

## THE POWER–KNOWLEDGE IN MICHEL FOUCAULT’S VISION

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**Abstract.** The study relates the idea of the permanence of conflict with the discontinuity effects of conflict and struggle that the order imposed by functionalist or systematizing theories. These theories were previously designed to mask knowledge. Hence, the investigation that relates not only knowledge and power, but also the aspects of conflict, coercion, control and punishment, in fact, analyzes the potential overcoming of the *insurrection of subjugated knowledge*. Thus, power is that force of subjugating and concealing knowledge to the aim of managing conflict.

**Keywords:** power, knowledge, subjugated knowledge, conflict, struggle.

### *Introduction*

One of the main themes of Foucault’s works is the relation power-knowledge and the manner in which humanistic sciences could surprise this theme, approached mostly *Surveiller et punir* translated in English by Alan Sheridan with the title *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* and in Romanian with the title *A supraveghea și a pedepsi*. At first, Foucault conducted a research that followed to “find again that something from which all [knowing] started so that all knowledge and theories to be possible.”<sup>1</sup>

Michel Foucault wrote many books and many books were written about his works confirming the great impact of his ideas<sup>2</sup>. The philosopher was born at Poitiers and he studied at L’Ecole Normale Supérieure de Paris. He was influenced by Nietzsche, Marx, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Jean Hypolitte and Georges Canguilhem. He taught philosophy at Clermont Ferraud University and the history of the systems of thought at College de France.

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<sup>1</sup> This commentary on the relation power-knowledge is from C.O. Schrag, *Resursele raționalității*, translated in Romanian by Angela Botez. Calvin O. Schrag, *Resursele raționalității*, Bucharest, Ed. Științifică, 1999, pp. 74-80.

<sup>2</sup> Works on Foucault: H.L. Dreyfus and P. Rabinow, *Michel Foucault. Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics* (1982), M. Cousins and Athar Hussains, *Michel Foucault* (1984), A.Sheridan - (1986), J. Arac (ed) *After Foucault Humanistic Knowledge Postmodern Challenge* (1988), J. Diamond and L. Quinby, *Feminism and Foucault: Reflection on Resistance* (1988), S. Doring, *Foucault and Literature. Towards a Genealogy of Writing* (1992), Ricardo Miguel-Alfonso and Silvia Coporale-Bizzini (ed), *Reconstructing Foucault: Essays in the Work of the 80* (1994), Gilles Deleuze, *M. Foucault* (trad. în lb. rom.), Cluj-Napoca, Ideea DP. 2002.