

MIHNEA DOBRE

Associate Professor. M.A. program in Religious Studies
Academic Coordinator, Researcher, The Humanities division of the Research Institute of the
University of Bucharest (IRH-ICUB)

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Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, 2010, Cotutelle between Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands) and University of Bucharest (Romania). Dissertation title: *Metaphysics and Physics in Cartesian Natural Philosophy: Descartes and Early French Cartesians on the Foundation of Natural Philosophy*.

M.A., Philosophy, 2003, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bucharest.

B.A., Philosophy, 2002, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bucharest.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

Descartes and Early French Cartesianism: between metaphysics and physics, Zeta Books, Foundations of Modern Thought series, 2017.
(<http://www.zetabooks.com/books/foundations-of-modern-thought/dobre-mihnea-descartes-and-early-french-cartesianism-between-metaphysics-and-physics.html>)

EDITED VOLUME

Cartesian Empiricisms. Co-edited volume with Tammy Nyden. Dordrecht: Springer. Studies in History and Philosophy of Science 31, 2013.
(<http://www.springer.com/philosophy/philosophical+traditions/book/978-94-007-7689-0>)

DISSERTATION

Metaphysics and physics in Cartesian natural philosophy: Descartes and early French Cartesians on the foundation of natural philosophy, Ph.D. dissertation, Proefschrift Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, 2010.

ARTICLES

“Jacques Rohault and Cartesian Experimentalism.” In Oxford Handbook to Descartes and Cartesianism, eds. Steven Nadler, Delphine Antoine-Mahut, Tad Schmaltz. Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Henry More and William Petty: Revisiting an Early Modern Polemic,” *Early Science and Medicine* 23 (3), 2018: 244-264. DOI:1163/15733823-00233P03.

“Descartes and the Hartlib Circle: an episode in of knowledge communication in the early modern period” [in Romanian, *Descartes si cercul lui Hartlib: un episod de comunicare a cunoașterii in perioada modernității timpurii*] in *Revista de Filosofie* 63 (6) , 2016: 725-738.

“Experimental Cartesianism and the Problem of Space.” In Vermeir, Koen and Jonathan Regier (eds.), *Boundaries, Extents and Circulations - Space and Spatiality in Early Modern Natural Philosophy*. Dordrecht: Springer, 2016: 153-178.

(<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319410746>)

“On Philosophy of Experiment in Early Modern Period” [in Romanian, *Considerații despre filosofia experimentului în perioada modernă timpurie*] in *Revista de filosofie* 61 (6), 2014: 631-642.

“Mixing Cartesianism and Newtonianism: the Reception of Cartesian Physics in England.” In Gianna Katsiampoura (ed.), *Scientific Cosmopolitanism and Local Cultures: Religions, Ideologies, Societies, Proceedings of 5th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science*. Athens: National Hellenic Research Foundation/Institute of Historical Research, 2014: 126-131.

(<http://5eshs.hpdst.gr/sites/5eshs.hpdst.gr/files/5eshs-proceedings.pdf>)

“Introduction” (co-authored with Tammy Nyden). In Dobre, Mihnea and Tammy Nyden (eds.), *Cartesian Empiricisms*, Springer Studies in History and Philosophy of Science 31. Dordrecht: Springer, 2013: 1-21.

(http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-94-007-7690-6_1)

“Rohault’s Cartesian Physics.” In Dobre, Mihnea and Tammy Nyden (eds.), *Cartesian Empiricisms*, Springer Studies in History and Philosophy of Science 31. Dordrecht: Springer, 2013: 203-226.

(<http://www.springer.com/philosophy/philosophical+traditions/book/978-94-007-7689-0>).

“On Glass-Drops: a Case Study of the Interplay Between Experimentation and Explanation in Seventeenth-Century Natural Philosophy”, *Journal of Early Modern Studies* 2, 2013: 105-124. (ISSN: 2285-6382 (paperback); 2286–0290 (electronic).

(https://www.pdcnet.org/pdc/bvdb.nsf/purchase?openform&fp=jems&id=jems_2013_0002_0001_0105_0124)

“Knowledge and Certainty in the Foundation of Cartesian Natural Philosophy”, *Revue Roumaine de philosophie* 57 (1): 95-110 (June 2013). (ISSN: 1220-5400; <http://www.institutuldefilosofie.ro/page.php?14>)

“Cartesianism and Chymistry,” in *Disciplines and Forms of Knowledge in Early Modern Thought* (a special issue of the journal *Society and Politics*,

vol. 5, no. 2 (10), 2011): 121-136.

(http://www.uvvg.ro/socpol/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=80&Itemid=96)

“Rohault’s *Traité de physique* and its Newtonian reception,” in Roca-Rosell, A. (ed.) (2012). *The Circulation of Science and Technology: Proceedings of the 4th International Conference of the ESHS, Barcelona, 18-20 November 2010*. Barcelona: SCHCT-IEC. ISBN: 978-84-9965-108-8: 389-394.

“Early Cartesianism and the *Journal des Sçavans*, 1665-1671,” *Studium*, vol. 4, no. 4 (2011): 228-240.

“The Vanishing Nature of Body in Descartes’s Natural Philosophy,” in Anstey, Peter & Jalobeanu, Dana (eds.), *Vanishing Matter and the Laws of Nature: Descartes and Beyond*, Routledge, 2011: 11-30.

“The Scientific Journals of the Seventeenth-Century: Cartesianism in *Journal des Sçavans* and *Philosophical Transactions*, 1665-1670,” in Alexandrescu, Vlad (ed.), *Branching off: The Early Moderns in Quest of the Unity of Knowledge*, Zeta Books, 2009: 333-358.

“The Foundations of Physics: Descartes’s Styles of Thinking and its Cartesian followers,” in *Styles of Thinking in Science and Technology* (Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science, Vienna, September 10-12 2008), 2009: 941-948.

“Discourse on Descartes’ Method,” in Alexandrescu, Vlad & Jalobeanu, Dana (eds.), *Esprits modernes: études sur les modèles de pensée alternatifs*, Bucharest: Editura Universității București; Arad: „Vasile Goldiș” University Press, 2003: 117-130.

Other articles and translations in Romanian.

NOTES, REVIEWS, ETC.

Book review of Jacques Rohault, *Traité de physique*, édition par Simone Mazauric, Paris, Édition du Comité des travaux historiques et scientifiques (Collection CTHS Sciences n° 12), 2014, 830 p. In *Artefact. Techniques, histoire et sciences humaines. Le XXe siècle du Technique. Formation, recherché et économie* 3/ 2016: 231-235.

Encyclopaedia entry for “Jacques Rohault,” in the *Cambridge Descartes Lexicon* (ed. Lawrence Nolan), Cambridge University Press, 2016: 657-659.

Book review of Lawrence Nolan (ed.), *Primary and Secondary Qualities* (Oxford University Press, 2011). In *Journal of Early Modern Studies (JEMS)* 3 (1)/ 2014: 149-153.

Book review of Manning, Gideon (ed.), *Matter and Form in Early Modern Science and Philosophy* (Brill, 2012). In *British Journal for the History of Science* 47 (2)/ June 2014: 375-376.

“Material Objects and Circulation of Knowledge in Early Modern Low Countries.” Book-review of Sven Dupré and Christoph Lüthy (eds.), *Silent Messengers. The Circulation of Material Objects of Knowledge in the Early Modern Low Countries* (Berlin: Lit Verlag, 2011) in *Society and Politics* 7, 1 (13): 117-119, 2013.

Book review of Antonia LoLordo, *Pierre Gassendi and the Birth of Early Modern Philosophy*. In *Early Science and Medicine*, 16/ 2 (2011): 168-172.

“Natural Philosophy and the Birth of Modern Science” (Book review for Stephen Gaukroger, *The Emergence of a Scientific Culture. Science and the Shaping of Modernity 1210-1685*), in *Studii de știință și cultură*, VI (2010), No. 4 (23): 182-183.

Book review of Fred Ablondi, *Gerauld de Cordemoy: Atomist, Occasionalist, Cartesian* (Milwaukee, 2005), in *Early Science and Medicine* 11 (2006): 365-367.

HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Team Member (Researcher) in the Grant PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2016-0228 (The National Research Council, Romania), 2017-.

Team Member (Researcher) in the Grant no. 362/01/10/2015 (The National Research Council, Romania), 2015-2017.

Team Member (Researcher) in the Grant no. 294/05/10/2011 (The National Research Council, Romania), 2012-2016.

Post-Doctoral research grant, University of Bucharest (Posdru ID 62259), 2010-2013.

Team Member (Research Assistant) in the Grant no. 758/ 2009 (The National Research Council, Romania), 2008-2011.

NEC-link grant for teaching (together with Dana Jalobeanu and Ilie Parvu), New Europe College and Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bucharest, 2008-2009.

PICNIC, Research grant for Ph.D. candidates at Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands), 2008.

Young Doctoral Students Grant (TD), no. 402/ 10.2007 (The National Research Council, Romania), 2007-2008.

Huygens Fellowship, Nuffic (The Netherlands), 2005-2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Faculty of Philosophy; Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest (2008-2009; 2010-present)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Max-Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin. July 2016, June-July 2017.

The Seminars on The Foundations of Early Modern Thought (2001- present)

Center for Research in Logic, History and Philosophy of Science Seminars in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Bucharest (2009-present).

Princeton University. September 2013.

CNRS/ BNF, Paris. January 2013.

Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands, Visiting scholar (2005-2006, 2008, 2009, 2012).

From Natural Philosophy to Science, European Science Foundation Programme (ESF), Junior Researcher in Team 1 (2004-2008).

DISSERTATION

“Metaphysics and physics in Cartesian natural philosophy: Descartes and early French Cartesians on the foundation of natural philosophy,” Advisors: Christoph Lüthy and Ilie Parvu.

AREAS OF SPECIAL COMPETENCE

History of science and history of philosophy, especially in the early modern period.

Descartes’s philosophy, Cartesianism.

Science and religion in the early modern period.

Research methods, Academic writing.

LANGUAGES

Romanian, English, French, Latin.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

European Society for the History of Science (ESHS)

International Society for Intellectual History (ISIH)

The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Coordinating research programs within the Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Bucharest (IRH-ICUB).

Co-organizer of the Bucharest Colloquium in Early Modern Science

Co-organizer of the Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy

Co-organizer of the seminars on early modern philosophy in The Center for the Logic, History and Philosophy of Science (CELFIS) and the Research Center on the Foundations of Early Modern Thought (FME), University of Bucharest

PRESENTATIONS

“Mathematical controversies around Cartesianism: Clerselier, Fermat, Rohault.” *HOPOS 2018*, Groningen (09-12.07.2018).

“Cartesianism and Mathematics.” *Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Bran (28.06.-04.07.2018).

“Early Modern Cosmology Between ‘Mosaic Physics’ and Mechanical Philosophy.” Conference on “Reformation and Modernity,” University of Bucharest (17-18.11.2017).

Reading group on "Galileo, the Theologian" (together with Dan Garber). Masterclass on „Galileo’s Methods of Investigation and Discovery,” Bucharest, ICUB (24-28.10.2017).

“Rohault’s Cartesianism and his treatises on mechanics: what form of mechanics?” Conference on *The History of Philosophy of the Scientific Revolution*, Bergamo (05-06.10.2017).

“Intermediaries, Merchants, and Polemicists: on the letters exchanged by Descartes, More, Petty, and Hartlib.” ISIH, The American University in Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad (30.05.-01.06.2017).

“Ways of connecting Bacon and Descartes: Medicine and Experimentation.” Bucharest Colloquium in early Modern Science, Bucharest” (24-26.10.2016).

“The power of historiographic labels and the power of national historiographies of science: the Bacon-Descartes case.” 7ESHS conference, Prague (22-24.09.2016).

Co-chairing two round-table discussions on “Trees of Knowledge (I)” (Texts: Proclus, Commentary on Euclid (fragments); John Dee, Mathematical Preface. With Dana Jalobeanu and Ovidiu Babeș) and “Trees of Knowledge (II)” (Texts: Bacon, *De augmentis scientiarum*; Descartes, “Letter to the reader,” *Principia philosophia*. With Dana Jalobeanu and Doina-Cristina Rusu). *Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Alba-Iulia (11-16.07.2016).

“Between medicine and natural philosophy: some French Cartesians exploring the path between principles and experimentation.” *Scientiae 2016*, Oxford (05-07.2016).

Round-table discussion on “Descartes in the Hartlib Papers.” Workshop on *Early Modern Intersections: Science, Experiments, Methodologies*, Vasile Goldis Western University of Arad (18.04.2016).

“Bacon, Descartes, and the ‘new science’.” Workshop on *Baconian Themes in Natural and Moral Philosophy*, IRH-ICUB & CELFIS, University of Bucharest (01.04.2016).

“Baconianism, Cartesianism, and Newtonianism. Jacques Rohault’s Treatise on Physics and Samuel Clarke’s Newtonian annotations.” Masterclass on *Isaac Newton’s Philosophical Projects*, IRH, University of Bucharest (06-10.10.2015).

“Reading group *Genesis and the new science. The case of Cartesian philosophy*” (with Daniel Garber). *Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Bran, Romania (12-17.07.2015).

“Manuscrisul 2001 de la Biblioteca Mazarină. Un exercițiu de istorie intelectuală în jurul scrisorilor lui Descartes despre Euharistie” [in Romanian]. A round-table discussion organized together with Vlad Alexandrescu and Grigore Vida. ICUB, Bucharest (20.11.2014).

“Filosofia experimentală a secolului al XVII-lea și experimentalismul cartezian” [in Romanian. The English title, *17th-Century Experimental Philosophy and the Case of Cartesian Experimentalism*]. CELFIS Seminar, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bucharest (08.10.2014).

“Reading group “Naturalism: Cardano, Telesio, Bacon” (with Daniel Garber and Doina-Cristina Rusu). *Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Bran, Romania (08-13.07.2014).

“Experimental Cartesianism and the problem of space.” HOPOS 2014, Ghent (03-06.07.2014).

“Experience, experiment and observation in Cartesian natural philosophy: the case of organic processes of the human body.” Scientiae 2014, Vienna (23-25.04.2014).

“Cartesian Experimentalism across the Empiricist-Rationalist Divide. François Bayle and how experience and reason join together in the production of knowledge.” *Conflict and Collaboration in Early Modern Europe*, Radboud University Nijmegen (31.10.-01.11.2013).

Reading group “Baconianism and Cartesianism: on experiments” (with Sophie Roux) in the Bucharest-Princeton Seminar on Early Modern Philosophy, Bran, Romania (05-10.07.2013).

Reading group “Baconianism and Cartesianism: on method” (with Igor Agostini) in the Bucharest-Princeton Seminar on Early Modern Philosophy, Bran, Romania (05-10.07.2013).

“From Bacon to Baconianism: some thoughts on seventeenth-century ‘Baconianism’ and other categories in the early modern period.” Scientiae 2013, University of Warwick, UK, April 17-21, 2013.

“On Cartesian Empiricisms: historical and philosophical challenges.” The Department of Theoretical Philosophy Seminar, Faculty of Philosophy, Bucharest, January 16, 2013.

“Mixing Cartesianism and Newtonianism: the reception of Cartesian physics in England.” 5ESHS, Athens, Greece, November 1-3, 2012.

“Cunoastere si certitudine in filosofia naturala carteziana (Knowledge and Certainty in Cartesian Natural Philosophy).” The Department of Theoretical Philosophy Seminar, Faculty of Philosophy, Bucharest, May 5, 2012.

“Experimental physics in Cartesian natural philosophy.” *Creative Experiments: Heuristic & Exploratory Experimentation in Early Modern Science*, 3rd Bucharest Colloquium in Early Modern Science, Bucharest, Romania, March 24-25, 2012.

“Cartesian Empiricisms: an introduction.” *3rd edition of Bucharest Graduate Conference in Early Modern Philosophy*, Bucharest, Romania, March 22-23, 2012.

“Vacuum Experiments in Cartesian Context.” &HPS4, Athens, Greece, March 15-18.2012.

“Theory and Experimentation in Jacques Rohault.” Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands, February 28, 2012.

“Jacques Rohault and Samuel Clarke.” Collaborative aspects of Early Modern Thought: Philosophical Correspondence and the Republic of Letters, *The Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Bran, Romania, July 2-8, 2011.

“Cartesianism and Chymistry: mechanism and the rejection of chemistry as a science.” Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bucharest, Romania, June 6, 2011.

“Moral and Absolute Certainty in the Foundation of Cartesian Natural Philosophy.” *Passionate Minds: Knowledge and the Emotions in Intellectual History: 2011 Conference of the International Society for Intellectual History (ISIH)*, University of Bucharest, Romania, May 26-28, 2011.

“Rohault’s *Traité de Physique* and its Newtonian Reception.” *The Circulation of Science and Technology: 4th International Conference of the European Society of the History of Science (ESHS)*, Institut d’Estudis Catalans (IEC), Barcelona, Spain, November 18-20, 2010.

“Cartesianism in the *Journal des Savants* between 1665 and 1671.” *Seminar of the Department of Theoretical Philosophy*, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bucharest, Romania, October 20, 2010.

“Sharing Knowledge. Dealing with Censorship in the ‘Republic of Letters’.” *The Limits of the Knowledge Society*, University of Iasi, Romania, October 6-9, 2010.

“Knowledge of the physical body. Descartes and Cartesians on the quest for certainty in natural philosophy.” *Second Young Researchers Days & Workshop on the Relations between Logic, Philosophy and History of Science*, Bruselles, Belgium, September 6-7, 2010.

“Cartesianism and Chemistry: some early reactions.” *The Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Bran, Romania, June 30 – July 6, 2010.

“Jacques Rohault and the use of experiment in Cartesian physics.” *History of the Philosophy of Science (HOPOS) Biennial Conference*, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, June 24-27, 2010.

“Jacques Rohault and Cartesian Physics.” *The Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Bran, Romania, July 25-31, 2009.

“Cartesian Revolution: Descartes and early Cartesians on the foundations of physics.” *Beyond Kuhnian paradigms: was there a scientific revolution in 17th century, after all?*. Bucharest Colloquium in Early Modern Philosophy, March 26-27, 2009.

“The Cartesian Philosophy of Géraud de Cordemoy.” *The seminars of the Research Center for the Foundations of Modern Thought*, New Europe College, Bucharest, December 12, 2008.

“The Foundations of Physics: Descartes’s style of thinking and its Cartesian followers.” *Styles of Thinking in Science and Technology: 3rd International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science*, Vienna, Austria, September 10-12, 2008.

“A Tree without Roots? Descartes’s tree of knowledge and the early Cartesianism.” *The Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Malancrav, Romania, July 27 – August 3, 2008.

“Figuring the Man Mechanism: Descartes and the Early Cartesians on the Structure of the Mind-Body Union.” *The Soul: from Aristotelian ‘scientia de anima’ to early modern psychology*. Summer School of the European Science Foundation, Den Bosch, The Netherlands, July 13-20, 2008.

“The invisible nature of body in Descartes’s natural philosophy.” *Vanishing bodies and the birth of modern physics: experimental philosophy, speculative philosophy and the missing matter theory of the seventeenth century*. Bucharest colloquium in Early Modern Philosophy, June 30 – July 2, 2008.

“Early Cartesianism in the Scientific Journals of the Seventeenth Century.” *Institutions and Networks. Circulating Knowledge in Early Modern Science*. University of Leuven, Belgium, June 12-13, 2008.

“Shaping the Body: the Epicurean Temptation of the Early Cartesianism.” *Epicurean and Anti-Epicurean themes in Early Modern Philosophy*. Leiden, The Netherlands, Aprilie 11-12, 2008.

“The Quest for Certainty in Cartesian Natural Philosophy.” *The Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Bran, Romania, July 29 – August 3, 2007.

“Scientific Journals of the Seventeenth Century.” *The Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Bran, Romania, July 30 – August 4, 2006.

“Descartes’s Matter Theory.” Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands, February 24, 2006.

“A Critique of the Cartesian Theory of Matter: Gérauld de Cordemoy.” *The Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Arad, Romania, September 6-12, 2004.

“A Soul Making Experiments: The Individualistic Approach to Experiment in Cartesian Natural Philosophy.” *The Bucharest-Princeton Summer School in Early Modern Philosophy*, Macea, Romania, September 2003.

“Discourse on Descartes’ Method.” *The Bucharest-Princeton Summer School in Early Modern Philosophy*, Macea, Romania, September 2002.

“Eternal Truths and the Problem of Possible Worlds in Descartes’ Philosophy” (together with Ciprian Tudor, Politechnical Institute, Bucharest). Summer School, Tescani, Romania, September 2001.