April 2025

CURRICULUM VITAE

ANCUȚA MORTU

University of Bucharest, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures
Department of French
Str. Edgar Quinet, no. 5-7, 010017, Bucharest, Romania

Email: ancuta-maria.mortu@lls.unibuc.ro
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7194-918X
Website: https://philpeople.org/profiles/ancuta-mortu

Areas of specialization: Aesthetics, Philosophy of Art
Areas of competence: Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Literary Theory, Anthropology of Art

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2024–present Assistant Professor, Department of French, University of Bucharest.

2021–24 Research Fellow, Member of the MASH Junior Project "Remote Access: Understanding Art from the Distant Past", PI Jakub Stejskal, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Department of Art History, Brno.

2020–21 Research Fellow, New Europe College–Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest.

2019 Research Fellow, ICUB Fellowship for Young Researchers, Research Institute of the University of Bucharest (ICUB), University of Bucharest.

2016 Global Humanities Junior Research Fellow, Freie Universität Berlin.

2013–14 Member of the Laboratoire d'Excellence : Création, Arts, Patrimoine (LabEx CAP). Project : "L'expérience esthétique: attractivité, fonctionnalité et cognition", PI Jean-Marie Schaeffer (CRAL, CNRS-EHESS), Paris.

EDUCATION

2011–15 Ph.D. in Aesthetics, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Centre de Recherches sur les Arts et le Langage, CRAL-CNRS-EHESS, Paris.
Thesis: "De la cognition esthétique à l'esthétique cognitive. Une étude généalogique" ["From Aesthetic Cognition to Cognitive Aesthetics. A Genealogical Study"].
Committee: Jean-Marie Schaeffer (Supervisor); Jérôme Dokic, Laurent Jaffro, Pierre Livet, Bence Nanay. Distinction: *Summa cum laude* [Très honorable avec les félicitations du jury à l'unanimité].

2009–11 M.A. in French Literature–Anthropological approaches, University of Bucharest.

2006–09 B.A. in Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest.

PUBLICATIONS

Editing

2024 "Remote Art: Engaging with Art from Distant Times and Cultures", Special Issue of the *British Journal of Aesthetics* 64(3): 267-428. Guest editor, with Jakub Stejskal and Mark Windsor.

Articles and Book Chapters

2024 "George Kubler and Serial Appreciation", *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics* 81/82: 199-211.

2024 "Remote Art and Aesthetics: An Introduction", *British Journal of Aesthetics*, Special Issue: "Remote Art: Engaging with Art from Distant Times and Cultures" 64(3): 267-278. With Jakub Stejskal and Mark Windsor.

2024 "The Aesthetic Mediation of Cultural Memory. Two Case Studies from Papua New Guinea and Kimberley, Australia", *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, 82(2): 152-162.

2024 "Prediction and Art Appreciation", *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, 15: 1331-1347.

2023 "Jean-Marie Schaeffer : l'esthétique entre art, cognition et anthropologie", *Nouvelle revue d'esthétique* 32(2): 193-202.

2021 "The Cognitive Structure of Art Appreciation: A Study on Northwest Coast Art", *New Europe College Yearbook, Stefan Odobleja Program* 2020-2021: 209-238.

2021 "Aesthetic Acts: From Distance to Engagement." In *Everydayness: Contemporary Aesthetic Approaches*, edited by Lisa Giombini, Adrian Kvokacka, 235-245. Rome, Presov: Roma Tre Press/ Presov University Press.

2018 "European Thinking and the Study of World Art from a Natural Perspective", *Espes* 7(2): 43-50.

2018 "L'information et la réception des œuvres conceptuelles", *Marges* 27(2): 96-107.

2018 "Ways of Perceiving and Mapping Human Cognition through Art", *Phenomenology and Mind* 14: 38-47.

2018 "Évolution et création artistique : de l'art évolutionniste", *Nouvelle revue d'esthétique* 21(1): 141-153.

2018 "Degrees of Attention in Experiencing Art", *Estetika: The European Journal of Aesthetics* 55(1): 45-66.

2012 "Des scarabées", *Revista Cercurilor Studentesti ale Departamentului de Limba si Literatura Franceza - RCSDLLF* (1): 75-83.

Conference Proceedings

2020 "The Repertoire as Aesthetic Category", *Proceedings of the European Society for Aesthetics* 12: 100-121.

2019 "Empirical Studies of the Arts Between History and Psychology." In *Proceedings of* the 21st *International Congress of Aesthetics, Possible Worlds of Contemporary Aesthetics: Aesthetics Between History, Geography and Media*, edited by Natasa Jankovic, Bosko Drobnjak, Marko Nikolic, 316-324. Belgrade: University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture.

2018 "Aesthetic Cognition and Art History", *Proceedings of the European Society for Aesthetics* 10: 459-481.

2016 "Marginal Attention and the Aesthetic Effect of Inconspicuous Art", *Proceedings of the European Society for Aesthetics* 8: 305-319.

Other Publications

2022 Interview: "Reassessing Art History's Humanism : An Interview with Whitney Davis", Centre for Modern Art and Theory, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, at: https://modernartbrno.com/blog/reassessing-art-historys-humanism-an-interview-with-whitney-davis/

TRANSLATIONS

2021 Jean-Marie Schaeffer, *Experiența estetică*, București, Tracus Arte, 2021, ISBN: 978-606-023-296-4.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED TALKS

Peer reviewed:

"Diversité esthétique et variabilité cognitive", Congrès 2024 de la Société Française d'Esthétique, Paris, La Sorbonne, Jun. 14-15, 2024.

"Appreciating Culturally Distant Art: A Predictive Account", American Society for Aesthetics Pacific Division Meeting, Berkeley, California, March 8-9, 2024.

"Art, Prediction and Cultural Distance", Beauty and Change II – Aesthetic Experience: Philosophical, Psychological and Neuroscientific Perspectives, Fondazione Giorgio Amendola, Turin, Nov. 2-4, 2023.

"Worlding Visual Cultures: A Cognitive Perspective", 1st International Conference on Visual Culture, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid, Oct. 23-25, 2023.

"Aesthetic Recollection", European Society for Aesthetics Conference, Tallinn, Estonian Academy of Arts, Jun. 28-30, 2022.

"L'esthétique et ses autres : art, cognition et anthropologie", Congrès de la Société Française d'Esthétique, Paris, La Sorbonne, Jun. 10-11, 2022.

"Aesthetic Fatigue and Attentional Overloading", Annual Conference of the Nordic Society for Aesthetics: The Aesthetics of Attention, hosted online by Aarhus University, May 20-21, 2021.

"Aesthetic Acts: From Distance to Engagement", Coordinates of Aesthetics, Art and Culture 6: Art, Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Everyday Life, hosted online by the University of Prešov, Slovakia, Nov. 12-13, 2020.

"The Structure of Art Historical Time: A Kublerian Approach", Getty Seminar series – *Periodization in the History of Art and its Conundrums,* New Europe College – Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest, Nov. 25 - Dec 3, 2019.

"Empirical Studies of the Arts Between History and Psychology", 21st International Congress of Aesthetics, Belgrade, July 22-26, 2019.

"Art Forms in the Realm of the Mind: A Kublerian Approach to Modeling Art Appreciation", Cognitive Futures in the Arts and the Humanities, Paradigms of Understanding – Sharing Cognitive Worlds, Johannes Gutenberg-University, Mainz, June 19-23, 2019.

"Psychological Framings of Art Appreciation", 2019 Canadian Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences – Circles of Conversation, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, June 1-3, 2019.

"Cognitive Frames of Reference in Art Historical Writing", Cognitive Futures in the Arts and Humanities, Canterbury, University of Kent, July 1-4, 2018.

"Aesthetic Cognition and Art History", European Society for Aesthetics Conference, Maribor, Alma Mater Europaea, Jun. 14-16, 2018.

"European Thinking and the Study of World Art from a Natural Perspective", Coordinates of Aesthetics, Art and Culture III, Institute of Aesthetics and Art Culture and Slovak Society for Aesthetics, University of Prešov, Slovakia, Nov. 8-9, 2017.

"L'information et la réception des œuvres conceptuelles", Journée d'études internationale de

la revue *Marges*, « Ce que fait le concept à l'œuvre », INHA, Paris, Oct. 7, 2017.

"Ways of Perceiving and Mapping our Inner World through Art", San Raffaele Spring School of Philosophy 2017 (SRSSP), Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, May 22-24, 2017.

"Écrire l'histoire naturelle de l'art", Congrès de la Société Française d'Esthétique, Reid Hall (Columbia University in Paris), Paris, May 19-20, 2017.

"Brentano and the Intentionality of Aesthetic Experience", 6th Dubrovnik Conference on the Philosophy of Art, Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik, April 18-22, 2017.

"Information as a Key Concept in Ontology of Art", New Ontologies of Art, Institute of Philosophy, University of Warsaw, Dec. 14-15, 2016.

"On the Cognitive Repertoire of Aesthetic Experience: Cognitive Universals in Aesthetics and Historical Contexts", Cognitive Futures in the Humanities, Helsinki, Jun. 13-15, 2016.

"Marginal Attention and the Aesthetic Effect of Inconspicuous Art", European Society For Aesthetics Conference, Barcelona, Jun. 8-10, 2016.

"Sensory Imaginings and the Correspondence of the Arts", Nordic Society of Aesthetics Annual Conference, Uppsala, May 26-28, 2016.

"Évolution de l'art et art évolutionniste: repenser les conduites artistiques", Congrès de la Société Française d'Esthétique, Fondation Lucien Paye, Paris, Jun. 4-5, 2015.

"Modulations des facultés cognitives dans la relation esthétique", *Recherches dans les arts*, CRAL, EHESS, Paris, Feb. 4, 2013.

Invited:

"Contesting Memory through Aesthetic Recognition", Workshop on Injustice and Cultural Heritage, Tilburg University, Dec. 6, 2024.

"Shapes of Memory in Aesthetic Cultures", Centre for Modern Art and Theory, Masaryk University, Brno, March 14, 2023.

"A Script-Based Understanding of Art Appreciation", Czech Society for Aesthetics, Faculty of Arts – Charles University, Jan Čejka Gallery, Campus Hybernska, Prague, Dec. 8, 2022.

"Making Sense of Art: Between Iconology and Cognitive Aesthetics". With Veronika Halamova, SeminArt, Masaryk University, Brno, November 15, 2022.

"Spectatorship and Models of Beholding", Thematic discussion within the Getty Seminar series – *Periodization in the History of Art and its Conundrums,* New Europe College – Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest, June 15-24, 2022.

"Aesthetic Recollection", Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, May 12, 2022.

"The Cognitive Structure of Art Appreciation", New Europe College – Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest, May 19, 2021.

"Répertoires du texte et de l'image", MSFF, *Littérature et image* Seminar, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest, Jan. 8, 2020.

"Uses of Naturalistic Systems in Art History", ICUB Humanities Lunchtime Seminar, University of Bucharest, Dec. 12, 2019.

"Psychological Investigations of Art Response", ICUB Humanities Lunchtime Seminar, University of Bucharest, March 14, 2019.

"The Cognitive Matrix of Aesthetic Response: Locating Cognition within Art History", Higher Seminar in Aesthetics, University of Uppsala, Feb. 22, 2017.

"The Problem of Anthropological Constants in Art Appreciation: Outlines of a Natural History of Art", Principles of Cultural Dynamics, Summer School 2016, Freie Universitaet Berlin, July 28 - August 7, 2016.

"Cognitive Universals of Art Appreciation", Dahlem Humanities Colloquium, Berlin, July 12, 2016.

"Une enquête sur la généalogie de la cognition esthétique", CEREFREA-Villa Noël, Bucharest, Feb. 8, 2016.

"Les sciences sociales et la création artistique" with Jean-Marie Schaeffer, Marielle Macé, Estéban Buch, Giovanni Careri and Francesca Mambelli, on the occasion of the visit of Geneviève Fioraso – Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, EHESS, Paris, Jun. 5, 2014.

"Steps toward Multisensory Aesthetic Processing", Institut Jean Nicod, Perception Group, Paris, Feb. 11, 2013.

"Des scarabées. *Saisir* le lisible et le visible chez Henri Michaux", University of Bucharest, May 21-22, 2010.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2024	Travel Grant of the American Society for Aesthetics for participation in Rasa 101 and Rasa Fest, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.
2022	Winner of an open call for Guest Editorship of the *British Journal of Aesthetics* 2024 Special Issue (with Jakub Stejskal and Mark Windsor).
2021	NEC Travel Grant, Centre de Recherches sur les Arts et le Langage, Paris.
2020–21	NEC-Odobleja Fellowship, New Europe College – Institute for Advanced Study. Project: "The Cognitive Structure of Art Appreciation".
2019	ICUB Fellowship for Young Researchers, Research Institute of the University

	of Bucharest (ICUB). Project: "Cognitive Processes in Art History: Emerging Psychological Investigations of the Beholder's Response to Art".
2017	Assistant professor ("maître de conférences") qualification by the French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research (CNU-MEN, *Conseil National des Universités*), section 17 (Philosophy), qualification number 17217292964.
2016	Assistant professor ("maître de conférences") qualification by the French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research (CNU-MEN), section 18 (Aesthetics), qualification number 16218292964. 2016
2016	Global Humanities Junior Research Fellowship, Freie Universitaet Berlin. Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), within the Thematic Network *Principles of Cultural Dynamics.* Project: "Cognitive Constants and the Appreciation of Cultural Artifacts: Unfolding the Dynamics of Aesthetic Experience".
2008–09	Erasmus Grant, Université Lumière Lyon 2, Lyon.

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

May 28 2024	Co-organizer of the 'Cognitive Art Histories' workshop, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno. With Jakub Stejskal.
May 19–22 2024	Participation in Rasa 101 and Rasa Fest Programs, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.
July 4–13 2022	Participation in the Univie Summer School / Scientific World Conceptions on the topic "Representation in Art and Science", University of Vienna, Institute Vienna Circle.
June 2021	Research stay at the Centre de Recherches sur les Arts et le Langage (CRAL, CNRS-EHESS, UMR 8566), Paris.
May 6–14 Nov. 25– Dec 3, 2019 June 15–24 2022	Participation in the Getty seminar series: *Periodization in the History of Art and Its Conundrums*, New Europe College – Institute for Advanced Study (Bucharest). Supported by the Getty Foundation, *Connecting Art Histories* initiative.
July 28– Aug. 7 2016	Lecturer at Freie Universitaet Berlin, Global Humanities Campus (GHC), Principles of Cultural Dynamics, Summer School: East Asia and 'the West': The Question of Anthropological Constants.

2013–14 Co-organizer of the CRAL graduate seminar, *Recherche dans les arts : présentation des travaux en cours*, EHESS, Paris.

Jun. 2011 Participation in the Summer School "Francophonie institutionnelle et diversité culturelle", Chaire Senghor, University of Bucharest, Sinaia.

2008 Modern and Contemporary Art course at the French Institute, Bucharest.

MEMBERSHIPS
American Society for Aesthetics (ASA), European Society for Aesthetics (ESA), Société Française d'Esthétique (SFE)

Journal refereeing
AI and Ethics, British Journal of Aesthetics, Espes, Frontiers in Neuroscience, Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism

Editorial Work
Guest editor of the 2024 Special Issue of the *British Journal of Aesthetics.* With Jakub Stejskal and Mark Windsor
Member of the editorial board of *Espes. The Slovak Journal of Aesthetics*
International editor of *Espes,* in 2021

Languages
French: Fluent (DALF C2)
English: Fluent
Italian, Spanish: Listening and Reading Skills
Romanian: Native