STÉPHANE LUPASCO AS AN ILLUSTRIOUS NEO-RATIONALIST

PETRU IOAN

Stéphane Lupasco’s three logics are three ONTO-LOGICS, or, more precisely, THREE HORIZONS OF AN ALL-INCLUSIVE ONTOLOGY in which the ancient Aristotelian-mediaeval categories of ACT and POTENCY are closely connected with the irrepressible evolution of the Hegelian discourse of BECOMING, to lead us to an original METHODOLOGY OF THE FRACTALS OF ENERGY and help us accept, as naturally as possible, in the closest context, a principle like that of Einstein’s relativity, which seemed to be suspended in the realms of mega-cosmos. ACTUALIZATION (or achievement), POTENTIALIZATION (or virtualization) and STATE EQUIDISTANT TO THE TWO EXTREMES; HOMOGENIZATION (or identification), HETEROGENIZATION (or diversification), and STATE EQUIDISTANT TO THE EXTREMES; OBJECTIFICATION, respectively SUBJECTIFICATION and STATE EQUIDISTANT TO THE TWO EXTREMES – these are the elements in the “stylistic matrix” of a philosophy reminding us, in ample coordinates and in an equally “personal” interpretation, of both Wilhelm Ostwald’s ENERGETISM and Alfred North Whitehead’s ORGANICISM.

Stéphane Lupasco’s thinking, to be seen in the sixteen volumes published during his lifetime, was said to revive “the tradition of a philosophy which is in harmony with the sciences”.

As for the kind of this philosophical tradition, the (sub-)titles of only a few of his books describe it conveniently: Essai d’une nouvelle THÉORIE DE LA CONNAISSANCE (Paris, 1935); De la nécessité et des directives d’une nouvelle LOGIQUE et des mathématiques qu’elle commande. Esquisse d’un nouveau DISCOURS DE LA MÉTHODE (Bucureşti, 1940; Paris, 1941); LOGIQUE et contradiction (Paris, 1947); Le principe de l’antagonisme et la LOGIQUE DE L’ÉNERGIE (Paris, 1951); L’énergie et la matière psychique. Ses LOGIQUES NORMALES ET PATHOLOGIQUES (Paris, 1974); L’homme et ses trois ÉTHIQUES (Paris, 1986).

As for the sciences required to redefine philosophy, they cover the area of knowledge, from MACROSCOPIC PHYSICS and MICROPHYSICS, COSMOLOGY and ASTRONOMY, through CYBERNETICS, MATHEMATICS, BIOLOGY, MEDICINE, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, ETHICS, and so on.

At the junction point of the two axes, the Romanian philosopher writing in French developed a QUANTIC SCIENCE OF CONTRADICTION which illustrates the three-polar character of ENERGY in all its forms of condensation and manifestation: as matter; as spatio-temporality; as system; as universe, or as world; as a range of efficient causality, or final causality; as behavioral adaptability, or failure in

1 Constantin Noica, Forward to: Stéphane Lupasco, Logica dinamică a contradictoriului, Editura Politică, București, 1982, p. 5.
adaptation; as memory; as forgetting; as conceptualization; as a totto genere cognitive approach; as dynamism of conscience and subconscience; as ethics; as "ensignment" and signification; as evaluation; as modalization; as determination; as a critical approach to this or that reason; as (implicit or explicit) dialectics; as (subjacent, or self-conscious) cybernetics; as (spontaneous, or reflected) method, and beyond all this and in terms of all this, as avatar of the logical and of logic.

According to Stéphane Lupasco, (almost) everything is LOGICAL and thus logic is to be found in everything, as in re articulation and also in mente frame.

On the basis of the ample discursive development of a philosophy spanning over more than three decades (Stéphane Lupasco’s first philosophy volume was published in 1935, and his last one in 1986), we came to disagree to the idea of a GENERALIZED LOGIC OF THE CONTRADICTORY and its congeners (logic of the INCLUDED CONTRADICTION, logic of the INCLUDED TERTIARY, DYNAMIC LOGIC OF ANTAGONISM, ANTAGONIST LOGIC OF ENERGY, etc.), an idea embraced by the philosopher in an Aristotelian and Hegelian exclusive spirit, and, somehow outside LOGIC and METALOGIC (or PROTOLOGIC), by physicists, biologists, psychologists and anthropologists, 2 etc.

We agree, on the other hand, to the idea of a THREE-POLAR DYNAMIC METHODOLOGY,3 “to know the world and change it”,4 a methodology placing the philosopher born at the turn of the century in the line of another reformer of science and epistemology, Charles Sanders Pierce.

The THREE-POLAR DIAGRAM OF THE ENERGETIC STATES, this original “science de l’entre-deux”5 in Georges Lerbert’s terms, also implies the idea of the LEVELS OF REALITY (respectively of PERCEPTION and COGNITION in general), convincingly


3 The phrase might just as well be equivalent to “THREE-POLED DYNAMIC LOGIC”, because Ştefan Lupaşcu considers “logic”, “experience” and “method” to be synonymous terms. Cf.: Stéphane Lupasco, Logique et contradiction, P. U. F., Paris, 1947, p. 220.


studied by Basarab Nicolescu (in terms of the "quantic revolution", as "a simple and obvious explanation of the inclusion of the tertiary"), also the idea of antagonism and the one of becoming that the philosopher living in the age of the expansion of the "quantic" spirit and the "microphysical experience" into the very human thinking could not accept whole-heartedly.

Notwithstanding Stéphane Lupasco’s reactions of rejection, and a few attempts to describe the origins of the irrational in contemporary science and art, he is an illustrious representative of RATIONALISM, a NEO-RATIONALIST or, perhaps, a SUPER-RATIONALIST, simply because he touched on all the dominants of REASON, the way they are described by Gilles-Gaston Granger.

We specifically state that Stéphane Lupasco: (1) expressed the new ideals of cognition and action; (2) imagined new attitudes in the re-signification of the data of experience; (3) opened up new methods of thinking; (4) formulated new principles of stating ideas; (5) illustrated new modalities of dealing with and appraising events; (6) found new rules of decoding the real; (7) described a new kind of conscience; (8) highlighted new ways of certain cognition and just action.

The thesis we defend is justified by the multitude of the discursive manifestations and objectives in the works of Stéphane Lupasco.

Stéphane Lupasco (the philosopher, the epistemologist and the methodologist whose wide range of ideas is largely suggestive of new fields, and whose reconfiguration of reason provides further dimensions to l'esprit du siècle) left his imprint: (1) at the COMBINATORY level, of formal reason; (2) at the LINGUISTIC level; (3) at the AXIOMATIC level; (4) at the ALGORHYTHMIC level; (5) at the level of CONSTRUCTIVE MOVEMENT making of reason the main propulsive force; (6) at the MATHEMATIC level; (7) at the level of CREATION stricto sensu.
At the level of formal combinatorics, Stéphane Lupasco gives due of right – with the most constricting logic – to the simple idea that the mechanism of opposition in any energetic manifestation articulates three rather than two terms, two of the terms in focus being the extremes of dynamism, the middle terms being the most intense collision of the contrary tendencies.

The LINGUISTIC level of reason is abundantly highlighted by the stylistic quality of Stéphane Lupasco’s work, by the accuracy of his discourse in contradistinction with the century-old ideal of non-contradiction, which is why some of the contemporary thinkers see him as an exponent of (non- and anti-Aristotelian) PARA-CONSISTENT logic.14

At the AXIOMATIC level of reason, Stéphane Lupasco expresses the rhythms of “contradictional” reason in “basic” phrases of energetic antagonism and also in combinations of phrases making up DEDUCTION TABLES, respectively ORTHODEDUCTIONS and PARA-DEDUCTIONS, thus tripling the axiomatics of inherited logic, of identifying reason.

Especially in his “quantic” logic, the Romanian philosopher meets with similar approaches, like the logic of quantic mechanics represented by the three-valued Łukasiewicz-type formalisms;15 the logic of quantic mechanics as syntax of the experimental propositions interpreted on sets of points in the “field of phases”;16 the “Ł3E” three-valued (onto)logic, the “Ł3Q” three-valued noeto-logic and the logic of complementarity, studied by Paulette Février;17 the logic of quantic mechanics in the manner of Hans Reichenbach,18 with many other such approaches by H. Margenal,19 Hilary Putnam,20 Ernst Nagel,21 Paul Feyerabend,22 T. A. Brody,23 etc.

Such a revision by integration rather than by dissolution, of Boole’s “algebra” of classes as genres, and of syllogistics as a system of systems including genres, Stéphane Lupasco calls algorhythmics, and the kind of formalism he developed, in terms of a sui generis predictional analysis, seems to be wholly compatible with algorhythmics, which is quite mysteriously changed into support for artificial intelligence.

That the level of the CONSTRUCTIVE MOVEMENT of the spirit is brought into play is seen in the abundant energy with which the philosopher drew, in clear-cut and still pleasant colours, a wide lively network of cognitive facts introducing, much like a Dutch painter, various fields of human knowledge, and all this meeting the requirements of trialectics.

Conversant with mathematics, the way it was in the 1930’s, Stéphane Lupasco did not fail to draw new fields of the science on quantity (discrete but continuous in form) and suggested epistemic approaches, like SYSTEMOLOGY, STRUCTUROLOGY, DIALECTO-METHODOLOGY, etc., never ceasing to put forward the idea that becoming means opposition and equilibrium between extremes.

Familiar with the most diverse manifestations of what was new in knowledge, Stéphane Lupasco is described by Georges Mathieu as “approaching all the domains of thought and life: physics, from mathematics to be sure, biology, medicine, psychology, through arts, dreams, ethics, sociology, to metaphysics and religion”.27

While covering the “rich variety” of the quantic universe, Stéphane Lupasco employed an “epistemology to require a new logic”. It is worth discussing whether the LOGIC OF ENERGY, described as a “fabulously rich work”, is actually a “logic” (either one of the “contradictory dynamism”, or one of “antagonism and the contradictory complementarity”). Failing to see a “T STATE LOGIC” (and its subjacent contradiction), like Edgar Morin, does not mean diminishing the contribution of the Romanian philosopher to the study of the “energetic non-being” which is the becoming and of contradiction as “house of eternity”.

25 Stéphane Lupasco, Qu’est-ce qu’une structure?, 1967, p. 44.
32 Edgar Morin: loc. cit., p. 53.
33 Stéphane Lupasco, Qu’est-ce qu’une structure?, 1967, p. 94.
In the vast “domain of contradiction”\footnote{Michael Finkenthal, \textit{loc. cit.}, p. 224.} (marking off the work of the energetist philosopher) the \textit{THREE-POLAR METHODOLOGY} gives Stéphane Lupasco the stature of Charles Sanders Pierce living only several decades before him.

Deeply connected with the \textit{CONTRADICTION TYPE REASON}, Stéphane Lupasco is to be seen as an exponent of dialectics and scientific hermeneutics.

Who’s afraid of the lessening effect of labelling should not forget that the “\textit{individuality}” of a personality is ultimately a “\textit{packet}”, or a “\textit{condensation}”\footnote{Constantin Noica, \textit{Scrisori despre logica lui Hermes}, Cartea Românescă, Bucureşti, 1986, p. 61.} of generals.

Thinking of Stéphane Lupasco as a great \textit{(NEO)RATIONALIST}, or even a \textit{SUPER-RATIONALIST}, in Gaston Bachelard’s terms,\footnote{Gaston Bachelard, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 137.} does not mean making of him an outsider to his kindred spirits but, rather, making of him an alternative to them, giving him his right of due, one of the great philosophers of his age, maybe “\textit{the greatest 20th century philosopher}”\footnote{Georges Mathieu, \textit{loc. cit.}, p. 27.}.


As a matter of fact, this “\textit{homme de la Promesse}”, this “\textit{figure de l’homme prophétique}”\footnote{Georges Mathieu, \textit{loc. cit.}, p. 27.} is another Hegel, just like he is another Aristotle, another Claude Bernard, another Émile Durkheim and another Henri Bergson.\footnote{Georges Mathieu, \textit{loc. cit.}, p. 27.}

As logic is ultimately the main concern and the beacon of the Romanian philosopher based in Paris, some further discussion is necessary.

The fact that Stéphane Lupasco’s three-polar logic is not out of keeping with the first \textit{Organon} coming to full self-awareness in the field of theoretical science is highlighted not only by the inclusive perspective of the “\textit{science of contradiction}” but also by the triadic configuration of the Stagirite’s logic which superimposes the (practical, or rhetorical) \textit{LOGIC OF PERSUASION THROUGH DISCOURSE} (in the horizon of the opinable) on the (analytical and apodictic) \textit{LOGIC OF THE DEMONSTRATION OF TRUTH}, in between coming a lively \textit{LOGIC (or TOPIC)}, of \textit{FOR AND AGAINST DISCUSSION}, in the horizon of the probable preceding certainty and verisimilitude leading to truth.

This last type, described as such by philosophers after Aristotle, is directly connected with the mechanism of “\textit{orthogenesis}” studied by Stéphane Lupasco.
Mention must be made, as well, that Aristotle’s concept of **MATTER** is superimposed on the “entity containing the contraries of life and death under the umbrella of potentiality”, that is to say of the “contradictory”, and Aristotle’s contribution to the idea of complementarity is now being discussed in terms of the **HYLEMORPHISM** promoted by the ancient philosopher and taken over by his successors.

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, on the other hand, made of logic the pivotal point in philosophy, and if his trichotomy of logic promoted by the triadic schema of the becoming of the soul (as **SUBJECTIVE** spirit, *id est* soul, then conscience and spirit, to be seen in law, morality and the institutions of ethics; as **ABSOLUTE** spirit, *id est* arts, revealed religion and philosophy) were not enough, the three-polar partition dealt with in two of his books is quite revealing.

In Hegel’s philosophy, much like in Stéphane Lupasco’s, one of the “parts” or “moments” of logic (and of “any real logic, *id est* any concept, anything generally true”) asks for and counterbalances (at the maximum tension of contradiction) the other two “parts” or “moments”, in their position of extreme logics. Granted that: (1) the moment of “thought as intellect” and the corresponding logic, of the **BEING**; (2) “the dialectic moment, of negation” and the corresponding logic, of **ESSENCE**; (3) the moment of “the speculative, or the positive rational” and the corresponding logic, of the **CONCEPT**.

Stéphane Lupasco’s three logics are, therefore, three **ONTO-LOGICS**, or, more precisely, **THREE HORIZONS OF AN ALL-INCLUSIVE ONTOLOGY** in which the ancient Aristotelian mediaeval categories of **ACT** and **POTENCY** are closely connected with the irrepressible evolution of the Hegelian discourse of **BECOMING**, to lead us to an original **METHODOLOGY OF THE FRACTALS OF ENERGY**, and help us accept, as naturally as possible, in the closest context, a principle like that of Einstein’s relativity, which seemed to be suspended in the realms of mega-cosmos.

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HETEROGENIZATION (or diversification), and state equidistant to the extremes; OBJECTIFICATION, respectively SUBJECTIFICATION and STATE EQUIDISTANT TO THE TWO EXTREME - these are the elements in the “stylistic matrix” of a philosophy reminding us, in ample coordinates and in an equally “personal” interpretation, of both Wilhelm Ostwald’s ENERGETISM and Alfred North Whitehead’s ORGANICISM. As a promoter of an OPEN RATIONALITY, “flowing rather than frozen”, with echoes in Edgar Morin’s “dialogic”, Stéphane Lupasco meant to “revolutionize the intellect” and actually contributed to it, obliging us, like a contemporary Leibniz, “to reconsider all the problems in the light of logistic mechanisms.”

Learning the lesson of microphysics like no one else, Stéphane Lupasco extended it into the field of sciences of life and, a few years before Niels Bohr, introduced the principle of complementarity taking upon himself the task of exploring cybernetics, psychology and psychotherapy, sociology, ethics and aesthetics. “A forerunner in the field of cognition research from the latest point of view”, Stéphane Lupasco saw the cerebral events as quantic phenomena, manifestations of the “uninterrupted and irresistible becoming” thus contributing in a decisive manner to the “dismemberment” of the psychic system and the display of the dialectics of conscience, signification and resignification, memory and forgetting, etc.

In the spirit of rationalism and under the umbrella of a genuinely rationalizing attitude, Stéphane Lupasco decanted the SCHEMA OF THE THREE MAJOR ENERGETIC STATES, and the surprising pattern helped him consider some unknown fields of mathematization and mathematics-type formalization, and enabled him to find ways to accommodate physics to the multiple layers of reality.

Mention should also be made, in terms of the same three-polar paradigm the Romanian philosopher operated with, of: the “rational coherence” in modelling the psychic universe; the “founding epistemologic lesson” with echoes in the

51 Edgar Morin, loc. cit., p. 44.
52 Georges Mathieu, loc. cit., pp. 18, 27.
53 Dominique Temple, loc. cit., p. 239.
54 Georges Lerbet, loc. cit., p. 137.
55 Michel Random, loc. cit., p. 283.
57 Georges Lerbet, loc. cit., p. 97.
anthropological sciences; the approach to art from an epistemological point of view; the systematization of the ideas on education and school from a new angle; the reconsideration – along new coordinates – of the equilibrium between culture and civilization; the appeal to complementarity in theology; the foundation of a “practical transcosmology”, and “the dynamic conciliation between the biological and the noological, a necessary step after the psychoanalytic one”; the configuration of a “musical-logical axiomatics”, focused on the duality of musical space and time; and many other exemplifications and interpretations.

Due to his guiding ONTO-LOGICAL pattern, Stéphane Lupasco: anticipated by one decade the bootstrap principle which was to be introduced in quantic physics by Geoffrey F. Chew; got into Edgar Morin’s “pantheon”; met in spirit with Olivier-Costa de Beauregard; confirmed Ludovic de Gaigneron in what concerns “the synthetic field conciliating affirmation and negation in a show in which science got rid of nothing else save the negative aspect”; inspired Julien Alvard in L’Art Moral; had Salvador Dali among his disciples, and the series of such occurrences could go on and on.

63 Pompiliu Crăciunescu, loc. cit., pp. 183, 213.
66 Edgar Morin, loc. cit., p. 59.
68 Ludovic de Gaigneron, L’Image ou le Drame de la nullité cosmique, Le cercle du livre, Paris, 1956, pp. 184–185; Barasarb Nicolescu, Le tiers inclus, in loc. cit., p. 120.
69 Georges Mathieu, loc. cit., p. 25.
Obviously so, the strongest echo of Stéphane Lupasco’s consequently rational philosophy is to be found in Basarab Nicolescu’s “trans-disciplinary model of nature and culture”. There are levels of reality and also levels of perception consequent of this paradigm.

As the TRANSDISCIPLINARY SUBJECT is “the whole of the levels of perception and its complementary field of non-resistence”, this discourse will have contributed to the “transdisciplinarization” of a philosopher who, true to LOGIC as “admiral-ship” on the troubled waters of cognition, did not fail to see the manifestations of PARA-LOGIC, or the ineffable field of affectivity, with its character of A-LOGICITY.72


72 With the logic-paralogic-alogic triad in Stéphane Lupasco’s works Marc Beigbeder its first great exegete, deals in: La logique d’antagonisme et ses complémentarités contradictoires, “Nouvelle Acropole”, June–August, 1982, p. 32.