

Seminar IRH-ICUB

Consciousness and Cognition: An Interdisciplinary Approach

<https://irhunibuc.wordpress.com/2016/04/05/new-seminar-consciousness-in-philosophy-and-neuroscience/>

convenor Dr. Diana Stanciu

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Date: Tuesday, 3 July 2018, 17h

Place: IRH-ICUB (1 D. Brandza Str.), conference room

Diana Paula Dudău

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Diana Dudău is currently pursuing a PhD Degree in Psychology at the West University of Timișoara, under the supervision of Dr. Florin Alin Sava. She is working as a research assistant within the Social Cognition and Personality Assessment (SocPers) Lab at the same university. Diana is also a University of Bucharest alumna (BSc in Psychology and MA in Clinical Psychology) and she is currently studying statistics applied in health and clinical research at the Polytechnic University of Timișoara (MSc level). In addition, she has expertise in cognitive behavioural therapy, both as a researcher and as a practitioner. She is a reviewer for Cogent Psychology. Her current main research interests revolve around the goal of harnessing cutting-edge technology and data science that could improve the traditional measurement methods in the field of social psychology and mental health.

Digital Traces of Mental Health: Insights from Social Media Contents

Due to the tremendous growth of the quantity and variety of digital footprints of real life experiences recorded through the smart devices massively used by people all over the world on a daily basis, researchers benefit from priceless information on human behaviour, cognition and emotion nowadays. Furthermore, the expansion of internet, the advances in technology and data science, and the popularity of the social media have created a well-equipped, less-artificial, yet virtual laboratory that can help researchers gain at least partial access to the “black box” of the human mind. Some specific problems of the traditional methods (e.g., the shortcomings of self-report questionnaires, the difficulties of gathering large and diverse samples of participants, or the obstacles met in capturing natural behaviours) can be thus avoided. The goal of the current lecture is to assert the power of social media as a research setting, considering that it provides a rich repository of both overt and latent cues about numerous psychological aspects. The discussion will be focused primarily on mental health – in particular on depression, given that it has become the leading cause of ill health and disability worldwide. I will argue that the interdisciplinary approach of combining psychology and cutting-edge computer science and data science can unlock the door to a better understanding of various issues, by offering new ways to increase research validity and to extract meanings that otherwise cannot be grasped.