

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, 5 December 2017, 17h

Place: Faculty of Philosophy (Splaiul Independentei 204), CCEA

Dr. Diana Stanciu

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Dr. Diana Stanciu (https://irhunibuc.wordpress.com/visiting_scholars/), the convenor of the research seminar and series of lectures *Consciousness and Cognition: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, specialises in (early) modern philosophy and theology and their aftermath, with a focus on the reception of ancient and medieval authors regarding topics such as consciousness/ conscience, grace, predestination and free will, virtue, sovereignty, rational religion and toleration. She published and taught extensively on the above-mentioned topics both at home and abroad. Lately, Dr. Stanciu has been working on the relationship between neuroscience/ cognitive science, on the one hand, and philosophy, on the other hand, while concentrating primarily on the themes of extended cognition and consciousness.

Extended Cognition and Consciousness

Developed primarily as part of research programmes on artificial intelligence, the paradigm of extended (embodied/embedded/enactive) cognition (maintains the causal or physically constitutive role both of different aspects of the agent's body and of its natural, social and cultural environment in cognitive processing. *The Extended Mind* (1998), by Andy Clark and David Chalmers, is generally considered the starting point for the extended cognition approach. It summarises their research on 'active externalism', a theory in which the objects within the environment are considered to function as a part of the mind, in a kind of 'coupled system', and the separation between mind, body, and environment is deemed an unprincipled distinction. The new extended cognition approach triggered considerable change in the philosophical methodology for the study of the mind, which has become more integrated into the broader interdisciplinary field of cognitive science. It also has an impact on the study of consciousness and this will be the specific topic of the present lecture.