

Ioan Pânzaru  
University of Bucharest

## ***POST-EGO : MICHEL HOUELLEBECQ AND MAN'S AUFHEBUNG<sup>1</sup>***

**Keywords:** *Houellebecq, Raelians, ethotechnics, desire, free will, neoliberalism, cultural capitalism, cultural identity*

**Abstract:** *A very controversial writer, Michel Houellebecq has nevertheless enjoyed enormous success. The reasons of this success lay in his contestation of the neo-liberal globalized system and in a Christian moral stance condemning the sins of humanity. Suggesting that humans will be replaced by new creatures of modern technology may not be a new idea, but it still opens wide avenues for thought, particularly since it became partially feasible with the advances of nanotechnology and prosthetics.*

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<sup>1</sup> A version of this paper was presented as a keynote speech at the International Conference of the English Department, University of Bucharest, in June 2008 (editors' note).