

## CHRISTIAN FAMILY VALUES IN ROMANIAN FOLKLORE – PART I

Adrian M. Gheorghe  
Ovidius University of Constanta

**Abstract:** *The present paper is not going to be a socio-psychological approach to human values in general, or to human values in the West (in a general sense, namely as opposed to an equally general East), but specifically a transdisciplinary investigation of how values deemed Christian – irrespective of their degree of universality – concerning the family are crystallized in the Romanian collective imagination as encapsulated in folklore. This is part of a larger transdisciplinary research project in which I address the issue of Christian values within the Romanian family, namely both values as transmitted within and by the family and more general views about the family (as an ultimately sociogenic unit), with a view to identifying the extent to which Christian teachings have influenced the Romanian collective imagination as filtered and transmitted at family level. The very methodology I use is largely feminist, yet it draws on psychoanalytic and theological insights as well.*

*For convenience, I investigate here certain folkloric productions whose availability and familiarity to the general public may render their allusions to Christian values within the Romanian family virtually invisible, unless taken for granted. Reasons of space, however, have made the selection very difficult and have imposed the discussion of certain creations such as folktales in another paper, alongside less familiar folk creations.*