

# FACEBOOK – A SPACE OF NARCISSISM AND LONELINESS

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## Abstract

Almost everybody has a Facebook page. Until the third millennium, the objects we craved were destined for personal consumption, with a limited area of expansion. Today, we want terminals with which we can connect, at least hypothetically, to the whole world. A human society inevitably turns into a network. Individuals on Facebook are brought together in diverse groups. Although they think they are connected to the entire planet, the users of this social network are ALONE in front of modern electronic devices, but lacking compassion for those around them. We are witnessing the peak of narcissism in front of the computer. The new *homo internautus* is increasingly narcissistic and lonely on his Facebook page, despite the fact that everyone appreciates him and empathizes with his feelings.

**Keywords:** Facebook, *homo internautus*, narcissism, loneliness.

Almost all of us have a Facebook page. This means that we own a computer, smartphone, or tablet, or all three of them. The desire to align with the trend is directly proportional to the standard of living. If you have a state-of-the-art phone, you increase the chances of having more visitors on your page. It is known that the field of education in Romania generates the lowest rating (Baconschi, 2015).

Until the third millennium, the objects we craved were destined for personal consumption, with a limited area of expansion. They were necessary to gain the admiration of a small circle of people, usually close friends and work colleagues. Joy was confined to a small circle of people.

Today, we want terminals with which we can connect, at least hypothetically, to the whole world. The human society inevitably turns into a network. If in the 90s we were used to going out with our family members or with our friends, now we experience an “era of virtual friendship.” Visits to friends’ homes take place extremely rarely, and their place has been taken by endless

conversations on social networks, of which the most well-known and widely-used remains Facebook. Direct contact has been replaced by virtual exchange of images, ideas, likes, etc.

Individuals on Facebook are brought together in diverse groups, values stand together with cultural nullities, in the network, in order to store on modern media digital memory, the memory of a time when narcissism and loneliness triumph on Facebook. Although they think they are connected to the entire planet, the users of this social network are ALONE in front of modern electronic devices, but lacking compassion for those around them. Loneliness and depersonalization ultimately lead to a virtual identity in a virtual world (Cipariu, 2012).

We are currently witnessing the peak of narcissism in front of the computer. The awards, the social recognition generated by them, stemming from direct work, have been replaced by virtual likes and comments, written electronically. This leads to the degradation of the mind and inspiration due to the lack of a writing exercise with the pen on a sheet of paper, which would bring very important benefits such as cognitive development (improved reading, language development and memory process). Handwriting keeps the thought processes active and enhances creativity. The process of speech, but also that of handwriting, leads to the formation of neural connections that stimulate the harmonious development of the brain.

Writing forms an irreplaceable part of a people’s culture and identity. Handwriting styles are unique to each individual, depending on the culture they come from, and cannot be replicated or replaced by digital alternatives, which ultimately mean uniformity. Graphologists states that there is a strong connection between the handwriting style and one’s personality.

Handwriting is and must remain one of the basic forms of learning and education, and teachers are the ones who must create a balance between the use of modern technology and handwriting (Marinescu, 2023).

Nowadays, the human society, which presents itself on Facebook, is the most complex, but also the most hidden one from itself (Baconschi, 2015).

Teodor Baconschi (Humanitas, n.d.), former Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the work entitled "*Facebook. The narcissism factory*," resorts to a plea for the perpetuation and revalorization of humanistic education, a solution for saving man as a social being: "The last guarantee of our humanity must also be placed in the sphere of values, moral bond, ecumenical conscience. This sphere involves the respectful memory of origins, respect for the environment and heritage, research dominated by altruism and the assuming of bio-ethical dilemmas from a spiritual perspective, which saves the dignity of the person, regardless of his technological, political or social context" (Baconschi, 2015).

## CONCLUSIONS

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The new *homo internautus* is increasingly narcissistic and lonely on his Facebook page,

despite the fact that everyone appreciates him and empathizes with his feelings.

Letting go of our devices and of the social network called Facebook is currently almost impossible, being regarded as a loss of "digital identity," but by educating those who use them and by becoming aware of the danger of the narcissistic becoming (Derhally, 2022) and of loneliness, we can change our approach, allocating time to Facebook as much as necessary and coming back, in a significant percentage, to the direct communication between people.

## References

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