It is about pure “domestic” disputes and therefore, superficial.

III) Alongside the expanded boredom caused by such “scene” and intimately connected to that phenomenon, there is another consequence, even worse, namely: the dilution of the sense of the intellectual activity. Our ideas “swim” –between disoriented and desperate– in a “*sea of uncertainty*” (8) that, previously stroked by several “*tsunamis*”, it has “swallowed” our “world view”. They jump from one “*island of certainty*” (9) to another, but they are not capable of “building bridges” between them. If these “points of firm ground” were linked, these routes would allow rebuilding a solid (and not liquid) “*weltanschauung*” (world view). (10)

Because the ideological structure that has been imposed on us is based on the idea of no-true. It comes from purely negative assumptions like the non-existence of essences and the powerlessness of the intellect. “Daughter” of the late Modernity and heiress of its terrible “ruins”, she showed herself to be completely incapable of putting up with the corresponding grief and to be pathetically useless to build anything. Traumatized by collapse, marked by failure and supportive of a fundamental “no”, her offer is reduced to those cheap inhumane “islets” where those who are dominated by the inner “flame” which hurries –despite of burning– the mental conquer of the universe are

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<sup>8</sup> Expression coined by the French philosopher and sociologist Edgar NAHUM (better known as Edgar MORIN).

<sup>9</sup> Another expression from Edgar MORIN.

<sup>10</sup> The Polish-Jewish philosopher and sociologist Zygmunt BAUMAN formulated the concept of “*liquid modernity*” referring to the present stage of our civilization and its extensions and influences on the rest of the world.

suffocated. Because, among other things, “for this we were born and for this we have come into the world”. (11)

Meanwhile, the extremely complex reality (of the subject and his environment) goes on with its dynamics. A reality to which intellectual understanding we were obliged to renounce, expressly or implicitly (it depends on each particular case). The human condition is frustrated due to that deflection, imposed by the “apostles” of the “critics”, that is, the professional “faultfinders”, those who deny compulsively and who are ontologically incapable of any assertion...

That is why it is about a thinking that does not discover or solves anything. A thinking which spins “*in abstracto*”, without being tied to the specific reality of people, the world and circumstances. It is an “autistic” thinking which separates us from our environment, alienating us from ourselves and without giving an answer to any of our problems. On the contrary, in many cases its “outrages” contribute decisively to worsening them. A useless “chitchat”, and why not dangerous... Where the “*known universe*” get blurred and compressed to end up being missing... And the common sense is ruined in a “Kafkaesque” labyrinth of the deliberately confused “*neo-chatter*”.

IV) We do not want to dunk our bread in the dirtiest “uncertainty stock” which was spilled on our “*intelligentsia*”. We despise the “certainty islands” we are offered (for their own interests, by the way) and we prefer to go beyond. We will go deeper “off-shore”, with passion, audacity and devotion... We have hundreds of “cartographic guides”, made by our ancestors and by brilliant men of other cultures... We have amazing technological devices that will help us to

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<sup>11</sup> Paraphrase of the self-referential statement made by Our Lord JESUS CHRIST, therefore KING, expressed in the Gospel of ST. JOHN (Chapter 18, verse 37).

define and redefine, as often as necessary, our "course"... <sup>(12)</sup> And the most important thing, our eyes are well wide open: from the firmament, the Sun and the stars light us up permanently... Our thinking is not clung to the ruins of Modernity. We are not its "widows". We are free from its prejudices.

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<sup>12</sup> In this way, for example, the newest technological developments applied to genetics and neurosciences help us to avoid falling into the trap of the "siren song" of the "gender ideology".