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DEMOGRAPHIC MYTHS IN ROMANIA
AT THE END OF THE 19th CENTURY
(Summary)

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The study returns to a research theme I have written about before – the degeneration of race – as it was perceived in the second half of the 19th century. I had studied it as part of the medical discourse of the era, but in this study I extend the scope of the research to those who are not part of the medical body and contribute to the diffusion of these demographically based fears in the social body. My study focuses on four case studies: a politician (Mihail Kogălniceanu), a poet (Mihai Eminescu), an agronomist (Ion Ionescu de la Brad) and an economist (Ion Ghica). Researching their writings I was able to find that the fear of racial degeneration appears even earlier than I had found in the medical discourse which means that in fact the medical discourse takes these kinds of anxieties from society and turns them into scientifically proven “realities”.

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