

## THE AUTHORS

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**Dan Dungaciu**, Director of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations, Romanian Academy, Bucharest. Professor at the Faculty of Sociology, University of Bucharest; coordinator of the Master programme “Security Studies”, University of Bucharest.

**Ecaterina Cepoi** graduated English-Arabic Department at the Dimitrie Cantemir University and then Master of Business, at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (2010) and MA in Security and Diplomacy at the National School of Political Science and Public Administration in Bucharest (2012). She is currently a PhD Candidate at the National Defense University “Carol I” in Bucharest, having as research topic the problematic of secularization in the contemporary Middle East on the background of the rise of political Islam, especially in post-Mubarak Egypt. Areas of interest: Middle Eastern Studies, Security Studies, International Relations.

**Lucian Jora** is a Research Fellow at the Romanian Academy (The Institute of International Relations) and since 2006 a senior counselor within the Romanian Ministry of Education at the Unit in charge with the European Union financial assistance for Human Resources Development. Previous appointments include visiting research positions at the Jagellonian University, Cracow, Poland 2002, The Center for Research on Europe Canterbury University New Zealand 2002, Shandong University, Jinan China 207, Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC 2009.

**Mirela-Adriana Viziru** owns a MA Degree from University of Bucharest and Intercultural Management (UNESCO Department), an Erasmus Scholarship at University of Alicante, Alicante (Spain) and an BA Degree from University of Bucharest. Member of AIESEC (world’s largest student-run organisation). She has participated to several projects – Participation at the “Top Talents Romania” programme organized by Catalyst Solutions; Participation at the international project “Being oppressed? – Not Anymore!” – Macedonia, organized by the Young Partners for Civil Society Development Association with the support of the European Commission; ESN (Erasmus Student Network) “UNIBUC BE-Buddy” mentor programme etc.

**John Rueal Comninos** is a Gestalt Psychotherapist and Play Therapist as well as a Pastoral Psychologist. He initially studied theology (LIC. Th) and became a Presbyterian Minister and later studied Pastoral Psychology at Stellenbosch University (M.Th.) and Gestalt Therapy at UNISA and has extensive experience in trauma, he lectured broadly in Psychology at Huguenot College and lectured and supervised students in the Masters Programme in Pastoral Psychology at SU and in the Masters programme in Play Therapy at the Play Therapy Centre, Wellington.

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**Valentin Stoian**, PhD Candidate in Political Science (Political Theory) at the Central European University. He holds an M.A. from the same university. Professional experience: Internship at the National Institute for Romanian Holocaust Research – “Eli Wiesel” Bucharest, Romania (2008); internship at the Institute for Defense Political Studies and Military History, Bucharest, Romania (2007); Internship in the Romanian Department for European Integration, Bucharest, Romania (2006).

**Ana Maria Negoită**, PhD in art history at CESI – University of Bucharest, specialized in Islamic architecture during Middle Age. She has a degree in art history at “The National University of Art” of Bucharest, also a Master degree in the same field. Her studies include scholarship in Islamic art PhD program at the Department of Oriental Studies, University “La Sapienza” – Rome.

**Mohamed Al-Sadoun**, painter, conceptual artist, researcher and historian. He is one of the leading contributors to the contemporary Arab art movement. B.F.A. from the University of Baghdad, Iraq. After coming to the United States, Al Sadoun attended the University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut, where he received an M.A. in Art Education. He returned to Iraq and taught art classes at the University of Kufa, and the University of Baghdad. He spent three years in Japan exhibiting his work. Ph.D. in Art Education from Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. Coordinator of the Fine Arts Minor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, United Arab Emirates University.

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**Ian Browne** studied at Churchill College, University of Cambridge and at St Andrews University, Scotland. Current research interests include Aristotelian ethics, political philosophy and anti-realist semantics; now based in Bucharest.

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**Catrina-Alexandra Ciornei**, assistant professor for German and English language at the Romanian-German University of Sibiu, Philology, PhD and Director of the Department of Legal and Administrative Sciences at the University. She published several books, the recent one focused upon *Influenţa germană în literatura română în a doua jumătate a secolului al XIX-lea (The German Influence in the Romanian Literature in the Second Half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century)* Sibiu: Editura Techno Media, 2009. Author of numerous scientific articles and studies.