

Seminar ICUB Humanities

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: Friday, 6 September 2019, 15h

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

Dr. Adela Dinu

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Adela Dinu teaches Romanian literature at the *Andrei Şaguna* National Pedagogic College, Sibiu, where she herself graduated in 2002, and is also an accomplished literary critic and journalist. She obtained her BA (2006) at the *Lucian Blaga* University in Sibiu, *German-Romanian* section, her MA (2008), specialising in *Modernism and Postmodernism* and her PhD (2011) in *Philology*, with *magna cum laude*, at the same university. She published her PhD thesis as a monograph, *Romanian Women-Writers' Diaries*, in 2012 and numerous articles and studies in the last twelve years, after she obtained her BA. Her interdisciplinary research interests are diverse and anchored in various fields such as feminism, ethnic prejudice, imagology, dystopia, etc.

From Utopia to Dystopia: A Consciousness of Social and Political Turmoil?

This talk will concentrate on the consubstantiality between utopia and dystopia in the tormented twentieth century. From the naive utopia to the austere dystopia, the genre suffered considerable mutations and this shows, once again, that literature is not a remote island secluded from social and political influence. Utopia and dystopia are actually co-extensive. The specific difference is of degree and atmosphere. Utopia is the human aspiration to perfection and to orderly, aseptic and congruent worlds. And even if it presents all this from a different angle, dystopia also represents the aspiration to a pan-deterministic world, saturated of meaning. But, when compared to any utopia, dystopia is the imaginary world seen through the eyes of the heretic, of the one whose awakened consciousness perceives the fact that all the props of the state are not convincing anymore because they are not infallible anymore.