

RETHINKING ToM AND ASD

Conference program

March 22-23, 2025

Organizers: Sandra Cătălina Brânzaru (PhD candidate - University of Bucharest, Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, ICUB, CELFIS), with the help of students from Cognitive Science, BA, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

- Lorin Isac (University of Bucharest, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences)
- Teodora-Maria Neagoe (University of Bucharest, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences)
- Maria Tudoroiu (University of Bucharest, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences)

Saturday, March 22nd 2025

*The time slots correspond to Bucharest time zone, CET +1

Chair: Lorin Isac

10:00 -10:30 **Radu Nedescu** (tba). *Conceptualising the double empathy problem through the lens of enactivism and intercorporeality.*

10:30-11:00 **Mauro Lenti** (Università di Torino). *An Atmosphere of Affordances: Rethinking ASD beyond Theory of Mind*

11:00-12:00 **Keynote address: Daniel Hutto** (University of Wollongong). *Understanding Autistic Individuals: What's ToM got to do with it?*

12:00-12:30 **Afra M. Montero Ríos** (Institute Jean Nicod, ENS-PSL). *Read the room!*

12:30-15:00 **Lunch Break**

Chair: Maria Tudoroiu

15:00-15:30 **Chiara Dankl** (University of Vienna). *Beyond Empathy: Exploring the Epistemological Potential of ASD Cognition in Understanding Self and Other.*

15:30-16:00 **Joe Gough** (University of Oxford). *The Theory of Mind Theory of Autism.*

16:30-17:00 **Elena Georgiana Roșu** (University of Bucharest, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Science). *Who's Failing to Understand? Rethinking Social Cognition in Autism*

Break 17:00-17:30

17:30-18:00 **Emily Kotow** (University of Ottawa). *Embracing the Continuum; A Critique of Simulation Theory via Autism Spectrum Disorders.*

18:30-19:00 **Anna Alessandra Nicoletta Cruz Yu** and **Hannah Hao** (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, USA). *Perceived Control in Uncontrollable Social Contexts: Contributions of Cognitive Empathy, Social Skills, and Affiliative Behavior in*

Autism Spectrum Disorder (co-authored with, Jennifer Foss-Feig, Xiaosi Gu, Daniela Schiller).

Sunday, March 23rd

Chair: Teodora-Maria Neagoe

09:30-10:00 **Mihaela Drăgoi** (University of Bucharest, Faculty of Philosophy). *"Virtual autism" – a new problem in the digital age.*

10:00-10:30 **Ivo Valkov** (Sofia University). *Is Time an Axiom? Rethinking Its Foundations in Metaphysics and Physics*

10:30-11:00 **Nicolas Huline** (Université Libre de Bruxelles). *False belief tasks and contextualised mental states talks*

11:00-11:30 **Luca Di Vincenzo** (Sapienza University of Rome). *Theory of Mind and Autism Spectrum Disorder: Toward a Multimodal Constraint Hypothesis*

11:30-12:00 **Volodymyr Tymoshenko** (University of Bucharest, Faculty of Philosophy).

12:00- 12:30 **Round table (moderated by Teodora-Maria Neagoe, Maria Tudoroiu and Lorin Isac)**