

# **SZEKELY-COPÎNDEAN, RALUCA DIANA**

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*Department of Social and Human  
Research, "George Barițiu" Institute of  
History, Cluj-Napoca, Romanian Academy*

## **RESEARCH FIELDS AND TOPICS**

**Fields:** Psychology, Metascience, Cognitive Neuroscience

**Topics:** Moral Judgment and Decision-Making, Psychophysiology of Cognition and Emotion

## **RESEARCH PROFILES AND IDENTIFIERS**

ResearcherID: <https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/L-4926-2019>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.ro/citations?user=pyPn3EIAAAA&hl=ro>

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9076-5573>

Open Science Framework: <https://osf.io/rkawb>

BrainMap: <https://www.brainmap.ro/raluca-diana-szekely-copindean>

ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Raluca-Szekely-Copindean>

## **EDUCATION**

Master's Degree in Complex Data Analysis, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, 2023.

PhD in Psychology (*summa cum laude*), Applied Cognitive Psychology Doctoral School, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, 2019. Thesis title: *Moral Decision and Emotion: Roles of Personality, Religiosity and Empathy*.

Bachelor's Degree in Law, Faculty of Law, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, 2014.

Certificate of Completion, Level II, Psychopedagogical Training Program, Department for Teacher Training, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, 2012.

Master's Degree in "Psychological techniques for behavioral control and human potential optimization", Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, 2012.

Certificate of Completion, Level I, Psychopedagogical Training Program, Department for Teacher Training, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, 2010.

Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, 2010.

## **RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

### **Research Positions**

Postdoctoral Researcher and Data analyst – Swiss National Science Foundation, MAPS – Multilateral Academic Projects scheme, Social Sciences and Humanities domain, Grant (ID: 230823): *Children's Honest and Deceptive Behaviour during School Transitions: Developmental insights from three European educational systems (CHOICES)*, (starting November) 2025 – 2029. Principal Investigator: prof. L. Visu-Petra (Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania).

Postdoctoral Researcher – European Commission HORIZON Grant (ID: 101132531): *Longitudinal Educational Achievements: Reducing iNequalities (LEARN)*, 2024 – 2027. Principal Investigator: prof. O. Negru-Subțirică (Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania).

Researcher – Data analyst – Grant Trauma Research Foundation, USA (contract no. 5465/17.11.2023): *SCORE – Safe Coping and Openness to new life for Residential adolescent population – pilot research program*, 2023 – 2024. Director: conf. univ. dr. G. M. Marcu.

Researcher / Data scientist – Scientific Collective for Research in Neuroscience, Clinical Psychiatric Hospital “Dr. Gh. Preda”, Sibiu, Romania, 2022 – present.

Recognized Researcher (R2) – Psychology Group, Department of Social & Human Research, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch, 2020 – present.

Research assistant, Psychology Group – Department of Social & Human Research, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch, 2018 – 2020.

Research assistant - Grant PN III P4 ID PCE-2016-08, UEFISCDI: *Shame and Guilt in Borderline Personality Disorder. An Emotion Regulation Approach*, 2017 – 2018. Director: prof. A. Szentagotai-Tătar, PhD.

Research assistant – Grant PN II ID PCCE 2011-2-0045, UEFISCDI: *Genetic and environmental factors in emotion regulation development during adolescence: Implications for anxiety disorders and depression*, 2012 – 2016. Directors: prof. C. MacLeod, PhD and prof. A. C. Miu, PhD.

Research assistant - Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, Department of Psychology, Babeş-Bolyai University, 2008 – 2019. Supervisor: prof. A. C. Miu, PhD.

### **Teaching Positions**

Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Babeş-Bolyai University.

2026 – present: Big Data Analysis (in collaboration with senior assist. prof. Ioana Cicuiu; optional course, undergraduate level, Cognitive Science)

2025 – present: Advanced Data Science (optional course, undergraduate level, Cognitive Science).

2023 – present : Applied Psychophysiology (compulsory course, master’s level, Legal Psychology).

Teaching assistant, Department of Psychology, Babeş-Bolyai University.

2021 – 2022: Applied Psychophysiology (master’s level; prof. Andrei C. Miu).

2016 – 2019; 2020 - 2021: Introduction to Neuroscience (undergraduate level; prof. Andrei C. Miu).

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS**

Participation Scholarship, *Beyond  $p < .05$ : Modern statistical approaches in psychological science*, International Winter School, University of Padova, Italy, 8 – 22 February 2019.

Research Fellowship and Scholarship, *Summer Seminars in Neuroscience and Philosophy*, Duke University, USA, 22 May – 3 June 2017.

Doctoral research mobility, University of Oxford; supervisor: prof. Molly Crockett, PhD, under the project POSDRU/187/1.5/S/155383, Oxford, United Kingdom, 1 – 30 November 2015.

Doctoral Research Fellowship, Sectoral Operational Programme for Human Resources Development 2007-2013, co-financed by the European Social Fund, under the project POSDRU/187/1.5/S/155383- “Quality, excellence, transnational mobility in doctoral research”, 2015.

Student Research Scholarship, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, 2011.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

“Prof. Florian Ştefănescu-Goangă” Prize for excellence in doctoral research, 2019.

Prize for “Excellence in research” under the project POSDRU/187/1.5/S/155383- “Quality, excellence, transnational mobility in doctoral research”, 2015.

Recognition of research output through the PRECISI awards in 2015 (for articles published in *Cognition & Emotion* and *Personality and Individual Differences*) and in 2023 (for an article published in *Nature Human Behaviour*).

### **RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL SKILLS**

**Domains:** Cognitive psychology, Psychophysiology, Data Science

- **Advanced data analysis:** mixed effects/multilevel models, time series analysis, structural equation modeling, machine learning, natural language processing, signal processing.
- **Programming languages:** R, Python, Mplus, SQL.
- **Computational tools:** RMarkdown, Jupyter Notebooks, Git/GitHub, Google Colab.
- **Experimental task/Survey setup:** OpenSesame, PsychoPy, Qualtrics.
- **Peripheral physiological data acquisition and analysis:** electrodermal activity (EDA), electrocardiography (ECG), heart rate variability (HRV)
- **Open Science practices:** preregistration, reproducible analysis pipelines, registered reports, open materials/data/code.

- **Academic writing and scientific communication:** peer-reviewed publication, registered reports, grant proposals, editorial contributions.
- **Project management:** interdisciplinary collaboration, research coordination, ethics submissions (GDPR-compliant data handling), data management planning.
- **Teaching and mentoring:** undergraduate and graduate-level teaching, supervision of student research projects, workshop facilitation (e.g., R, Open Science).

### **INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND RESEARCH NETWORKS**

Member (full) of the *European Association of Social Psychology* (<https://www.easp.eu/>)

External Affiliate in the *Consortium on Moral Decision-Making*

(<https://moralconsortium.psu.edu/members/raluca-d-szekely-copindean/>)

Member of the Data and Methods Committee within the *Psychological Science Accelerator*

(<https://psysciacc.org/>)

Colaborator: *FORRT – Framework for Open and Reproducible Research Training*

(<https://forrt.org/>)

### **EDITORIAL ACTIVITY AND PEER REVIEW**

Associate editor, *Cognition, Brain, Behavior. An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Romania, 2022-present.

Ad-hoc reviewer: *Journal of Cognition, Social Psychological Bulletin, European Journal of Social Psychology, Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, Identity, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Thinking and Reasoning, Frontiers in Psychology, Cognition, Brain, Behavior. An Interdisciplinary Journal.*

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Journal Articles:**

Aczel, B., Szaszi, B., Clelland, H. T., Kovacs, M., Holzmeister, F., Van Ravenzwaaij, D., Schulz-Kümpel, H., Hoffmann, S., Nilsson, G., Kosa, L., Torma, Z. A., ...**Szekely-Copindean, R.D.**, ...Nosek, B. A. (in press). Investigating the analytical robustness of the social and behavioural sciences. *Nature*.

Bocian, K., Szekely-Copindean, R. D., Myslinska-Szarek, K., & Wojciszke, B. (2025).

Reevaluating the beautiful is moral stereotype by examining the impact of personal liking and belief in a just world. *Scientific Reports*, 15(1), 12387.

Buchanan, E. M., Cuccolo, K., Heyman, T., van Berkel, N., Coles, N. A., Iyer, A., ... **Szekely-Copindean, R.D.**, ..., Suchow, J. (2025). Measuring the Semantic Priming Effect Across Many Languages. *Nature Human Behaviour* 10(1), 182–201.

- Marcu, G. M., **Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.**, Dumbravă, A., Rogel, A., & Zăgrean, A.-M. (2025). qEEG Neuromarkers of Complex Childhood Trauma in Adolescents. *Clinical EEG and Neuroscience*, 15500594241309456.
- Marcu, G. M., **Szekely-Copîndean, R.D.**, Zăgrean, A. (2024). Shared Psychophysiological Electroencephalographic Features in Maltreated Adolescent Siblings and Twins: A Case Report. *Cureus* 16(6), e63269.
- Seucan, D. T., **Szekely-Copîndean, R.D.**, Visu-Petra, L. (2024). Preschoolers' moral judgment and punishment attribution: Longitudinal links to theory of mind and emotion understanding. *Social Development*, e12756.
- Marcu, G.M., Dumbravă, A., Băcilă, C.I., **Szekely-Copîndean, R.D.**, Zăgrean, A.M. (2024). Increasing value and reducing waste of research on neurofeedback effects in post-traumatic stress disorder – A state-of-the-art-review. *Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback* 49(1), 23-45.
- Prodan, N., Ding, X. P., **Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.**, Tănăsescu, A., Visu-Petra, L. (2023). Socio-cognitive correlates of primary school children's deceptive behavior toward peers in competitive settings. *Acta Psychologica* 249, 104019.
- Bîlc, M.I., Iacob, A., **Szekely-Copîndean, R.D.**, Kiss, B., Ştefan, M.-G., Mureşan, R. C., Pop, C. F., Pişur, S., Szentágotai-Tătar, A., Vulturar, R., MacLeod, C., & Miu, A. C. (2023). Serotonin and emotion regulation: the impact of tryptophan depletion on emotional experience, neural and autonomic activity. *Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience* 23(5), 1414-1427.
- Marcu, G.M., **Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.** et al. (2023). Resting-state frontal, frontolateral, and parietal alpha asymmetry: A pilot study examining relations with depressive disorder type and severity. *Frontiers in Psychology* 14, 1087081.
- Seucan, D. T., **Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.**, Ding, X. P., & Visu-Petra, L. (2022). Give and take: A microgenetic study of preschoolers' deceptive and prosocial behavior in relation to their socio-cognitive development. *Acta Psychologica*, 230, 103714.
- Bago, B., Kovacs, M., Protzko, ... **Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.** ... et al. (2022). Situational factors shape moral judgements in the trolley dilemma in Eastern, Southern and Western countries in a culturally diverse sample. *Nature Human Behaviour* 6, 880–895.
- Miu, A. C., Cărnuţă, M., Vulturar, R., **Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.** et al. (2017). BDNF Val66Met Polymorphism Moderates the Link Between Child Maltreatment and Reappraisal Ability. *Genes, Brain and Behavior* 16, 419–426.
- Szekely, R. D.** & Miu, A.C. (2015). Religiosity enhances emotion and deontological choice in moral dilemmas. *Personality and Individual Differences* 79, 104-109.
- Szekely, R.D.** & Miu, A.C. (2015). Incidental emotions in moral dilemmas: The influence of emotion regulation. *Cognition and Emotion*, 29(1), 64-75 .
- Crîşan, L.G., Pană, S., Vulturar, R., Heilman, R.M., **Szekely, R.**, Drugă, B., Dragoş, N. & Miu, A.C. (2009). Genetic contributions of the serotonin transporter to social learning of

fear and economic decision making. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience* 4(4), 399-408.

*Law Articles:*

- Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.** (2019). Considerații practice asupra discernământului în dreptul civil roman (engl., *Practical considerations regarding the discernment in Romanian civil law*). In *Annual Review of the Department of Social and Human Research, „George Barițiu” Institute of History, Series Humanistica*, pp. 255-268.
- Szekely, R.** (2013). General configurations of discernment in the Romanian civil law. *Studia Iurisprudencia* 4, 200-230.

**Chapters:**

- Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.** (2019). Distorsiuni ale judecăților morale (engl., *Moral judgment biases*). In A. Holman & S. Boncu (Eds.). *Cum gândim în viața de zi cu zi?* (engl., *How do we think in everyday life?*) (pp. 154-164). Polirom, Romania.
- Szekely, R. D.** & A. C. Miu (2015). Bridging cognition and emotion in moral decision making: Role of emotion regulation. În M. L. Bryant (Ed.): *Handbook of Emotion Regulation: Processes, Cognitive Effects and Social Consequences*. Nova Science, USA.
- Miu, A.C., Pană, S., Matei, A., **Szekely, R.**, Băbălai, A. (2008). What is neuroscience? A century after Gheorghe Marinescu's *La Cellule Nerveuse*. In D. L. Dumitrașcu, C. Hoțoleanu (Eds.): *Neurosciences. Clinical applications of recent knowledge* (pag. 10-40). Editura Medicală Universitară Iuliu Hațieganu, Cluj-Napoca.

**Policy Papers:**

- Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.**, Dodan, D., Heilman, R. M., & Negru-Subțirică, O. (2025). Policy Brief: Shaping Futures in 3T: Tracking, Transitions and Tiers in Adolescent Identity Development. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17175781>

**CONFERENCES AND SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS (Romania and international)**

- Dodan, D., Negru-Subțirică, O. & **Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.** (august 2025). *Prospective Differences in Academic Achievement during Adolescence: The Role of Educational Tracking*. 22nd European Developmental Psychology Conference, Vilnius, Lithuania.
- Faiciuc, L. E. & **Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.** (2024). *Aspecte dinamice ale răspunsului și siguranței lui pentru o versiune a dilemei tramvaiului cu administrare repetată, în care numărul de victime salvate este variat progresiv și regresiv*, Annual Meeting of the Department of Social and Human Research, Psychology Group, „Cogniție, Afectivitate, Identitate, Moralitate” (engl., *Cognition, Affect, Identity, Morality*) Symposium, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch, Romania (online).
- Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.** & Pop, C. (2024). *Bine Suprem și Diversitate Culturală: Particularități ale Gândirii Utilitariste*, Annual Meeting of the Department of Social

- and Human Research, Psychology Group, „Cogniție, Afectivitate, Identitate, Moralitate” (engl., *Cognition, Affect, Identity, Morality*) Symposium, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch, Romania (online).
- Seucan, D. T., **Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.**, Ding, X. P., & Visu-Petra, L. (2023). *A Microgenetic Study of Preschoolers’s Deceptive and Prosocial Behavior in Relation to Their Socio-Cognitive Development*. Annual Conference of the European Association of Psychology and Law (EAPL2023), Cluj-Napoca.
- Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.** (2021). *Do emotions dynamically amplify moral judgments? A study proposal*. Annual Meeting of the Department of Social and Human Research, Psychology Group, „Cogniție, Afectivitate, Identitate, Moralitate” (engl., *Cognition, Affect, Identity, Morality*) Symposium, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch, Romania (online).
- Dumbravă, A., **Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.**, Marcu, G. M., & Isloi, B. C. (2021). *A large scale replication of the trolley dilemma: exploring the role of personal force and intention in moral dilemma judgements*. Annual Meeting of the Department of Social and Human Research, Psychology Group, „Cogniție, Afectivitate, Identitate, Moralitate” (engl., *Cognition, Affect, Identity, Morality*) Symposium, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch, Romania (online).
- Seucan, D., **Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.**, Ding, X. P., Visu-Petra, L. (2021). *A microgenetic study of preschoolers’ deceptive and moral behavior. Links with theory of mind*. Biannual conference of the Society for Research in Child Development (online).
- Seucan, D. T., **Szekely-Copîndean, R.D.**, & Visu-Petra, L. (2020). *Judecata morală a preșcolarilor în relație cu luarea perspectivei în plan cognitiv și afectiv*. Annual Meeting of the Department of Social and Human Research, Psychology Group, „Cogniție, Afectivitate, Identitate, Moralitate” (engl., *Cognition, Affect, Identity, Morality*) Symposium, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch, Romania (online).
- Faiciuc, L. & **Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.** (2019). *The relationship between difficulties in emotion regulation, meta-emotions and emotion regulation goals (performance and learning goals)*. Annual Meeting of the Department of Social and Human Research, Psychology Group, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch, Romania (online).
- Szekely-Copîndean, R. D.**, Bostan, C. M., Ion, A., Cioară, M., Constantin, T., & Miu, A. C. (2018). *Big Five Personality Traits and Moral Dilemmas: Contributions of Agreeableness and Conscientiousness*. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Doctoral Conference in Psychology and Educational Sciences, Iași, Romania.
- Szekely, R. D.** & Miu, A. C. (2017). *Moral judgment and moral choice: the effects of personality traits*. 18<sup>th</sup> General meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology, Granada, Spain.
- Szekely, R. D.** & Miu, A. C. (2017). *Big Five personality traits and moral decisions: Distinctions between judgment and choice*. International Convention of Psychological Science, Vienna, Austria.

**Szekely, R. D.** & Miu, A. C. (2016). *Personality in moral judgment and moral choice*. Cognitive and Neural Mechanisms of Human Memory, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

**Szekely, R. D.**, Chiş, A., Vulturar, R., & Miu, A. C. (2015). *Genetic influences and childhood trauma in moral decision making*. International Convention of Psychological Science, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

**Szekely, R. D.** (2014). *Measuring subjective experience*. Workshop “Emotion induction and assessment”, “Implicit Cognition” Summer School, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

**Szekely, R. D.** & Miu, A. C. (2014). *Emotions in moral dilemmas: Reappraisal promotes utilitarian choices*. 35<sup>th</sup> Stress and Anxiety Research Society Conference, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

**Szekely, R. D.** & Miu, A.C. (2012). *Emotions in moral dilemmas: Relations to emotion regulation, empathy, and religious values*. Attention and executive functioning in high-trait anxiety. Implications for cognitive and academic performance - Exploratory Workshop, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

**Szekely, R. D.** & Miu, A. C. (2012). *Emotion regulation in high-conflict personal moral dilemmas*. ESF-FENS Conference “The Neurobiology of Emotion”, Stresa, Italy.

**Szekely, R. D.** & Miu, A. C. (2012). *Individual differences and emotion in moral decision-making*. The 5<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Psychology “Modern psychological research”, Sibiu, Romania.

Heilman, R. M., Pană, S. E., **Szekely, R. D.**, Miu, A. C., & Benga, O. (2008). *Decision-making under uncertainty, declarative learning, and emotional development in 3- and 4-year-old children*. 6th FENS Forum of European Neuroscience, Geneva, Switzerland.

Heilman, R. M., Pană, S. E., **Szekely, R. D.**, Benga, O. & Miu, A. C. (2008). Decizia in condiții de risc la copii de 3 și 4 ani (engl., *Decision-making under risk in 3- and 4-year-old children*). National Psychology Conference, Timișoara, Romania.

*Other events (participant):*

“Agency, morals and the mind”, London, United Kingdom, 26-27 September, 2016.

“Moral Psychology Interdisciplinary Conference”, Cambridge, United Kingdom, 9 October, 2015.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES (Outreach)**

Trainer – applied workshop: *Human Subjects Research in the Era of Open Science: Ethical, Methodological, and Publishing Challenges*, organized by the Regional Career Orientation Center for Researchers (UBB-CORE), April 2–3, 2025, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Online talks: *Registered Reports: Tips and Tricks*, Cluj Academic Days (Zilele Academice Clujene), 2024, 2023 (co-host A. Costea, PhD).

Introductory R workshops (non-formal training sessions) delivered for PhD students in the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Babeş-Bolyai University (2019, 2024). Open educational materials available at: <https://osf.io/z6mhs/>