

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**RAȚIU Dan-Eugen – Professor / PhD** 1998, Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca  
/ **PhD** 2005, University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Date of birth: 10 January 1964

Citizenship: Romanian

Contact: Email: [dan.ratiu@ubbcluj.ro](mailto:dan.ratiu@ubbcluj.ro) ; Tel./Fax: +40264-405326

### a) University Education and Degrees

- 2005 Doctor in Philosophy - Aesthetics, University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne *Peinture et théorie de l'art au XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle: Nicolas Poussin et la doctrine classique* (Mention : “Very Honorable”)
- 1998 Doctor in Philosophy - Philosophy of culture, history and values, Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca: *Modelul limbajului în analiza artei și disputa modernism-postmodernism. Perspective asupra statutului artei și valorilor artistice în cultura contemporană* (\*There was no mention at that time)
- 1993-1994 Master in Philosophy, Philosophy of Art, University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (Mention: “Very Good”)
- 1984-1988 Bachelor/MA, Philosophy and History, Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca (Mention: “Merit Diploma”)

### Fellowships and research stages abroad

- Senior Fulbright Visiting Scholar, The US-Romania Fulbright Committee, *Creative City Discourses and Practices and their Impact on Artistic Creativity*, Northeastern University Boston, September-December 2010
- Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, FMSH-Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Paris, *Critique artiste et créativité*, January 2009
- Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) Vienna: *Re-Imagining European Identity: An Unofficial Catalogue of European Civil Memory*, April-June 2008
- AUF grant, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Contribution aux manifestations scientifiques: *Espaces réels, espaces imaginaires: usages artistiques de l'espace, de la peinture de paysage à la géo-sculpture*, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Lyon, July 2007
- AUF-Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Bourse de perfectionnement en formation *Art, institutions et politique culturelle*, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Ecole Doctorale de Philosophie, June 2007
- EHESS Fellowship, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales Paris (supported by New Europe College Bucharest- Institute for Advanced Study), June 2005
- EHESS Fellowship, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales Paris, *Transformations des figures de l'artiste et conditions de la consécration artistique à l'âge contemporain*, May 2004
- MSH Fellowship, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Paris, *La responsabilité dans l'art contemporain*, January-February 2003
- Doctoral Degree grant at University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, 1998-1999, Romanian Ministry of Education
- Master Degree grant at University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, 1993-1994, Romanian Ministry of Education, Soros Open Society Foundation
- CEU Fellowship “History and Philosophy of Art and Architecture”, Central European University (CEU), Prague, January-April 1992

## **b) Professional experience and relevant positions**

### **Positions held**

#### Current position:

-Professor, Department of Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University, 1 M. Kogălniceanu str., 400084 Cluj-Napoca, since 2013

#### Former positions:

- Associate Professor 2001-2013, Department of Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University
- Senior Lecturer 1994-2001, Department of Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University
- Assistant Professor 1990-1994, Department of Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University
- Visiting Professor, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) Paris, May 2004
- Visiting Professor, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Paris (MSH), January-February 2003

#### Academic administration

- Associate Dean, Faculty of History and Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University, since 2004
- Chancellor, Faculty of History and Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University, 2003-2004

### **Courses taught and other services provided to students**

- Aesthetics; Philosophy of Art; Contemporary Theories of Art (undergraduate level: B.A. in Philosophy)
- Art, Institutions and Cultural Policies; The Status of the Artist in the Post-Modern Age (graduate level: M.Phil. – *Philosophy, Culture, Communication*)
- Undergraduate and graduate committees: directing and evaluating B.A. and M.A. dissertations in Philosophy
- Doctoral committees: advising and evaluating Ph.D. thesis in Philosophy (Babes-Bolyai Univ., Bucharest Univ., Al. I. Cuza Univ. Iași, West Univ. Timișoara, National Univ. of Arts Bucharest, Univ. of Art and Design Cluj-Napoca)

### **Research specializations**

Specialist in: Philosophy of Art – Aesthetics, Philosophy of Culture, Cultural policies analysis  
Areas of research: 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries theories of painting (France, Italy); Modernist aesthetics and art criticism; Postmodern art theories and practices; Ontology of art; Arts/cultural policies and practices; Status of the artist; Everyday aesthetics

### **Contributions to the institutional development of the program / University**

- Director, B.A. Program in Philosophy, since 2003
- Director, M.Phil. Program in Philosophy: *Philosophy, Culture and Communication*, since 2010
- Scientific Secretary, Founder, Center for Applied Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University – since 2010 <http://hiphi.ubbcluj.ro/CFA/> : coordinating research grants, publications, national and inter-national collaborations
- Director, Founder, Laboratory for the Analysis of Communication and Cultural Practices, Babes-Bolyai University – since 2008
- Director, Founder, Group for the Analysis of Cultural Practices and Policies, Babes-Bolyai University – since 2002
- Director, Founder, Group for the Analysis of Cultural Practices and Policies, Babes-Bolyai University – since 2002: coordinating research grants, publications, national and international collaborations
- Director, Founder, Library of Art and Philosophy of Art, Department of Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University – since 2002

## Membership and activities in professional associations

- European Society for Aesthetics (ESA) – since 2009; member in the Executive Committee since 2012
- European Sociological Association (ESA), Research Network Sociology of the Arts – member in Directing Board – since 2009, Vice-Chair 2011-2013, Chair since 2013
- Romanian Society of Philosophy – since 2008
- ARCHES - Association Roumaine des Chercheurs Francophones en Sciences Humaines – since 2000

## Scientific community service, peer-review

- Expert CNCSIS (NURC) / CNCS (NCSC): evaluating research projects in Philosophy and Humanities – The National Universities Research Council / National Council of Scientific Research – since 2003
- Expert ACPART–National Agency for Qualifications from Higher Education: Philosophy – 2009-2011
- Expert ARACIS (RAQAHE): evaluating programs of studies in Humanities – Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education – 2007-2010
- Member of the National Committee of Philosophy, CNATDCU – 2011-2012
- Member of the National Committee of Social Sciences and Humanities, CNCSIS, 2004-2007
- Member of the Council of the Scientific Research, Babeş-Bolyai University, 2002-2006
- Member of the Advisory board, *Revue Roumaine de l'Histoire de l'art - Beaux-Arts* – since 2011
- Member of the Advisory board, *Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies* – since 2002
- Member of the Advisory board, *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai: Philosophia* – since 2000
- Peer review: *JSRI, JAMLS, Anale de Filosofie, Studia UBB. Philosophia*, etc.

## Conferences and workshops organized

- Second Annual Conference *Aesthetics and Theories of the Arts*, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Center for Applied Philosophy, September 27-28, 2013
- First Annual Conference *Aesthetics and Theories of the Arts*, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Center for Applied Philosophy, September 14-15, 2012
- Workshop *Applied Aesthetics: Art, Everyday Life, Arts Management. Prospective Research*, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, June 7, 2011
- Cultural Policy and Mediation: Models for Practice and Training* (series of 6 Fulbright lectures, Dr. Constance De Vereaux, Northern Arizona University, USA), Fulbright Senior Specialist Program 2011, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, May 9 – June 18, 2011
- National Workshop *Criza instituțională a filosofiei în sistemul educațional românesc. Problematizări și soluții pentru ieșirea din criză*, SACRI, Societatea Română de Filosofie– Filiala Cluj, Fundația Colegiul European, Cluj-Napoca, April 23, 2010
- American and International Cultural Policies* (series of 5 Fulbright lectures, Prof. Kevin Mulcahy, Louisiana State University, USA), Fulbright Senior Specialist Program 2009, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, October 23 – November 9, 2009
- National Workshop with international participation *Arta și estetica astăzi / L'art et l'esthétique aujourd'hui*, New Europe College Bucharest, University of Bucharest, June 2009
- International Summer School - Université Européenne d'Été *L'Europe à venir. Sécularisation, justice, démocratie*, ARCHES-OFFRES, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, September 2006
- National Workshop *Arta și artistul în spațiul și discursul public / Art and Artist in the Public Space and Discourse*, New Europe College Bucharest, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, July 2006
- National Conference *Cultura, comunitate și spațiu public / Culture, Community and Public Space*, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, October 2002

-International Seminar *De l'utilité et des inconvénients de la philosophie dans les pays postcommunistes*, Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, May 2001.

**Participation in professional conferences:** 70 (see: *Fisa de verificare*)

-international conferences: 46 (26 in English, 14 in French)

-national conferences: 24

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES PROFICIENCY

**French** – very well (speaking, reading, writing)

**English** – very well (speaking, reading, writing)

### c) Research projects directed (including the amount and financing body, and publications)

#### National grants:

-CNCS 2012-2014 grant (PN II\_ID\_PCE\_2011-3-1010), The National Council of Scientific Research, *Renewing Aesthetics: From Art to Everyday Life*, grant director, 5 participants, Babes-Bolyai University, 2012: 225.500 RON; 2013: 132.061 RON; 2014: 516.064 RON. TOTAL: 870.625 RON

[http://hiphi.ubbcluj.ro/reinnoirea\\_esteticii/](http://hiphi.ubbcluj.ro/reinnoirea_esteticii/)

Personal publications resulted:

- Rațiu D. E., „Remapping the Realm of Aesthetics: On Recent Controversies about the Aesthetic and Aesthetic Experience in Everyday Life”, *Estetika. The Central European Journal of Aesthetics*, vol. L/VI, no. 1, 2013, pp. 3-26 (revised and augmented version) (ISI).

- Rațiu D. E., „Remapping the Realm of Aesthetics: On Recent Controversies about the Aesthetic and the Aesthetic Experience in Everyday Life”, *Proceedings of the European Society for Aesthetics*, Vol.4, edited by F.Dorsch & D.E. Ratiu, 2012, pp.385-411(EBSCO).

- Rațiu D. E., *Disputa modernism-postmodernism. O introducere în teoriile contemporane asupra artei*, ediția a II-a revizuită și adăugită, Eikon, Cluj-Napoca, 2012 (365 p.) (CNCS)

-CNCSIS 2009-2011 grant (PN II\_PCE\_ID-2469),The National Universities Research Council, *Culture and Creativity in the Age of Globalization: Study on the Interactions between Cultural Policy and Artistic Creativity*, grant director, 6 participants, Babes-Bolyai University. TOTAL: 409.948 RON.

[http://hiphi.ubbcluj.ro/cultura\\_si\\_creativitate](http://hiphi.ubbcluj.ro/cultura_si_creativitate)

Personal publications resulted:

- Rațiu D. E., „New Theoretical Framework in Approaching Artistic Activity: the Principle of Uncertainty. P.-M. Menger's Sociology of Creative Work”, *Cultura. International Journal of Philosophy of Culture and Axiology*, vol.9, no.1, 2012, pp.101-122 (ISI).

- Rațiu D. E. „Artistic Critique and Creativity: How Do Artists Play in the Social Change?”, *Studia Universitatis Babes-Bolyai. Philosophia*, LVI, nr.3, 2011, pp.27-49 (EBSCO).

- Rațiu D. E., „Statul și cultura: Concepte, valori și justificări ale politicii culturale în România postcomunistă” in: D. E. Rațiu (ed.), *Politica culturală și artele: local, național, global*, Casa Cărții de Știință, Cluj-Napoca, 2011, pp.58-96 (CNCS).

- Rațiu D. E. „Sistemul de sprijinire a artelor într-o societate în tranziție: România 1990-2006”, in: D. E. Rațiu (ed.), *Politica culturală și artele: local, național, global*, Casa Cărții de Știință, Cluj-Napoca, 2011, pp. 97-146 (CNCS).

- Rațiu D. E.,(ed.), *Politica culturală și artele: local, național, global*, Casa Cărții de Știință, Cluj-Napoca, 2011 (326 p.) (CNCS)

- Rațiu D. E., „Cultural Policy and Values: Intrinsic versus Instrumental? The Case of Romania”, *Journal of Arts Management, Law and Society*, Vol.39, no.1, 2009, pp.24-44 (ISI).
- Rațiu D. E., „After the Death of Art: Is there any Life for Aesthetics?”, *Proceedings of the European Society for Aesthetics*, vol. 2, edited by A. Bertinetto, F. Dorsch & C.Todd, 2010, pp. 410-426 (EBSCO).
- NEC-LINK 2008-2009 Fellowship, New Europe College - Institute for Advanced Study Bucharest: *Philosophy and the Arts: Contesting of the Established System of Values* (joint course with professor Mihaela Pop, University of Bucharest), March-July 2009. (12.600 USD)  
Personal publications resulted:
  - Pop M., Rațiu D. E. (eds.) *Estetica și artele astăzi*, Ed. Universității București, 2010 (242 p.) (CNCS)
- NEC-LINK 2005-2006 Fellowship, New Europe College - Institute for Advanced Study Bucharest, *Art, Institutions and Artistic Policies* (joint-course at BBU with professor Ruxandra Demetrescu, National University of Arts Bucharest), March-July 2006. (10.625 USD)  
Personal publications resulted: syllabus/reader.
- NEC-GETTY 2004-2005 Fellowship, New Europe College Bucharest - Institute for Advanced Study, *La Muse subventionnée: Politiques publiques de soutien à la création artistique en Roumanie*, October 2004 - July 2005 (6.400 USD)  
Personal publications resulted:
  - Rațiu D. E., „La Muse subventionnée: Politiques publiques de soutien à la création artistique en Roumanie, 1997-2005”, în: *New Europe College GE-NEC Program 2004-2007*, ed. Irina Vainovski-Mihai, New Europe College, București, 2010, pp. 187-247.
  - Rațiu D. E., „État et culture en Roumanie postcommuniste: Concepts, justifications et effets de la politique culturelle”, în: *L'État en France et en Roumanie aux XIX<sup>e</sup> et XX<sup>e</sup> siècles (Actes du colloque organisé au New Europe College les 26-27 février 2010)*, eds. S. Marton, A. Oroveanu, F.Turcanu, New Europe College, București, 2011, pp. 319-358.
- CNCSIS (NURC) 2002-2003 grant (type A code 14/1282; code 60/141), The National Universities Research Council, *Culture and Civil Society: Political and Aesthetical Strategies of Modernity*, grant director, 15 participants. TOTAL: 86.000.000 lei vechi.  
Personal publications resulted:
  - Rațiu D. E., „Lumea artei: imunitate sau responsabilitate? Problema responsabilității și a angajamentului în arta contemporană”, în: C. Mihali, D. E. Rațiu (eds.), *Artă, comunitate, spațiu public. Strategii politice și estetice ale modernității*, Casa Cărții de Știință, Cluj-Napoca, 2003, pp. 35-64 (CNCS).
  - Mihali C., Rațiu D. E. (eds.), *Artă, comunitate, spațiu public. Strategii politice și estetice ale modernității*, Casa Cărții de Știință, Cluj-Napoca, 2003 (164 p.) (CNCS).
  - Rațiu D. E., „A murit arta? Interogații contemporane asupra statutului artei”, în: Gh. Buș (ed.), *Experiență umană, imagine artistică, creativitate vizual-plastică*, Dacia, Cluj-Napoca, 2003, pp.195-208 (CNCSIS).

### **International grants:**

Senior Fulbright Visiting Scholar, US Department of State, The US-Romania Fulbright Committee, *Creative City Discourses and Practices and their Impact on Artistic Creativity*, Northeastern University Boston, September-December 2010. (9.900 USD).

#### Personal publications resulted:

- Rațiu D. E., „Creative Cities and/or Sustainable Cities: Discourses and Practices”, *City, Culture and Society*, Vol. 4, Issue 3, 2013, pp.125-135 (Scopus-Science Direct).

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, FMSH - Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Paris, *Critique artiste et créativité*, January 2009 (1.600 EUR). Personal publications resulted:

- Rațiu D. E., „Critique artiste et créativité: Comment les artistes jouent-ils dans le changement social?”, in: M. Pop, D. E. Rațiu (eds.) *Estetica și artele astăzi*, Ed. Universității București, 2010, pp.167-186 (CNCS).

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship 2007/2008, Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) Viena: *Re-Imagining European Identity: An Unofficial Catalog of European Civil Memory*, April-June 2008. (6.180 EUR) Personal publications resulted:

- Rațiu D. E., „Mirroring Identities: Art and Fashion in Constructing Identity and Otherness in Transylvania, 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries” (send to publication in ISI journal).

AUF - Perfectionnement en formation: *Art, institutions et politique culturelle*, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, École Doctorale de Philosophie, June 2007 (1.500 EUR). Personal publications resulted: syllabus /reader.

EHESS Paris: *Transformations des figures de l'artiste et conditions de la consécration artistique à l'âge contemporain*, École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, May 2004 (3100 EUR).

Personal publications resulted:

- Rațiu D. E., „Politica culturală și condițiile consacrării artistice: subvenție și sincronizare?”, *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai. Philosophia*, XLIX, nr.1-2, 2004, pp.123-134 (CNCS).

MSH Paris: *La responsabilité dans l'art contemporain*, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, January-February 2003 (3000 EUR). Personal publications resulted:

- Rațiu D. E., „L'artiste: immunité ou responsabilité ? Considérations sur l'usage des catégories éthico-juridiques dans le monde de l'art”, *Revue Francophone d'Esthétique*, nr.4, 2007, Paris, pp.101-126.

CEU - Individual Research Support Scheme 1992-1993, Central European University in Prague: *Sign and Image: an Essay on the Semiology and Hermeneutics of Art* (3.800 USD). Personal publications resulted:

- Rațiu D. E., „Reevaluarea conceptelor estetice: strategii postmoderniste”, *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai. Philosophia*, XXXVII, nr.1, 1992, pp.3-9 (CNCS).
- Rațiu D. E., „H.-G. Gadamer: modelul limbajului și ontologia operei de artă”, *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai. Philosophia*, XXXVII, nr.2, 1992, pp.59-77 (CNCS).

### **Participations in national research projects (member)**

CNCSIS 2001 (type A code 1/886), *Imagine artistică și creativitate vizual-plastică*, member (director: Associate Prof. Gh. Buș, 25 participants, University of Art and Design in Cluj-Napoca). Personal publications resulted:

- Rațiu D. E., „A murit arta ? Interogații contemporane asupra statutului artei”, în: Gheorghe Buș (ed.), *Experiență umană, imagine artistică, creativitate vizual-plastică*, Dacia, Cluj-Napoca, 2003, pp.195-208 (CNCSIS).

CNCSIS 1996 (type A), *Tratat despre declinație*, member (director: Prof.dr. T.Cățineanu, 7 participants, Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca). Personal publications resulted:

- Rațiu, D. E., „Tema morții artei”, *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai. Philosophia*, XLI, nr.1, 1996, pp.45-64 (CNCS).

### **Participations in other national/European projects (member)**

-POSDRU/5/1.5/S/1 *Doctoral Studies in Romania – Organizing the Doctoral Schools*, Activity 2.2 - “Improving the model of the doctoral school”, March - June 2011, Bucharest University, director Prof. Dr. Lazăr Vlăsceanu

-POSDRU 2/1.2/S/2 *Developing an operational system of the high degree qualifications in Romania* (DOCIS), July 2009 - June 2011, ACPART, director Prof. Dr. Sorin Eugen Zaharia.  
Personal results: elaborating the grid of competences - B.A. in Philosophy and M. Phil. in *Philosophy, Culture, Communication*

-POSDRU/18/1.2/G/5593 *Quality Assurance of University Study Programs through Human Resources Training and Labor Market Orientation*, March 2009 - February 2011, Babes-Bolyai University, director Prof. Dr. Andrei Mărcuş

## **RESULTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES –Summary**

(\*see Complete List of Publications):

### **Books: 8**

- 5 as author (2 in French): 4 at publishing houses recognized/classified by CNCS; 1 at publishing houses recognized by CNCS-ante 2011)
- 3 as editor: at publishing houses recognized/classified by CNCS

### **Textbooks/courses: 4**

### **Articles: 54 (59)**

- 10 chapters in collective volumes**: 9 at publishing houses recognized/classified by CNCS; 1 at international publishing houses
- 11 articles in extenso, published in scientific journals from the main international flux**: 7 ISI-AHCI; 4 ERIH, Scopus, EBSCO, Pro-Quest
- 3 articles in Conference proceedings**
- 35 other articles and scientific contributions**: 20 articles in journals recognized/classified by CNCS; 3 articles in journals recognized by CNCSIS ante 2011; 7 articles in other international or national journals; 2 book reviews in scientific journals; 3 translations – chapters in volumes at publishing houses recognized/classified by CNCS

### **d) Professional honors, awards and other forms of recognition of the scientific contributions**

#### National prizes:

- CNCS/UEFISCHDI prize (PRECISI) for scientific publications (ISI) 2013
- CNCSIS prize for scientific publications (ISI) 2009
- Prize of the *Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies* 2006 for Aesthetics and Art Philosophy
- Excellence Diploma 2010 Babes-Bolyai University – BA Program in Philosophy (program director)
- Merit Diploma for contributions to the development of Babes-Bolyai University, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004

#### International recognition:

Member of the Executive Committee, European Society for Aesthetics (ESA), since 2012

<http://www.eurosa.org/about/committee/>

Member of Directing Board, since 2009, Vice-Chair (2011-2012) and Chair (2013-2015), Research Network Sociology of the Arts, European Sociological Association (ESA)

<http://www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn2-sociology-of-the-arts/58-rn2-board-and-members.html>

**Visiting professor/invited to give conferences at universities abroad:**

1. Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, UFR Philosophie: *La question de la responsabilité des artistes, jadis et naguère*, February 2003.
2. Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, UFR Philosophie: *Responsabilité et engagement dans l'art contemporain*, May 2004.
3. Northeastern University, Boston, MA (USA): *Cultural policy and Values: Intrinsic versus Instrumental? The Case of Romania*, 6 October 2010.
4. Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff AZ (USA): *Romanian culture: tradition and modernity*, 15 November 2010.
5. Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff AZ (USA): *After the „Death of Art”: is there any Life for Aesthetics?*, 18 November 2010.
6. Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff AZ (USA): *Practices of Support to the Arts and their Impact on Artistic Practices and Cultural Participation: The Case of Romania*, 19 November 2010.
7. Diné College, Tuba City, AZ (USA): *Romanian culture: tradition and modernity*, 16 November 2010.

**Prof. Dr. RAȚIU Dan Eugen**

*Dan Ratiu*