Cultural capital in a rural Moldavian community. Case study

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Abstract. This article presents the results of a social anthropological study conducted in a rural Moldavian community. The investigated population belongs to adult, mature, and elderly age groups. The aim of the study is to highlight the cultural capital present in the community. From the methodological point of view, we used quantitative methods. The results emphasise the specific cultural capital of the local community, and the conclusions can be premises for the further development of the community on the basis of this type of capital.
Keywords*:* local community; social representations; cultural capital.

Capitalul cultural într-o comunitate rurală din Moldova. Studiu de caz. Acest articol prezintă rezultatele unui studiu de antropologie socială realizat într-o comunitate rurală din Moldova. Populația investigată aparține grupelor de vârstă adultă, matură și vârstnică. Scopul studiului este de a evidenția capitalul cultural prezent în comunitate. Din punct de vedere metodologic, am utilizat metode cantitative. Rezultatele subliniază capitalul cultural specific al comunității locale, iar concluziile pot constitui premise pentru dezvoltarea ulterioară a comunității pe baza acestui tip de capital.
Cuvinte cheie: comunitate locală; reprezentări sociale; capital cultural.

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Introduction

This paper presents the results of social anthropological research carried out in Gherăești, Neamț County (Romania), which aims to evaluate the local specificity. We start from the premise that the future of a community can be estimated on the basis of the emphasis placed on the cultural capital of its members. The present study builds upon the article published in the preceding issue of the *Journal of Archaeology, Anthropology, and Interdisciplinary Studies*, wherein the concept of social capital identified within the same community was explored (Fedor 2024). As a result, the focus of our study is on revealing the cultural capital of the local

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community as a predictor of the future. Essentially, the concept of cultural capital refers to a collection of elements that an individual acquires as a result of belonging to a particular community (Fedor 2020).

It can be of two types: embodied cultural capital, which reflects what a person knows and can (knowledge, skills, education), and objectified cultural capital, which refers to physical cultural assets (books, musical instruments, works of art, etc.).

Research methods

The research conducted for this article is quantitative. In our approach, we opted for a "random sample survey by non-repeated selection" (Jaba 2002, p. 283). The study sample comprises 135 investigated subjects. Based on the various forms of capital proposed by Bourdieu (1986), we used a simplified instrument for capturing social representations of the cultural capital of the community under study. The questionnaire consisted of four items (questions), as follows: "I buy books and, in general, I am interested in and keep up to date with everything related to Gherăești"; "I am proud of our history and our popular costume and I show them to others whenever I have the chance"; "I am interested in collecting old objects that remind of traditional Gherăești", respectively, "I pass on everything I know about Gherăești to the younger ones so that they do not forget who we are".

Results and discussions

Demographic data on the research sample

Analysing the gender distribution of the sample reveals a predominance of females, who represent 55.6% of the total number of participants in the study, compared to 44.4% of males.

In terms of age distribution, the majority of respondents are aged between 30 and 64 years (62.2%), followed by those aged over 65 years (37.8%).

In terms of educational attainment, the data show that the highest proportion of respondents had completed 10th grade (29.0%). 22.2% of respondents also reported that they had completed secondary school (grades 5–8), either high school or college. A percentage of 11.1% had completed some form of post-secondary education, while 4.4% indicated primary education (grades I–IV) as their last level of education. As for higher education, 8.9% of the respondents had completed university education, while 2.2% had obtained some form of postgraduate qualification.

Results

Distribution of the sample based on the answers given to the statement *"I buy books and, in general, I am interested in and keep up to date with everything related to Gherăești"*

When respondents were asked through the questionnaire to give their opinion on the statement: *"I buy books, and in general I am interested in and aware of everything related to Gherăești"*, most of them (31.1%) stated that they buy books to a great extent, and in general they are interested in and aware of everything related to Gherăești. The same percentage also ranks the respondents who stated that they are so and so interested in buying books and are aware of everything related to Gherăești. Based on the statistical analysis carried out, it can be seen that the lowest percentage of 4.4% is registered by the respondents who buy books and are generally very much interested in everything related to Gherăești (**Table 1**).

Not at all	13.3%
To a small extent	20.1%
So and so	31.1%
To a large extent	31.1%
Very much	4.4%
Total	**100.0%**

Table 1. I buy books and, in general, I am interested in and keep up to date with everything related to Gherăești.
Tab. 1. Cumpăr cărți și, în general, mă interesează și mă informez despre tot ce ține de Gherăești.

According to the results obtained from the distribution of the sample based on the answers given to the statement *"I buy books and, in general, I am interested in and am informed about everything related to Gherăești"* and gender, it can be seen that the highest percentage of 24.4% is found among the respondents who are female and are so and so interested in everything related to Gherăești. The lowest weights of 2.2% are found among both male and female respondents who like to buy books and are generally very much interested in everything related to Gherăești (**Table 2**).

I buy books and, in general, I am interested in and am aware of everything related to Gherăești	Gender of respondent	
	Male	Female
Not at all	11.1%	2.2%
To a small extent	13.3%	6.7%
So and so	6.7%	24.4%
Largely	11.1%	20.0%
Very high	2.2%	2.2%

Table 2. I buy books and, in general, I am interested in and keep up to date with everything related to Gherăești and gender.
Tab. 2. Cumpăr cărți și, în general, mă interesează și mă informez despre tot ce ține de Gherăești și genul respondentului.

According to the results obtained by analysing the data (**Table 3**), it can be observed that 17.8% of the participants in the study are aged between 30–64 years old and are interested so and so in everything related to Gherăești. It can also be seen that only respondents aged 30–64 years (4.4%) stated that they like to buy books and are generally very interested in everything related to Gherăești. The same percentage is found among respondents over 65 years of age, who stated that they are interested in everything related to Gherăești on the one hand, and on the other hand, they are not interested at all in everything related to Gherăești (**Table 3**).

I buy books and, in general, I am interested in and am aware of everything related to Gherăești	Age	
	30–64 years	65–x years
Not at all	8.9%	4.4%
Somewhat	15.6%	4.4%
So and so	17.8%	13.3%
Largely	15.6%	15.6%
To a very large extent	4.4%	-

Table 3. I buy books and in general I am interested in and keep up to date with everything related to Gherăești and age.
Tab. 3. Cumpăr cărți și, în general, mă interesează și mă informez despre tot ce ține de Gherăești și vârsta respondentului.

Following the results obtained and presented in Table 4, it can be seen that a share of 4.4% was registered only among the respondents who stated that the last level of education was university studies and that they are interested to a very great extent in buying books and are aware of everything related to Gherăești (**Table 4**).

Last level of studies	I buy books and, in general, I am interested in and am aware of with everything related to Gherăești				
	Not at all	To a small extent	So and so	To a great extent	To a very large extent
Primary cycle (1–4 grades)	-	-	4.4%	-	-
Secondary cycle (5–8 classes)	4.4%	2.2%	6.7%	8.9%	-
10 class	4.4%	11.1%	8.9%	4.4%	-
High School / College	2.2%	4.4%	6.7%	8.9%	-
Post-secondary school	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	4.4%	-
University studies	-	-	2.2%	4.4%	4.4%
Postgraduate studies	-	-	2.2%	-	-

Table 4. I buy books and am generally interested in and up to date with everything related to Gherăești and last level of education.
Tab. 4. Cumpăr cărți și, în general, sunt interesat și mă informez despre tot ce ține de Gherăești și de nivelul de instrucție al respondentului.

Distribution of the sample based on the answers given to the statement *"I take pride in our history and folk costumes and show them to others whenever I have the chance"*

According to the distribution of the sample on the basis of the answers given to the statement *"I am proud of our history and folk costumes and I show them to others whenever I have the chance"*, it can be observed that the majority of the respondents are very proud of their history and folk costumes and show them to others whenever they have the chance. The lowest proportion of 4.4% is found among the study participants who are proud to a small extent of their folk history and costume and show it to others whenever they have the opportunity (**Table 5**).

To a small extent	4.4%
So and so	29.0%
To a large extent	33.3%
Very much	33.3%
Total	**100.0%**

Table 5. I am proud of our history and folk costume and show it to others whenever I have the chance.
Tab. 5. Sunt mândru de istoria și costumele noastre populare și le arăt altora ori de câte ori am ocazia.

According to the data obtained based on the questionnaire process and presented in Table 6, with a weight of 22.2%, the respondents who are female are ranked and they stated that they are proud to a great extent when it comes to their folk history and folk costume and they share it with others whenever they have the opportunity. It can be seen that the lowest weights of 2.2% are found in both male and female respondents who said that they are proud to a small extent when it comes to their folk history and dress (**Table 6**).

I am proud of our folk history and costume and I show it to others whenever I get the chance	Gender of respondent	
	Male	Female
To a small extent	2.2%	2.2%
So and so	15.6%	13.3%
Largely	11.1%	22.2%
To a very large extent	15.6%	17.8%

Table 6. I take pride in our folk history and costume and show it to others whenever I have the chance and gender.
Tab. 6. Sunt mândru de istoria și costumele noastre populare și le arăt altora ori de câte ori am ocazia și genul respondentului.

Based on the data obtained in Table 7 it can be stated that most respondents (26.7%) belong to the 30–64 age group and claim that they are very proud of their folk history and costumes and that they show them to others whenever they have the opportunity. Equal weights of 2.2% are observed for respondents who said that they are a little proud of their history and folk costumes and that they show them to others whenever they have the opportunity and belong to the age group 30–64 years, and for those who said the same and are over 65 years old (**Table 7**).

I take pride in our folk history and costume and show it to others whenever I have the chance	Age group	
	30–64 years	65–x years
To a small extent	2.2%	2.2%
So and so	13.3%	15.6%
Largely	20.0%	13.3%
Very high	26.7%	6.7%

Table 7. I am proud of our history and folk costume and show it to others whenever I have the opportunity and age.
Tab. 7. Sunt mândru de istoria și costumele noastre populare și le arăt celorlalți ori de câte ori am ocazia și vârsta respondentului.

Analysing the results obtained based on the questionnaire process, it can be stated that most of the respondents have completed 10th grade and are very proud of their folk history and costume and are willing to share it with others whenever they have the opportunity (13.3%). It can also be noted that 8.9% of the respondents stated that they have completed university and are very proud of their folk history and costume and are willing to share it with others whenever they have the opportunity (**Table 8**).

Last level of education	I am proud of our folk history and costume and show it to others whenever I have the chance			
	To a small extent	So and so	To a great extent	Very much
Primary cycle (1–4 classes)	-	2.2%	2.2%	-
Secondary cycle (5–8 classes)	2.2%	6.7%	8.9%	4.4%
10 classes	2.2%	8.9%	13.3%	4.4%
High School / College	-	6.7%	4.4%	11.1%
Post-secondary school	-	4.4%	4.4%	2.2%
University education	-	-	-	8.9%
Postgraduate studies	-	-	-	2.2%

Table 8. I take pride in our folk history and costume and show it to others whenever I have the chance and last level of education.
Tab. 8. Sunt mândru de istoria și costumele noastre populare și le arăt celorlalți ori de câte ori am ocazia și nivelul de studii al respondentului.

Distribution of the sample based on the answers given to the statement *"I am interested in collecting old objects that remind me of traditional Gherăești"*

According to the distribution of the sample based on the answers to the statement *"I am concerned about collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești"*, most of the respondents (26.7%) stated that they are concerned to a great extent about collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești. At the same time, it can be observed that the share of the participants in the study who declared themselves very much concerned about collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești (15.6%) is equal to the share of those who are not at all concerned about collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești (**Table 9**).

Not at all	15.6%
To a small extent	17.7%
So and so	24.4%
To a large extent	26.7%
Very much	15.6%
Total	**100.0%**

Table 9. I am interested in collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești.
Tab. 9. Sunt interesat să colecționez obiecte vechi care amintesc de tradițiile din Gherăești.

The distribution of the sample based on the answers given to the statement "I am concerned about collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești" and gender shows that the percentage of male respondents who are very much concerned about collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești (11.1%) is higher than the percentage of female respondents who are equally concerned about this aspect (4.4%) (**Table 10**).

I am concerned about collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești	Gender of respondent	
	Male	Female
Not at all	8.9%	6.7%
To a small extent	13.3%	4.4%
So and so	4.4%	20.0%
Largely	6.7%	20.0%
Very high	11.1%	4.4%

Table 10. I am interested in collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești and gender.
Tab. 10. Sunt interesat să colecționez obiecte vechi care amintesc de tradițiile din Gherăești și genul respondentului.

According to the data obtained on the basis of the questionnaire process and presented in Table 11, it can be observed that the highest percentage, 15.6%, is given by the respondents aged 30–64 years old, who are very much concerned about collecting old objects reminding of traditional Gherăești. Equal weights of 11.1% can also be observed for both people aged 30–64 who are very much concerned with collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești and those aged over 65 who are very much concerned with collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești (**Table 11**).

I am interested in collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești	Age	
	30–64 years	65–x years
Not at all	13.3%	2.2%
To a small extent	11.1%	6.7%
So and so	11.1%	13.3%
Largely	15.6%	11.1%
Very much	11.1%	4.4%

Table 11. I am concerned with collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești and age.
Tab. 11. Mă interesează colecționarea obiectelor vechi care amintesc de tradițiile din Gherăești și vârsta respondentului.

Following the results obtained based on the analysis of the recorded data (**Table 12**), it can be seen that the respondents who have completed their postgraduate studies stated that they are very much concerned about collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești.

Last level of studies completed	I am interested in collecting old objects that remind of traditional Gherăești				
	Not at all	To a small extent	So and so	To a large extent	To a very great extent
Primary cycle (1–4 classes)	-	-	2.2%	2.2%	-
Secondary cycle (5–8 classes)	-	6.7%	6.7%	4.4%	4.4%
10 class	8.9%	2.2%	6.7%	8.9%	2.2%
High School / College	2.2%	8.9%	6.7%	4.4%	-
Post-secondary school	2.2%	-	2.2%	2.2%	4.4%
University studies	2.2%	-	-	4.4%	2.2%
Postgraduate studies	-	-	-	-	2.2%

Table 12. I am interested in collecting old objects reminiscent of traditional Gherăești and last level of education.
Tab. 12. Sunt interesat să colecționez obiecte vechi care amintesc de tradițiile din Gherăești și nivelul de studii al respondentului.

Distribution of the sample based on the answers given to the statement *"I pass on everything I know about Gherăești to the younger people so that they do not forget who we are"*

The results obtained and presented in Table 13 highlight that about half of the respondents (49.0%) stated that they pass on everything they know about Gherăești to the younger ones in order not to forget who they are. The next highest proportion of respondents stated that they very much pass on everything they know about Gherăești to younger people so as not to forget who they are. The respondents at the opposite pole, with the lowest share of only 2.2%, claim that they are not at all interested in passing on everything they know about Gherăești to the younger ones (**Table 13**).

Not at all	2.2%
To a small extent	13.3%
So and so	13.3%
To a large extent	49.0%
Very much	22.2%
Total	**100.0%**

Table 13. I pass on everything I know about Gherăești to younger people so that they do not forget who we are.
Tab. 13. Transmit tot ce știu despre Gherăești tinerilor, pentru ca ei să nu uite cine suntem.

According to the distribution of the sample based on the answers given to the statement "I pass on everything I know about Gherăești to the younger people so that they don't forget who we are" and gender, it can be observed that the percentage of female respondents who are very keen to pass on everything they know about Gherăești to the younger people (33.3%) is higher than the percentage of male respondents who are equally concerned about this aspect (15.6%). After analysing the data obtained from the questionnaire process, it can be seen that equal weights of 11.1% were recorded for the respondents who stated that, in order not to forget who they are, they transmit to a large extent everything they know about Gherăești to younger people and are male, and to those who stated the same and belong to the female gender (**Table 14**).

I pass on everything I know about Gherăești to younger people so as not to forget who we are	Gender of respondent	
	Male	Female
Not at all	2.2%	-
To a small extent	8.9%	4.4%
So and so	6.7%	6.7%
Largely	15.6%	33.3%
To a very large extent	11.1%	11.1%

Table 14. I pass on everything I know about Gherăești to younger people in order not to forget who we are and gender.
Tab. 14. Transmit tot ce știu despre Gherăești tinerilor, pentru a nu uita cine suntem și genul respondentului.

Analysing the results obtained on the basis of the questionnaire process, it can be stated that only the respondents aged between 30–64 years old declared that they are not at all interested in sharing everything they know about Gherăești to younger people in order not to forget who they are, the accumulated share being 2.2% (**Table 15**).

I pass on everything I know about Gherăești to younger people in order not to forget who we are	Age group	
	30–64 years	65–x years
Not at all	2.2%	-
To a small extent	11.1%	2.2%
So and so	11.1%	2.2%
Largely	20.0%	28.9%
Very high	17.8%	4.4%

Table 15. I pass on everything I know about Gherăești to younger people so that they don't forget who we are and age.
Tab. 15. Transmit tot ce știu despre Gherăești tinerilor, pentru ca ei să nu uite cine suntem și vârsta respondentului.

According to the results obtained by analysing the data recorded and presented in Table 16, the highest percentage (17.7%) of respondents who have completed secondary school as their last level of education and who stated that they want to pass on all the knowledge they have about Gherăești to younger people so that they do not forget who they are. In descending order of percentages, the respondents who claim that they pass on everything they know about Gherăești to the younger ones to the same extent and have completed high school or college (13.3%) stand out, while the participants who have postgraduate studies stated that they pass on everything they know about Gherăești to the younger ones to the same extent in order not to forget who they are (**Table 16**).

Last level of education	I pass on everything I know about Gherăești to younger people in order not to forget who we are				
	Not at all	To a small extent	So and so	To a great extent	Very much
Primary cycle (1–4 classes)	2.2%	-	-	2.2%	-
Secondary cycle (5–8 classes)	-	-	2.2%	15.6%	4.4%
10 class	-	6.7%	6.7%	8.9%	6.7%
High School / College	-	2.2%	4.4%	13.3%	2.2%
Post-secondary school	-	2.2%	-	6.7%	2.2%
University studies	-	2.2%	-	2.2%	4.4%
Postgraduate studies	-	-	-	-	2.2%

Table 16. I pass on everything I know about Gherăești to younger people so that they don't forget who we are and last level of education.
Tab. 16. Transmit tot ce știu despre Gherăești tinerilor, pentru ca ei să nu uite cine suntem și nivelul de studii al respondentului.

Conclusions

The interest in Gherăești and the cultural involvement of the respondents is predominantly moderate and its intensity varies according to gender, age, and level of education.

In terms of book buying and general interest in Gherăești, 31.1% of the respondents declare themselves interested "to a great extent", the same percentage affirming an interest "so and so". Only 4.4% express an interest "to a very great extent", while 13.3% are not interested at all. Women are more interested than men, with the 30–64 age group showing the highest level of involvement. The high level of interest also correlates with the level of education, being more common among those with a university education.

In terms of pride in folk history and costume, more than two thirds of the participants say they are "proud" or "very proud". Women express this feeling more strongly than men, and the 30–64 age group is the most active. People with middle and higher education tend to be more assertive.

Collecting traditional artefacts reminiscent of the Gherăești of yesteryear is a "very much" concern for 26.7% of respondents, but there is also a significant proportion (15.6%) who are not interested in this aspect at all. Men are more likely to be more involved than women in collecting old objects, and people in the 30–64 age group are again the most involved. Those with postgraduate education are the most concerned "to a very high degree".

Passing on cultural values to younger generations is an important issue for almost half of respondents, who say they do so "to a great extent", and 22.2% say they do so "to a very great extent". Women are more active in this area, and older

people (65+) stand out as being strongly involved, although to a lesser extent at the "very much" level. Those with secondary and high school education are more involved in passing on traditions, while respondents with higher education are moderately in the very involved category.

Overall, the community shows a willingness to preserve and transmit local heritage, but there is significant room for the development of educational and cultural initiatives that transform this moderate interest into a constant and deep commitment to the identity values of Gherăești.

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