

Seminar IRH-ICUB

Consciousness and Cognition: An Interdisciplinary Approach

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

convenor Dr. Diana Stanciu

https://irhunibuc.wordpress.com/visiting_scholars

Date: Thursday, 23 June 2016, 17h

**Place: Mircea Florian Amphitheatre, Faculty of Philosophy
Splaiul Independentei 204**

Keynote lecture

Professor Andrei C. Miu, Ph.D.

**Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, Department of Psychology,
Babeş-Bolyai University**

Andrei C. Miu is a professor in the Department of Psychology of the Babeş-Bolyai University and the founding director of the Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory (<http://cognitive-neuroscience.ro/>). His research focuses on emotion and emotion regulation and uses multidisciplinary methods from psychology, genetics and neuroscience. His various studies have been published in numerous internationally peer-reviewed scientific journals and volumes (please see <https://scholar.google.ro/citations?user=HY21FIAAAAJ&hl=en>) and he received several research awards and fellowships (e.g., First Prize, "Tineri Cercetători în Ştiinţă şi Inginerie"; Fulbright Senior Postdoctoral Award; fellowships from the International Brain Research Organization and the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies). He is a member of the editorial board of several international journals, including *Emotion* (American Psychological Association), *Translational Neuroscience* and *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*.

Emotions and Moral Decision: Perspectives from Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience

Moral norms indicate what is right and wrong in a social context, with the aim of promoting group welfare. The influence of moral norms on individual behavior has long been debated in philosophy, in relation to concepts such as free will and conflict between various moral norms. In recent years, individual differences in moral decision have also been investigated in psychology and cognitive neuroscience. Following Lawrence Kohlberg's pioneering studies on the development of moral reasoning in children, researchers have used moral dilemmas to examine the psychological and neural mechanisms of moral decision making. Moral dilemmas are hypothetical scenarios pitting compelling social considerations against moral norms, which thus involve forced choice between alternatives with different costs. Recent findings indicate that negative emotions triggered by this type of moral conflict are associated with increased reluctance to moral transgressions no matter what the costs.

While this effect may seem beneficial, suggesting that negative emotions may make us more deontological, it may also result from the fact that these emotions might make us lose sight of consequences. Given that both alternatives involve negative consequences in moral dilemmas and the process of weighing these consequences is inevitably unpleasant, new methodological approaches are necessary in order to elucidate the role of various emotions in moral decision. In this talk, I will give a general perspective on the study of moral decision in psychology and cognitive neuroscience, with a focus on the involvement of emotions.