

Humboldt Kolleg

Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Doamnei St. 12, Bucharest  
18-22 November 2020

### *Global Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

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

### *Meet the Romanian Young Academy (RYA) members 2020-2022 and their research projects*

(short 5-minute introductions)

#### *Theme 1: Technological development and human health/ quality of life*

##### 1) Dr. Mihaela Constantinescu, Research Centre in Applied Ethics, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bucharest

Mihaela Constantinescu is currently a researcher at the Research Centre in Applied Ethics (**CCEA**), Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bucharest. She obtained her PhD at the University of Bucharest, with a thesis on “The Moral Responsibility of Organisations”, partly documented at the Rotterdam School of Management of the Erasmus University. In 2019-2020 she was a postdoctoral research fellow of the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest (ICUB). Her research interests include moral responsibility, organizational ethics, and artificial morality, approached within the philosophical framework of Aristotelian virtue ethics. Mihaela co-authored the Romanian volume on *Institutionalising Ethics: Mechanisms and Instruments* and published articles in international volumes and scientific journals such as the “Journal of Business Ethics”. With an academic background in both philosophy and communication, Mihaela has previously worked as a public relations consultant in the private, NGO and public sectors, while offering ethics management counselling to the latter.

##### *Moral Responsibility in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Challenges from AI*

Within the framework of her research project, Mihaela seeks to inquire whether moral responsibility is exclusively confined to human beings or we need to refine our current philosophical framework to encompass technological advances of the 21st century, such as robotics-AI. Given that our future use of AI in various areas such as elderly and child care, medical care, surveillance or even social relationships depends on the moral status we ascribe or deny to AI, envisioning Autonomous Artificial Moral Agents (AAMAs) could have a significant impact on human quality of life, on the way people enjoy healthy and independent living. To approach this topic, the project brings together methods and instruments of investigation from three related research fields of philosophical applied ethics, integrated around the concept of AI moral responsibility: virtue ethics, machine ethics and technology ethics. In terms of civic engagement, the project bears

implications on the EC policy framework that addresses the challenges raised by robotics and AI in relation to human quality of life, as well as the role that technology, particularly AI-robotics, could play in healthcare crises such as the COVID-19 present one.

2) Dr. Guillaume Ducoffe, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science/ Research Scientist, National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics (I.C.I.), Bucharest

Guillaume Ducoffe is a lecturer at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of the University of Bucharest, and a scientific researcher at the National Institute of Research and Development in Informatics (I.C.I. Romania). He is a former graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure (France) and got his PhD in Science from the University Nice-Sophia Antipolis. His research is focused on algorithmic aspects of Graph Theory, with applications to real-life networks (Internet, social, etc.)

*New Models for the Structure and Evolution of Contamination Networks*

The goal in the standard epidemic models is to reduce the so-called infection rate to a value less than one. However, there is evidence that an improved strategic management for pandemics requires a better understanding of their underlying *contamination networks*. The latter calls for improved, network-based models, of which we propose to analyse the soundness by confronting their outcome to the very recent coronavirus outbreak.

3) Dr. Cristina Gentiana Dumitrascu, 'Ion Mincu' University for Architecture and Urban Planning, Faculty of Interior Architecture, Interior Design Department

Gențiana DUMITRAȘCU graduated from the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning and has obtained her doctoral thesis at the same above mentioned university. With experience in working as a teaching assistant within the Faculty of Architecture and Interior Design Faculty, her research interests focus on the intersection between architecture and comic strips. She also manages Atelier Plăsmuit, a small studio, which focuses on investigating and designing the architectural space, using characteristic elements of sequential art for research, illustrations, experiments, workshops, installations and objects.

*Type-apartment Building Blocks' Diaries*

This is a platform that encourages the development of alternative ways of investigating, analysing and building architecture. This project aims to reconsider the hierarchical relationship between the architect and the user of the space, connecting, at the same time, civic actors, professionals, architects, architectural and design students and inhabitants of the socialist type-apartment building blocks, in a staged process, in order to impart knowledge to all of them.

#### 4) Prof. Radu-Tudor Ionescu, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Bucharest

Radu Tudor Ionescu is Professor of Computer Science at the University of Bucharest, Romania. After completing his PhD in 2013, he received the 2014 Award for Outstanding Doctoral Research in the field of Computer Science from the Romanian Ad Astra Association. His research interests include machine learning, computer vision and text mining. He published over 70 articles at international peer-reviewed conferences and journals, and a research monograph with Springer. He received the "Caianiello Best Young Paper Award" at ICIAP 2013 for the paper "Kernels for Visual Words Histograms". Radu was awarded the "Danubius Young Scientist Award 2018 for Romania" by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research / the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe.

#### *Medical Image Super-Resolution and Semantic Segmentation Using Deep Learning*

CT and MRI scans are used by clinical radiologists and oncologists to find tumors in the scanned regions. The main aim of our project is to increase the segmentation precision of targeted injuries, tumors and neighboring tissues in CT/MRI scans, leading to improvements in the practice of customized and precision medicine. Our objectives are: (i) to increase the resolution of CT/MRI images using multiple CT/MRI scans of the same patient; (ii) to automatically detect and segment tumors in the high-resolution images.

#### 5) Dr. Ana-Maria Talos, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Department of Human and Economic Geography

Ana-Maria Taloş is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest, with expertise in teaching, research and students related activities (field works, symposiums and conferences). She is the author of a book on lifestyle and population health, and several articles related to health status and wellbeing. She is also a member of the Research Centre on Geodemographic and Territorial Analysis (RCGTA).

#### *Active and Healthy Ageing: The Case Study of the Population over 65 Years Old from Bucharest, Romania*

The project "Active and Healthy Ageing: The Case Study of the Population over 65 Years Old from Bucharest, Romania" will assess the health status of Bucharest elderly population in the context of active ageing based on specific indicators. With a methodology based on quantitative and qualitative analysis, the outcome will consist in a complex geo-statistical database resulted from statistical and spatial investigation.

#### 6) Dr Razvan Pascu, IMT Bucharest, NanoBio Technologies Laboratory

Razvan Pascu received his B.Sc. degree in 2010, his M.Sc. degree in microsystems in 2012 and his Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering in 2015 from the Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technology of the University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest. In 2010, he joined IMT Bucharest and since 2019 he has been a postdoctoral researcher at the

Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technology, University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest. His research activities are focused on fabrication and characterization of silicon and silicon carbide-based devices and they include design and micro-fabrication of the electronic devices, electrical characterization, and data processing.

### *Harsh Environment Sensors with Innovative Technologies for Human Health and Security (SensTech – Security)*

The main goal of the project is to offer innovative solutions regarding both experimental design and active materials with superior properties towards the fabrication of Schottky diodes and MOS capacitors-based temperature and gas sensors. The project will target to design and develop small, low-cost, reliable SiC devices-based sensors with high responsivity, selectivity and reproducibility, fast response and recovery times in harsh environment.

### 7) Dr Lucian-Gabriel Zamfir, R&D Center LaborQ (Laboratory for Quality Control and Process Monitoring), University of Bucharest

Lucian-Gabriel Zamfir graduated the Faculty of Chemistry of the University of Bucharest in 2013 with the thesis "*New biosensors based on a rational design of the biomolecule-transducer interface*" and presently works as a research-assistant at the LABORQ research laboratory. His work focusses on biosensors using enzymes, antibodies, peptides and oligonucleotides as bioreceptors. Several strategies were developed by him and his colleagues: immunosensors for mycotoxin detection using magnetic beads as support for antibodies; biosensors based on conductive composites for organophosphate pesticide and carbamate drug detection, biosensors for viral markers using oligonucleotides immobilized via click-chemistry, the study of antibody-mycotoxin interactions studies using surface acoustic wave technique and ELISA detection of the hormone ghrelin. The results were published in 11 articles in scientific journals such as Sensors & Actuators B: Chemical, Biosensors & Bioelectronics, Electrochimica Acta and Sensors (Basel), and were reported at 17 international conferences.

### *Biosensors for Fast Detection of Biologically Active Compounds*

Endocrine disruptors (ED) are compounds that mimic hormones and can disrupt the functions of the endocrine system, causing imbalances and various types of cancer. Biosensors offer a promising alternative for ED detection due to their low cost, fast response and simplicity compared to traditional detection methods. The main goal of this project is to develop biosensing surfaces that combine peptide-modified surfaces with anti-fouling properties and protein receptors as biorecognition elements. Peptide layers as used as support for ED ligands or protein receptors and conjugates with metal nanoparticles (MNPs) bind specifically to these immobilized molecules. MNPs provide a high surface area for binding, enhance the stability of the biomolecules and act as electron mediators. Direct and indirect competitive formats will be tested using MNP-ED and MNP-receptor conjugates. The specific interactions between the conjugates and the immobilized molecules lead to changes in the physical properties at the interface that can be measured and used to quantify EDs.

## Theme 2: Climate change and environmental sustainability

1) Dr. Aritina Haliuc, Université de Bordeaux, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Unité Mixte de Recherche (UMR) 5805, Environnements et Paléoenvironnements Océaniques et Continentaux (EPOC)

Aritina Haliuc, holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Suceava, several fellowships and postdoctoral studies in the field of paleoclimatology and an extensive international experience. She is interested in and passionate about unraveling the past of the Earth, and how the humans have changed its face, using natural archives, in other words, mud (from peat-bogs to marine sediments). Her primary research goals are orientated towards tracking the past and more recent climatic changes and extreme events and their implications on the local and regional environments using cutting-age multidisciplinary approaches. Currently, she works as a postdoctoral researcher at University of Bordeaux (France) exploring recent vegetation fire variability from marine sediments and attempting to develop a calibration model for fire regime metrics. She nurtures a great interest in knowledge sharing, transfer of knowledge and raising awareness about the state of the environment and the world we live in and the actions that should be taken to protect this natural inheritance.

### *Climate Extremes (Droughts) and Their Impacts: Lessons from the Past to Close the Gap between Science and Action*

Drought is a natural feature of climate variability, it is the most extensive natural phenomena, it can occur in any climate regime and has first-order significance across natural hazards as it is overly complex. It is little understood and very difficult to describe, monitor and predict by modelling experiments and a challenging task for research. The socio-economic impacts with loss of human life and economic costs enrol drought and other extreme climate events among the important traits for policymakers. In the context of future climate projections regarding global warming and their effects on bio-hydro-atmosphere and human society, a better understanding of past and present climate extremes is crucial. The lack of long-term drought variability investigations hinders understanding the interaction between climate forcing, responses and the actions that need to be taken to reduce the impacts. The present project will focus on an interdisciplinary approach including the use of a 4,000 years long record of drought variability inferred from a lacustrine archive (Lake Ighiel, Carpathian Mountains) to analyse the long and short-term responses (in terms of mechanisms, frequency, impacts) of the environment and society to such extreme climatic events. The project intends to use this natural archive as an example to draw robust conclusions about the drivers, frequency and impacts of this silent hazard and use this information to raise public awareness and support civic actions and public policies. Such an approach will help us assess past and present vulnerability

of environment and society, draw the profile of the community/region and learn the reasons for their vulnerability.

## 2) Dr. Pavel Ichim, 'Al. I. Cuza' University of Iasi, Faculty of Geography and Geology

Pavel Ichim graduated the Faculty of Geography and Geology of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași in 2009, obtained his M.Sc. degree in 2011 at the same institution and his Ph.D. degree in 2014 with a thesis entitled „*Study of thermal inversions between the Prut and Siret rivers*”. From march 2017, he works as assistant professor at the Faculty of Geography and Geology in Iași. He worked to develop two networks of experimental observations on air temperature and humidity. He also worked as a climatologist and studied antropogenic impact within the project “*Elaborarea Planurilor de management pe ntru ariile protejate ROSCI0310 Lacurile Fălticeni, ROSCI0389 Sărăturile de la Gura Ialomiței Mihai Bravu, ROSPA0051 Iezerul Călărași, ROSPA0061 Lacul Techirgiol, ROSPA0101 Stepa Saraiu Horea, ROSPA0111 Berteștii de Sus Gura Ialomiței.*” He was the principal investigator of the project “*URBAN CLIMATE IN IASI MUNICIPALITY: OBSERVATIONS, IMPACT AND ADAPTATION*”. His research activities are focused on urban climatology, topoclimatology, meteorology, air pollution, and G.I.S.

### *Urban Climate in Iasi Municipality: Observations, Impact, Adaptation, and Mitigation of Climate Change Effects*

This project aims to study in detail the specific urban climate of Iasi metropolitan area. During the last decades, the study of urban climate and topoclimate has become a global relevant research field. In the context of climate change and accelerated population growth within urban agglomerations, Urban Climatology becomes an extremely important research field with respect to the development of human society. However, the level of knowledge regarding urban environments in Romania is currently poorly known, most of urban climate studies being based on expeditionary observations or on extrapolations of climatic data. We intend to continue the climatic observations within the municipality of Iasi. Urban climate change needs long term observations despite the difficulties encountered in the managing of infrastructures at the local level. Building environment and transport development lead to a rapid population growth in urban and peri-urban areas, which in turn lead to raising demands for housing and transport. During this project, I will try to develop interdisciplinary collaborations to improve scientific results and implement new policies to mitigate especially the negative effects of the urban heat island.

## 3) Dr. Remus Pravalie, Center for Coastal Research and Environmental Protection, University of Bucharest

Remus Prăvălie is a teaching assistant and a researcher at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography. His interdisciplinary research is concerned with the field of global environmental issues such as land degradation, climate

change, impact of climate change on environmental systems or environmental pollution, but also with some solutions of these environmental issues, like renewable energies. He has completed his PhD at the University of Bucharest and is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the same university. Remus Prăvălie has published more than 20 papers in prestigious journals in the field of environmental sciences.

*Spatial Investigation of Recent Global Changes in Soil Organic Carbon as a Pathway for Assessing Land Degradation Dynamics across the World*

Recognized to be a major pathway of land degradation and climate change, soil organic carbon (SOC) has been recently getting special attention from global policy actions, and was proposed to be an essential indicator in the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) initiative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. This global initiative aims to maintain a neutral balance (or preferably a positive one) between non-degraded and degraded lands (assessed based on SOC changes and on the dynamics of several other relevant indicators), in a reference time interval and a reference spatial unit. However, an efficient implementation of LDN requires detailed data on spatial changes (positive trends in relation to negative trends) of SOC on a planetary scale, which have yet to be analysed in relevant international studies. In this context, the main objective of this project is the analysis of recent (2001–2015) global and national SOC trends (negative and positive trends, but also of the balance between these two types of trends), based on freely-accessible high resolution spatial data and on modern research tools based on GIS techniques. The expected results of this project can represent a solid scientific support for a more efficient implementation of land restoration and rehabilitation measures in countries worldwide and can thus contribute to global land degradation neutrality and climate stability.

4) Dr Sabin-Gabriel Rotaru, Scientific researcher, GeoEcoMar National R&D Institute for Marine Geology and Geoecology

Sabin Rotaru is a geologist with interests in sedimentology and geomorphology. He is also trained in paleoecological analyses based on ostracods, dinoflagellates and pollen. His research focuses on delta formation and evolution, human-landscape interaction during the Holocene, and coastal morphodynamics. Until now, he has been involved mainly in projects dealing with paleogeographical reconstructions in the Danube delta, but he has also worked on the Danube river and the Black Sea.

*Integrating the Sediment Management Component into Nature Based Solutions for Reducing Climate Change Effects and Anthropogenic Influence in the Lower Danube*

Nature based solutions (NBS) are mainly seen as tools for mitigating water related risks such as drought and floods, while sediment management is not considered during the design and implementation of the NBS. Therefore, this project will demonstrate the direct link between water hazards and sediment unbalance in the Lower Danube River. The focus will be on establishing a sediment budget, identifying the surpluses and deficits of sediments, and

proposing sediment redistribution pathways. Finally, new and improved sediment management measures will be proposed and integrated into an existing NBS.

#### 5) Dr Florin Iulian Zainescu, Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest

Florin Zainescu is an Earth Scientist working on Coastal Geomorphology. He completed a co-tutelle PhD thesis at the University of Bucharest, Romania and Aix-Marseille University, France. His research combines field data with numerical modelling. Notable achievements are the modelling of the coastal hydrodynamics of the Danube Delta coast, the replication of the river jets, the wind-driven buoyant coastal current, and the wind-generated wave fields, as well as simulations of extreme floods and storms near the river mouths of the Danube.

#### *Numerical Modelling for Understanding Storm Impact and Changes in Wave Climate on the Danube Delta Coast*

The project aims to offer insights into the extreme storm response of deltaic coasts and to changes in future wave climates. Research for this project consists of modelling morphological changes on both short term and long term scales and will provide the know-how needed for the local communities to cope with rapid landscape changes.

### Theme 3: Democracy and social cohesion

#### 1) Dr Adela Hincu, New Europe College, Bucharest

Adela Hincu holds a BA in World and Comparative Literature from the University of Bucharest and an MA in Comparative History from Central European University. She received her PhD in Comparative History from the same university in 2019, with a dissertation about the institutional, intellectual, and biographical contexts of the rise of the social as an object of scientific interest, technocratic intervention, and political investment in Socialist Romania. She is currently preparing the manuscript for publication, with the tentative title *The Social in Socialist Romania: Marxism Humanism and Modern Expertise before 1989*. She co-edited, with Victor Karady, the volume *The Social Sciences in the "Other Europe" since 1945* (Budapest: Pasts, Inc., 2018). She was a visiting professor at the School of Arts and Sciences, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, in 2019-2020 and is now a "Spiru Haret" Fellow at New Europe College, Bucharest, in 2020-21.

#### *Expert Knowledge and Social Policy in Late Socialist and Post-socialist Romania*

This is a historical investigation of social thought in relation to social policy from the early 1980s to the late 2000s in Romania. It explores comparatively the role of social thought and expertise under different political and socio-economic arrangements (late socialism, postsocialist transition, EU integration) and asks to what extent lessons about the relation between expertise and policy making have been cumulative. The austerity measures of

the Ceaușescu regime in the 1980s, the period of accelerated transition to market economy in the second half of the 1990s, and the policies that followed the financial crisis at the end of the 2000s all incurred high social costs. How did ideas about the social play into the articulation and roll-out of these measures and the management of their social consequences? My research explores this question as it relates to three dimensions of social thought and social policy: welfare, gender equality, and democratic participation. It analyzes how social thought and expertise on issues of quality of life, women's rights, and mass culture and education developed from the early 1980s to the early 2000s, if and how it informed social policy, and how it was in its turn shaped by the social realities of austerity.

## 2) Dr Paul-Gabriel Sandu, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration

Paul Gabriel Sandu studied philosophy in Bucharest, Tübingen and Freiburg. Between 2009-2011 and 2012-2015 he has been the recipient of two DAAD Scholarships, which allowed him to continue his postgraduate studies in Germany. In 2018 he has received his PhD in Philosophy from the Albert-Ludwig University in Freiburg. Among academic publications and articles, he has also translated, among others, works by Schelling, Heidegger, Habermas and Chomsky into Romanian. Right now, he works as an independent researcher and social activist and teaches a course on social ecology at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, in Bucharest and a course of Aristotelian Ethics at the University of Bucharest. His interests lie in ecology, animal ethics and politics.

### *The Animal Other – Towards an Animal Ethics*

The birth of the self, the emergence of a concept of ego capable of expressing itself through the body is one of the fundamental moments in the Western tradition. For millennia, the idea that humans and humans alone possess such a self was barely questioned, and it can be found from Augustine to Kierkegaard and from Plato to Heidegger. The purpose of my research is precisely to put into question this fundamental assumption, in order to think of an animal otherness and to figure out a way to raise the question of animal subjectivity and its relation to the human subjectivity.

## 3) Dr Silvia Suteu, University College London (UCL), Faculty of Law

Silvia Suteu is a Lecturer in Public Law at University College London, UK. She was previously an ESRC Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh and Associate Director for Research Engagement of the Edinburgh Centre for Constitutional Law. Silvia's research and teaching are in the areas of comparative constitutional law and constitutional theory. She is especially interested in the theory and practice of deliberative constitutional change, constitutional entrenchment and democratic theory (in particular eternity clauses), transitional constitutionalism, and gender-sensitive constitution-making. She has also done work in international humanitarian and human rights law. Silvia has provided legal expertise on constitution building to

organisations including Democracy Reporting International, the Euromed Feminist Initiative, International IDEA, OSCE, and UN Women.

#### *Popular Participation in Constitutional Change: The Case of Romania*

Popular participation in processes of constitutional renewal has become widespread throughout the world. This has been true for Romania as well, which has amassed a rich experience with popular participation in its post-communist period: seven national referendums, two deliberative forums, and a popular initiative to change the constitution. One of the trickiest outstanding questions regarding civic participation in processes of constitutional and legal change is when to resort to its use. In other words, which substantive issues should be put to popular consultation and vote and, relatedly, are there any that should be taboo? This project mines Romania's use of participatory mechanisms in order to answer this question: the 2003 referendum on validating constitutional revisions meant to bring the Romanian Constitution in line with NATO and EU accession requirements; the 2003 and 2013 consultative national forums on constitutional reform; the two presidential impeachment referendums in 2007 and 2012; and the popular initiative to amend the constitutional definition of the family of 2018. The project tests three hypotheses, long permeating the literature on public participation: whether it can sidestep political self-interest; whether it can break political deadlock; and whether it is always detrimental to minority rights. The explicit focus on Romania will also ensure the country's varied experience with democratic innovation in constitutional processes is given the attention it deserves.

#### 4) Dr Dumitru-Alexandru Aioanei, 'A .D. Xenopol' Institute of History, Romanian Academy, Iasi

Dumitru-Alexandru Aioanei is research-assistant at the "A.D. Xenopol" Institute of History of the Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch. He received his PhD in 2017, and then he published the book *Moldova on coordinates planned economy. Industrialization, urbanization, social engineers (1944-1965)*. He benefitted from research mobility funding in Mainz, Utrecht and London. He was member in the project *Joint History Project Phase II - Extending the proven tool for Reconciliation to the sensitive recent history of Southeast Europe*, coordinated by the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (Thessalonik, Grecia), funded by the Council for Europe. He was also a member in the project *Memory, identity, community. Oral history research on Prut Valley in Romania and Republic of Moldavia*, funded by The Government of Romania through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His research interests include history of communism, social and economic history, history of international relations, Romanian and Western countries during the Cold War, border studies.

#### *Daily Life on the Romanian-Soviet Frontier: Propaganda, Hostility and Cooperation*

This project rely on a collection of testimonies from people living on both sides of the border line between Romania and Moldova, the identification of

identity-related mechanisms and daily practices that functioned in the frontier area throughout the post-war period, the analysis of the means through which individuals and communities reacted towards the often aggressive political discourse and the manner in which the people administered their common rich cultural heritage, utterly neglected by the authorities. The elements of closeness and separation that have entered the collective mentality after 1945 and up to the present day, as well as the local factors specific to the communities living in the proximity of the Prut River will also be identified in order to establish the mechanisms that build the image of “the other” and fueled the myths about the other territory, cultivated and supported by the local discourse. From a geographical perspective, the project will focus on the border line separating the county of Botoșani in Romania and Briceni, Edineț, and Rîșcani districts from the Republic of Moldova.

5) Dr Radu Uszkai, Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Bucharest

Radu Uszkai is Assistant Lecturer at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, where he teaches Philosophy and Business Ethics, and a researcher at the Research Center in Applied Ethics of the University of Bucharest. He holds a PhD in philosophy from the University of Bucharest with a thesis on the ethics of file sharing. He has published extensively on the ethics of Intellectual Property, moral bioenhancement, roboethics, libertarianism and philosophy and pop culture.

*Do 21<sup>st</sup> Century Democracies Need Pirate Politics?*

The aim of this project is to analyze the politics of Intellectual Property, both online and offline. Using primarily conceptual and analytic tools in order to evaluate empirical data, I will develop a philosophical framework in order to clarify and assess the emergence and evolution of the Pirate Parties, the evolution and stability of the democratic norms of cooperation in online communities of digital pirates and how a political agenda of pirate politics for the 21<sup>st</sup> century should look like.