

Humboldt Kolleg

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Global Challenges of the 21st Century

- 1) Technological development and human health/ quality of life*
- 2) Climate change and environmental sustainability*
- 3) Democracy and cohesion in Europe*

Capabilities, Conscious Agency and Moral Decision Making

This talk will include a few instances of interdisciplinary research that are part of a more general attempt to reassess some of the present philosophical hypotheses about normativity and regulation as related to moral decision making and conscious agency. I will concentrate: 1) on the perspective of the so-called 4E distributed cognition and 2) on the capabilities approach in philosophy and economy. Regarding the first point, I will look at the interplay between embodied, embedded, extended, and enactive (4E) notions, automatisms and habits established during social practice, on the one hand, and rationally construed mental representations, on the other hand, in moral decision making. Regarding the second, I will have a look at normative moral theories such as the human development ethics (as a broader alternative to economic metrics such as growth in GDP per capita) and the capability theory of social justice (that attempts to specify which capabilities are valuable and how they should be distributed) that are relevant for both individual well-being and related social arrangements.

Diana Stanciu is the initiator and director of the Romanian Young Academy (RYA), a research and civic action programme sponsored by the Mercator Foundation and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the University of Bucharest. She received her first PhD at the University of Bucharest (2004) and her second one at the KU Leuven (2012). She has been teaching and doing research at the University of Bucharest (1995-2009; since 2015 onwards), the Central European University (1997-1998), the University of Athens (1999), the University of Cambridge (FCO-CEU graduate research grant 2000-2001), the University of St. Andrews (2006), the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich (Humboldt fellowship 2007-2008), the KU Leuven (2009-2014), the University of Oxford (2014-2015; 2018-2019), and the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Gerda Henkel fellowship 2018-2020). She was also a fellow of advanced studies institutes such as New Europe College, Bucharest (2001-2002), Collegium Budapest (2003), the Institute for Advanced Studies

in the Humanities, Edinburgh (2006) and The Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies (Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship 2006, research focus group 2008-2009). Along the years, Dr Stanciu specialised in the history of philosophy, epistemology, cognitive science and practical ethics while concentrating on topics such as conscious agency, free will and moral decision-making. Since April 2016 she has become the convenor of an interdisciplinary research seminar and of a series of lectures on *Consciousness and Cognition: An Interdisciplinary Approach* at the research institute of the University of Bucharest (<https://icub.unibuc.ro/research/research-seminars/consciousness-and-cognition/>). Dr Stanciu is the author of several monographs and edited volumes published by Peeters, Brill, De Gruyter, Peter Lang and Bucharest University Press and of numerous articles published in internationally peer-reviewed journals such as *European Review of History*, *Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum*, *Revue d'Histoire Ecclésiastique*, *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses*, *Studia Patristica*, etc. or in collective volumes issued by Springer, Mohr Siebeck, Oxford University Press, Brill, Garnier, LIT Verlag, Aschendorff, Peeters, etc.