Romanian modal verb configurations and phases

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The talk addresses the syntactic properties of the Romanian modal verbs putea (‘can, be able to’) and trebui (‘must, have to’). It is shown that their distributional and interpretative properties indicate that the modal verbs have a uniform syntactic behavior, in spite of superficially different syntactic configurations (a monoclausal configuration and a biclausal configuration) in which they appear: (i) they are subject raising verbs, which (ii) select a phasal complement. The talk will touch upon several controversial issues surrounding modal configurations: the nature of the embedded subjunctive, restructuring and verb movement, etc.