

What counts as scientific understanding in cognitive science?

Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bucharest
Mircea Florian hall, Splaiul Independenței 204, Bucharest 060024
May 22nd-24th, 2026, hybrid

* All times are on the Bucharest Time Zone, please use the time converter if needed
<https://www.worldtimebuddy.com/>

Friday, May 22nd

08:45 Opening remarks - **Sorin Costreie** (Advisor to the President, University of Bucharest, CIVIS & UNICA, **online**)

09:00 **Keynote Mircea Dumitru** (University of Bucharest & Romanian Academy, **face to face**), *'Feeling the Proof': Is There Such a Thing as a Phenomenology of Reasoning?*

10:00 **Keynote Daniel Hutto** (University of Wollongong, **online**), *Getting Cognition Right*

11:15 **Invited Emily Sullivan** (University of Edinburgh, **online**), *AI for Science Needs Scientific Alignment*

12:00 **Invited Alfredo Vernazzani** (TU Dortmund / Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg, **face to face**) *An Epistemology of the Unintelligible*

12:45 **Invited Zuzanna Rucinska** (University of Antwerp, **online**), *Do cognitivists and enactivist propose opposing scientific explanations?*

13:30-17:00 Break

17:00 **Invited Daniel Wilkenfeld** (University of Pittsburgh, **online**), *On the unity of qualitative and quantitative methods in nursing science*

18:00 Break

18:15 **Andrew Richmond** (Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Western University, **online**), *From neuroscience to explainable AI: Representation, understanding, and explanation*

19:00 **Keynote David Bourget** (Department of Philosophy, Western University, **online**), *Could understanding be a functional property?*

Saturday, May 23rd

14.00 **Rotem Yahel** (Department of Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, **online**), *When Pluralism Becomes Eclecticism: Scientific Understanding and the Individuation of Explananda in Cognitive Science*

14.45 **Deivide Garcia da S. Oliveira** (Department of Philosophy, Coordinator of G-EFFICIENTIA: Research Group of Philosophy and Scientific Education, Federal University of Sergipe, **online**), *Against Method, and Against Black Boxes: Feyerabend, Opaque AI and the Threat to Scientific Understanding*

15.30 **Alba Lavagnoli Gonzalez** (Universidad de Valladolid, **online**), *What Does It Mean to Understand? A Comparison Between Humans and Machines*

16.15 **Horea Rusu** (Babeş-Bolyai University, **online**), *Validity as a precondition for scientific understanding in cognitive science*

17:00 **Keynote Gualtiero Piccinini** (University of Missouri, **online**), *Cognition: The Extended Modern Synthesis*

Sunday, May 24th

14:30 **Andrei Măraşoiu** (University of Bucharest, Faculty of Philosophy, ICUB & CELFIS, **face to face**), *The Unity of Science Hypothesis Revisited: Cognitive-Scientific Interlude*

15.15 **Sandra Brânzaru** (University of Bucharest, Doctoral School in Philosophy, CELFIS & Faculty of Psychology and Educational Science, **face to face**), *Scientific Understanding in Cognitive Science*

16.15 **Invited Ioan Muntean** (University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, **face to face**), *Understanding, intuition, and explanation of networks: mechanisms, scales, and levels.*

17.00 **Invited J. Adam Carter & Emma Gordon** (COGITO Center, University of Glasgow, **online**). *Lucky Understanding Revisited*

17.45 **Invited Steven Gouveia** (Instituto de Filosofia da Universidade do Porto, **face to face**), *From Reduction to Integration: Rethinking the Neurophilosophy of Consciousness*

18.45 Roundtable **Mind the Brain, face to face** (Elena Giorgiana Roşu, Daniel Stancu, Nicoleta Olteanu, Maria Ofileanu, Alexandra Din, Florin Cojocariu)

19.30 *Closing remarks*