Psychology goes through three major stages in the Romanian cultural space. It is first embedded in philosophy courses at universities and in Maiorescu's public lectures, during the second half of the 19th Century (1). By 1900, it develops into an autonomous academic field, when Constantin Rădulescu-Motru holds the inaugural lecture of his psychology course at the Faculty of Letters in Bucharest (2). In line with the specialists’ attempt to grow the new discipline into a science in the first half of the 20th Century, one can notice the intertwined circulation through cultural journals of literature and psychology (3). The mélange of the two fields, new to Romanian culture, is so widespread in cultural journals, that the writers’ lack of aptitude towards psychology is seen as (a) the cause of the scarcity of novels in the history of Romanian literature and (b) a hurdle in the evolution from the Traditional novel to the Modern one. There are two reasons why in the aftermath of World War One, hand in glove with economic and social development, Romanian culture seems to overcome the crisis of novels through the successive emergence of the objective and psychological novel. On the one hand, through a phenomenon of inculcation, the major writers and critics of the time create the need and the context for a psychological novel. On the other hand, as a consequence of literary snobbery and also as a sort of belongingness to an interwar community of writers (see the Sburătorul literary circle), Marcel Proust is now imported into the Romanian literary space, where he is perceived as “the greatest plunger into inner life” and, alongside William James, as “the epitome of psychology”. In my presentation, I will analyse the import of Marcel Proust’s psychological approach through cultural transfer between the Romanian and French literature. I’m interested in the role played by psychology as a preparatory stage for Romanian Modernism, specifically in what is internalized, what is merely imitated and what is left out entirely from the original literature in the configuration of a third culture.

Key-words: psychology, inculcation, literary traffic, third culture, cosmopolitism.