





## PERSONAL INFORMATION

## Costescu Cristina Anamaria

-  Sindicatelor Street, no 7, et.3, camera 22 Cluj Napoca, Romania
-  0264598898
-  christina.costescu@gmail.com
-  <http://psihoped.psiedu.ubbcluj.ro>

Sex F | Date of birth 31/05/1987 | Nationality Romanian

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Octombrie 2018 – Present

**Assistant Professor**

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Kogălniceanu Street no. 1, [www.ubbcluj.ro](http://www.ubbcluj.ro)  
Special Education Department, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

- Planning and Teaching courses and seminaria, students assessment

**Business or sector** Education

## WORK EXPERIENCE

October 2014 – October 2017

**Senior Researcher**

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Kogălniceanu Street no. 1, [www.ubbcluj.ro](http://www.ubbcluj.ro)  
DREAM Development of Robot-Enhanced therapy for children with Autism spectrum disorders, FP7 CAPACITIES-611391, 2014-2018, 849300 EURO [www.dream2020.com](http://www.dream2020.com)

- Development and implementation of robot-assisted psychotherapy sessions

**Business or sector** European Research Projects

October 2014 – October 2016

**Senior Researcher**

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Kogălniceanu Street no. 1, [www.ubbcluj.ro](http://www.ubbcluj.ro)  
REThink: Evidence-based therapeutic online game for child and adolescent mental health, 2014 – 2016, CNCS PN-II-PT-PCCA-2013-4-1937, 324214.79 EURO ([www.rethink.ro](http://www.rethink.ro)), [www.rethink.ro](http://www.rethink.ro)

- ♦ Development of psychological contents for an on-line game

**Business or sector** European Research Projects

## WORK EXPERIENCE

October 2011 - October 2016

**Research Assistant**

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Kogălniceanu Street no. 1, [www.ubbcluj.ro](http://www.ubbcluj.ro)  
Exploring Robot Assisted Therapy for Children with ASD, CNCS PCE-2011-3-0484, 381964 EURO, 2011 - 2015 [www.robotherapy.ro](http://www.robotherapy.ro)

- Development and implementation of robot-assited psychotherapy sessions

**Business or sector** European Research Projects

## WORK EXPERIENCE

October 2015 - October 2016

**Project Coordinator**

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Kogălniceanu Street no. 1, [www.ubbcluj.ro](http://www.ubbcluj.ro)  
Investigating executive functions and emotion regulation strategies in atypical development

- Development and implementation of clinical evaluation sessions

**Business or sector** National Research Project

October 2014 - October 2015

### Project Coordinator

Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Kogălniceanu Street no. 1, [www.ubbcluj.ro](http://www.ubbcluj.ro)

Improving socio-emotional skills in children with ASD by using robot-enhanced therapy

- ♦ Development and implementation of robot-assisted psychotherapy sessions

**Business or sector** National Research Project

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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October 2011 – July 2016

### Clinical Psychologist and Psychotherapist

University Clinic of Psychology, Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy

“Babeș-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca

- Psychological evaluations, counseling and psychotherapy sessions

**Business or sector** Psychological Services

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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November 2008 – August 2011

### Clinical Psychologist and Psychotherapist

Autism Transylvania Association, Cluj-Napoca, Str. Almasului nr. 1/56, [www.autismtransilvania.ro](http://www.autismtransilvania.ro).

- Psychological evaluations, counseling and psychotherapy sessions

**Business or sector** Psychological Services

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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October 2011 – July 2014

### Doctor in Psychology

Doctoral School „Evidence Based Assessment and Psychological Interventions”

Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy

“Babeș-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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October 2009 – June 2011

### Clinical Psychologist and Psychotherapist

Master of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy / Master of Health Psychology

Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy / Department of Psychology

Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

“Babeș-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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October 2006 – June 2009

### Degree in Psychology

Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences,

“Babeș-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca

## PERSONAL SKILLS

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Mother tongue(s) Romanian

Other language(s)	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
Cambridge First Certificate in English FCE, grade A					
German	B1	B1	A2	A2	A2
Spanish	B1	A2	B1	B1	A2

Digital competence B Category , 2005

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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## Publications

- David, D. O., **Costescu, C. A.**, Matu, S., Szentagotai, A., & Dobrean, A. (2018). Developing Joint Attention for Children with Autism in Robot-Enhanced Therapy. *International Journal of Social Robotics*, 1-11.
- Costescu, C. A.**, Vanderborght, B., & David, D. O. (2017). Robot-Enhanced CBT for dysfunctional emotions in social situations for children with ASD. *Journal of Evidence-Based Psychotherapies*, 17(2), 119-132.
- Esteban, P. G., Baxter, P., Belpaeme, T., Billing, E., Cai, H., **Costescu, C.**, ... & Fang, Y. (2017). How to build a supervised autonomous system for robot-enhanced therapy for children with autism spectrum disorder. *Paladyn, Journal of Behavioral Robotics* 8(1), 18-38.
- Simut, R., Van de Perre, G., **Costescu, C.**, Saldien, J., Vanderfaeillie, J., David, D., Lebefer, D., & Vanderborght, B. (2016) Probogotchi: A novel edutainment device as a bridge for interaction between a child with ASD and the typically developed sibling, *Journal of Evidence-Based Psychotherapies*, 16 (1), 91-112.
- Peca, A., Coeckelbergh, M., Simut, R., **Costescu, C.**, Pintea, S., David, D., & Vanderborght, B. (2016) A scale measuring ethical acceptability of Robot Enhanced Therapy for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *IEEE Technology and Society Magazine*, 35(2), 54-66.
- Costescu, C. A.**, Vanderborght, B., & David, D. O. (2016). Beliefs, Emotions, and Behaviors-Differences between Children with Asd and Typically Developing Children. a Robot-Enhanced Task. *Journal of Evidence-Based Psychotherapies*, 16(2), 221.
- Simut, R. Vanderborght, B., **Pop, C.**, David, D., Vanderfaeillie, J. & Vanderborght, B. (2015) Social robots as mediators for social story intervention: can the robot Probo encourage children with ASD to ask questions during playtime. In S. Douglas & L. Stirling (Eds.), *Children's play, pretense, and story: Studies in culture, context, and ASD* (pp. 96–115). London: Routledge.
- Coeckelbergh, M., **Pop, C.**, Simut, R., Peca, A., Pintea, S., David, D., & Vanderborght, B. (2015). A survey of expectations about the role of robots in robot-assisted therapy for children with ASD: Ethical acceptability, trust, sociability, appearance, and attachment. *Science and engineering ethics*, 22(1), 47–65.
- Costescu, C.**, Vanderborght, B., & David, D. (2014) Reversal learning task in autism spectrum disorder: A robot-based approach. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 45(11), 3715-3725.
- Costescu, C.**, Vanderborght B., & David, D. (2014). The effects of robot-enhanced psychotherapy: A meta-analysis. *Review of General Psychology*, 18(2), 127–136.
- Pop, C.**, Pintea, S., Vanderborght, B., & David, D. (2014). Enhancing play skills, engagement and social skills in a play task in ASD children by using robot-based interventions: A pilot study. *Interaction Studies*, 15(2), 292–320.
- Butean, I., **Costescu, C.**, & Dobrean A. (2014) Differences between empathic responses in children with autism spectrum disorders and typically developing children. *Journal of Evidence-Based Psychotherapy*, 14(2), 197–211.
- Peca, A., Simut, R., Pintea, S., **Costescu, C.**, & Vanderborght, B. (2014). How do typically developing children and children with autism perceive different social robots? *Computers in Human Behavior*, 41, 268-277.
- Pop, C.**, Simut, R., Pintea, S., Saldien, J., Rusu, A.S., Vanderfaeillie, J., ... Vanderborght, B. (2013). Social robots vs. computer display: Does the way social stories are delivered make a difference for their effectiveness on ASD children? *Journal of Educational Computing Research*, 49(3), 381–401.
- Pop, C. A.**, Simut, R., Pintea, S., Saldien, J., Rusu, A., David D., ... Vanderborght, B., (2013). Can the social robot Probo help children with autism to identify situation-based emotions? A series of single case experiments. *International Journal of Humanoid Robotics*, 10(3).

- Vanderborght, B., Simut, R., Saldien, J., **Pop, C.**, Rusu, A. S., Pinte, S., ... David, D. O. (2012). Using the social robot Probo as a social story telling agent for children with ASD. *Interaction Studies*, 13(3), 348–372.
- Tapus, A., Peca, A., Aly, A., **Pop, C.**, Jisa, L., Pinte, S., ... David, D. O. (2012). Children with autism social engagement in interaction with Nao, an imitative robot: A series of single case experiments. *Interaction Studies*, 13(3), 315–347.
- Simut, R., Vanderborght, B., **Pop, C.**, Vanderfaeillie, J., Van De Perre, G., Vanderborght, B. & Lefeber, D. (2016) "Can you cure me? Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders playing a doctor game with a social robot. *International Journal of School Health*. 3 (3)
- Costescu, C.**, & David, D. (2014). Attitudes toward using social robots in psychotherapy. *Transylvanian Journal of Psychology*, 15(1), 3–18.
- Thill, S., **Pop, C. A.**, Belpaeme, T., Ziemke, T., & Vanderborght, B. (2013). Robot-assisted therapy for autism spectrum disorders with (partially) autonomous control: Challenges and outlook. *Paladyn –Journal of Behavioral Robotics*, 3(4), 209–217. doi:10.2478/s13230-013-0107-7
- Pop, C.**, Petrule, A., Pinte, S., Peca, A., Simut, R., Vanderborght, B., & David, D. (2013). Imitation and social behaviors of children with ASD in interaction with Robonova. A series of single case experiments, *Transylvanian Journal of Psychology*, 14(1), 71–91.
- Predescu, E., Dobrea, A., **Pop, C.**, Micluta, I., & Sipos, R. (2013). Cognitive coping strategies and emotional distress in mothers of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Applied Medical Informatics*, 32(2), 14–21.
- Cao Hoang, L., Van De Perre, G., Simut, R., **Pop, C.**, Peca, A., Lefeber, D., Vanderborght, B. (2014) Enhancing My Keepon robot: A simple and low-cost solution for robot platform in Human-Robot Interaction studies, Proceedings of the 2014 IEEE International Symposium on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN), pp.555 – 560.
- Vanderborght, B., Simut, R., Van De Perre, G., **Pop, C.**, David, D., Vanderfaeillie, J., Lefeber, D. (2013) The social robot Probo as interaction partner for autistic children, IROS13 workshop: Towards Social Humanoid Robots: What makes interaction human-like?, pp.1 – 4.
- Simut, R., **Pop, C.**, Saldien, J., Rusu, A., Pinte, S., Vanderfaeillie, J., ... & Vanderborght, B. (2012, March). Is the social robot probo an added value for social story intervention for children with autism spectrum disorders?. In Proceedings of the seventh annual ACM/IEEE international conference on Human-Robot Interaction (pp. 235-236). ACM.

## Presentations

### International Congress of Cognitive Psychotherapy, 29 June – 1 July, 2017, Cluj Napoca, Romania

#### Symposia: Robot-based CBT for children with ASD: Results and protocols from the DREAM Project

- *The use of social robots in evidence-based psychotherapy: Applications for individuals with ASD.* Authors: Cristina Costescu, Daniel David, Anca Dobrea, Aurora Szentagotai-Tătar, Silviu Matu, Radu Șoflău
- *Improving turn-taking skills with robot-enhanced CBT for children with ASD.* Authors: Silviu Matu, Daniel David, Anca Dobrea, Aurora Szentagotai-Tătar, Cristina Costescu, Radu Șoflău

- *Efficacy of robot-enhanced CBT for joint attention in children with ASD.* Authors: Anamaria Ciocan, Daniel David, Anca Dobrean, Aurora Szentagotai-Tătar, Cristina Costescu, Silviu Matu, Radu Șoflău
- *Robotic and human mediators in developing imitation skills in children with ASD: Results from a series of single case experiments.* Authors: Antonia Oprean, Daniel David, Anca Dobrean, Aurora Szentagotai-Tătar, Cristina Costescu, Silviu Matu, Radu Șoflău
- *Establishing the efficacy of robot-based CBT: The protocol for a randomized clinical trial.* Authors: Radu Șoflău, Daniel David, Anca Dobrean, Aurora Szentagotai-Tătar, Cristina Costescu, Silviu Matu

**International Congress of Cognitive Psychotherapy, 29 June – 1 July 2017, Cluj Napoca, Romania**

**Workshop: DREAM project workshop - Robot-based CBT.** Authors: Cristina Costescu, Silviu Matu, Radu Șoflău

**International Congress of Cognitive Psychotherapy, 29 June – 1 July 2017, Cluj Napoca, Romania** How effective are serious games for promoting mental health and health behavioral change in children and adolescents? A systematic review and meta-analysis. Authors: Roxana Cardos, Oana David, Cristina Mogoase, Cristina Costescu, Madalina Sucala

**International Congress of Cognitive Psychotherapy, 29 June – 1 July 2017, Cluj Napoca, Romania** The RETHink game: Development, protocol and relevance of a new therapeutic game for promoting child and adolescent mental health. Authors: Oana David, Madalina Sucala, Cristina Mogoase, Cristina Costescu, , Roxana Cardos, Anca Dobrean, Viorel Lupu.

**XI Autism-Europe International Congress, 16-18 September 2016, Edinburgh, Scotland**

Long-term robot-enhanced intervention: social engagement, emotional and behavioral reactions of children with ASD in an imitation task. Authors: Cristina Costescu, Bram Vanderborght, Silviu Matu, Aurora Szentagotai, Anca Dobrean, Daniel David.

**Psicoterapia e riabilitazione in eta evolutiva, 26 Noiembrie, Enna, Italia.** The use of social robots in evidence based psychotherapy: applications for individuals with ASD. Authors: Cristina Costescu.

**International Congress of Cognitive Behavioral Coaching - ICCBC 2014, Robo-RETMAN and Therapeutical Cartoons in reducing anxiety of elementary school children.** Authors: Cristina Costescu, Oana David, Daniel David.

**Congress, European Federation of Psychology Students Associations, 28th EFPSA 2014 Felix, Romania, Rotherapy.** Applications for children with autism spectrum disorder. Authors: Cristina Costescu.

**International Congress Autism-Europe, New Dimensions for Autism, September, 2013, Budapest, Hungary.** Social Robots in Psychotherapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders Authors: Cristina Pop, BramVanderborght and Daniel David.

**International Congress Autism-Europe, New Dimensions for Autism, September, 2013, Budapest, Hungary.** Are children with ASD more prone to test the intentions of a social robot compared to a human? Authors: Andreea Peca, Ramona Simuț, Cristina Pop, Sebastian Pinteana and Bram Vanderborght.

**International Conference on Innovative Technologies for Autism Spectrum Disorders: Tools, Trends and Testimonials, Valencia, 2012,** Identifying Situation-based Emotions using the Social Robot Probo: A case study in autism spectrum disorders. Authors: Pop Cristina, Simut Ramona, Pinteana Sebastian, Rusu Alina S., Saldien Jelle, Vanderfaellie Johan, David Daniel D, Lefeber Dirk, Vanderborght Bram.

**International Workshop on Human Friendly Robots**, Brussel, 2012 “Using human-friendly robots in Robot Assisted Therapy.” Authors: Pop Cristina Anamaria, Thill Serge, Simut Ramona, Vanderborght Bram.

**International Conference on Social Robotics**, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2011, pp.97 - 100, The Huggable Social Robot Probo for Social Story Telling for Robot Assisted Therapy with ASD Children. Authors: Simut Ramona, Van De Perre Greet, Pop Cristina, Vanderborght Bram, Saldien Jelle, Rusu Alina S., Pintea Sebastian, Vanderfaeillie Johan, Lefeber Dirk, David Daniel.

**Cognitive Neuroscience Robotics workshop IROS 26**, 2011, pp.1 - 6, Social Stories for Autistic Children Told by the Huggable Robot Probo. Authors: Vanderborght Bram, Simut Ramona, Saldien Jelle, Pop Cristina, Rusu Alina S., Pintea Sebastian, David Daniel D, Lefeber Dirk.

#### Book chapters

Matu S., **Costescu C.**, Szentagotai A., Dobrean A., & David D (2016) Utilizarea roboților în psihoterapie: fundamente teoretice și aplicații clinice. Cercetări în psihologie și științele educației, pag. 101-126, Vol 3, Cluj Napoca, Editura Argonaut.

Simut, R. Vanderborght, B., **Pop, C.**, David, D., Vanderfaeillie, J. & Vanderborght, B. (2015) Social robots as mediators for social story intervention: can the robot Probo encourage children with ASD to ask questions during playtime. In S. Douglas & L. Stirling (Eds.), Children’s play, pretense, and story: Studies in culture, context, and ASD (pp. 96–115). London: Routledge

#### Honours and awards

**Diploma for Excellence: International Fair of Research, Innovation, and Inventics – Pro-Invent**, Cluj-Napoca for work "Robotherapy for ASD children", authors: David, Vanderborght, Pop, Vornicu, Dana, Butean, Soroiu.

**Diploma for Excellence:** Prize for the best doctoral candidate “Florian Stefanescu-Goanga”, year 2014.