



We have the pleasure of inviting you to the lecture

*Why We Fail and How.
The Everydayness of Philosophy*



**On Friday, March 30, 2018, at 17h00
New Europe College (Plantelor 21)**

given by

Professor Costică BRĂDĂȚAN

Professor of Humanities, Honors College, Texas Tech University
Honorary Research Professor of Philosophy, University of Queensland

In my lecture I propose a closer look at how today's academic philosophy (as a discipline and as a practice) is shaped by the philosophers' fear of failure. I will discuss their anxiety from three complementary perspectives. First, I will examine the way the power dynamics within the institutions of philosophy (universities, funding bodies, publishers) affects the very act of philosophizing, its nature and integrity. Here I will also discuss the function of the non-affiliated, free-lancing philosopher. Second, an important part of the lecture will be dedicated to the way philosophers, driven by the same anxiety of failure, respond to (adopt or reject) an established philosophical vocabulary or another: phenomenological, analytic, Marxist, Thomist, etc. Finally, I will discuss a certain form of philosophical "puritanism" and its impact on the larger relevance of the discipline.



Costică BRĂDĂȚAN is Professor of Humanities in the Honors College at Texas Tech University and an Honorary Research Professor of Philosophy at the University of Queensland, Australia. He has also held faculty appointments at Cornell University, University of Notre Dame, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Miami University, and Arizona State University, as well as at several universities in Europe and Asia. He works on topics in the history of philosophy, Continental philosophy, philosophy of religion, philosophy of literature and of film.

He authored or edited (co-edited) several books, among which *Dying for Ideas. The dangerous Lives of the Philosophers* (Bloomsbury, 2015). He is currently working on a new book project: *In Praise of Failure. A Manifesto for Humility* (forthcoming with Harvard University Press).

He also writes essays, book reviews, and op-eds for such publications as *the New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Globe & Mail*, *The New Statesman*, *Aeon*, *Dissent*, *Times Literary Supplement*, and *Times Higher Education*. His work has been translated into a number of languages, including German, Dutch, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Farsi. He is a religion/comparative studies editor for the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, as well as the founding editor and curator of two book series: *Philosophical Filmmakers* (Bloomsbury) and *Philosophy beyond Boundaries* (Columbia University Press) [in preparation].