

## **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**

[https://irhunibuc.wordpress.com/visiting\\_scholars](https://irhunibuc.wordpress.com/visiting_scholars)

**Date: Tuesday, 29 November 2016, 17h**

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

## **Dr. Radu Uszkai**

**University of Bucharest, Faculty of Philosophy**

**Dr. Radu Uszkai** is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Research Center in Applied Ethics of the University of Bucharest and an associate teaching assistant at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies. He obtained his PhD in philosophy from the University of Bucharest in 2015 with a thesis on the ethical aspects of file-sharing through peer-to-peer networks. He is also a former doctoral fellow of the Romanian Academy-Iași Branch. His main research interests revolve around the following topics: applied ethics (mainly business ethics and information ethics), political philosophy (classical liberalism, bleeding heart libertarianism, intellectual property rights), philosophy of economics and ethics (evolutionary game theory). His latest article is: *How drug patents might lead to disincentives for moral bioenhancement* and it was published in *Ethics in Biology, Engineering and Medicine: An International Journal*, vol. 6 (1-2).

### ***The role of unconscious cognition and moral intuitions in the commodification/anti-commodification debate***

Should we be able to sell our kidneys or our blood, offer our wombs for rent, buy friends or let other people buy our votes? Elizabeth Anderson (1990; 1995; 2000) and Michael Sandel (1998; 2012), to name just a few, have spent a lot of time and energy arguing against this type of economic transactions which got them the label of ‘anti-commodification theorists’ (Brennan, Jaworski, 2016). In criticising their position though, Brennan and Jaworski identify an important element which the commodification/anti-commodification debate usually overlooks or even fails to address: the role of unconscious cognition, biases and our moral intuitions regarding our attitude towards such transactions. Drawing on the lines of the elements mentioned above, the purpose of my talk will be that of presenting and exploring the framework put forward by Brennan and Jaworski and also of arguing against repugnance as a constraint for market transactions.